UDK: 355.433.2(497.712)

THE EASTERN PART OF THE SKOPJE VALLEY AROUND THE VILLAGE OF MILADINOVCI AS A GEO-STRATEGIC CENTER OF GRAVITY OF MACEDONIA

Mario SHAREVSKI
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU)
Center for Strategic Research, e-mail: sharevski@manu.edu.mk

ABSTRACT

The inextricable connection of human life and action with physical space implies the need for continuous research of its features that offer significant strategic advantages in terms of defense. The importance of integrity and overall functioning of states and armies which was first observed and explained by the famous scholar and strategist Carl von Clausewitz through the concept of center of gravity is widely accepted and widespread in contemporary science and practice. Through theoretical establishment of the concept of center of gravity in geostrategic context this article continues with its application in the analysis of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in order to recognize the proper center of gravity. Considering the transportation, economic and military-defense significance and concentration of infrastructure, the eastern part of the Skopje valley around the village of Miladinovci is indicated as a geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia. Extraordinary strategic benefits arising from the physical location and configuration of the terrain of this area in terms of the inner and outer regional significance indicate the increasing importance of this area as a geo-strategic center of gravity of Macedonia also in the future.

Key words: geo-strategic center of gravity, Carl von Clausewitz, eastern part of Skopje Valley, Miladinovci, Macedonia.

INTRODUCTION

Human life inevitably takes place in two key dimensions: space and time, in which close interrelations are created and all types of organized human life operates starting from the family, urban communities, up to the formal institutions such as police, army, nation states and international organizations. While time dimension is important in order to coordinate appropriate action with certain circumstances or certain variables, the dimension of the space is a less variable category that still sets and points out the conditions and possibilities on which rests the decision and implementation of a certain action. Undoubtedly, the enormous importance space has is recognized and largely studied in geography, geopolitical and military science. Many examples from experience and practice led to establishment of theoretical concepts of strategic importance of certain points in the geographical area including the concept of "center of gravity" by the well-known author of military science Carl von Clausewitz. This paper addresses the geographical area and its extraordinary strategic importance for normal and uninterrupted functioning of the life in Macedonia. Through the explanation and application of the Clausewitz's

concept developed in international science and armies, as well as proper analysis of the situation and characteristics of certain parts of the geographical area of Macedonia, this short research paper tries to identify the relevant geographical strategic center of gravity of Macedonia. The longstanding conflict history of the Balkan region, the developments in our country from the recent history and the ongoing current geopolitical events on a global and regional level confirm the relevance and necessity of such research that is intended to indicate the significance of a certain part of the geographical area in our country. Such research should be considered in the creation and adoption of security, defense, and economic development and peaceful policies and strategies in the present and future. Through the use of the analytical method on the large amount of information from books, research papers, articles and reports in newspapers, media and the Internet, as well as field and cartographic research in the application of the Clausewitz's theoretical concept by observing, identifying and analyzing the features of geographical area of the country, this short research paper attempts to identify and determine the geo-strategic center of gravity of Macedonia.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE CONCEPT OF CENTER OF GRAVITY

