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## **TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE**

DEMOCRACY, EU INTEGRATION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Volume I

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### SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY BY PANEUROPEAN MOVEMENT: AN HISTORICAL OVERWIEV

Prof. d-r Ivanka D. Vasilevska m-r Ivan Stojanovski

Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus", University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje

For the majority of Europeans, World War I meant the beginning of the end of the European civilization. The minority, however, drew the conclusion that Europe's capacity to react the war depended on its ability to overcome the aggressive nationalisms that had dragged the European continent into catastrophe and to adopt the ideal of a united and peaceful Europe as a common project. Europe as a continent and community was dying due to the fact that its inhabitants were killing each other and destroying by means of modern technology. Therefore, a need was born at that time, to change the political system and to make a foundational difference. World War I changed the political map of Europe, but the political system of Europe remained the same. Ideas regarding united Europe and the methods for its realization have changed through the various stages of European and world history. One of the most valuable concepts in this context is the concept of Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Austrian cosmopolite, who published an all-time book titled "Paneurope" in 1923, which contains a specific proposal for a united Europe and on whose basis is organized Paneuropean movement as a concept of European integration. Because of that, our concept for this article is focused on the role of Paneuropean movement in spreading democracy across Europe, its efforts in the prevention of Second World War, the self-sacrificing struggle against the Nazi and in the following years the Communist regime. By employing data and experiences from the work of the Paneuropean movement, we present the influence over development of European countries, in the subsequent formation of European Union and in the development and spread of democracy in Europe and worldwide.

Key words: World War I, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Paneurope, Paneuropean movement, Second World War.

### INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century was the bloodiest of all in human history. It was completely overtaken by wars, but still like never before it managed to bring welfare and progress to the entire world. The greatest tragedy to Western civilization erupted with World War I in 1914... Classical liberalism was thereby murdered, and virtually disappeared, and was replaced by collectivism which reined both intellectually and in practice throughout the remainder of the twentieth century.96

World War I or th November 1918. killed or deadly in deadliest conflict where world's eco appeared: the Tri Central Powers reorganized and e million military p of the largest wa imagine that life By the end of the empires ceased territory, while t War I radically a I, the League of Conference with This aim failed German feeling eventually led to In the World V including the H During strategic million people v it resulted in an made World Wa After the war, i institution Unite and prevent futi and the United setting a stage f The struggle f psychological v beliefs and id religious convi sides vying for the world."99 The USSR con United States extending mil

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<sup>96</sup> Denson, John V., A century of war, Ludvig von Mises Institute, United States of America, 1997, page:19.

<sup>97</sup> Ellis, John/Cox, 1 Aurum, London, 20

<sup>98</sup> Vasilevska, I,. Th 99 http://www.histor 100 Kissinger, Henry

World War I or the Great War began on 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1914 and lasted until 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918. During this war in Europe more than 9 million combatants were killed or deadly injured and 7 million civilians suffered as casualties.<sup>97</sup> This was the deadliest conflict in history up to that moment. In the period of this Great War where world's economic and military powers were drawn in, two opposing alliances appeared: the Triple Entente: United Kingdom, France and Russian Empire and Central Powers of Germany, Austro- Hungary and Italy. These alliances were reorganized and expanded as more nations and states entered the war. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history up to that moment, but nobody could have even imagine that life will bring another war in future greater than this Great War.

By the end of the World War I, German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires ceased to exist, notably to say is that the former two lost substantial territory, while the latter two were dismantled and ceased to exist as such. World War I radically altered the political landscape of Europe. Later, after the World War I, the League of Nations was formally created during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference with the aim of preventing any repetition of such an appalling conflict. This aim failed with weakened states, renewed European nationalism and the German feeling of humiliation contributing to the rise of Nazism, these conditions eventually led to World War II. 98

In the World War II there was massive number of casualties among civilians, including the Holocaust, where approximately 11 million people were killed. During strategic bombing of industrial and population centres approximately one million people were killed including the use of two nuclear weapons in combat and it resulted in an estimated total number of 50 million to 85 million fatalities, which made World War II the deadliest conflict in human history.

