



# JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SECURITY: AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Anand K. Singh  
Associate Professor  
Department of Defence Studies  
Hindu College, Moradabad, U.P.

### ABSTRACT

*In the modern nuclear age, the growing futility of force as a means of resolving security issues, combined with the diminished threat of nuclear war due to nations' balance of terror and deterrence capabilities, has resulted in a situation in which foreign policy and diplomatic methods, or non-military methods of dealing with national security, are gaining increasing validity. Similarly, nation-building requires both security and growth. Without the other, one cannot exist. There is a symbiotic relationship between security and development; without development, there can be no security, and without security, there is no meaning to security. Economic development is a broad word that includes agricultural, scientific, and technological advancements, as well as modernization, democratization, and nation-building. Anything that obstructs such progress is a threat to a country's national security.*

**KEY-WORDS:** National Security, National Defence, International Security

*Security is the sum total of vital interest of estate for which state is willing to go to war either immediately or ultimately. It is really the core values and interest which are vitally important to the security of a state.*

*Annual Reports, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. (1972)*

The formation and maintenance of peace are often confused with security. According to Kautilya the vanquished is preparing for the next round, and victor is taking advantage of it. On the other hand, Security, is a much broader and multidimensional concept that refers to a condition in which there is no perceived threat to one's survival, and it incorporates many aspects of national and international interests and goals.

As we know security is also influenced by her geopolitical status, demography, national resources, defence and foreign policy, perceptions of external threats, internal security as a result of internal dissensions and externally induced acts, and national moral and willpower to defend its national interests.<sup>1</sup> Revisions in the strategic environment, threat perception, internal security, and budgetary condition must all be followed by a review of strategy, management of diplomatic and policy means as needed, and changes if justified.

### **Concept of National Security**

Some theorists equated national security with national defence, but security encompasses a considerably broader range of issues, dangers, and responses. In reality, while security is comprised of various components, strong military readiness is a basic necessity in gradient the cutting edge, without which any discussion of security would be meaningless. Defense is a small but important part of a country's overall security. Military security is the most visible aspect of National Defense, but it is far from the only one.

In Cold War scenario, the two phrases were nearly inextricably linked. The decoupling of two concepts has been more apparent since the conclusion of the Cold War. This is because, on the one hand, security is increasingly being seen in broad terms, encompassing technologies and information. Second, and perhaps more importantly, security issues are no longer systematically linked to and associated with any political or military actor. To put it another way, the military's response to Tu instability was insufficient and tentative. When it comes to creating security policies, defence strategies are no longer sufficient.<sup>2</sup>

In the modern nuclear age, the growing futility of force as a means of resolving security issues, combined with the diminished threat of nuclear war due to nations' balance of terror and deterrence capabilities, has resulted in a situation in which foreign policy and diplomatic methods, or non-military methods of dealing with national security, are gaining increasing validity.

Similarly, nation-building requires both security and growth. Without the other, one cannot exist. There is a symbiotic relationship between security and development; without development, there can be no security, and without security, there is no meaning to security. Economic development is a broad word that includes agricultural, scientific, and technological advancements, as well as modernization, democratization, and nation-building. Anything that obstructs such progress is a threat to a country's national security.

In common usage, national security refers to the safeguarding of a country's territorial integrity. In this view, it is the job of defence strategy to promote national security, which is accomplished by relying on the acquisition of military hardware and the strengthening of the country's defence forces, which is, in reality, military security.<sup>3</sup>

In the intricacies of twentieth-century international politics, a view that defines national security solely in terms of military security is myopic and inadequate. Even countries that do not fear hostile troops attacking them must work to maintain their security. For today's security, it means preserving the type of political and economic system that has given a country its position of supremacy and better quality in the international system, as well as promoting its released values. For example, the United States abandoned its usual isolationist policy and joined the allied powers not to defend its territorial integrity, but to defend western political systems, economic structures, and democratic and freedom principles that were under attack by the axis power.

### Definition of National Security

While much ahead of the basic idea of national security, **Morton Berkowitz and Bookes**<sup>14</sup> definition of national security as a “nation's ability to preserve its internal values from external dangers is still inadequate. It implies that dangers to a country's security originate from the outside, but it ignores the threat from within.” Political unrest and widening economic inequities regional development disparities, as well as cultural, linguistic, and ethnic animosity, are the bane of modern politics. To a larger or lesser extent, every nation must protect itself from them. When a nation is economically and technologically developed, politically secure, and socio-culturally unified, it can be said to have a sword for its own protection.

Defining the Concept of National Security According to Walter Lippmann,<sup>5</sup> “A nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interest to avoid war and is able to challenge to maintain them by war.” According to Michael Law,<sup>6</sup> “National security, is the state of being free from external physical threats.” According to Low, all moral and intellectual dangers should be considered, but it is physical violence that is widely regarded as the ultimate leverage against the state, and thus as a real and tangible threat to its survival. However, if nations were not concerned with the defence of their values other than their survival as sovereign states, they would not have to be concerned about their security as much as they do now. As Orvik puts it, “security would be a matter of course if there were no threats to national ideals and institutions.”<sup>7</sup>

Robert McNamara's definition, which is more applicable to our times, “security is not military hardware do it may include it security is not military force though it may include development and without development there is no security.”<sup>8</sup> The United Nations recognized this developmentalist approach to national security when, in its 25th session in 1970, it accepted the recommendations of the first committee of the general assembly and passed a resolution that, among other things, called for closing the economic gap between developed and developing countries as soon as possible, which is closely and essentially linked to the strengthening of all nations' security and the establishment of peace.<sup>9</sup>