The term `center of gravity` is imminent to natural sciences, most specifically to physics with the meaning of an item which contains the full mass of a body, from where it derives its completeness, balance and strength. In his most famous work "*On War*", Carl von Clausewitz using illustration and comparison to nature and the effect of the center of gravity in mechanics (von Clausewitz, 1989), developed this concept for the first time in military-strategic science. Namely, he considered that just as the center of gravity can always be found where the mass is most concentrated, and just as every blow against the body's center of gravity produces the greatest effect, and—more to the point—the strongest blow is the one delivered by the center of gravity, the same applies in war. (von Clausewitz, 1989: 331). In terms of military strategy, Clausewitz states that: "The fighting forces of each belligerent—whether a single state or an alliance of states—have a certain unity and therefore some cohesion and where there is cohesion, the analogy of the center of gravity can be applied" (von Clausewitz, 1989: 332). Thus, these forces will possess certain centers of gravity, which, by their movement and direction, govern the rest; and those centers of gravity will be found wherever the forces are most concentrated." (von Clausewitz, 1989: 332). Hence, he stresses that the possession of territories strives to divide the forces, while the use of force on the center of gravity of the enemy's military power combines them up again, thus this is where theatres of war or particular army region originate from (von Clausewitz , 1989: 332). In that sense these are those boundaries of the area of the country and of the forces thereon distributed, within which every decision given by the principle force of such a region extends itself directly over the whole, and carries on the whole with it in its own direction (von Clausewitz, 1989: 332). These ideas of Klausewitz have largely influenced military doctrines and science thus the US Army and Department of Defense have officially accepted and defined this concept, known under the abbreviation *CoG*. According to their definition, the center of gravity is the one element within a combatant's entire structure or system that has the necessary centripetal force to hold that structure together (Echevarria, 2002: 4). In that sense, the center of gravity is developing of all power and movement into a hub, on which everything depends (Strange & Iron, 2004: 21-22). Hence, it is the point where the forces of gravity converge within an object and therefore striking in the center of gravity

with enough force will usually cause the facility to lose your balance or balance, and fall (Echevarria, 2002: 6). This parallel and analogy of Klausewitz is of a great importance because it presents the center of gravity as a theoretical concept that can be recognized and applied in many other areas of practical life and work. In contemporary modern time of advanced and high technological development which significantly influences the type, scope, scale and manner of security threats, and even the war, the concept of center of gravity can be used to identify the strategically important points for uninterrupted functioning of any system within a state. In this respect, the research of strategic opportunities and potentials of the countries with scientific or intelligence character address the recognition of centers of gravity in each domain and factors such as physical-geographic, military security, political, economic, transport and communications, human - demographic, density of resources and critical infrastructure[11] etc. No matter what domain it is, when it comes to the crucial importance for the countries of the global, regional or local level, geostrategic centers of gravity always will always be determined, in large part, by location (Lindberg & Todd, 2002: 225). In respect to the internal (local) significance, given that all these factors that make up the potential necessary for normal and uninterrupted functioning and development of life are placed on the physical geographical space that the country possesses, the point where they cross and meet, or where they are most mutually interlinked, concentrated and functionally interconnected or intertwined essentially represents the geostrategic center of gravity. Therefore, one of those points or geographical area of countries that have very favorable and significant location and also unite all factors that are extremely important for normal functioning, security and survival of the state are actually centers of gravity with strategic significance.

GEOSTRATEGIC CENTER OF GRAVITY OF MACEDONIA

Within this short research, by considering the location and concentration of intersecting traffic, economic, energetic and military-defensive security infrastructure on the area of the Republic of Macedonia, we will try to give an assumption for recognizing the geostrategic center of gravity. In the research process and presentation of facts and data all strategic benefits of range and access will be considered stemming from its position, together with the concentration and density of the population and the political administrative importance of cities and regions in its immediate vicinity. As a starting point of particular importance for determining the strategic geographical center of gravity, the main features of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia should be taken into account and geostrategic importance of its geographical position in the wider context of the Balkan region and Europe should be taken into consideration. In terms of basic features and parameters, the territory of the Republic of Macedonia has a generally elliptical shape that approximates to the form of a circle, which can be qualified as a positive feature for equal opportunities for development and easier organization of defense (Mileski, 2005: 161 - 165). This circular shape of the territory of Macedonia, suggests its compactness or solid connection of the space. Along with the composition and distribution of the relief, as it is the central position and spanning from north to south of the composite valley of the river Vardar with spacious valleys and gorges that are directly related to the valleys in the