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After the war, inspired by the will of states not to allow such wars to repeat, the institution United Nations (UN) was established to foster international co-operation and prevent future conflicts. After ending the Second World War, the Soviet Union and the United States emerged as rival superpowers in the new political reality, setting a stage for the upcoming Cold War which lasted for the next 46 years.

The struggle for dominance was expressed via proxy wars around the globe, psychological warfare, and technological competitions. "A clash of very different beliefs and ideology- capitalism versus communism- each held with almost religious conviction, formed the basis of an international power struggle with both sides vying for dominance, exploiting every opportunity for expansion anywhere in the world." "99

The USSR consolidated its control over the states of the Eastern Bloc, but the United States began strategy of global containment to challenge Soviet power extending military and financial aid to the countries of Western Europe and therefore they created the NATO alliance.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Ellis, John/ Cox, Michael, The World War 1 Databook: The essential fact and figures for all the combatants, Aurum, London, 2001, page: 270.

<sup>98</sup> Vasilevska, I,. The Versailles System from 1919, ResPublica, Skopje, 2016, page: 309.

<sup>99</sup> http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/what%20was%20the%20cold%20war.htm (accessed on 20.03.2019).

In the same time, a young man, only 29 year old Richard Coudenhove-Kalergy. Austrian cosmopolite, published an all-time book titled "Paneurope" in 1923. As one of the most valuable concepts, which contains a specific proposal for a united Europe and on whose basis is organized Paneuropean movement as a concept of European integration. His input in the master piece "Paneurope", activities regards to the establishment of numerous committees of Paneuropean Union in foreign countries and his noble work against the tyranny of different regimes. The role of Paneuropean movement in spreading democracy across Europe, its efforts in the prevention of Second World War, the self-sacrificing struggle against the Naziand in the following years the Communist regime.

### SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY BY PANEUROPEAN MOVEMENT

In the 20th century transitions to liberal democracy have come in successive waves of democracy, variously resulting from wars, revolutions, decolonization and religious and economic circumstances. Paneuropean movement was grounded in liberal democratic values and was considered staunchly anti-communist from its inception and especially during the Cold war. Because of that, this movement was reviled by the communist regimes of the Easter Bloc. Later Paneuropean Union became renowned for its role in organizing the Paneuropean Picnic.

Liberal democracy is a form of government where representative democracy operates under the principles of liberalism, i.e. protecting the rights of the individual which are generally enshrined in legislation. 101 This as form of government was characterized by fair, free and competitive elections between multiple distinct political parties, a separation of power into different branches of government, the rule of law in everyday life as part of an open society and the equal protection of human rights, civil rights, civil liberties and political freedoms of all people. To define the system in practice, liberal democracies often draw upon a constitution either formally written or not codified to delineate the powers of government and enshrine the social contract. After a period of sustained expansion throughout the 20th century, liberal democracy became the predominant political system in the world. After the World War I, the dissolution of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires contributed in the creation of several nation-states from Europe, most of them at least nominally democratic. Also in the 1920's Nazism, Fascism and dictatorships were flourishing in Nazi Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal, as well as non democratic regimes in the Baltic, the Balkans, Brazil, Cuba, China and Japan among other countries. 102

Later, after the World War II, a definitive reversal of this trend was in place and started democratization of the American, British and French sectors of Germany, Austria, Italy and Japan, who served as a model for the later theory of regime change. But most of Eastern Europe, including the Soviet sector of Germany fell into the non democratic Soviet bloc.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Friedman, Milton, The Basic Principals of Liberalism, Lecture-Wabash College, 1956, page: 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Raza, Syed Ali, Social Democratic System, Global Peace Trust, 2012, page: 54.

<sup>103</sup> Kissin 104 http:// on 24.02

http://ww 106 Ency died July

assassin 107 http://

After in 1960's majority of the countries were nominally democracies, most of the world's population lived in nations that experienced sham elections and other forms of subterfuge, particularly in Communist nations and the former colonies.

