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Modern Understanding of National Security : introduction to the Issue

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MODERN UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL SECURITY. INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE

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ABSTRACT

Security is one of the most appreciated values in the social and individual dimension. Ensuring public security of a given society is an essential condition for the development of both individuals and the state understood as an organized group of individuals. Every citizen has a constitutionally guaranteed right to their behavior. The Constitution also recognized the independence, the territorial integrity of the state and the inviolability of borders as the supreme value. Poland as a sovereign and democratic Member State of the UN, OSCE, NATO and the EU adopted the stable and continuous national security as a priority objective.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Security is one of the most appreciated values in the social and individual dimension. Ensuring public security of a given society is an essential condition for development of both individuals and the state understood as an organized group of individuals. Nowadays every citizen is guaranteed constitutional right to their behavior.

The Constitution also recognized the independence, the territorial integrity of the state and the inviolability of borders as the supreme val-

ue. Poland as a sovereign and democratic member state of the UN, the OSCE, NATO and the EU adopted providing a stable and continuous national security as a priority objective¹.

The term of “security” derives from the Latin *sine cura*, by which political stability was understood. “Secretarias” means the secure state, the state of confidence, security and peace, and it also indicates the lack of threat and protection against dangers². Over time, more and more new definitions arose, which took into account various aspects.

Traditional, narrow understanding of security was a result of experience of the World War II. At that time, the greatest threat was an armed conflict. Therefore, military force was the most important aspect of security. Traditional national security is associated with military defense of the country against military threats, and its implementation is connected with art of war.

During the Cold War, analysis of national security referred to national structures, which primarily guaranteed extensive military potentials. The state of security meant expansion of the potential so that it was able to fend off threats³.

The “Cold War” period in Europe was/is associated with arms race, lack of democracy and constant opposition to military aggression. Nowadays, it is believed that this approach was ethnocentric and too subordinate to the selected factors (mainly cultural) and it did not take into account many aspects.

Wider concept of security spread in the seventies and eighties, when it was found, that various components should be taken into account while analyzing security – not only the military threats. It should be noted that national security is not only state protection against physical assault, but also the protection of, by using multiple measures, economic and political interests, the loss of which would mean that there is lack of core national values, contained in the Constitution⁴.

¹ J. Wojnarowski, M. Kuliczkowski, M. Olszewski, *Udział organów administracji rządowej i sektora gospodarczego w przygotowaniach ochronno-obronnych RP*, AON, Warszawa 2012, p. 7.

² S. Kaczor, *Bezpieczeństwo w czasach pozornego pokoju i spokoju*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo i obronność w świetle współczesnych wyzwań i potrzeb: ujęcie naukowe, pedagogiczne i edukacyjne*, J. Kunikowski (ed.), Akademia Podlaska, Siedlce 2010, p. 49.

³ K. Żukrowska, *Pojęcie bezpieczeństwa i jego ewolucja*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe. Teoria i praktyka*, K. Żukrowska, M. Grącik (eds.), Warszawa 2006, p. 21–22.

⁴ J. Stańczyk, *Współczesne pojmowanie bezpieczeństwa*, Warszawa 1996, p. 21.

Nowadays, factors contributing, supporting and complementary to military actions begin to have an increasing meaning⁵. Currently, the concepts which take into account the political, economic, environmental, social and military components, which are placed in an international context.

The eighties of the twentieth century and especially their end, indicate the changes happening at many levels of life which enabled looking at the security from various perspectives and dimensions. The security was seen in the terms of:

- subjective – as certainty of existence and survival of participants of national and international relations,
- objective – as means and ways shaping the certainty of the state of possession of the participants of national and international relations and the institutions that guarantee a certain level of safety,
- functional – enabling the assessment of the dynamics and evolution of subjective and objective aspects of security and its participants⁶.

Changes in the meaning of security were also associated with the left from the narrow security approach. In the contemporary science, two ways of understanding security can be noticed⁷:

- narrow context (negative) of treating security as a lack of threats. The essence of this point of view is the analysis of impact of entities, which are undertaken to protect against threats which may harm its internal values,
- broad context, which is characteristic mainly to open societies. This approach mainly concentrates on shaping such conditions, which enable the achievement of a high degree of probability of survival, possession and development of the individual. Considerable attention is paid in this regard to the activities of an entity and its ability to cooperate with the environment”.

The “narrow” context was a kind of simplification. The lack of threats is not impossible to achieve in practice. Such an approach did not take into account the progress and civilization development. The broad context is active, it searches for new solutions, and not only detects new threats.

⁵ A. Mróz-Jagiello, A. Wolanin, *Współzależność obszarów badań nauki o bezpieczeństwie i nauki o obronności*, „Obronność”, 2012, no. 2, p. 77.

⁶ R. Zięba, *Pozimnowojenny paradygmat bezpieczeństwa*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe po zimnej wojnie*, R. Zięba (ed.), Warszawa 2008, p. 16.

⁷ M. Cieślarczyk, *Bezpieczeństwo i obronność w świadomości współczesnej młodzieży*, [in:] *Wychowanie patriotyczno-obronne: tradycje i współczesność*, R. Kalinowski, J. Kunikowski (eds.), Siedlce 2004, p. 124.

To the wide understanding of the security refers, inter alia, J. Stańczyk, according to whom security has two essential components: *the guarantee of inviolable survival of a given entity and the freedom of its development*⁸.

Widening of the scope of security has caused the emergence of many planes, which may be analyzed independently of each other, despite being related to each other. There is universally valid thesis that there is no once and for all established security. It is a process, which varies depending on a number of phenomena that occur in society.

W. Pokruszyński interprets this as a continuous activity of individuals and local communities, states and international organizations in creating a desired state of security⁹. While explaining the essence security, S. Koziej draws attention to the high dynamic and changeability of the phenomenon, which is to ensure the possibility to survive and the development of own interests in certain conditions. The implementation of these interests is to take place by taking challenges, reducing the risks, using the opportunities and by the risk prevention¹⁰.

Following the opinion of R. Zięba, security includes *assurance of the needs of existence, survival, security, stability, identity (sameness), independence, protection of level and quality of life. Security, being the crucial need of a human being and social groups, is, at the same time, the basic need of the countries and international systems, its absence causes concern and sense of danger*¹¹.

W. Pokruszyński has a different approach to security. According to him, it is not only the state, but also the opportunities of development. The author claims that, in the analysis of security, in various dimensions, challenges and threats must be clearly distinguished, because only a holistic approach can lead to an objective assessment of the phenomenon¹².

Security is also a situation characterized by a lack of risk of losing something which is particularly valuable: health, work, tangible goods, respect and feelings. This is also the state of being unthreatened, of the peace and

⁸ R. Jakubczak, J. Filis, *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe Polski w XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2006, p. 14.

⁹ W. Pokruszyński: *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe u progu XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2008, p. 24.

¹⁰ S. Koziej, *Między piekłem a rajem. Szare bezpieczeństwo na progu XXI wieku*, Toruń 2006, p. 7.

¹¹ J. Kunikowski, *Bezpieczeństwo współczesnego człowieka*, [in:] *Przygotowanie dzieci i młodzieży do działania w sytuacjach zagrożenia zdrowia i życia*, M. Cieślarczyk, G. Wierzbicki (eds.), Siedlce 2008, p. 13.

¹² W. Pokruszyński, *Teoretyczne aspekty bezpieczeństwa*, Józefów 2010, p. 5–9.

certainty. In another context, security is a mental or legal state, in which the entity has a sense of certainty and is supported by a well-functioning legal system. Security is also freedom from threats, fear or attack¹³.

The subject of security can be any entity, which aims at freedom of realization of own interests in specific conditions. This may be single persons, groups, nations and international communities. Therefore, security can be classified as personal, group, national and international¹⁴.

According to Polish language dictionary, security is *a mental or legal state, in which the entity has a sense of certainty, and is supported by another person or by a well-functioning legal system; the opposite of danger*¹⁵.

Such a literal interpretation leads to the conclusion that security can be considered in two aspects. In the wide context, it is the whole of order and social institutions, which protect the state and its citizens against phenomena threatening legal order, and in the narrow context of public security is the protection of regime against attacks on the main state institutions¹⁶.

Nowadays a common feature of definition of security is understanding of the term as social process. This is based on constant taking actions, which aim at improving mechanisms ensuring the sense of security. Being the subject of laws of motion of social systems in an important element of understanding security as a process. Dynamism in defining the security is associated with fluctuations in ambient conditions, the progress of civilization and the range of needs of individuals. Understanding of security in international relations is seen as a process of changeable dynamics and intensity is of particular importance. The process is a determinant of compliance and conflict of interest of states and international systems¹⁷.

National security is a *status obtained as a result of properly organized defense and protection against any military and non-military threats, both external and internal, using the forces and resources from different areas of activities of the state*¹⁸.

¹³ A. Pieczywok, *Edukacja dla bezpieczeństwa wobec zagrożeń i wyzwań współczesności*, Warszawa 2012, p. 22.

¹⁴ S. Koziej, *op cit.*, p. 7.

¹⁵ *Słownik współczesnego języka polskiego*, B. Dunaj (ed.), Warszawa 1996, p. 51.

¹⁶ *Słownik języka polskiego PWN*, M. Szymczak (ed.), vol. 1, Warszawa 1995, p. 139.

¹⁷ J. Stańczyk, *op cit.*, p. 18–19.

¹⁸ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, B. Balcerowicz (ed.), Warszawa 2002, p. 29.

National security, however, can be considered not as a state but as a process, which includes all protective and defensive activities, which aim at the creation of proper conditions for functioning of state in international arena. This process also includes opposing all challenges and threats to national security¹⁹.

According to J. Kukułka, the core values, that make up the national security, include most importantly:²⁰

- survival (national, ethnic and biological), for which each country is prepared to sacrifice other values, since they lose sense in case of the threat to the survival of an entity itself,
- territorial integrity (in a physical, national and state sense),
- political independence (in the sense of political system, self-governance and freedom of affiliation),
- quality of life (in the sense of the living standards, the level of socio-economic development and cultural system), which requires a lot of common sense, so it is not treated overly ambitiously.

The threat of any of these four values leads to a limitation of the vital interests of the country and thus means a reduction in national security.

Constantly evolving threats have an influence on the new perception of the national security. Nowadays, there is a new phase of international relations, in which contemporary threats have become global and may apply to any country. The beginning of 21st century abounds in clear evolution of threats, among which the most troublesome are the threats of natural disasters and terrorist attacks. They threaten the society directly, affecting the functioning of people, countries and institutions, especially economic and social. While threats accompanied the human being from the beginning of existence, the menace of civilization transformed its nature and range with the development of civilization. Terrorism has considerable influence on functioning of the society. It greatly affects the social and political life on the scale of the states and the international community. Terrorism is a force, brutal intimidation of people living in accordance with the law, in order to force ideological (most frequently) benefits²¹.

¹⁹ W. Kitler, *Obrona narodowa III RP: pojęcie, organizacja, system*, Warszawa 2002, p. 48.

²⁰ J. Kukułka, *Bezpieczeństwo a współpraca europejska: współzależności i sprzeczności interesów*, „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, 1982, no. 7, p. 34.

²¹ R. Borkowski, *Cywilizacja, technika, ekologia. Wybrane problemy rozwoju cywilizacyjnego u progu XXI wieku*, Kraków 2001, p. 65.

Nowadays terrorism is seen as *a strategic concept of asymmetric warfare by non-state entities*²².

The asymmetry should be understood as *the ability to use all kinds of differences in the broadly understood potentials of the sides – from the material side to the psychological – both before and in the course of taking action in order to achieve advantage over the opponent*²³.

Asymmetry is derived from the Greek language (*asymmetria*) and it means the lack or the violation of symmetry. According to the above definition, the subject of the conflict which uses unconventional means and techniques should be considered as the asymmetric threat. This type of threats may include weapons of mass destruction, activities using information technology and tactical concepts²⁴. Asymmetric threats refer to both military and non-military sphere. They include *thinking, organization and activity different from the opponent's, including the use of all the differences in broadly understood potentials of the sides. Their objective is to maximize their own advantage while using your opponent's weaknesses in order to achieve dominance or greater operational flexibility*²⁵. Asymmetric opponent, who does not follow any rules, has large freedom of action, which facilitates the achievement of many benefits.

The transfer of terrorism from the regional to international area has the biggest impact on the latest changes of terrorist organizations' strategy. The borders have disappeared for today's organizations.

Terrorism is also characterized by continuous crossing not only the borders, but also well-known and accepted forms of attack. Threats emerge in new areas, and terrorists do not respect any moral and ethical rights. Transnational nature of action caused also structural transformations.

²² M. Adameczuk, *Ewolucja strategii i metod działania islamskich ugrupowań terrorystycznych i ich wpływ na bezpieczeństwo Polski*, „Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe”, 2011, no. 3, p. 199; A. Krauz, *Nowe wydanie terroryzmu z wykorzystaniem broni CBRN we współczesnej cywilizacji śmierci*, „Edukacja – Technika – Informatyka, Wybrane problemy edukacji technicznej i zawodowej”, no 5, 2014-1, vol. 1, p. 285–293.

²³ P. Gawliczek, J. Pawłowski, *Zagrożenia asymetryczne*, AON, Warszawa 2003, p. 18.

²⁴ R. Białoskórski, *Wyzwania i zagrożenia bezpieczeństwa XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2010, p. 29; A. Krauz, *Internet narzędziem groźnej broni cyfrowej dla infrastruktury krytycznej globalny świecie wiedzy*, „Edukacja – Technika – Informatyka, Wybrane problemy edukacji technicznej i zawodowej”, no 4, 2013-1, vol. 1, p. 388–399.

²⁵ T. Szubrycht, *Analiza podobieństw operacji militarnych innych niż wojna oraz działań pozwalających zminimalizować zagrożenie asymetryczne*, „Zeszyty Naukowe Akademii Marynarki Wojennej”, 2006, XLVII, no. 1, p. 144.

There has been a noticeable change in the control of terrorist groups and in their organization.

Future suicide bombers began to be recruited from among the citizens of various countries and nationalities, connected only by ideology, for which they are able to sacrifice their life. Uniform and centralist groups operating within a single country cease to function, and groups of network structure appear. It is connected with the decentralization of the structure, which consists of a lot of operationally, logistically and financially independent departments²⁶.

The internationalization and the increased brutalization of terrorists' methods prove that contemporary world has entered the era of the new quality of terrorist threats, which constantly affects regional, national and international security. The factors described above are global phenomena, which have influence on both the international environment as well as threaten the security of individual countries. In addition, they caused the redefinition of the term of security. Going back to theoretical considerations on national security, it is worth discussing the term of state security. Both concepts are correlated. According to the J. Czaputowicz they are identical: *national security, i.e. security of the state, refers to ensuring the territorial integrity, sovereignty, the freedom of choice of political road and the conditions of prosperity and development*²⁷.

The security of the country is determined by the state of internal stability of country interpreted on the basis of absence of threats. Such perception of security enables its division into external and internal²⁸.

It is the actual condition of internal stability and sovereignty of the state, which reflects the lack of or existence of any threats (in the sense of meeting the basic existential and behavioral needs of the society and treating the country as a sovereign entity in the international relations.

National Security is often equated with security of the state, because it derives from the existential needs of human communities organized into states. This is, however, a simplification, since in the multinational coun-

²⁶ M. Adamczuk, *op cit.*, p. 210–213.

²⁷ J. Czaputowicz, *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa-aspekty teoretyczne*, [in:] *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa*, S. Debski, B. Górka-Winter (eds.), Warszawa 2003, p. 13.

²⁸ S. Dworecki, *Zagrożenia bezpieczeństwa państwa w koncepcjach programowych partii parlamentarnych w Polsce po 1989 roku*, Warszawa 2009, p. 248.

tries the interests of some nations do not have to be consistent with interests of the titular nation and the state.

Therefore, the national security is protecting the internal values of the entity, of each social group, nation and state and providing conditions for the implementation of the tasks resulting from these values. It should ensure that, among other things, the protection of such values as: survival of the population, the socio-economic system, the prevailing ideology, the prestige of the state in the international environment, the interests of own citizens abroad, the economic progress, the standard of living of the population, etc.

The terms of security of the state and the national security take into account various factors of internal and external (international) nature. Quite often both terms are treated as synonyms, while the national security is a broader concept. While the security of the state suggests focusing primarily on the security of the state as an institution, the “national security” emphasizes to a greater extent the protection of the interests of not only the state as a whole, but also society and its components, including units.

The use of this term is, therefore, most appropriate in relation to democratic countries, based on free market economy, in which the rights of individuals and social groups are of key importance. Given the above, national security can be defined as the ability of the state and its nation (society) to provide the assurance of survival (state as an institution, nation as an ethnic group, the biological survival of the population), territorial integrity, political independence, internal stability and the quality of life.

This certainty is shaped by negative actions involving the elimination of external threats and those emerging under the state and by positive actions ensuring the survival, possession (identity), the functioning and the freedom of development of the state and nation (society).

Considering in detail the range of national (state) interests within the spectrum of security, one can distinguish a number of different values that are contained within it. Apart from protecting the physical length of the state and nation (superior value in comparison to others), they cover a whole range of characteristics determining the free development.

R. Stemplowski through a secure state understands the state that can realize its *raison d'état*. Therefore, he indicates the factors which must occur for the state to have such an opportunity:

1. *existential conditions:*

- a) *objective:* minimal: territorial integrity, the ability to defend against aggression, the ability to halt the epidemic and to minimize the ef-

fects of disasters; optimal: state sovereignty, demographic and economic growth, potential of the police and the intelligence, the value of community.

b) *subjective*: a sense of security, citizens' welfare.

2. *institutional conditions*: the institutions of democratic state, a rational organization of the market, education system, mass media.

3. *functional conditions*: preventing the emergence of threats, the state's ability to perform its functions, the maintenance of international relations (military alliances, strategic partnership), the analysis of the information and formulation of the assessments of meeting specific criteria of security in order to choose the appropriate courses of action, cultural development of the state and society, social control.

State security is achieved within the specified, time-varying system, existing in a given, historically shaped, international community. The term security system can be understood as a dynamic combination of several key factors determining its essence. This is a multifaceted structure, based on a specific system of political, military, economic and ideological-cultural forces, which is the subject to adaptation and self-regulatory processes and which has its axiological dimension²⁹.

State security and national security in the Polish legal system are unambiguous. The Constitution sometimes refers to the state security (RP), and sometimes to the national security (establishing National Security Council)³⁰.

As is clear from the analysis above, security is a broad and differently defined concept, according to the adopted criteria. However, most of the definitions of national or state security, underlines its importance in the functioning of state and providing adequate protection for citizens³¹.

Security has subjective nature, and being the supreme need of human beings and social groups, is, at the same time, a fundamental need of countries and international systems, and its absence causes anxiety and state of emergency.

Security in the individual dimension is the sense of security of every citizen, his assessment of the risks. Depending on the region of the coun-

²⁹ J. Wojnarowski, *Podstawy prawne bezpieczeństwa*, AON Warszawa 2004, p. 14-15.

³⁰ S. Koziej, *Bezpieczeństwo: istota, podstawowe kategorie i historyczna ewolucja*, „Bezpieczeństwo narodowe” 2011, no. 2, p. 20.

³¹ J. Bieniek, *Bezpieczeństwo i obronność jako nowe dyscypliny naukowe*, „Obronność, Zeszyty naukowe” 2012, no. 2, p. 6.

try and the personal experience this feeling may be different. However, in the state dimension, these are the feelings of citizens in general, as well as the safety of the country as a whole. The state security policy should take a series of needs of the society into account, which are related to security. If a country meets all its functions – the citizens feel safe.

The safety of an individual is conditioned by many aspects, and one of the main aspect is the level of the security of the state in which the individual lives. The need for security is a fundamental need of every human being and it accompanies him from birth until death.

According to the theory by A. Maslow higher needs arise only when the need of security is satisfied. Otherwise, a human being is characterized, typically, by a low level of motivation to meet the needs which are higher in the hierarchy. To counteract this situation through the efficient functioning, is the task of the state. The entity feels safe in the country which is at peace, having a job, financial resources, insurance etc.³²

Nowadays, apart from state protection a lot of attention is paid to ensuring the freedom of development to the entities, which include, for example: unhindered social-economic and cultural development, the increase of the quality of life and achieving prosperity. The meaning of values close to a human being increases.

The concept of security which largely corresponds to the notions of the society functions in countries with democratic systems. This results from the fact that entities perceive safety in particular as an opportunity to provide a dignified (in economic terms) life to oneself and one's relatives, as healthy natural environment etc.

The consequence of such concept is the statement that that the activities of the state cannot be limited only to providing military security. It should be implemented on a large scale and operate on a maximum number of levels, and, most importantly, take into account such values as: social peace, prosperity, justice, economic balance or common good. Security, therefore, is a state and a process of ensuring not only military security but also the duration and continuous development of the state and society³³.

³² G. Wierzicki, *Przygotowanie obronne społeczeństwa. Tradycyjne i współczesne ujęcie problematyki*, [in:] *Uwarunkowania procesu edukacji dla bezpieczeństwa*, J. Kunikowski (ed.), Siedlce 2012, p. 30-31.

³³ K. Loranty, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne państwa* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo i obronność w świetle współczesnych wyzwań i potrzeb: ujęcie naukowe, pedagogiczne i edukacyjne*, Siedlce 2010, p. 54.

On the basis of contemporary challenges and threats, the basic needs of the society in the field of security are extracted. According to the position of W. Kitler, two major areas of security can be isolated³⁴:

society waiting for the state to provide it with the needs of existence and development, while knowing that the state can be exposed to a variety of risks, crisis situations, due to political, social and cultural factors etc.;

“the hardships of everyday life”; which should include, inter alia: the negative effects of the development of civilization, criminal activity and natural disasters etc.

The complexity and multidimensionality of the concept should be recognized in the analysis of the evolution of the understanding of the security. Not without significance is the fact that it is dependent on an increasing number of new challenges. This paper describes one of the latest threats, which has an influence on the shape of global security, but also on the security of individual states - terrorism. However, the threats are constantly evolving. Factors affecting the new redefinition of security may include cyber-terrorism, religious extremism, organized crime, threats to the security of information systems and much more. Modern understanding of safety should be considered on a local, national, as well as international scale.

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³⁴ G. Wierzbicki, *op cit.*, p. 33.

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