[11]For more details see the scientific model for Strategic Potential Analysis developed by General Cabral Couto and Admiral Silva Ribeiro book *Teoria Geral da Estratégia*, 2010 (in Portuguese)

river basins of the tributaries that penetrate deep to the east (Bregalnitsa, Pchinja) and west (river Crna), besides its large benefits it also suggests that the position of gravitational center of Macedonia is geographically located in its central part. In terms of location in the context of regional significance, Macedonia is the central country on the Balkan Peninsula and is located in the center of the so-called Balkan geopolitical cross (Kotovchevski, 2011: 227). Considering the central geographical location and features of the landscape that offer favorable opportunities for easy access and mobility to all four directions, and hence for conquest, attack, control or domination of the Balkan Peninsula, in terms of the famous geopolitical concept Heartland of Halford John Mackinder, Macedonia undoubtedly represents a geopolitical and geostrategic marrow or Heartland in the Balkans (Mileski & Sharevski 2014: 50). The great geopolitical importance of Macedonia`s central favorable position is also due to the Vardar Valley as the most important geostrategic communication axis in the Balkans which through direct connection with the Moravian Valley to the north makes it even more significant in European terms for connecting Central Europe to the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East. At the same time the great geopolitical significance is supplemented by the fact that on the territory of Macedonia the international pan-European corridors 8 and 10 cross and intersect (Mileski & Sharevski 2014: 50). In the Vardar Valley the pan-European road and rail traffic corridor 10 pass, which is also the largest, most important and busiest intersection in Macedonia. Moreover, the oil pipeline from the port of Thessaloniki passes here. These observations about the great geo-strategic importance of Macedonia and especially the Vardar Valley furthermore supports the assumption for determining the location of the exact point of the center of gravity.

a. Significance of transport

Following the naturally established routes of expanding of these corridors for traffic and communication there is a notable concentration of traffic infrastructure in the area of intersection, which is located in the eastern and north-eastern part and the edge of the Skopje Valley in the zone between Skopje, Kumanovo, Miladinovci and 'Rzhanichino (Katlanovo). This point of the area where they intersect has a favorable position and allows distribution and dispersion of the road network with access to almost all of the territory of Macedonia. In this context, in terms of road traffic, the point of intersection of the highways "Alexander of Macedon" (10 corridor of Route E-75) and "Mother Teresa" (Corridor 8 and Route E-65) which is located in the eastern tip of the Skopje Valley, and also the start of the construction of a modern highway leading from Miladinovci to Shtip, are central points from which all parts of the country are virtually connected by road. Namely, the roads that lead to the northern, northeastern, western, northwestern, southern, southeastern and southwestern part of Macedonia (will) pass by the village of Miladinovci, which is of an enormous economic-commercial, military defense and security importance. Actually, the intersection Miladinovci (will) touch three of the four main roads in Macedonia: - A1 north-south: Tabanovce toward the Serbian border crossing point Bogrodica with Greece i.e. the "Alexander of Macedon" highway on the Corridor 10;

- A2 north-east - south-west of the border crossing point Deve Bair with Bulgarian border to Kjafasan on the Albanian side i.e. highway "Mother Teresa" of Corridor 8 and

- A3 north-west - south-east or Blace border crossing point with Kosovo to the border crossing point of Novo Selo towards Bulgaria near Strumica.