A subsequent wave of democratization brought substantial gains toward true liberal democracy for many nations in the world. In the 1980's economic malaise, along with resentment of Soviet obsession, contributed to the collapse of Soviet Union, and associated end of the Cold War and the democratisation and liberalisation of the former Eastern bloc countries. 103

In the period of Hitler's ascendance in Germany, Paneuropean Union convoked its second international congress on 17th of May 1930 in Berlin. In the years before Hitler, Paneuropean Union worked for German-French reconciliation and a revision of the Paris-suburban contracts. 104

The third congress was held in Basel in October 1932. Coudenhove-Kalergi repeatedly accentuated his uncompromising rejection of Hitler and Stalin.

On 30th of January 1933, on the day when Hitler was appointed Chancellor of the German Reich, Coudenhove-Kalergi held his last address in Berlin. That year all Paneuropean literature was forbidden in Germany. From 1933 Paneuropean movement was concentrated strongly in Austria, but not in Germany. "Coudenhove - Kalergi was convinced: the future of Europe depends on the maintenance of Austria's independence."105

Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss<sup>106</sup> took over the honorary presidency of the Austrian Paneuropean Union. Coudenhove - Kalergi analyzed also in writing the National-Socialism and Communism. His work "Stalin & Co" appeared in 1931. In 1937 for the first time was printed "Total State-Total Man" (Totaler Staat-Totaler Mensch), it was philosophical, political and polemic settlements in regards to the two large totalitarian movements of the century.

Federal Chancellor Dollfuss was murdered, and his successor became Kurt von Schuschnigg who took over the Honorary Presidium of the Austrian Paneuropa Union. He was in the leadership of the 4th Paneuropa Congress in 1935 in Vienna, an event that represented "a great international demonstration against the National-Socialism."107 "For Coudenhove-Kalergi the Nazi rise was a disaster for paneuropeanism". 108 Because of that after 1933 he turned his paneuropean energy to a campaign against Hitler and likeminded followers.

In the period between 1934 and 1938 Coudenhove-Kalergi tried to achieve alliance between Austria, France and Italy.

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<sup>103</sup> Kissinger, Henry, Diplomacy, (quoted work), page:710.

http://www.epaneurope.eu/tl\_files/epaneurope2011/downloads/documents/Paneuropa%20History.pdf (accessed on 24.02.2019) pg. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> Baier, Stephan, "The history of Paneurope", 2006.

http://www.epaneurope.eu/tl\_files/epaneurope2011/downloads/documents/Paneuropa%20History.pdf

Encyclopaedia Britannica, Engelbert Dollfuss was born October 4, 1892 in Texing, Austro-Hungarian Empire died July 25, 1934 in Vienna, Austria, Austrian statesman and, from 1932 to 1934, chancellor of Austria, was assassinated by Nazi followers.

<sup>107</sup> http://www.epaneurope.eu/tl\_files/epaneurope2011/downloads/documents/Paneuropa%20History.pdf 108 Glassheim, Eagle, Noble nationalists: The transformation of the Bohemian aristocracy, 2005, page:121.

"When Nazi regime came to power, Paneuropa movement outlawed." In March 1938 Austrian government resigned under the pressure of German ultimatums and Nazi revolts within the country, and few days less Germany formally annexed Austria.

After the Annexation (Anschluss)<sup>110</sup> of Austria in 1938, the Paneuropean center in Vienna Imperial Palace (Hofburg) was occupied. That's why the Austrian Paneuropean centre moved its activities in Switzerland and Paris. There the endeavoured to establish an Austrian exile government also closely known Coudenhove's future successor, the Austrian crown-prince Otto von Habster After the occupation of Czechoslovakia, Coudenhove-Kalergi received French citizenship. However later he would write: "Since the breakdown of my Australian Color of the State of the St Hungarian home country, I am a convinced European patriot, despite my French and previously my Czechoslovakian citizenship".111

Coudenhove-Kalergi endeavoured to obtain a close alliance between France Great Britain, because these states declared the reason why they are waging war, is to put an end to it and assist the creation of Paneurope.

In 1940, Coudenhove-Kalergi fled from the Nazis, via France, Spain and Portugal to New York, the United States. From there he continued to work on paneuropean plans, as co-director of the "Research Seminar for Post war European Federation" New York University. Even after Japanese forces made an assault on Pearl Harboar Coudenhove's determination was not personally affected. 112

On 25th of March in 1943 in New York he convoked the 5th Paneuropean Congress In the period between the years of 1940 to 1944, Otto von Habsburg lived in Washington and together with Coudenhove-Kalergi worked at that time in political advocating for Austria, in humanitarian aid actions, in the Southern-Tirol question,

Paneuropean movement in the union of the Western European states saw only the starting point for an entire European unity. That's why its conviction firstly required the breakdown of the communist system and liberty for the people of Central

After that, Paneuropean movement actively tried to establish contacts with freedom Eastern Europe. movements on the other side of the "Iron Curtain" (Eiserner Vorhang). 114 A historical cut was the Paneuropean picnic at the Austrian-Hungarian border which was organised on 19th of August 1989, near the town Sopron (Odenburg). It was a peace demonstration and tore the first hole in the Iron Curtain, and bravely heralded the end of Europe's partition. It was organised by the Paneuropean Union and the

<sup>109</sup> Holzner, Burkart/ Holzner, Leslie, Transparency in Global Change: the Vanguard of the Open Society, 2006,

<sup>(</sup>personal note) "Anschluss" was the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in March 1938. page:129.

<sup>111</sup> Baier, (q.w.).

<sup>112 (</sup>p.n.) Richard von Coudenhove-Kalergi's mother was Japanese. (p.n.) The Iron Curtain symbolized the ideological conflict and physical boundary dividing Europe into separate areas from the end of World War II in 1945 until the end of the Cold War in 1991. The term symbol ret efforts by the Soviet Union to block itself and its satellite states from open contact with the west and non-Soviet controlled areas. On the east side of the Iron Curtain were the countries that were connected to or influenced by Soviet Union. On either side of the Iron Curtain, states developed their own international economic and military

<sup>114</sup> Translation of the wording "Iron Curtain" in German language.

Hungarian opposition Hungarian Democratic Forum under the protection of Otto von Habsburg<sup>115</sup> and Imre Pozsgay-Hungarian State Minister and on the event came 661 people.<sup>116</sup>

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"On the basis of previous agreement between the Austrian and Hungarian authorities, the participants of the Paneuropean picnic symbolically opened the border" 117

In the year of 1989 situation in Central Europe was under tension. Formally, people were still under dictatorship and were calling for democratic elections, freedom of speech and withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The Iron Curtain remained a dominant factor in the movements to tear down the walls and unite Europe. Some of the countries faced a severe communist power structure, but some of them assumed a more reform-oriented approach. Supported at that time by Gorbachev's new policies, the communist leadership realized the necessity for change.

Civil society organizations and political parties played a role in moving towards a democratic multi-party system. In several Central European countries in the year of 1989, round tables have been organized in order to peacefully and consensually change the political system. That's why in February 1989 formal Round Table discussions began in the Hall of Columns in Warsaw. Later on 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1989 the historic Round Table Agreement was signed legalizing Solidarity (Solidarnosc)<sup>118</sup> and setting up partly free parliamentary elections to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1989 (coincidentally the day following the crackdown on Chinese protesters in Tiananmen Square).

In that time, there were still orthodox hardliners who did not believe in democracy and human rights and proclaimed the leading role of the communist party and thus their dictatorial regime.

