

# THE PLACEMENT OF THE MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD IN EUROPE. INTERESTS, AMBITIONS AND REAL BENEFICIARIES: ROMANIA, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

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**Motto:** *If interests and ambitions conflict, the absence of crises is more worrisome than their presence. (Waltz, 1988: 615-628)*

**Abstract.** *When interests and ambitions are conflicting, the absence of the crisis is more alarming than its presence. The Cold War brought about more relaxed relations between the United States and Russia, but Washington and Moscow remain in opposing positions. Freedom is directly proportional to the order and the anarchy of international society. Romania had the “freedom” to choose the alignment, but in terms of geopolitics the problem deepens once the location of the missile shield had been decided for Romania: if Romania did express a free choice, then has Romania made the best choice?*

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