Through direct highway link at a distance of about 42 kilometers in Veles this interchange is indirectly connected with the fourth A4 main road leading from the border crossing with Bulgaria Delchevo on the east toward the border crossing points of Medzitlija to Greece, St. Naum, Stenje and Kjafasan to Albania in the south and southwest. Considering the existing two highways and construction of the new third which will be completed in 2017, modern facilities for traffic and travel (will) provide quick and direct access from this point: 15 to 20 minutes to Skopje and Kumanovo, 30 minutes to Veles, Shtip, the border with Serbia and Kosovo, and one and a half hour to the furthermost point on the southern border with Greece. In the immediate vicinity of the point of intersection of the pan-European international corridors 8 and 10, which is located at the east part of Skopje Valley, the most important facility for air transportation is located; the country's largest and busiest airport "Alexander the Great". If the plan for the construction of cargo airport near Shtip is completed, more precisely in the village of Sushevo on the southern end of the Ovche Pole, which would be directly connected via highway connection via Miladinovci to the airport "Alexander the Great ", this will create the greatest concentration of the largest and most important facilities for air travel and freight traffic and military purposes in an area of just 50 kilometers. In terms of rail traffic in this area is located the railway station Miladinovci which through international and electric railway line is directly connected to Belgrade, Thessaloniki and the port of Thessaloniki. In the near future with the full construction of the railway corridor 8 this part of Macedonian territory will be directly linked to Sofia, as well as to the port of Durres in Albania, thus it will become a node or intersection of international railway connections for Macedonia with all neighboring states and important ports. This area has a great importance in terms of rail traffic with historical continuity from the 19th century, representing a place of connection of the then extremely important Vardar and Moravian railways. In the late 19th century the railway station in Miladinovci was a loading station for the products of Blatia region villages for Skopje, and also the most important and greatest freight and loading station for grain intended for trading on the markets in Skopje and Thessaloniki (Petrov 1896: 323, 511). Today because of the immediate vicinity of the oil refinery "OKTA", the Miladinovci railway station is the most important and largest freight station for oil, petroleum products and fuels in Macedonia. Due to the extremely important geographical position this point of the territory of Macedonia is also of great importance regarding energy. Additional strategic importance of this spot for the geographical importance of Macedonia in terms of energy infrastructure is the fact that the oil pipeline which starts from the Thessaloniki port ends in the only refinery producing oil and petroleum "OKTA", that is also located in this place where the largest airport, the intersection of highways of corridors 8 and 10 and international railway line to Thessaloniki and Belgrade are placed.

b. Economic and commercial significance

The strategic position in terms of international transportation routes and corridors, as well as the internal geographical structure of the eastern part of the Skopje valley near the village of Miladinovci, makes this area remarkably high in concentration of important economic and commercial infrastructure and activity. The economic and commercial importance of this area is confirmed by historical data and facts mentioned in the topography of the Macedonian revolutionary Gjorche Petrov. Namely, due to the importance of the village Adzhalari (present day Miladinovci) as a node of connection of the Vardar and Moravian railway, a market was

planned to be opened for all surrounding villages of the Blatia region (Petrov 1896: 511). Nowadays, this area of the eastern end of the Skopje Valley, concentrates very important economic and commercial and industrial infrastructure and a number of large and medium-sized industrial and commercial economic capacities. Namely, in this region, in the vicinity of the above mentioned transportation and energy infrastructure facilities there is the largest free trade zone "Bunardzik" or technological development industrial zones "Skopje 1 and 2". According to data from 2013, only two factories located in this economic zone in the previous 2012, achieved a share of 20% of total exports of goods from the country thus having revenue of 800 million dollars (Naumovska, 2013). With the announced plan of these companies to increase exports by 50% in 2013 and next in 2014 (Naumovska, 2013), as well as the opening and putting in production of another 5 export-oriented factories in the zone, its share in total GDP and exports of Macedonia has undoubtedly increased and exceeds 20% or one-fifth. Moreover, in this narrow space in the eastern part of the Skopje valley there are three other active economic zones with more companies. One is a multifunctional industrial zone Kjojlija by the left side of the highway "Alexander of Macedonia" right opposite the airport, after Miladinovci in direction towards Kjojlija 'Rzhanichino and Petrovec. The other one is the local economic zone "Ilinden 1" on both sides of the highway at the exit from Skopje to Kumanovo with tens of warehouses, manufacturing plants, services and showrooms of domestic and international companies. The third is the recently opened local economic zone "Marino-Kadino," where in the middle of December 2014 the foundations of the first office building were set. Within this area in the eastern part of the Skopje Valley, outside these economic zones, there are a large number of smaller industrial and commercial building near highways and some major production facilities, as already mentioned: oil refinery "OKTA", then one of the largest dairies in the state "Sutash" (former "Swedmilk"), several other large food production facilities such as "Melnica Kadino" "Pekabesko", "Mlekara Bitola", "Pilko" and the former largest poultry farm, which produce food thus generally supplying the city of Skopje and the country, and also exporting abroad. The fact that this part of the Skopje Valley has the most developed agriculture realizing a significant part of agricultural - farming and livestock production, especially of cereals and large cattle, contributes even more to the strategic economic importance of this region as a gravitational center of Macedonia. Taking into account all the presence and concentration of economic activity and infrastructure it can be concluded that this area and space has large stakes in the overall volume of the Macedonian economy, which in that prospect really is the center of gravity of the economy in Macedonia.

