THE ONTOLOGICAL REALITY OF THE “NON-VIOLENT” VIOLENCE: COLOR REVOLUTIONS AS WEAPONS OF FOREIGN POLICY

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1. Methodology

-Ontological approach – Investigating the nature of the reality of political violence

-Objectivism – Inquiring into the potentiality of the independent existence of the phenomena of violence and its objective reality that is experienced the same way by everyone.

-Deductive reasoning – A conceptual and theoretical structure, a hypothesis was developed through empirical observation that is about to be tested for its ontological truth.

-Aim of the study – Elucidation of the true nature of the Color Revolutions in order to prevent the destruction of the ethical and institutional conduct of politics as such.
2. The philosophy of Color Revolutions

- Political power resides in people’s consent, if the consent is withdrawn, the state looses its main source of power.

- Consent is withdrawn by damaging the legitimacy of the government by accusing it of dictatorship and corruption.

- The delegimization of the government is supported by coercive methods of political action with the purpose to break the will of the government and force it to resign.
3. 198 “Methods of non-violent action”

-Protests, vandalization of public space and property, naming and shaming, harassing officials, occupations, sit ins, boycott, creating parallel institutions, cultural events etc…

-The common ground of all the 198 “methods of non-violent action” that are part of the “Politics of non-violent action” by professor Gene Sharp is a coercive action that has the aim of breaking the will of the government by causing damage and harm with the purpose to destroy its status and force it to resign so that the political structures that are leading the Color Revolution can seize power.
4. The purpose of Color Revolutions

-Color Revolutions are being used as weapons of political warfare with the purpose to oust the government and install new one that will follow the directives of the real initiator of the Color Revolution, that in the majority of the cases is major geopolitical player that in such way protects its interests by installing an obedient regime that will align its policies with its interests and gravitate around its sphere of influence.

-On photo: The leader of the opposition in Republic of Macedonia, Zoran Zaev, taking part in the Color Revolution. Later he became prime minister due to immense diplomatic support and changed the name of the country in Republic of North Macedonia in order for it to join NATO which was the reason for the launching of the Color Revolution in the first place and not democratization.
5. The nature of their actions

-Coercion is the nature of the actions of the Color Revolutions and the so-called “Methods of non-violent action” Namely, they use protests, boycotts, vandalization of public space and property, occupations etc. with the purpose to cause damage and harm to the government status, to break its will and force it to resign in order for the opposition to seize power. This is coercion that has its roots in violence since every action that falls under the aforementioned category is a violent action. It's not simple pressure because protest as a form of genuine pressure does not imply breaking of will in order to seize power, but an expression of dissatisfaction with a government policy that is done without damaging anybody or anything.
6. What is violence and why Color Revolutions are violent?

-The intentional act of causing damage and harm with the purpose to break the will and coerce one to subjugation is what constitutes a violent action.

-Color Revolutions operate on this principle and are considered as non-violent just because they exclude fist fighting and do not produce a pile of corpses which is done out of strategic reasons, to avoid facing the opponent where it has superiority with the purpose to maintain an image of non-violence and not out of moral creed genuinely based on non-violent action. That’s why they can be considered as “non-violent” violence.
7. What is a non-violent political action?

-A genuine non-violent political action is an action that is aimed at raising the awareness of one’s role in the political system. The purpose behind being empowering of the individual to stand firm as equal to his representative in case of injustice and mistreatment and to effectuate his power by refusing to comply and protest in order to make himself heard. The aim is to make the government see the wrongness of its action and stop the policy in question by accepting the individual’s position. This represents a genuine non-violent action because it’s not causing damage and coercing anybody. Instead, it leads to developing a better mutual understanding of the relationship between the people and the government by clarifying each one’s position in the political system. This can only lead to improvement of the immediate situation that on long term will influence the political consciousness of the nation and thus lead to incremental change of values which will affect the political ethics of the society.
7.1 Perfect example of non-violent action is Mohandas Gandhi satyagraha.
8. Color Revolutions and geopolitics

-Their instrumental nature makes Color Revolutions applicable for pursuing geopolitical objectives. That’s why great number of Color Revolutions that happened in countries that did not had dictatorial regimes but were of geopolitical significance, were heavily supported by the West and a number of those that happened in truly dictatorial regimes but were of no importance to the West were not supported. Those were „(...) the Color Revolutions in Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus and Azerbaijan while those in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Moldova received no support [1].”
The geopolitical interest of the West is what distinguishes the former group from the latter. That is, Ukraine, Georgia and especially Belarus, represent the soft spot or the near abroad as those countries are called in the Russian Federation which means that by installing pro-Western regimes, the West spreads its geopolitical influence in the courtyard of the Russian Federation. This is the first step toward the ultimate geopolitical goal of the NATO expansion near the Russian borders. Another reason to consider the Color Revolutions as instruments of advancing the foreign policy is that the West „supported the Color Revolutions that occurred in countries that had by far milder Governments [1]“, with the exception of Belarus, but were of greater geopolitical significance, compared to those that were truly dictatorial, like Turkmenistan, but of lesser significance for the West. In other words, the underlying cause is geopolitical interest and not genuine democratization which is the reason why the gap between the officially proclaimed intentions and the consequences remains.
Thus, Color Revolutions and the “methods of non-violent action” are instruments that are combination of Gandhi’s satyagraha and militaristic philosophy precisely developed for waging the political struggle for power. They operate by delegitimizing and coercing the government which reveals that the reasoning behind the naming as non-violent methods of action is strictly pragmatic and not essentially true. That consequently shows their place in the political realm as strategic violent tools for achieving political and geopolitical objectives and reveals that they are not local and self-created uprising against the incumbent government in the name of democracy but a set of violent instruments of advancing the foreign policy of a particular state whose structures stand behind the real organization and mobilization of the protestors and their local contractors that appear as their leaders. The danger they pose for the ethical and institutional conduct of politics as such lies in the fact that every political subject can turn to this weapon of political warfare in the attempt to seize power since Color Revolutions can delegitimize even the legitimate government which is the reason why their artificial legitimacy of “non-violence” should be exposed in its true violent light.
10. References:


11. Literature:


