

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SECURITY CHALLENGES OF THE XXI<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: THE CASE OF NATO AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

**Enri Hide**

European University of Tirana, “Gjergj Fishta” Blv., Ish NPV 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Building, Room 215

## **Abstract**

This paper aims to explore the new role of NATO in the period 2000-2012. It will argue that, the new dimensions of NATO after the Cold War, such as enlargement and humanitarian interventions, were not enough so as to guarantee a strong case for the Organization to exist. So, since NATO has always been in search of new motives in order to justify its existence, it has found a new one in the new nature of asymmetrical threats its member-states are confronting after September 11, 2001. Starting from the neorealist premise that international organizations are dependent variables (that they rely on states' will in order to operate) this papers is mostly structured around the neorealist theory of international relations, to argue that international terrorism is used as a legitimizing subject, in line with the neorealist logic of state behavior in an anarchical international system. On the other hand, the study notes a new tendency shown by international organizations after the Cold War: their efforts to appear as unitary actors, as was the case with the new geostrategic approach of NATO after September 11, 2001. Terrorism has not always had such a fundamental role in the North-Atlantic political agenda. It was an issue NATO had dealt with in a technical and bureaucratic level. But after the terrorist attack of September 11, NATO radically changed its strategic priorities as well as its geopolitical vision, clearly showing a good ability to adapt to the new threats.

**Key words:** *nato, international security, international terrorism, geopolitics, international organizations.*