Having in mind the previously written, it is explanatory why in Germany the Berlin Wall was constructed (1961-1989), and only pensioners were allowed to pass through (debatable also). These backward forces were predominant in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. In regards to Hungary, the situation was a bit more relaxed, due to the fact that since 1988, Hungarians possessed so-called "world-passports" enabling them to travel relatively freely. In 1989, many Romanian citizens escaped the dictatorship in their country and were filling refugee camps near Debrecen, at Hungarian-Romanian border.

The Hungarian government was bound by a bilateral agreement, and should have legally sent these people in Romania, and thus exposing them to revenge by the Romanian authorities. That's why Hungary formally joined the United Nations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> Shepherd, Gordon Brook, Uncrowned Emperor: The Life and Times of Otto von Habsburg, A&C Black, England, 2003, page: 211.

http://thevieweast.wordpress.com/2009/08/19/cracks-in-the-iron-curtain-remembering-hungarys-pan-european-picnic/ (accessed on 06.03.2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup>Rev, Istvan, Retroactive Justice: Prehistory of post-communism, 2005, page: 7.

<sup>118 (</sup>p.n.) Solidarity (Solidarnosc in Polish) is a Polish trade union federation that emerged on 31st of August 1980 at the Gdansk Shipyard under the leadership of Lech Wałęsa. It was the first non-Communist Party-controlled trade union in a Warsaw Pact country.

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (CSR) in 1989, 119 which gave them a legal base not to deport them back to their country of origin.

Lake Balaton in Hungary where East German citizens often spent their summer holidays was the place where they were meeting their relatives and friends from Western Germany.

Otto von Habsburg on 20th of June 1989, visited the university in Debrecen, where he addressed the interested Hungarian audience about the question of how Europe would look without borders, and what impact the European Parliament elections had on the people of Central Europe. After the speech, followed a dinner where two representatives of the local MDF (Hungarian Democratic Forum, the conservative party of later Prime Minister Jozsef Antall), Maria Filep and Ferenc Meszaros, surprised the attendees with the idea of arranging a picnic at the Austro-Hungarian border.120

National leadership of the MDF had doubts about that, but Maria Filer wanted intensive action to recruit participants and to find the exact location suitable for such an event. She suggested on the gathering to involve intellectuals and opposition activists from the CEE countries taking place in Martonvasar (close to Lake Balaton) with a planned end date of 20 August 1989. It was agreed to host the picnic next to Sopron, in Sopronpuszta, at the old Bratislava Road, which has been a border since 1922.

The picnic was intended to be an informal gathering of international participants. with special regard to Austrians and Hungarians who should be coming together directly at the border, at the meadow, to grill, eat and interact.

The border was opened a short-time, just for three hours so that pedestrians from both sides of the border can meet each other and share their dreams of a European continent without borders.

The organizers engaged Otto von Habsburg and Imre Pozsgay<sup>121</sup> as patrons of the event, which demonstrated the will of all sides involved to work for the goals of the event. The flyer that advertised the picnic was distributed to East German citizens and somehow in their minds it represented a way to defect to Western Germany via Austria.

What was left of one of those regimes in Budapest had already agreed with the Austrian and German authorities not only the day, but the precise hour, 2:30 in the afternoon of 19 August, when the border crossing at Sopron will be opened up. The German government was involved because the grounds of its Embassy in Budapest were by now packed with hundreds of East Germans who had camped there on an escape route to the West. During the previous fortnight, their food and water from the Embassy had been distributed, together with small maps showing the way to Sopron. When the gates were open, a total of 661 East Germans swarmed through to join the picnic. It was, Walburga said: "like watching birds escaping from a cage,

 $^{119} https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails II.aspx? \&src=TREATY \&mtdsg\_no=V-2 \&chapter=5 \&Temp=mtdsg2 \&left for the control of the co$ 

ang=en (accessed on 07.03.2019). 120 Shepherd, (q.w.) page:191.

embracing fre fellow Pan-Eu East German "West", but t them the pica 100,000 peop showed Europ The East Gen 7th of October exodus of the to the picnic s With this picr first brick from Subsequent e borders on 11th 1989 and fina form its first contacts with Bloc were not but were based On 27th of Jur foreign minist crossed the bo surveillance in Organizers of event. Ministry on the border. Thousands mo Balaton, for th crossed the bo The next few successfully b patrolling thro Hungarian gua German diplor temporarily st

