HUMAN SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW THREATS OF SECURITY – BETWEEN REQUIREMENT AND REALITY

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Abstract

This article attempts to find a brief presentation of some essential aspects of the general theoretical framework for analyzing issues related to security concept, leading the analysis to an overview of identifying the concept of human security. Human security in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary paradigm is essential in conflict prevention and resolution.

Political instability, regional conflicts, separatism, terrorism, trans-frontier crimes, conventional and non-conventional arms proliferation, social perturbations, dependence on external energy resources, massive migration, natural cataclysms are the contemporary threats towards national, regional, and international security.

Human security in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary paradigm is essential in conflict prevention and resolution. Integrating different disciplines and areas of expertise gives us a complex perspective on conflicts and helps us develop effective and sustainable solutions. Through joint cooperation and commitment, we can help create a more peaceful and secure environment where human security is promoted and protected.

Introduction

Post Cold War international politics signified for the whole world a turbulent period, characterized by deep transformations occurred globally, by strong changes in the system of international relations and the associated international security environment. Starting from the changes at the international level and from the transformations that took place at the internal level, after 1990, we assist a multidimensionality of security approaches, the most important areas of society: the security paradigm developing as an all-encompassing concept that tends to include, alongside the traditional, political and military dimensions, new dimensions such as the economic, energetic or safety-related ones, individual rights and freedoms.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the global crisis and, above all, the process of globalization that has expanded significantly, has a decisive impact on human communities, on societies and cultures, but also on individuals who tend to adapt, as a result, to these new world realities and priorities. As a result, new political, economic, ecological and social vulnerabilities and

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threats appear. It also became evident the indissolubility and commensurability of the terms of "development" and "security", their interconnection and dialectical interdependence.

In this complex conjuncture, the development of humanity needs to be approached today as a process of the range of options of people among those they value. In other words, security is no longer associated with the protection of the state, but considers the physical and psychological safety of individuals, their economic and social well-being, respect for their dignity and values, through the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. Therefore, the concept of human security is based on the principles of social justice and the emancipation of the individual, liberating him from fear and need.

Methodology

The goal of human security in the context of new security threats is multifaceted and dynamic. It involves addressing various challenges to the well-being, safety, and dignity of individuals within societies, particularly in the face of emerging threats that may not fit traditional security paradigms. The overarching objectives are the primary aim of human security is to safeguard individuals from a wide range of threats, including but not limited to armed conflict, terrorism, environmental degradation, pandemics, economic instability, and human rights abuses. It prioritizes the protection of human lives and dignity above all else. Human security recognizes that traditional approaches to security, which focus primarily on state sovereignty and military defense, are inadequate in addressing the diverse and interconnected threats faced by individuals. It adopts a comprehensive approach that encompasses political, economic, social, environmental, and human rights dimensions.

Understanding Human Security Complexity

Human security emphasizes the importance of preventive measures to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities before they escalate into crises. This involves early warning systems, conflict prevention strategies, disaster preparedness, and addressing root causes such as poverty, inequality, and marginalization.

Empowerment and resilience is to empower individuals and communities to cope with and adapt to threats, thereby enhancing their resilience. This includes strengthening governance structures, promoting human rights and rule of law, investing in education and healthcare, and fostering social cohesion and inclusivity.

The focus on human development reflects the trend towards a major reorientation of goals, in accordance with which social reforms are being adopted in the contemporary world. Man and his vital needs are considered fundamental, as a supreme value, while material factors, such as monetary income or increased consumption are no longer a central, fundamental condition, but only a means of ensuring sustainable human development.

It is remarkable that this revision of the correlation between the goals and the means of social development constitutes only a return to that kind of orientation of the general conceptions of the world that are characteristic for human culture in general, including European culture, but which, due to some social-historical circumstances, has been diluted and even distorted.

Humanity development cannot be achieved without ensuring human security. Human security usually implies a condition in which people can exercise their choices in safety and freedom, without fear that the opportunities they enjoy today will be lost or withdrawn tomorrow.

Security means that the benefits people have achieved in expanding their opportunities and improving their capabilities are protected by the current social, economic and political arrangements. Security is based on a broad social acceptance – based on sustainable institutions – of people's rights and obligations.

Human security recognizes that many threats are transnational in nature and require collective action at the regional and international levels. Therefore, it seeks to promote cooperation among states, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to address common challenges effectively. Also, human security is guided by ethical imperatives, such as the protection of human dignity, respect for human rights, and the principle of do no harm. It underscores the moral responsibility of actors at all levels to prioritize the well-being of individuals and communities.

Human security focuses on safeguarding individuals and communities from a spectrum of threats that extend beyond traditional military concerns. These threats encompass poverty, hunger, severe diseases, climate change, forced migration, and violations of human rights. The concept of human security has broadened the understanding of threats and vulnerabilities faced by people worldwide.

