



Martin Ehl

**Třetí dekáda**

O životě, politice a lidech mezi Bruselem a Gazpromem

# **Between Brussels and Gazprom**

## **Internationalisation of security threats**



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- ▶ **The Third Decade idea: for the first time in modern history CEE countries live in secured, peaceful and stable environment without any imminent existential threat for more than two decades**
  - **NATO has shaky future, but has deterrent effect**
  - **terrorist threat: not probable**
  - **borders are secured and stable**
  - **economy and basic legal framework secured due to EU membership**
- ▶ **It is upon us how we shape our future, we cannot blame outsiders. OR COULD WE?**



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- ▶ **Our homework: in a search of next BIG IDEA**
  - anticorruption measures
  - independence of justice system
  - state finances (reforms of health care and other systems dependent on public finances)
  - lack of political leadership
  - Roma issue as ticking bomb
  
- ▶ **Where to look around for external influence?**



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- ▶ **Brussels: legal framework, bureaucratic threat, but we are part of the game and having voice**
- ▶ **Gazprom as metaphore for socialist or Russian or autocratic or nondemocratic mindset**
  - **mindset of socialist thinking ▶ low level of historical education + low level of civic (democratic) involvement = better to be dependent on state (Krastev: the end of liberal consensus)**
  - **reality: energy dependence ▶ used as political tool**
- ▶ **Where is the practical example? Is it just Rusophobia as presented in Brussels?**



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- ▶ **Energy security as prime example how twenty years after the change old mindset and structures prevail:**
  - **Nord Stream issue: Germany and Russia over our heads**
  - **East – West pipes vs. North – South pipes**
  - **Russian companies in EU business: not playing according to market rules**
  - **Shale gas in Poland as gamechanger?**
- ▶ **Where is the US? Do we need them and do they need us?**



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## ► **The United States and Central Europe**

- **inspiration of freedom (individual, political)**
- **close relations during 1990s**
- **NATO Treaty art. V.: guarantee of independence**
- **attempt with missile defense**
- **New Europe vs. Obama's night calls**
- **Polish shale gas as new bridge to Washington**

► **But Brussels is closer, isn't it?**



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► **The European union and Central Europe**

- security guarantee in Baltic countries
  - source of money
  - source of law and good habits
  - basic legal framework
  - socialist experience: different approach to relation state  
– citizen (habit to be to dependent vs. liberal conservative approaches)
- **What our guests think about it? Are we more dangerous to ourselves than Gazprom or Brussels?**