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<sup>121 (</sup>p.n.) Imre Pozsgay is born in 1933 in Kony. He is Hungarian, ex-Communist, politician who played a key role in Hungary's transition to democracy after 1988.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid. page:192

<sup>123</sup> East Germany- of

<sup>124</sup> http://www.wind

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embracing freedom as though it were the first dawn of spring". She and her youthful fellow Pan-Europeans had lived up to their name. 122

East German citizens, under German communist law, were not allowed to travel to "West", but they had to write an official petition to East German authorities. For them the picnic was an opportunity to act. The destiny of these approximately 100,000 people for several months was top news story which was broadcasted and showed Europe's urgent need to find a suitable way out.

The East German rulers, planning to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of the "GDR"<sup>123</sup> on 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1989, were keen to hide the problems and were silent about the mass exodus of their own people.<sup>124</sup> Several hundred "GDR" citizens conducted a "run" to the picnic site, literally overrunning the old wooden gate and getting to Austria. With this picnic the organizers made history because the gate was opened and the first brick from the Berlin Wall was knocked out in Hungary.

Subsequent events led to a total and unconditional opening of the Hungarian borders on 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1989, to the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1989 and finally to the end of the Iron Curtain. That day Paneuropean Union could form its first Membership-Organization in the "Eastern Bloc" in Hungary. The contacts with citizens, freedom-fighters and new groups in the declining Eastern Bloc were not restricted on the leadership of the International Paneuropean Union, but were based widely on the initiatives of regional or local Paneuropean groups.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 6 kilometres away from this spot, in a symbolic act Austria's then foreign minister Alois Mock and his Hungarian counterpart Gyula Horn, <sup>125</sup> together crossed the border fence in a move highlighting Hungary's decision to dismantle its surveillance installations along the border, a process started on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1989. <sup>126</sup> Organizers of the Paneuropean Picnic had distributed pamphlets advertising the event. Ministry of Interior of Hungary before the event made an order for the guards on the border, not to intervene and not to bear any arms on the day of the event. <sup>127</sup> Thousands more East Germans were waiting, in Budapest and around the Lake

Thousands more East Germans were waiting, in Budapest and around the Lake Balaton, for their chance to cross the border. On that day, the number of people who crossed the border into the West was limited on a few hundred.

The next few days, only a relatively small number actually reached the West successfully because the Hungarian government increased the number of guards patrolling through the border. The reason was that people were informed by the Hungarian guards that they could obtain West German passports issued by West German diplomats working in Hungary, and because of that a lot of East Germans temporarily stayed in Hungary waiting for the issue of passport and the event to unfold.

Hungary opened its borders on 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1989 for citizens of the German Democratic Republic and other Central European countries. With that the borders of the Central European countries for the first time officially were opened for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> Ibid. page:192

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> East Germany- officially the German Democratic Republic or GDR.

<sup>124</sup> http://www.windservers.com/pan-european\_picnic/background (accessed on 07.03.2019).

<sup>125 (</sup>p.n.) European University Institute, Alois Mock and Gyula Horn, the Foreign Ministers of Austria and Hungary Clip the Barbed wire Fences on the Austro-Hungarian Boarder, 27 June 1989.

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Europe for citizens, The Charter of European Rural Communities, 2011, page 16.

citizens of the Soviet bloc states. That marked the fall of Iron Curtain, and few months after the opening, more than 70.000 East Germans fled to West Germany.

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### THE LONGING OF MANY IS THE REALITY OF FEW!

20th century brought great evil, but also nobility and humanity that were able to fight it. During the Nazi regime, although Richard von Coudenhove-Kalergi and Otto von Habsburg were under threats of losing their lives due to their believes and actions, they still remained devoted to their principals and morality. They had to leave their homeland Europe and fight the battle for freedom over the oceans.