K. Subrahmanyam, an expert on security and defence studies in India, “clarifies that national security does not simply imply preserving territorial integrity. It also entails ensuring the country's rapid industrialization and the development of a unified, equitable, and technical society. Anything that gets in the way of its progress, whether inside or outside, is a national security threat.” Subramaniam's concepts are based on India as a generalization to the great majority of third-world countries. <sup>10</sup>

The security of a country is intrinsically tied to its resource position and ecological balance, among other factors. Natural disasters pose a huge threat to national security. We are currently under attack from self-inflicted rapid environmental change, the long-term biological and ecological ramifications of which we are painfully unaware. The security of nations around the world is currently threatened by dwindling stockpiles of vital resources such as oil and ecological imbalance. National security cannot be maintained without the ability to sustain national economies. <sup>11</sup>

As a result, the concept of national security is broad and multifaceted. The value component adds to the difficulty of deciphering its precise meaning. For some, it even contains expansionary elements such as ideological imperialism and other forms of imperialism. Given this complication, one must concur with Arnold Wolfers assessment of national security as an ambiguous symbol. <sup>12</sup>

The problem is particularly acute in third-world countries, because security has been described as a state's or nation's immunity to dangers emerging from beyond its borders in varied degrees. Walter Lippmann, <sup>13</sup> “presented his views and contends that a nation is secure to the extent that it is not in danger of having to lose cross ideals in order to avoid war and is able to keep them if challenged by such triumph in war.”

This means that a country must have the capability and desire to preserve the essential ideals of political independence and territorial integrity, as well as the ability to use its capability to ward off all types of pressures in order to do so. Security, according to Bangladeshi academic Manir-UI-Jama, <sup>14</sup> "is the protection and preservation of the minimal essential values of political independence and territorial integrity."

The national security issues that third-world countries face must be identified, and their nature must be comprehended. Simultaneously, an endeavor must be made to distinguish the distinctions from the pattern of security concerns confronting industrialized western states, so that decision-making priorities are not muddled. Because the disparities that are initially recognized are the symptoms of a much deeper divergence in the different experiences of the Western and third world countries, the final understanding must not be limited to the symptomatic level.

(1.) The history of state formation in the third world as compared to its counterpart in the west, and (2.) The pattern of recruitment and region establishment and maintenance in the third world as compared to the same processes in



the developed States for stop these major variables have their own calorific values that can be analysed, but essentially it is necessary to understand the differences between the two variables differences not so much in absolute and culture based differences.

The problems of the twenty-first century are less military and more economic in nature, with a strong emphasis on the human dimension of security for staff. Their traditional militaristic and state-centric security discourse, with sovereignty and territorial integrity as target variables, can hardly capture today's fundamental security problems for the majority of the population in developing countries of the third world. In the eyes of the millions of people living in poor countries, ensuring state security has little relevance as long as they are suffering from hunger, malnutrition, and illiteracy. When their very survival is at stake, and their physical surroundings and economic base are threatened by environmental degradation, and their social and political lives are affected almost on a daily basis by strips and other forms of unorganised violence, as well as ethnic and sectarian conflict, national security as traditionally defined loses its importance and salience. It is now commonly acknowledged that state security does not necessarily imply human security. Indeed, a focus on state security can put human security at risk.

The priority and concern of rational decision-making is ultimately determined by national interest, not any utopian concept. This does not apply to any country. What must be remembered is that the national security that defence strategy strives to give entails the function of diplomacy, economic development, and, above all, a stable national and global order, which had become almost imperatives in the world but have not turned out to be so. We are dealing with a deeply disturbed and conflict-prone world that is becoming more convoluted, volatile, and unpredictable.<sup>15</sup> Indeed, coining a new phrase to describe the current situation has become trendy. Beyond all of this, there are fundamental paradigm shifts affecting international security.

(i) from external aggression to internal instability (ii) rise of religion strife particularly of Islamic revivalism (iii) from geo-strategy to geo-economics.

## Conclusion

This period of extreme global volatility can have catastrophic consequences unless a country has a well-thought-out national security plan that is agile and resilient enough to absorb mid-course modifications. All state needs to talk about a national security policy for themselves. Our understanding of national security must go beyond border security and sustaining law and order. It must impress such issues as those mentioned above alongside it during the citizen's overall security.

## REFERENCES

1. The Times of India, June 9, 1975.
2. D. Banerjee, ed. Security in the New World Order: An Anglo-French Dialogue, IDSA, 1994. P.24
3. David M. and Richard B. edited National Security, New York, 1963

4. Morton Berkowitz and P.G. Booke, National Security, International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, London, 1968 volume 11 page 4.
5. Walter Lippmann, US Foreign Policy, Shield of the Republic, Boston Mass, 1943, p. 5.
6. Michael Louw, edited National Security Modern Approach, Pretoria S.A. 1978 p. 10
7. Niles Orvik, The Threat Problem of Analysis International Journal, Torrento, volume 26 autumn 1971 page 675.
8. Robert McNamara, The Essence of Security, London, 1968
9. K P Mishra, The Concept Of Security, India International Centre quarterly, New Delhi volume 3 Page 88.
10. K. Subrahmanyam, Our National Security, Delhi 1972 page 7
11. Lester Brown, Redefining National Security, Washington, 1977, page 37-38
12. Arnold Wolfers, National Security As An Ambiguous Symbol, edited Discord and Collaboration, Baltimore, 1962
13. Parvez Iqbal Cheema, Pakistani Perspective on International Security, Macmillan Press London, 1984 p. 135
14. Ibid.
15. Richard Falk, In search of a new World Order, Current History, volume 92. 1993 p. 145