c. Military-defensive significance and strategic importance of the location and configuration of the terrain

The great concentration of strategically important facilities for the country in this point of the geographical area places here an important military-defense infrastructure and presence. In the military base "Strasho Pindzur" or Petrovec garrison, located in this area, the following army units are stationed: the First Mechanized Infantry Brigade, the Air Brigade and the Third logistics battalion. Due to the close proximity of the airport, but also because of the favorable location, the Kjojlija base is located in this place where the Air Defense Battalion of the Army Air Force is stationed (Army of the Republic of Macedonia, 2014a). The Air Wing of the Army is in the military section of the airport "Alexander of Macedonia" which is located next to the civil-

passenger area, in the northern and eastern direction towards the village of Miladinovci. From the beginning of March 2014 the Center for pilot training was opened in the military base "Strasho Pindzur". This is the most modern center in the region of Southeastern Europe (Utrinski Vesnik, 2014). Aviation infrastructure in this area is undoubtedly of the greatest importance for the defense, security and crisis management in the country. The Armored battalion of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia has been moved and deployed in the military base Kjojlija - Petrovec since 2005, which performs shooting training and drills with the armament of tanks T-72 (Army of the Republic of Macedonia, 2014b). In terms of military and defense aspects and transport connection to the location it should be noted that this area which is recognized as a geo-strategic center of gravity is at a distance of 89 to 90 kilometers or approximately 1 hour ride by a direct highway and railway link to the largest military base and army training center "Krivolak". Besides the strategically important facilities of this particular part of the national territory recognized as geostrategic center of gravity in terms of military and defense strategic importance should be also given to the physical configuration of the terrain and the advantages from it in connection with its position and placement. The favorable relief amid hilly terrain with configuration of relatively mild slope and low elevation of 245.4 (273) to 472 meters[12] above sea level with wide openness to the Skopje valley and the City of Skopje to the west, the central part of Vardar valley toward south, Ovche Pole with wide openness to Bregalnica valley and Stip to the east, Kumanovo region with wide openness to Slavishte – Kriva Reka Valley to the north and immediate contact with the Pchinja Valley spanning right eastwards as a transverse line extending from north to south, gives a remarkably strong military-strategic importance of this space for the Republic of Macedonia. Large military and defense importance derives also from the location of this area - the point of the center of gravity in relation to important humane geographic features of the immediate mentioned neighboring regions of the Republic of Macedonia. In the immediate adjacency of above described radius of this point is the largest concentration of population in Macedonia. Namely, the largest city of Skopje is located adjacent to this point of geostrategic center of gravity, the most populous municipality and the state's second largest city - Kumanovo, largest and most populous municipalities and cities in Vardar and Eastern Region – Veles and Stip are also extremely close. These regions, i.e. the municipalities that are directly adjacent or located within the radius of 50 km of this point, have a total of 821 398 inhabitants (The State Statistical Office, 2002: 18-61). This means that 40.61% of the total population of the Republic of Macedonia lives in the direct range of the area of the point recognized as a geostrategic center of gravity. At the same time, regarding size and importance, these cities are also the biggest administrative and political centers of the country (Skopje) and particular (planning) regions from within municipalities that comprise compact coverage of the area up to the state borders with Bulgaria Serbia, Greece and Kosovo.

d. Future prospects

The crucial key position and importance that this area has, i.e. the village of Miladinovci and its immediate surroundings with all existing critical transportation, economic, energy and military-security infrastructure will be further increased as a geostrategic gravitational center of