Their courage and ingenuity set them to be the loudspeakers of future Europe, to promote the political system of post war continent and to rethink the international arena made up by European countries. Their courage and will guided them through the Second World War and the Cold War.

Today many people of this World wish to live in a free and democratic society, that number was even greater in the recent past. In the year of 1989 situation in Central Europe was under tension. Everyone knew that the end of Soviet Bloc is coming. but nobody dared to challenge it. Formally, people were still under dictatorship and were calling for democratic elections, freedom of speech and withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Iron Curtain remained a target and dominant factor in the movements to tear down the walls and unite Europe.

Such proposal and courageous adventure came directly from the Paneuropean movement, to organize a picnic right in front of the Austro-Hungarian border. With this picnic the organizers made history because they managed to open the gate and gave signal that other actions can take place, finally leading even to taking down of the Berlin Wall.

### CONCLUSION

Democracy, the best political system of all others that mankind has been able to organize, is under pressure during these days. Clashes between the east and west are currently taking place on European territory, repeating history as many times before. Europe faced these types of challenges previously in its history and was able to overcome and continue with great victories, but not without numerous casualties and suffering to the human lives and European civilization and values.

One great idea of a young gentleman in the first half of the 20th century, that promoted united Europe, was crucial in the struggle against tyranny and the dangers threatening Europe and its civilization. It offered a path of salvation to unity and brotherhood for European peoples and nations previously engaged in wars and blood sharing among each other. It emerged from the ashes of the First World War and offered a solution to hostile and ever in war neighbouring countries and nations. It was Richard's past and cultural heritage that gave birth of his great will to form the future United Europe. Coudenhove-Kalergi was a citizen of the world, born in Tokyo, Japan on 16th of November 1894, by a Japanese mother of a well situated and educated family and an Austrian-Hungarian father, who happened to be an experienced diplomat.

He became to be politician and philosopher, published his lifework, the masterpiece "Paneurope", created the idea of a Paneurope and undoubtedly with great passion started promoting Paneuropean movement. He righteously earned the title Pioneer of European integration among intellectuals and common people of this world.

It is to be noticed that Richard von Coudenhove-Kalergi at such a young age of 29, was able to create and publish his programmatic book "Paneurope". Paneuropa manifesto became famous in a short time and was translated in 15 languages. That was the beginning of Paneuropean movement. The prophecy of this idea is significant today as it was in its initial time. Statements made in the epochal manifest of "Paneurope" and its idea for united Europe are true today as they were in 1923 when it was released to public, true and applicable as in the after mach of Second World War and also as in the years of Cold war in Europe.

Paneuropean movement had the task to affect the media and influence the public opinion. For its mission it grabbed the attention of the government and its politicians. Coudenhove-Kalergi was perfectly aware that United Europe will be achieved only by the will of politicians and their people, and not by a military action or occupation.

Paneuropean followers proudly continued the mission for united Europe and spread the wave of democracy into lands previously hostile to the warming light of democratic values. Their will and determination introduced freedom and free will to those dreaming of it, thus creating brotherhood of freedom and democracy loving countries and nations.

The will for United Europe was inspired by the greatness of European culture, art and science on one side and was pushed by the necessity of preventing repetition of future wars such as the World War I and World War II. The will and decisiveness of many, made triumph in history by forming the European Coal and Steel Community and declared to be first step in the federation of Europe. Subsequent successes followed and in 1957 the Treaty of Rome was signed followed by The Merger Treaty of 1967.

Inspired by the will and ideology of great people that served the Paneurope idea, te creation of European Union followed by the will of the great variety of different political parties and their own particularities of local, regional and national cultures, languages and traditions. European Union was born and the process of European unification begun. With the Maastricht Treaty the European Union was formally established. Huge debates are active even today in which direction should the process continue, but nevertheless it still offers a path of benefit and mutual cooperation.

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#### Abstract

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### INTRODUCTION

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<sup>128</sup> http://www.europarl.europa