The concept of human security not only prioritizes the protection of individual interests over those of the state but more crucially focuses on safeguarding and enhancing the qualitative attributes of its subjects - human beings. Similar to other sectoral types of security (economic,

energy, food, banking, etc.), human security aims at the protection. But unlike other sectoral security forms, human security uniquely seeks to amplify human qualities. These qualities are vital for elevating the inherent value of individuals and their societal contributions. They are viewed through the prism of the individual's usefulness and importance for others, social progress, environmental preservation, nature protection, and the biosphere within a sustainable framework [3, p. 184-188].

International Development of Human Security Concept

This paradigm shift has elevated the significance of international cooperation in fields like humanitarian aid, sustainable development, global health, and environmental protection. International organizations like the United Nations have played a crucial role in advancing human security through their agencies and international treaties.

Human security acquired a tangible form for the first time when it was introduced in the 1994 "Human Development Report" developed by the United Nations Development Programme. This report highlighted that the traditional concept of security was narrowly focused, emphasizing solely on border security against external threats and the defense of state interests internationally. This approach often overshadowed the everyday needs of individuals. Despite triggering intense debate, the concept of "human security" laid the groundwork for all subsequent security paradigms. Consequently, the "new security" concept shifted the focus to the individual, contrasting with traditional security strategies that primarily centered on state protection. This shift has led analysts and policymakers in many developed countries to launch international programs that prioritize individual well-being over state interests. Although this approach continues to be debated, the human security concept has initiated a profound change in the development and execution of security strategies.

These expanded definitions of security encompass not just the military realm but also other areas of extreme vulnerability, such as natural disasters. Similarly, development is understood not only as an enhancement in the quality of life but also includes aspects of psychological well-being, reflecting the spiritual growth of individuals and their interactions with the world around them (a personal safety in public spaces, the level of participation in decision-making processes, etc.).

The concept of human security is characterized by broadening the traditional scope of security and centering on the individual as its primary focus. This concept transcends the traditional view of security, focused mainly on military or political threats, to encompass a broader spectrum of

issues that impact human well-being and dignity. Human security places individuals at the forefront, prioritizing the protection of their fundamental rights and needs, including food security, health, education, civil and political liberties, social inclusion, and environmental preservation. In security analysis, there is a significant focus on the interconnections between the various domains of society traditionally seen as separate. This perspective fosters a holistic and proactive approach to addressing human vulnerability and rights, rooted in the essential needs of every individual [2, pp. 221-245].

From the presented above, two complementary observations about human security emerge:
- Firstly, there is the integrative concept of a monosecurity, which encapsulates and is formed by various security elements, highlighting the indivisible nature of human security. This concept is supported by certain evidence; just as a full expression of democracy is challenging in a society plagued by poverty, similarly, addressing only a part of human security's values is insufficient.
- Secondly, alongside the aspects of military security, the elements of economic, social, and environmental security are also integral. Concurrently, it's important to consider the different levels at which the concept of security is analyzed, theorized, applied, and evaluated, including individual, national, and international security [1, pp. 28-29].

The key elements of human security are underscored by conflict prevention and resolution. This involves tackling and managing the underlying causes of conflict, such as social injustice, inequality, discrimination, political instability, and economic issues. Success in these endeavors requires adopting a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach, combining insights and expertise from various fields such as politics, economics, sociology, psychology, law, and more.

The multidisciplinary approach entails collaboration among various academic disciplines in identifying and understanding conflicts. For instance, political scientists might analyze political and geopolitical factors that contribute to conflicts, sociologists could investigate the social dynamics and behaviors of involved groups, economists may examine economic causes of conflicts, and psychologists could explore the psychological and emotional factors in conflict escalation. Integrating these diverse perspectives leads to a more comprehensive understanding of conflict nature.

Interdisciplinarity, on the other hand, involves active collaboration between different fields of expertise in developing strategies and policies for conflict prevention and resolution. Security and political experts, for example, can work in synergy with development, international law, and

reconciliation specialists to create and implement peacebuilding programs and initiatives. This cross-disciplinary cooperation introduces a broad perspective and innovative elements, crucial for identifying sustainable and effective solutions to conflict situations.

Assessing conflicts from multiple disciplinary perspectives, as well as through an interdisciplinary lens, offers numerous benefits in terms of conflict prevention and resolution. This approach enables a holistic treatment of conflicts, incorporating political, economic, social, psychological, and legal aspects. It also aids in identifying the root causes of conflicts and in formulating sustainable prevention strategies. By integrating various perspectives and expertise, this method fosters mutual understanding, dialogue, and reconciliation among parties involved in conflicts.

To effectively promote a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach in conflict prevention and resolution, collaboration among all involved parties is essential. This includes governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia. Equally important is the allocation of resources and support for research and development in this area, as well as for professional training focused on interdisciplinary methods.