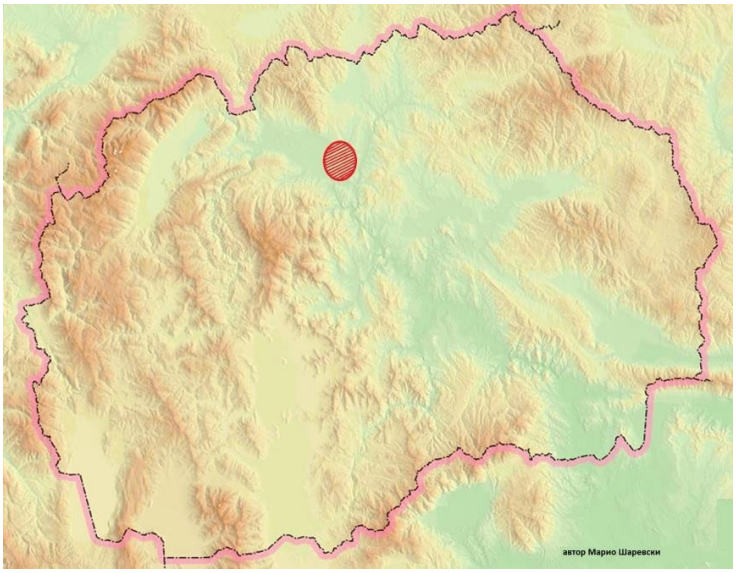
[12] See: Topographic map sheet: Veles 1-2 (Katlanovo) in scale of 1:25 000, Voenogeografski Institut, 1973

Macedonia with the announced international capital infrastructure projects for transport and energy. The exceptionally favorable and significant geopolitical and geo-strategic position as a central state in the Balkans inevitably puts Macedonia within the plans of major transportation and energy infrastructure projects of major global powers such as Russia and China, as this is confirmed by the statements of their top officials, political and economic presence, actions and facts on the ground. All plans, designs and ideas for transportation or energy connection of the Mediterranean Sea and Central Europe will inevitably lead through the territory of Macedonia, where at the eastern part and edge of Skopje valley, near the village Miladinovci i.e. its geo-strategic center of gravity, the naturally best and closest road is located connecting the Aegean (Mediterranean) and central European Danube (Black Sea) basin. The geopolitical and geo-strategic importance of the Morava-Vardar axis as a pillar and Heartland of the Balkans is confirmed by the plan to build a navigable canal linking the two valleys which will allow navigation from the Danube (and hence the Rhine, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean) to the Aegean Sea (and therefore in the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal in the Indian Ocean) (Mileski & Sharevski 2014: 50). The recent initiatives of the Serbian government which had a positive reception from Macedonia, and the expressed interest and willingness of Chinese companies show again recasting of the old idea to build a navigable canal Danube - Morava - Vardar - Thessaloniki (Mileski & Del Re: 2013, 54). The primary plan envisions linking the river valleys of Morava and Vardar in this channel which will go through the valleys of the rivers Pchinja and South Morava (Mileski & Del Re, 2013: 54). The connection of these river valleys that are open to opposite directions of different sea basins would have to be accomplished through Macedonia, more precisely in this area at the east end and the edge of the Skopje valley in the vicinity of Miladinovci, which is also the western edge of the Pchinja Valley, and the most appropriate relief physically and geographically. Any opportunities to promote this idea and construction of navigable canals, will mean that the point of geostrategic center of gravity for Macedonia near the Miladinovci village will gain even greater importance in terms of maritime traffic, which will undoubtedly have an extremely huge and positive impact on the economy. In addition to the plans for transport connections we should mention the recent idea of the government of China to build a high-speed railway in the Balkans that connects Thessaloniki and Budapest, which will pass through Macedonia along the railway corridor 10, and thus through this area of geostrategic center of gravity in the eastern part of the Skopje Valley near the airport and village Miladinovci. The current geopolitical developments at European level driven by the Ukrainian crisis also opens prospects for use and increasing strategic importance of the geographical center of gravity of Macedonia. Namely, in mid-December 2014 after the failure and abandonment of the project for the construction of the pipeline "South Stream", the Russian President Vladimir Putin officially presenting the new project for building a pipeline to Turkey, at a press conference said that Macedonia and Greece could be alternatives for the gas pipeline route through which gas will be supplied to the countries in Europe (Nova Macedonia, 2014). In his statement, the Russian President Putin said that if European countries want a stable, guaranteed and absolutely transparent supply they can start working on the pipeline to Macedonia through Greece, which will continue to Serbia and go to Baumgarten in Austria (Nova Makedonija, 2014). The proposal of the route of the new pipeline "Turkish stream" through Macedonia to Serbia and Hungary was once again confirmed by the Russian President Putin during his visit and meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in February 2015 (Netpress, 2015). Fulfillment of this idea will undoubtedly and inevitably lead its

