

Preface

This monograph is based on the doctoral thesis defended in 2019. Along the journey, my research endeavor has benefited from the advice of expert observers and professors whom I would like to thank for their extensive and valuable contribution: first and foremost, Mrs. Silvia Florea, dr. habil., my thesis coordinator, who provided timely advice and constant assistance throughout my endeavor; Dr. Eric Gilder and Dr. Radu Drăgulescu, my doctoral advisors, who brought pertinent comments on the earlier drafts of the work and offered relevant feedback and encouragement; the ReaderBench masterminds, especially Dr.Eng. Mihai Dascălu and Dr. Ștefan Trăușan-Matu, who believed in my work and added incommensurable value to my research.

I would also like to express appreciation to Dr. Donald Abenheim and to Dr. David Yost, professors at the Naval Postgraduate School of Monterey, California, my host institution during the nine-month Fulbright grant as a visiting researcher, who gave me a great sense of freedom and latitude, not only to conduct research on a broader topic than originally intended, but also to place the study in the context of theories of international political order, such as collective security and the balance of power.

The finalization of this thesis would not have been possible without the help of BG Dr. Ghiță Bârsan, Commandant and Rector of “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy of Sibiu, who kindly took interest in my project and was most supportive with all connected professional activities and goals.

Several other people offered assistance that was sincerely appreciated, particularly COL (r) Carmen Teodorescu, Adriana Dumitrescu, Brândușa Niculescu, Florina Maier, Viviana Sărac, Anca Tomuș, Tanya Herfi, Jovan Drones and John R. Morgan.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, for their boundless patience and encouragement, as well as for their practical assistance in making it all possible.