Nationally, the concept of human security entails maintaining political stability, upholding human rights, preventing and efficiently managing conflicts, fostering economic and social well-being, and safeguarding citizens from violence, poverty, and discrimination. At the same time, it's crucial to direct efforts toward creating a resilient and inclusive society that provides equal development and participation opportunities for everyone.

Contemporary threats go beyond geographic borders and cover a diverse array of issues including cybersecurity, terrorism, climate change, migration, poverty, and armed conflict. These dangers impact not just states and public administrations but also directly affect individuals, families, and communities. Therefore, the concept of human security centers on safeguarding and advancing the fundamental rights and needs of people, encompassing physical, economic, social, and political security.

Threats to human security can be among the most active and strongest for various reasons. Their impact often depends on the specific vulnerabilities of a given security environment, as well as on contributing factors such as favorable internal, regional, or international conditions for their emergence and escalation, shifts in regional or international power dynamics, intensification of population migration flows and more. Therefore, the frequency of occurrence and manifestation, as

well as their intensity, is different from one period of time to another. Consequently, the occurrence, manifestation, and intensity of these threats can vary over time. All types of security threats are interdependent and complementary, influencing both the adverse effects they produce and the countermeasures employed against them [1, p. 63].

When threats escalate into attacks, they can have profound impacts on social groups. The nature of security threats today is fundamentally different from those that shaped international relations a few decades ago. They no longer solely or overtly target states across the Berlin Wall or those divided by the "North-South" economic gap. Present-day threats are far more complex. The existing situation requires the use of new context-specific countermeasures. The fate of each nation depends on a multitude of interdependent factors, allowing for mutual opportunities for progress and socio-economic prosperity. In today's world, it's increasingly clear that securing our future, a prerequisite for progress and prosperity, cannot be achieved in isolation or at the expense of others. Our growing interdependence calls for shared solidarity to combat the threats we collectively face [1, pp. 63-64].

Alongside traditional threats, new and previously unforeseen risks are emerging that threaten stability, national security, and political order. Notably, there has been an intensification of threats within the information sphere, driven by the development of information warfare strategies by certain countries. These strategies aim to exert influence over the information domains of other nations. Such risks include potential disruptions in information and telecommunications systems, security risks in the management of information resources, and the threat of unauthorized access to these systems.

Despite this fact, at the current stage in the field of international relations, in the studies carried out by certain authors and in the political field, the paradigm related to state protection and security continues to prevail.

In this regard, the term of *human security* is not fully spread in the language and way of thinking of all international organizations, so as to replace some gaps that can be found in the classic definitions of the term of *security*, which means it is a certain state of civilization that will appear during the survival of mankind and the latter's transition to a sustainable and harmless development as a result of the elimination of global dangers and catastrophes, of ensuring a true security for all forms of human activity.

The dynamics of the international security environment, the asymmetric conflicts that threaten more and more extensive areas, the completely unusual phenomenon of irregular migration that tends to shake our continent from its foundations, make this concept of human security take on new meanings, and the way of future evolution of human society will depend on how today's generations will be able to defend the fundamental values of democracy and freedom. When the security of people is affected in any corner of the world, it is possible for all nations to get involved. Famine, inter-ethnic conflicts, social disintegration, terrorism, pollution and drug trafficking are no longer isolated events, closed within the borders of a country, but on the contrary, their consequences are being felt all over the world.

Conclusions

The study of the situation in the field of research demonstrated the importance of the following conclusions:

The responsibility to protect represents a principle by which the international community should be guided in any situation in which its intervention is required. It is about: the responsibility to prevent, addressing the direct causes of the conflict; the responsibility to react, to respond to crisis situations taking suitable measures; the responsibility to rebuild, to provide assistance for recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation.

Achieving human security involves navigating the tension between the ideal requirements of ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals and the complex realities of geopolitics, resource constraints, competing interests, and power dynamics. It requires pragmatic approaches that balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability.

Overall, the goal of human security in the face of new security threats is to create a world where individuals can live free from fear, want, and indignity, and where their rights and well-being are protected and promoted through comprehensive, preventive, and ethically grounded approaches.

Human security recognizes that many threats are transnational in nature and require collective action at the regional and international levels. International organizations from the first forms of manifestation to the present demonstrates both quantitative and qualitative evolution. Their rise is an example eloquent of a joint effort of the international community, materialized through persistent work and long, to meet the challenges of time. Thus, the major decision-makers in the modern world has become international organizations. The joint efforts of nation states and of international organizations have contributed to solving multiple problems. Challenges faced by the world today determines the need to make the cooperation of states more efficient national with

international organizations. Therefore, it seeks to promote cooperation among states, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to address common challenges effectively.

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