Global security challenges and Georgia

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Abstract: This paper explores the multifaceted global security challenges in the 21st century, with a specific focus on the strategic role of Georgia. As a nation at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, Georgia occupies a pivotal geopolitical position that influences regional stability and global security dynamics. the paper discusses Georgia's efforts in combating terrorism and its contributions to global security through participation in international peacekeeping missions. The strategic significance of Georgia's integration with Western institutions, such as the European Union and NATO, is also assessed in terms of enhancing collective security and deterring aggression. the paper proposes recommendations for strengthening Georgia's security strategy, advocating for enhanced international cooperation, robust security reforms, and sustained diplomatic efforts to resolve regional conflicts. The aim is to underscore the importance of Georgia as a security actor not only in its immediate neighborhood but also in the broader global context. This analysis is intended to contribute to the discourse on how small states like Georgia navigate complex global security landscapes and their disproportionate impact on international security policy.

The paper discusses the factors contributing to the emergence and spread of new challenges against the background of the growing trends of globalization processes, which have become established in the political lexicon as global threats. Against the backdrop of global threats, one of them can be attributed to the problem of national security. Georgian researchers' works, lecture courses and articles have been published in this direction.

Keywords: Global security; Challenges of Georgia; National security;

INTODUCTION: In the new information age, the security of modern Georgia, as well as other countries, is generally determined by many new challenges and threats. Moreover, ensuring its national security is to a certain extent the security of Georgia's border. The global challenges of the information age have revealed modern trends that contain serious threats that affect national security: the gradual reduction of the influence of states, the promotion of penetration of state borders, etc., for example, the concept of border management changes significantly in the information age; It is quite difficult to completely solve the problem at the state

level, and even in certain circumstances, it becomes unthinkable. The objective needs to activate international cooperation in this direction was highlighted, which can be practically reflected in the organization of the integrated border management system, which has been widely implemented in recent years. Formation of borders and border areas is a very urgent problem. It is influenced by a whole complex of different factors. Protection of the state border is one of the most important components of ensuring national security and includes a complex of legal-political, economic, military-operational, operational-search, engineering-technical, regime, organizational, ecological, sanitary, and other measures.

Ensuring national security means protection of state and public order, protection of territorial integrity, political and economic independence, functioning of the health sector, protection of public order, protection of technological security in the fight against criminals and protection from natural disasters. For the protection of national security, it is also necessary to develop, modernize relevant agencies and develop relevant documents, which are a kind of guide or action plan in critical situations.

Interesting Social security, as an academic theory and as a form of security governance, is based on broad public participation in security processes. It is based on a whole-of-society model in security policy, according to which each group of society, based on its own capabilities, knowledge and experience, participates in security processes and takes responsibility for the continuous performance of assigned functions even in crisis situations; The concept of social security combines a wide range of threat containment mechanisms and is effective in containing threats from both state and non-state actors. In this process, social security is not an alternative to military defense, but its supplement, complementary component, as one of the pillars of national security and an effective tool for dealing with modern threats;

The social security model is characterized by a high degree of decentralization and delegation in the process of planning and implementation of security policy, which allows to bypass the protracted decision-making process and bureaucratic vertical and to respond quickly in times of crisis. It is based on a horizontal model of action, in which, instead of traditional command and control, emphasis is placed on increasing rights and responsibilities at the local level and strengthening the coordination system;[1]

National and global security

After the restoration of independence, Georgia faced a number of domestic and foreign challenges, which often brought the country into crisis. The open, large-scale military aggression carried out by the Russian Federation against Georgia in August 2008 made it clear that even in the modern world, such aggression remains a means of achieving political goals for some countries.