construction and route to pass through the Macedonian geostrategic center of gravity in the east part and edge of Skopje valley near the village of Miladinovci. The above presented and several times repeated advantages of the geographic location and conditions, as well as exceptionally important concentrated network of infrastructure facilities for transport, economy, and security in this region that by themselves are pointing it out as a geostrategic center of gravity in this case will have a crucial decision. In a possible realization of this case it is likely that the area near the village of Miladinovci will be the main supply and junction station of the gas pipeline network in Macedonia.

CONCLUSION

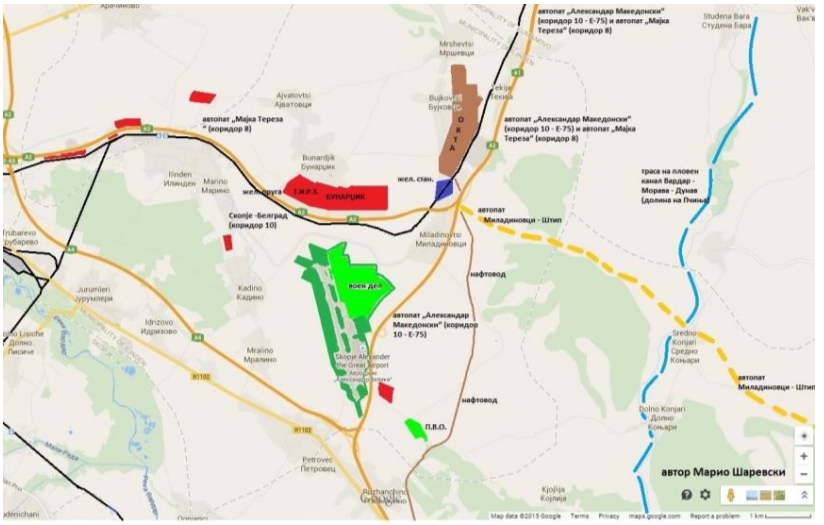
From the information and analysis presented in this short research several important conclusions can be drawn. Using analogy and comparison with natural sciences for military strategy, the great military strategist and theorist Carl von Clausewitz first established the concept of center of gravity, which was later accepted and theoretically developed by the US and other armies in the world, as the one most important point, usually determined by location in space, which contains all the links of the whole system and which if attacked, disables the whole system. This extremely important meaning of the concept of center of gravity in strategic studies and research is transferred to all parts and factors of the states, including the physical and geographical space. Reviewing the internal features of the territory of Macedonia in relation to its significant position on the wider regional and European level, the area on the eastern part of the Skopje valley around the village of Miladinovci is pointed out as appropriate geographical strategic center of gravity for Macedonia. The intersection of the international road and rail transport corridors and roads along the main airport "Alexander the Great" in this area suggest that it is the most important traffic junction that allows direct access to all parts of the country and abroad. This area is also located at a significant energy infrastructure, such as the only oil refinery and pipeline. Extraordinarily high concentration of the most important production facilities in four economic and industrial zones which are located in this area, with a share of more than one-fifth of the total national economy, in the economic and business aspects clearly confirms its geostrategic feature as the center of gravity for Macedonia. From military defense point of view, great deployment of military aviation, mechanized armored brigade and logistics is notable in this area. This means that according to density of military forces this area matches the original meaning of the Klausewitz's concept of center of gravity. The exceptional importance of this area or center of gravity in military-strategic aspect is confirmed by the facts and the advantages stemming from the low hilly terrain and central position for easy mobility to all four directions of the territory. Furthermore, the fact that 40% of the population of Macedonia live in the range of 50 kilometers of this area, in the biggest and most important cities - administrative, economic and political centers. The significance that this area has will be affected and influenced by large infrastructure plans for energy and water transport that hold the greatest powers for the future, which will further increase the importance of this area as geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia. Considering all the importance and advantages which are provided by the geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia, our society and state leadership should always pay great attention to the use and exploitation of these opportunities for the most effective benefits in war and peacetime.



