

# SHAPING THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE INTENTIONAL DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

*Florin TUDORACHE, Ph.D Candidate\**

**Abstract:** *The disclosure of classified information to the general public played an important role in the period before the start of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. This strategy involved the disclosure of classified information at an unprecedented scale and speed, with the aim of achieving specific effects, while using emerging technologies such as those associated to the open-source intelligence toolbox. The hypothesis under consideration is that the state may intentionally disclose classified information in order to shape the reactions and behaviours of other international actors. The research approach was based on the case study on the disclosure of classified information in the period July 2021–February 2022 in the context of the imminent invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. The data collected from open sources were correlated with the aim of analysing in detail the disclosure strategy of classified information, its characteristics, the factors that potentiate it and its effects. The obtained results lead to the conclusion that the disclosure of classified information belongs to the tools of the ways of exercising the state power, with multiple effects, from influencing opponents to increasing the resilience of own population to the phenomenon of fake news.*

**Keywords:** *international relations, intelligence, conflict, classified information, diplomacy.*

*Motto: „In an Information Age, in which credibility is the scarest resource,  
the best propaganda is not propaganda”  
Joseph Nye*

## **Introduction**

The international security environment is defined as the representation of the complex interaction, on a global scale, of political, economic, social, technological and environmental factors with influences on the stability and security of nations<sup>1</sup>. Thus, by researching the international environment, issues such as geopolitical disputes, military capabilities, economic interdependence or the impact of emerging technologies on the

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\* „CAROL I” National Defence University Doctoral School, email: florin.marian.tudorache@gmail.com.

<sup>1</sup>Buzan, Barry. 2014. *Popoarele, statele și frica. O agendă pentru studii de securitate internațională în epoca de după Războiul Rece*, Chisinau, Cartier Publishing House.