

**Janusz Gierszewski, Juliusz  
Piwowarski**

---

## **Theoretical Basics of Societal Security**

---

*Security Dimensions. International & National Studies* nr 2 (18), 30-48

---

2016

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach  
dozwolonego użytku.

## SECURITY DIMENSIONS

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL STUDIES

NO. 18; 2016 (30–48)

---

# THEORETICAL BASICS OF SOCIETAL SECURITY

ASSOC. PROF. JANUSZ GIERSEWSKI, PH.D.

*Pomeranian University in Słupsk, Institute of National Security, POLAND*

ASSOC. PROF. JULIUSZ PIWOWARSKI, PH.D.

*University of Public and Individual Security APEIRON in Cracow, POLAND*

## ABSTRACT

---

Problems related to social security can be seen as a particular type of security in various aspects. In the literature of political science, economics, sociology or security studies there are different concepts of characterizing this category. The issue of social security is a complex and ambiguous, because this phenomenon is dynamic and depends on many factors. This work is an attempt to answer the question of what are the theoretical basis of social security on the basis of the security studies and whether it can enter the other, closely related to national security category concept, eg. social security of the nation. The reference point for discussion is the system of national security. Authors proposed a definition of societal security of the nation and pointed out the main elements characterizing this concept as an opposition to the social security, understood in terms of welfare state. The other rationale for the choice of topic is also a need to shape the way to solve scientific problems of modern science on the basis of security studies, including those related to operationalization of concepts and gaps in knowledge, which should focus on the search for representatives of this new scientific subdiscipline.

## ARTICLE INFO

---

*Article history*

Received: 14.04.2016 Accepted 06.05.2016

*Key words*

security, theory of security, national security, societal security, security culture

## INTRODUCTION

According to the current dynamics of the Global Village Civilization<sup>1</sup>, the study of the phenomenon referred here by the authors as societal security, has become a necessity and the need for democratic society and state, one of the priorities of the National Security Culture (NSC). The main research category taken are the societal security threats. There is a rich literature of the range of many scientific disciplines, showing this type of threats. Until recently in the scientific approach to national security<sup>2</sup> the terms “social security” and “societal security” have not been used. For some time these issues became to be combined with the state’s existence, its territorial integrity, durability of structures and ensurance of the freedom of development, for example cultural and social development, increase in the quality of life for the citizens, their prosperity<sup>3</sup>.

According to the authors, the introduction of societal security on the ground of security studies offers slightly different cognitive capabilities – it can be regarded as the field of national security, which is an essential condition for the security of many other entities. The analysis of the Polish literature shows that societal security has emerged in the works about the functions of state. It was connected with the function of social policy (social security) and to national security<sup>4</sup>, having – thanks to the globalization – references to international security.

## PUBLIC SECURITY AND SOCIETAL SECURITY

Societal security in the literature is interpreted differently. If we assume that the term is located in the management field, that is the process of

<sup>1</sup> M. McLuhan, Q. Fiore, *War and Peace in the Global Village*, Bantam Books, New York 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Comp. Z. Brzezinski, *Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Adviser, 1977–1981*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York 1983.

<sup>3</sup> O. Waever, B. Buzan, M. Kelstrup, *Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, London 1993, p. 23; A. Skrabacz, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne. Podstawy teoretyczne i praktyczne*, Elipsa, Warszawa 2012, p. 32–37; D. Hafemeister, *Physics of Societal Issues: Calculations on National Security, Environment, and Energy*, Springer, New York 2014; S. Kiamba, *Societal Security and Migration*, Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken 2012; M. Taylor, *The Legitimate Claims of National Security*, “Foreign Affairs” (Council on Foreign Relations, Inc.), No 52 (1974), p. 577.

<sup>4</sup> J. Kukułka, *Bezpieczeństwo a współpraca europejska: współzależności i sprzeczności interesów*, „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, 1982, vol. 7; W. Kitler, *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe RP. Podstawowe kategorie. Uwarunkowania. System*, AON, Warszawa 2011, p. 40, 50–52.

“coordination of collective efforts for achieving the objectives of organization, using techniques in organized structures based on designated tasks”<sup>5</sup>, such an approach can be applied to all organisations operating in the area of widely understood security. It can therefore be said that so understood management involves the conscious, rational shaping of relationship between organizational extracted elements of societal security system, with its creativity, flexibility and efficiency aimed at achieving the state of security in its particular sector<sup>6</sup> and to maintain it at the desired level.

However, we can put quite a relevant question. Namely, whether in terms of subject of knowledge and practices for security studies do the management ranges of societal security and management in other areas of national security are identical? If not, what features distinguish the activities in the area of societal security from security in other areas such as political security, economic, etc.? Do all institutions have the same functions and powers in the area of security management in the state? Where does the coordination centre is?

***Societal security is associated with reduction of probability of undesirable phenomena occurrence and the reduction of risks associated with issues of survival, quality of life and national identity, while public security – directly with the protection of life, health and property of citizens form risk of terrorist attacks***<sup>7</sup>.

Therefore societal security is a social function of national security culture (nsc), representing the whole material and nonmaterial elements of embedded legacy of people in military and nonmilitary spheres – that is the widely understood autonomous defence of active persons or entities. Societal security, of individual and national scale, is an area of social interactions co-developed by streams of different fields – mental, socio-legal, material. Social and cultural capital complement each, giving the effect of synergy.

The analysis of government departments in the context of the four nodal functions of the state, societal security is put to labour and social

---

<sup>5</sup> B. Kaczmarek, Cz. Sikorski, *Podstawy Zarządzania. Zachowania organizacyjne*, ed. II, Łódź 1999, p. 38; G. A. Cole, P. Kelly, *Management Theory and Practice*, International Thomson Business Press, Stamford 2011.

<sup>6</sup> *Sectors of security* – areas constituting the thematic ordering of analysis processes in security studies (horizontally extending the idea of security); B. Buzan, *People, States and Fear. An Agenda for International Security studies in the Post-Cold War Era*, Hemel Hempstead, Harvester 1991.

<sup>7</sup> J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne. Zarys systemu*, Difin, Warszawa 2013, p. 18.

policy (social function) and culture and national heritage. Taking into account the fact that it can be assigned to the government general administration, it indicates their menial nature to the society forming the nation.

We should here underline the fact that security studies for the flagship designatum take their highly interdisciplinary nature. For example, Tomasz Aleksandrowicz is of the opinion that the “interdisciplinarity is far beyond the area of knowledge of the social sciences (in which security studies in Poland are included) is (...) as a constitutive element of the security studies’ identity”<sup>8</sup>.

Interdisciplinarity is “an interaction of two or more disciplines” which can mean both the “simple exchange of ideas”, as well as “mutual integration of concepts, methodologies, procedures, epistemology, terminology and data leading to the organization of research and didactics in quite a wide area”<sup>9</sup>.

A single scientific discipline in fact is not able to respond to all societal security considerations<sup>10</sup>. Certainly we can also try to decompose state security area into different subsystems, depending on the purpose of applied system analysis and applied criteria of division and put the outlined thesis as following.

**It can be assumed that societal security is an important category of national security.**

But can we say, in turn, that societal security is the whole of conditions and institutions that protect the state and its citizens from phenomena threatening social order related to the existence and national identity? In the further part of this work we will try to answer this question. The concept of societal security is present in normative and executive legal acts. The scope of use of these concepts in the legislation of different rank is constantly increasing due to the role of security. However, it should be noted that the concepts relate to the tasks and functions of the state (here: ordinal, providing-social and cultural). The concepts are not always precisely defined in law, therefore causing some questions. In the first of them it is

<sup>8</sup> T. R. Aleksandrowicz, *Tożsamość nauk o bezpieczeństwie*, [in:] *Tożsamość nauk o bezpieczeństwie*, S. Sulowski (ed.), Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2015, p. 56.

<sup>9</sup> Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, *Interdisciplinarity: problems of teaching and research in universities*, Paris: OECD, 1972, p. 25–26.

<sup>10</sup> *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne w XXI wieku w ujęciu socjologicznym, pedagogicznym, prawnym i nauk o zarządzaniu*, M. Such-Pyrgiel (ed.), WSGE, Józefów 2013.

the source of security in the Constitution<sup>11</sup> and its relationship to other values protected in the basic law.

***Societal security can not be associated only with the tasks of the public authorities but also with their competences, tasks and role in the system of state security.***

The concept of “security” occurs in the Constitution in different contexts. Social security (not societal) was linked to “social protection”, as the article 67 says: citizen has the right to social protection in the event of incapacity for work due to illness or disability, and after reaching retirement age. The scope and forms of social protection is defined by enactment [„obywatel ma prawo do zabezpieczenia społecznego w razie niezdolności do pracy ze względu na chorobę lub inwalidztwo oraz po osiągnięciu wieku emerytalnego. Zakres i formy zabezpieczenia społecznego określa ustawa”].

In addition, „the unemployed citizen, not voluntarily and without other means of subsistence, has the right to social protection, whose scope and forms are defined by enactment” [„obywatel pozostający bez pracy nie z własnej woli i niemający innych środków utrzymania ma prawo do zabezpieczenia społecznego, którego zakres i formy określa ustawa”]<sup>12</sup>.

Among the constitutional obligations of the state are caring about life, health and property of citizens and meeting their needs, at least in the amount corresponding to the life minimum. In Poland about the understanding of the above term spoke the Constitutional Tribunal, indicating that the term encompasses the entirety of the benefits from public funds granted to the citizen in need<sup>13</sup>. In the framework of this institution, it is possible to extract the three categories, which together make up the social security system:

- 1) social insurance,
- 2) social protection and its last link of complementary character,
- 3) social assistance<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>11</sup> Dz. U. 1997, Nr 78, poz. 483, z 2001 r. Nr 28, poz. 319; 2006, Nr 200, poz. 1471; 2009, Nr 114, poz. 946.

<sup>12</sup> Ibidem, art. 67.

<sup>13</sup> Judicial decision of Constitutional Tribunal, 19.11.1996, K 7/95, OTK 1996, p. 416.

<sup>14</sup> J. Gierszewski, *Organizacja systemu bezpieczeństwa społecznego*, Difin, Warszawa 2013, p. 242 and foll.

The implementation of these tasks in the area of societal security must always have in mind the self-development needs of person.

The simplest division assumes the existence of two subsystems, responsible for external security and internal security of the state.

The first of the specified subsystems is designed to counter any threats that may restrict or prevent (or significantly impede) the free and stable development in key areas of social life<sup>15</sup>. The second is a subsystem of internal security of the state, which, according to Bernard Wiśniewski, is an extracted part of national security system, a system of authorities and public administration, methods and modes of action related to protection of constitutional order, life and health of citizens and national assets from unlawful activities, as well as effects of natural disasters and catastrophic technical events<sup>16</sup>.

It seems that the above definition does not include all elements, as they have to meet more conditions that are necessary to guarantee the full ability to counter different threats – i.a. difficult situations in the social dimension.

**It should be noted that in Poland the concept of *societal security* has not yet penetrated legislation and public institutions forming the base of the national security system, nor the doctrines and institutions related to culture or social security.**

By the state of threats to so understood national security such situations can be understood where as a result:<sup>17</sup>

- essential interests of the nation are threatened,
- state institutions in their current shape are not able to satisfactorily solve the occurring problems,
- negative phenomena in society that are reflected in the weakening of defence capabilities of the state,
- explicitly decreases the probability of completing historical aspirations of the nation, its position within the international community is threatened.

**In this sense social security is related to the desire of state to ensure the proper functioning of institutions responsible for solving social problems of society affecting the security of the state.**

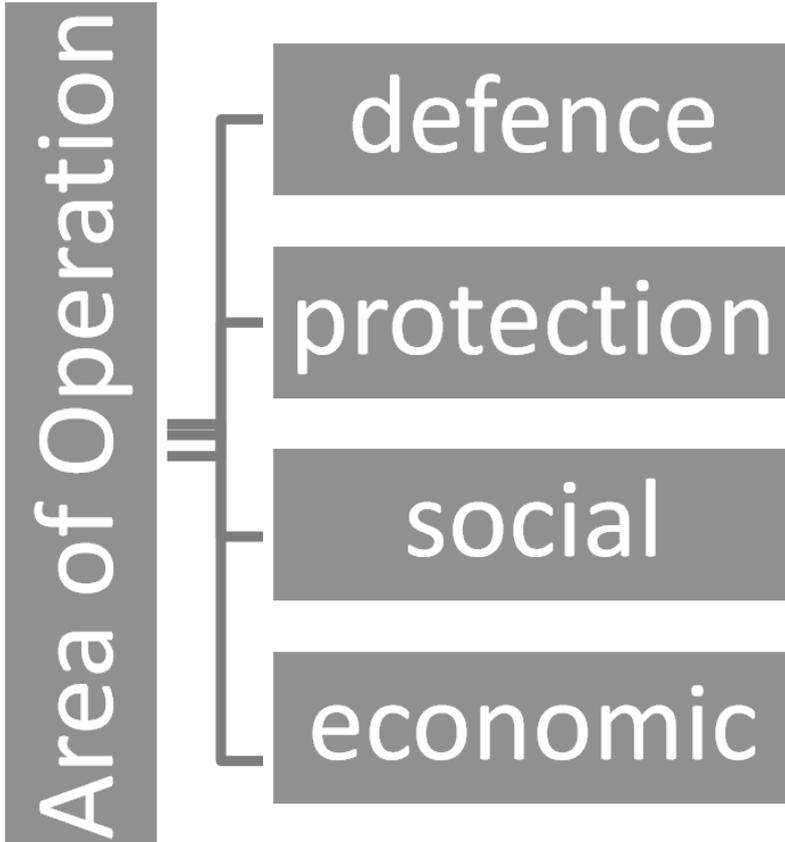
<sup>15</sup> J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne. Zarys systemu...*, p. 16.

<sup>16</sup> *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, B. Wiśniewski (ed.), AON, Warszawa 2004, p. 62.

<sup>17</sup> K. Kiciński, *Socjologiczne problemy bezpieczeństwa narodowego – prognozy, przewidywania*, [in:] *Wybrane problemy socjologii wojska*, J. Kunikowski (ed.), vol. 1, Warszawa 1998.

Then reasonable will be the use of term “social security in the state” and relate it to individuals and social groups, such as family, local communities or national minorities. Operating area of national security (state security), consists of defence, protective, social, and economic subsystems, which was shown below in a simple graph.

GRAPH 1. STRATEGIC AREAS OF NATIONAL SECURITY



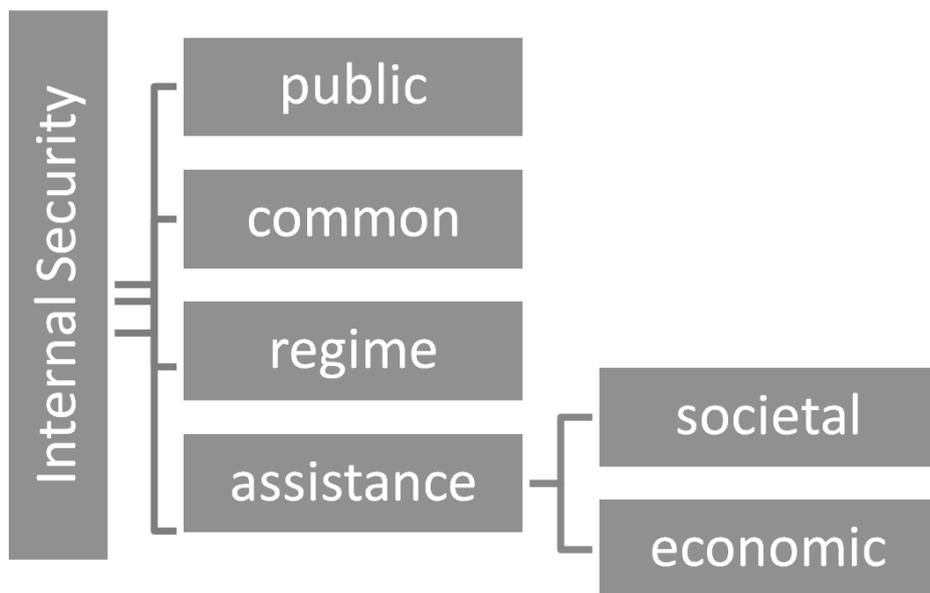
Source: own study of authors on the basis of the National Security Strategy 2014.

The essence of the protective measures in the area of national security is to provide the conditions for maintenance of constitutional order, internal stability of the state, common security and public order, shared and

individual material and nonmaterial resources, as well as the functioning of critical infrastructure<sup>18</sup>.

**The essence of activities in the field of societal security is to create secure conditions for spiritual and material development of the nation<sup>19</sup>.**

GRAPH 2. INTERNAL SECURITY SUBSYSTEMS



Source: own authors study inspired by NSS

Protective security subsystem can be quite easily extracted from the operating area of national security, because it corresponds to the current tasks carried out mainly by the Minister of Internal Affairs. However, does this solution meet all the requirements of internal security threats prevention of the state in all spheres of social development?

Parts of the internal security system should tackle security threats in the area of societal security.

The point here is not the so-called “departmental thinking” because its contradictory to the system solution and the principles of separation and accuracy. However, the modular construction should be assumed, which is represented in the scheme presented by the authors above.

<sup>18</sup> *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego 2014*, Warszawa 2014, p. 33.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 38.

The functioning of the individual executive subsystems, i.a. societal security should be coordinated by Ministers appointed by the Prime Minister, responsible for societal spheres (family, work and social policy, culture and national heritage). These authorities should form part of the security management system of the state as essential elements of a subsystem of national security. However, it is worth noting that regardless of detailed competences of the main bodies of the executive, there will always remain the area requiring coordination of several bodies in the name of higher purpose, which is national security. As has been already mentioned societal security consist of constitutional values.

#### THE STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETAL SECURITY CONCEPT

The issue of social security can be seen in the context of the role of the state as an active-in-security entity. If we raise the question whether the state is a dominant entity providing societal security, then the answer will be positive, because social work and responsibilities in social policy were 4,9% of the expenditure of the state budget for the year 2014<sup>20</sup> by 4,7% planned for 2015, and the majority of the protests and requests from this area is directed to state institutions and, in particular, to the government. In the year 2014 for culture and protection of national heritage planned state budget spending was exactly 3 274 175 000 zł. In the budget act for the year 2015 for this purpose 2 981 045 000 zł was allocated.

If we ask further whether the role of the state in this area changes, the answer is positive. Modern state more and more tasks of the area of societal security transmits to the local self-governments and non-governmental organisations.

Societal security is a non-homogeneous category, which with the lack of consensus in different scientific disciplines of understanding this term, leads to diverse its perception. There are also more or less successful attempts to define this term on the ground of security studies.

The primary research issue is to get the answer to the question what are the theoretical basis for societal security? Than we can think about whether societal security is synonymous with social and cultural security or as a national security category, in interest of security studies researches,

---

<sup>20</sup> Dz. U. 2014, poz. 162 (the compulsory social insurance is missed, which in the year 2015 is to be 24,1% of state expenditures i.n. 82 828 760 zł.).

differs from the other sciences in this aspect of the research, which will be expressed in the posed questions and concepts?

The state should create the potential and certain guarantees for improving the living conditions and protection of national identity. State aid is essential for some social groups, especially marked by social exclusion. There are more questions – who should be helped? how long should the help last? who is to give help? is the decentralisation of tasks from the sphere of societal security, understood narrowly as social security, or cultural, does not accidentally affect negatively the functioning of the system of national security? The authors of the article are above all completely convinced that the societal security research should not take place in isolation from the paradigms of security studies.

Of course, the theoretical conceptions of other scientific disciplines can be also somewhat useful but they may not be treated as the sole explanation of the complex matter of the phenomenon of societal security. Stability and security of a state is guaranteed by the participation of a number of factors. In some paradigms certain factors are of critical importance, in others they are marginal<sup>21</sup>.

Besides, many security researchers believe that so far the most perfect form of securing human needs in this area is the state<sup>22</sup>.

21st century brought a change in the perception of national security. While traditionally security was understood mainly in military or political terms, today it touches virtually every field of activity of the active-in-security entity which a nation state is. It was influenced by the Copenhagen School and so-called socio-cultural security sector. Its leading representative Barry Buzan said that after the dissolution of the bipolar world system, security needs to be treated holistically, due to the internationalisation of many types of threats<sup>23</sup>. Societal threats are organically connected with the concept of national security, though they have different nature,

---

<sup>21</sup> See Rozporządzenie Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 8 sierpnia 2011 r. w sprawie obszarów wiedzy, dziedzin nauki i sztuki oraz dyscyplin naukowych i artystycznych (Dz. U. 2011 nr 179 poz. 1065).

<sup>22</sup> W. Kitler, *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe. Podstawowe kategorie, dylematy pojęciowe i próba systematyzacji*, „Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej. Zeszyt Problemowy”, 2010, No. 1 (61), p. 19.

<sup>23</sup> R. Floyd, *Human Security and the Copenhagen School's Securitization Approach: Conceptualizing Human Security as a Securitizing Move*, „Human Security Journal”, vol. 5, Winter 2007, p. 38.

strength and scale of the impact on the various active-in-security entities, in which social relationships can be analysed<sup>24</sup>.

Defining the societal security aims is also important for the functioning of the state. In Poland, the *Strategiczny Przegląd Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego* [Strategic Review of the National Security] stressed that national security system should be analysed also in terms of the evolution of threats and diagnose areas that challenge the stability of the state. While the *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego* [Strategy of National Security] of 2014 includes societal security to the social subsystem and associates it with i.a. protection of national heritage, demographic threats or social security<sup>25</sup>. Societal security should be seen, on one hand, in an existential dimension, as the protection of livelihoods of people, meeting their needs, this also allows the realisation of vital aspirations. On the other hand, it is associated with the evaluation of activities of the institutions established to minimize social (societal) threats.

**What is important, the prepositional term (corresponding to the question what?) “social” (*societal*), is a type of subject approach towards security.**

We continue asking questions – on whom societal security is dependent? what does it depend on? on the society-nation, from person’s own or state’s activity? whether it is a separate set or is part of a wider set-system? who and to what extent should create conditions that allow the proper development and the proper functioning of individuals and social collectivities in nation state? Analysis of Polish scientific literature of the subject allows to note that social security is yet defined inconsistently. For example, when we are talking about the protection of society against a variety of threats, maybe correctly we should specify them as a security of society in the state, meaning an objective state, subjectively reflected in public consciousness<sup>26</sup>. But now, when we are talking about social security, assistance provided to individuals and so-

---

<sup>24</sup> Comp. T. Biernat, J. Gierszewski, *Poczucie bezpieczeństwa społecznego młodzieży w małym środowisku*, Akapit, Toruń 2013, p. 14–15.

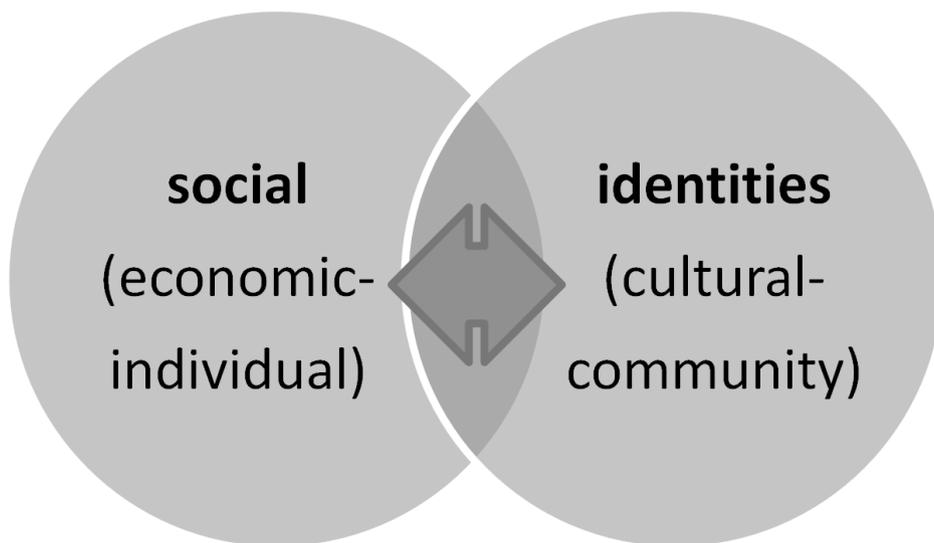
<sup>25</sup> *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego*, Warszawa 2014, p. 52–53.

<sup>26</sup> M. Hillman, R. Hutchison, *A Resource Conscious Society Paperback*, Policy Studies Institute of University of Westminster, London 1991.

cial groups within the specified system and associate them with the economic (social) dimension<sup>27</sup>.

Social security is also associated with the protection of national identity, known as the ability to maintain the culture, customs or language. In this approach, it is not only about preventing social and economic misery, but also protecting national identity and its threats connected with e.g. migration.

GRAPH. 3. ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN HORIZONTAL PERSPECTIVE



Source: J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo socjalne, społeczne a bezpieczeństwo społeczne państwa w ujęciu systemowym i sekurytyzacji*, WSAiB, Gdynia 2015.

Despite the similar names – societal security (security of identity<sup>28</sup>) and social security – these are not the same concepts. The first concerns the process of constructing group identity (history and culture of the nation), while social security is identified with a guarantee to meet the existential needs of society. According to representatives of the Copenhagen School, societal security category is connected with the protection of society (na-

<sup>27</sup> See L. Hofreiter, *Wstęp do studiów bezpieczeństwa*, Krakowskie Towarzystwo Edukacyjne, Kraków 2012, p. 92–94.

<sup>28</sup> Other names can be found: societal, rooting.

tion) from unwanted influence of other cultures, and social security with the nation's ability for physical survival<sup>29</sup>.

Between these concepts, there is a functional link only if social conditions affect the collective self-identity. An example can be a pogrom of Polish Gypsies in Mława<sup>30</sup>, or the war in Bosnia, where the Serbs living in the countryside feel threatened by Muslims living in the urban areas<sup>31</sup>. The two groups differed not only in professed religion but also in a degree of prosperity.

**In the sphere of societal security, a source of conflict may be either only socio-cultural difference or a same economic diversification – or – national identity in conjunction with economic differences.**

Today, societal security is expanding in the vertical plane (“an object of security becomes, next to the country, a social group or a single person”) and horizontal (“security contains non-military sectors, which traditionally were not included, i.a. social and cultural factors”)<sup>32</sup>.

Identity of a nation is shaped over centuries, creating a national cultural capital based on the material and spiritual resources, religious and moral values system and national symbolism. All of these values are transferred from generation to generation. A concern about loss of cultural identity, and thus national, always was and will be present. Today in Poland and EU countries there are legitimate concerns that arise from actual threats: i.e. the uncontrolled influx of mass culture, and, above all, mass migration and a crisis of values.

An analysis of the Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego [National Security Strategy] (Graph 1) tells us that the state itself assigns the primary responsibility for effectiveness of national security system and identifies priorities for action here. An important becomes the determination of societal security level co-relation with the effectiveness of organization. So not only the state of societal security should be analysed but also the

<sup>29</sup> See O. Weaver, B. Buzan, M. Kelstrup, P. Lemaitre, *Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe*, Pinter, London 1993, p. 23.

<sup>30</sup> A. Giza-Poleszczuk, J. Poleszczuk, *Cyganie i Polacy w Mławie konflikt etniczny czy społeczny?*, Raport opracowany na zlecenie CBOS, Warszawa 1992.

<sup>31</sup> R. C. Nation, *A History of the War in the Balkans 1991-2002*, Didactic Press, San Diego 2015.

<sup>32</sup> Comp. J. Czaputowicz, *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa – aspekty teoretyczne*, [in:] *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa*, S. Dębski, B. Górka-Winter (eds.), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, Warszawa 2003, p. 22.

process of “organizing” it and the relationships with the environment of an active-in-security entity what a nation state is. Such a distinction will allow us to divide societal threats into social threats and cultural threats<sup>33</sup>.

GRAPH. 4. ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SUBSYSTEM



Source: J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo socjalne, społeczne a bezpieczeństwo społeczne państwa w ujęciu systemowym i sekurytyzacji*, WSAiB, Gdynia 2015.

You can indicate, after the Copenhagen School, that societal security, assigned here to so-called to socio-cultural security sector, is characterised

---

<sup>33</sup> Comp. *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne: pojęcie, uwarunkowania, wyzwania*, A. Skrabacz, S. Sułowski (ed.), Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, Warszawa 2012 (here were analysed i.a. the role of state in creation of social security and threats of common crime or for modern family).

on one hand by its high degree of ties with a person (an acting-in-security individual), being an individual carrier of national culture security and with the society (the nation) on the other hand (an acting-in-security entity), that is at the same time, the depositary, the guardian and the developer of national security culture.

The second area of societal security, being a social sphere, applies to individuals and the economic aspects of their lives, by which identity can affect the level of identification with the society creating a nation, from full participation in social life, to marginalisation and exclusion<sup>34</sup>. Societal security is related to the response of state to the poor living conditions, resulting in a social security guarantee, so that in a situation of need you can count not only on yourself, family, charity, or the market. In conclusion, in the area of **societal security** there are two thematic areas:

1. **Socio-cultural** (societal security), with both individual dimension and social dimension, very strongly associated with the collective, national identity,  
and
2. **Social** (social security), which is associated with the existential dimension of an acting-in-security individual.

An enquiry made among Polish publications leads to the conclusion that societal security, treated as a holistic approach to the national identity and social issues, although being referred to them by scientific authorities, is still in need for analysis in the context of national security system.

Marek Leszczyński, writing about “social security”, de facto draws attention to the institutional impact of a nation state causing more or less active shaping of societal security. He points the legal and organizational steps (social area and II pillar of national security culture) carried out by different entities that are intended to ensure a fair standard of the existence of individuals and social groups. He divides societal security into a development security (human capital), social security – guarantee of minimum income and social transfers and security of community (social capital)<sup>35</sup>.

---

<sup>34</sup> Comp. J. Gierszewski, *Wykluczenie społeczne a bezpieczeństwo państwa*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo w administracji, gospodarce i biznesie. Aksjologia zjawisk kryzysowych w administracji i sektorze publicznym*, M. Chrabkowski, C. Tatarczuk, J. Tomaszewski (ed.), WSAiB, Gdynia 2013, p. 65–89.

<sup>35</sup> M. Leszczyński, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne Polaków wobec wyzwań XXI wieku*, Difin 2011, p. 59.

## CONCLUSION

Considerations take the content of the societal security as a system, emphasizing the integral elements of the system, such as law, institutions or growth factors related with the social security and national identity.

Therefore, outlining in general a complex problematic situation, it should be stressed that the issue of societal security research is interesting also because of a new quality situation of relatively recent separation of branches of security studies.

So far, there is not an unique and unquestioned answer to what societal security is and what exactly is its role in national security system. It becomes essential to determine the convention and the scope of understanding of social security category from the perspective of the risks in relation not only to the individuals or social groups but most of all to the national security system. Such an approach focuses attention on the sphere of organization and effectiveness of security system in the social and cultural area.

The authors emphasize that the creation of a model of analysed reality, which is the branch of societal security, should be made using a method that is compatible with the scientific perspective adopted in security studies. In this way we can show the mechanism of expansion of current "social security" concept, indication of new threats to the system, and indication of institutions responsible for minimizing with an indication of the levels of their organization.

## REFERENCES:

1. Aleksandrowicz T. R., *Tożsamość nauk o bezpieczeństwie*, [in:] *Tożsamość nauk o bezpieczeństwie*, S. Sulowski (ed.), Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2015.
2. *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne w XXI wieku w ujęciu socjologicznym, pedagogicznym, prawnym i nauk o zarządzaniu*, M. Such-Pyrgiel (ed.), WSGE, Józefów 2013.
3. *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne: pojęcie, uwarunkowania, wyzwania*, A. Skrabacz, S. Sulowski (ed.), Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, Warszawa 2012.
4. *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, B. Wiśniewski (ed.), AON, Warszawa 2004.
5. Biernat T., Gierszewski J., *Poczucie bezpieczeństwa społecznego młodzieży w małym środowisku*, Akapit, Toruń 2013.

6. Brzezinski Z., *Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Adviser, 1977–1981*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York 1983.
7. Buzan B., *People, States and Fear. An Agenda for International Security studies in the Post-Cold War Era*, Hemel Hempstead, Harvester 1991.
8. Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, *Interdisciplinarity: problems of teaching and research in universities*, Paris: OECD, 1972.
9. Cole G. A., Kelly P., *Management Theory and Practice*, International Thomson Business Press, Stamford 2011.
10. Czaputowicz J., *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa – aspekty teoretyczne*, [in:] *Kryteria bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego państwa*, S. Dębski, B. Górka-Winter (eds.), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, Warszawa 2003.
11. Dz. U. 1997, Nr 78, poz. 483.
12. Dz. U. 2001, Nr 28, poz. 319.
13. Dz. U. 2006, Nr 200, poz. 1471.
14. Dz. U. 2009, Nr 114, poz. 946.
15. Dz. U. 2014, poz. 162.
16. Floyd R., *Human Security and the Copenhagen School's Securitization Approach: Conceptualizing Human Security as a Securitizing Move*, „Human Security Journal”, vol. 5, Winter 2007.
17. Gierszewski J., *Bezpieczeństwo socjalne, społeczne a bezpieczeństwo społeczne państwa w ujęciu systemowym i sekurytyzacji*, WSAiB, Gdynia 2015.
18. Gierszewski J., *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne. Zarys systemu*, Difin, Warszawa 2013.
19. Gierszewski J., *Organizacja systemu bezpieczeństwa społecznego*, Difin, Warszawa 2013.
20. Gierszewski J., *Wykluczenie społeczne a bezpieczeństwo państwa*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo w administracji, gospodarce i biznesie. Aksjologia zjawisk kryzysowych w administracji i sektorze publicznym*, M. Chrabkowski, C. Tatarczuk, J. Tomaszewski (ed.) WSAiB, Gdynia 2013.
21. Giza-Poleszczuk A., Poleszczuk J., *Cyganie i Polacy w Mławie konflikt etniczny czy społeczny?, Raport opracowany na zlecenie CBOS*, Warszawa 1992.
22. Hafemeister D., *Physics of Societal Issues: Calculations on National Security, Environment, and Energy*, Springer, New York 2014.
23. Hillman M., Hutchison R., *A Resource Conscious Society Paperback*, Policy Studies Institute of University of Westminster, London 1991.

24. Hofreiter L., *Wstęp do studiów bezpieczeństwa*, Krakowskie Towarzystwo Edukacyjne, Kraków 2012.
25. Judicial decision of Constitutional Tribunal, 19.11.1996, K 7/95, OTK 1996.
26. Kaczmarek B., Sikorski Cz., *Podstawy Zarządzania. Zachowania organizacyjne*, ed. II, Łódź 1999.
27. Kiamba S., *Societal Security and Migration*, Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken 2012.
28. Kiciński K., *Socjologiczne problemy bezpieczeństwa narodowego – prognozy, przewidywania*, [in:] *Wybrane problemy socjologii wojska*, J. Kunikowski (ed.), vol. 1, Warszawa 1998.
29. Kitler W., *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe RP. Podstawowe kategorie. Uwarunkowania. System*, AON, Warszawa 2011.
30. Kitler W., *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe. Podstawowe kategorie, dylematy pojęciowe i próba systematyzacji*, „Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej. Zeszyt Problemowy”, 2010, No. 1 (61).
31. Kukułka J., *Bezpieczeństwo a współpraca europejska: współzależności i sprzeczności interesów*, „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, 1982, vol. 7.
32. Leszczyński M., *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne Polaków wobec wyzwań XXI wieku*, Difin 2011.
33. McLuhan M., Fiore Q., *War and Peace in the Global Village*, Bantam Books, New York 2001.
34. Nation R. C., *A History of the War in the Balkans 1991–2002*, Didactic Press, San Diego 2015.
35. Rozporządzenie Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 8 sierpnia 2011 r. w sprawie obszarów wiedzy, dziedzin nauki i sztuki oraz dyscyplin naukowych i artystycznych (Dz. U. 2011 nr 179 poz. 1065).
36. Skrabacz A., *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne. Podstawy teoretyczne i praktyczne*, Elipsa, Warszawa 2012.
37. Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego 2014, Warszawa 2014.
38. Taylor M., *The Legitimate Claims of National Security*, “Foreign Affairs” (Council on Foreign Relations, Inc.), No 52 (1974).
39. Waever O., Buzan B., Kelstrup M., *Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, London 1993.
40. Weaver O., Buzan B., Kelstrup M., Lemaitre P., *Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe*, Pinter, London 1993.

**AUTHORS:**

---

**JANUSZ GIERZEWSKI** – the area of his scientific interest is the issue of national security, in particular the organization of the social security system. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of security studies, he also concerns institutional and legal aspects of security. The author of several scientific works analysing various aspects of security and public order.

---

**CITE THIS ARTICLE AS:**

J. Gierszewski, J. Piwowarski, *Theoretical Basics of Societal Security*, “Security Dimensions. International and National Studies”, 2016, no 18, p. 30–48.