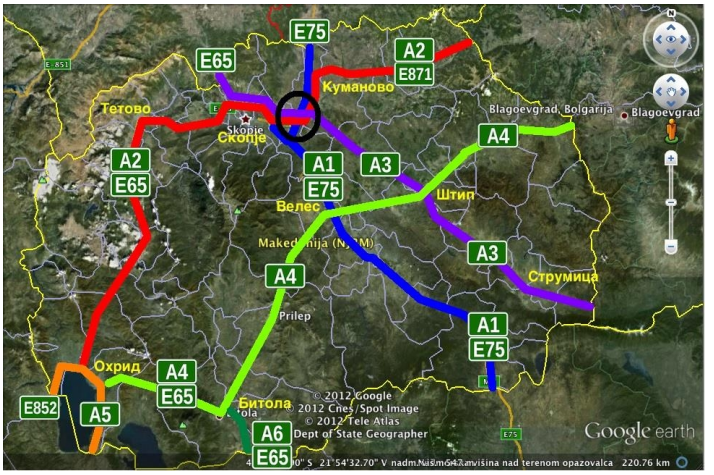
Map 1. Geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia.



Map 2. Geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia with the range of its 50 km radius on map with cities and administrative boundaries of the planning regions.



Map 3. Detailed map with the placement and density of transportation, economic and military infrastructure on the area of geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia on the east part of the Skopje valley near the village of Miladinovci.



Map 4. The intersection of traffic roads in the center of the geostrategic center of gravity of Macedonia.

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ИСТОЧНИОТ КРАЈ НА СКОПСКАТА КОТЛИНА ОКОЛУ СЕЛОТО МИЛАДИНОВЦИ КАКО ГЕОСТРАТЕШКИ ЦЕНТАР НА ГРАВИТАЦИЈА НА МАКЕДОНИЈА

Марио ШАРЕВСКИ
Македонска академија на науките и уметностите (МАНУ)
e-mail: sharevski@manu.edu.mk

ИЗВОД

Нераскинливата поврзаност на човековото живеење и делување во физичкиот простор ја наметнува потребата од неговото постојано истражување за согледување на неговите одлики кои нудат значајни стратешки поволности во поглед на одбраната. Важноста за целовитоста и севкупното функционирање на државите и војските што ја имаат одредени точки која е најпрвин увидена и образложена од познатиот стратег и научник Карл фон Клаусевиц преку концептот за центар на гравитација (center of gravity) е широко прифатена и распространета во современата наука и практика. Преку теоретско определување на концептот за центар на гравитација во геостратешка смисла трудот продолжува со негова примена во анализата на територијата на Република Македонија за препознавање на соодветниот центар на гравитација. Разгледувајќи ги сообраќајното, економско-стопанското и воено-одбранбеното значење и концентрираност на инфраструктура, источниот крај на Скопската Котлина околу селото Миладиновци се истакнува како геостратешки центар на гравитација на Македонија. Извонредно големите стратешки поволности кои произлегуваат од местоположбата и физичката конфигурација на теренот на овој предел во поглед на внатрешното и надворешното регионално значење укажуваат на зголемување на важноста на овој простор како геостратешки центар на гравитација на Македонија и во иднина.