

## Iron Curtain of the 21st century

More foreign military bases in Europe than at the peak of the Cold War

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*-The new Iron Curtain does not divide the world of democracy from the world of dictatorship; rather, it partitions the Eurasian plate with a transversal that extends from the North Pole to the Horn of Africa....In present-day democratic Europe, there are more foreign military bases than at the peak of the Cold War.*

NATO aggression against Serbia (the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) ten years ago was a turning point in international relations in Europe and in the world.

That precedent effectively undermined the international legal order established after WWII.

Europe saw a rapid expansion of NATO and proliferation of foreign military bases, in particular in its eastern and southeastern regions.

Over the past ten years, the USA established a network of new military bases, stretching from the Baltic to Anatolia, Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In Bulgaria and Romania only, there were four new bases in each. Is that not a 21st Century Iron Curtain, unprecedented at any time, that replaced and expanded its namesake predecessor from the times of the Cold War, re-delineating it on the borders of Russia, the Caucasus, the Caspian and the Persian Gulf? It was established extremely rapidly, almost in a historic 'blink of an eye'.

The aggression of 1999 against Yugoslavia (Serbia) and the American military base of Camp Bondsteel in the Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija were, at the same time, a test, a practical checking of a "feasibility study", and the setting up of the foundations for applying a new doctrine comprising the globalization of NATO and interventionism.

The new Iron Curtain does not divide the world of democracy from the world of dictatorship; rather, it partitions the Eurasian plate with a transversal that extends from the North Pole to the Horn of Africa.

As such, it mainly divides the countries of parliamentary democracy and market economies. Countries from both sides of the Curtain are officially treated as partners. Yet, nobody else, save for the authors of this new doctrine, believes that the New Iron Curtain is necessary for defense against terrorism or from the 'Axis of Evil'.

In present-day democratic Europe, there are more foreign military bases than at the peak of the Cold War. Why is that so? Which is the party that threatens European security, and is Europe safer when webbed by new foreign military camps?

Is this proliferation of foreign military bases on European soil a matter of interest for the OSCE, and what is the OSCE's position on this particular phenomenon of 21st century?

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