Decisionism, Postmodernism and International Relations

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Abstract: In the field of international relations, as well as in the entire social and political universe, the decision making process is a fundamental matter. There are multiple patterns and theorizations of the way the decisions are - or should be – taken. But, beyond the abstract formalizing and modelling, there is a certain kind of decision-making apology, which shaped a consistent theory, called decisionism, which gets a part of its arguments from the world of the international relations and of the political leaders. Decisionism insists on the existence of a space of the sovereign decision, which cannot be definitively and radically restricted to a regulated frame; it also emphasize the permanent tension between the settled rules, the complexity of the reality and the will of the decision makers. In the context of late modernity, of the deconstructions of the postmodernist type, of the weak thought, lacked of certainties and of strong benchs, the realism, the pragmatism and the contextualism – as instruments of evaluation and decision taking – can be easily manipulated within a self-referential decisionism. Consequently, between the legalistic idealism of the objectivistic modernity and the pragmatism of the subjectivistic postmodernism it must be found a middle way, which should be able to permit the creation of an equilibrium between the will of that who decides and the objective frame of the rules, on the one hand, and the uncertainties, the suspicions or the relativities specific to an ambiguous and melted contemporaneity, on the other hand. Thereby, the decisionism may lead either to arbitrary authoritarianism, or to lack of coherence and to absolutizing of the contingencies.

Keywords: decisionism, weak thought, legalism, international politics, postmodernism, pragmatism, realism.