The military aggression of August 2008, the occupation of the territories of Georgia and the deployment of occupation troops and military infrastructure of the Russian Federation there significantly worsened the country's security environment. This war made it clear that the authorities of the Russian Federation do not adapt to the state sovereignty of Georgia, including the choice made by it in favor of democracy, the country's independent domestic and foreign policy. The military aggression of the Russian Federation worsened the

security environment of the entire Caucasus region. Additionally, the instability in the North Caucasus and the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has a negative impact on Georgia's security environment. The peaceful development of processes in the region and the formation of an atmosphere of cooperation contain positive opportunities for the security of Georgia. Georgia is part of the European and Euro-Atlantic space. Therefore, the ongoing integration processes in Europe are important for its security, in particular, the eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union.[2]

It is interesting that political parties, non-governmental organizations, and civil society members also take part in the development of the Georgian national security concept. Finally, the Georgian Parliament approves the concept of security. The purpose of this document is to protect and implement the national values and interests, as well as adequately assess the risks and challenges that the country faces. In addition, new plans and various sectoral strategies are created based on the concept of national security, which should usually be updated along with the change of this concept.

The large-scale geopolitical, socio-political, and economic changes caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, accelerated globalization and rapid information-technological development have had a great impact on the international security environment. The border between the internal and external threats of the country, as well as between the war and peace situation, has faded. The spectrum and range of non-traditional and non-military threats and challenges that do not pose an existential threat to the existence of the country and its territorial integrity but pose a challenge to the proper functioning of the state and society and their stability, have significantly increased.

Spanish experts (Joan Luis Perez Francechi, Tomas Gil Marquez, Manuel Balbe Malol, Rosser Martinez, Montserrat Iglesias) divide national security into internal and external threats. Domestic threats are economic problems and political issues, and foreign threats are improper assessment and lack of attention to the fluctuating situation of the Caucasus, and improper consideration of opportunities to improve relations with neighboring states.[3]

Protection of the state border, which ensures the inviolability of the state border, compliance and control of the rules established in the border zone, border line and border checkpoints, protection of state, private and public interests. The endless delimitation of the state borders of Georgia, which began in 1993-1994, creates significant problems not only for the process of border security, but also for the political, economic, and social stability of the region. Unfortunately, except for the border of the Republic of Turkey, the rest of Georgia's state border with the neighboring countries - the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Armenia - was marked only as an administrative border during the Soviet period, and its delimitation has not yet been completed, therefore, demarcation has not been carried out. [4]

The situation on the state border between Georgia and the Russian Federation is particularly difficult. Based on the historical conditions and the current situation, the Georgia-Russia state border is of an unstable (military) type, characterized by border conflicts and the frequency of wars. The Georgia-Russia border has a dividing barrier function. It is distinguished by a high level of militarization on the Russian side.

Communication at the border is kept to a minimum. The population lives in constant tension. There is a special regime at the border. There is almost no cooperation between the parties.

The main challenge of the national security of Georgia is the occupation of a significant part of the territory of Georgia by the Russian Federation.[5] The main problem is the militarization of the occupied regions (Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region). The military aggression of August 2008 showed that the possibility of the Russian Federation resuming large-scale or limited military action against Georgia is a constant consideration.

The occupation of the territories of Georgia and the uncontrolled situation in the occupied regions, in addition to having a negative impact on the political, social and economic stability of the country, also provide a fertile ground for the growth of smuggling and various cross-border crimes, including transnational crimes such as drug and arms trafficking, kidnapping, stolen cars Trading, importing counterfeit currency, and more.

Occupied regions can also be used for planning and carrying out terrorist acts on the territory of Georgia and for illegal transportation of components of weapons of mass destruction.[6] The presence of conflict centers in neighboring countries is an important challenge for the national security of Georgia. In addition to the potential for these conflicts to spread to the territory of Georgia, there is a possibility that the transition to an intense phase of the conflict in the region may lead to specific threats, such as the flow of refugees and the threat of armed groups entering the country. Smuggling and other types of cross-border organized crime. There is also a threat to the stable and smooth operation of transport and energy projects in the Caucasus. Delayed delimitation and demarcation processes with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Armenia and, therefore, the inability to establish a physical line of state borders clearly complicate the process of border protection, creating border incidents that contribute to political speculation on border issues.[7]

In the information age, the concept of border management is changing significantly; It is quite difficult to completely solve the problem at the state level, and even in certain circumstances it becomes impossible. There was an objective need to activate international cooperation in this direction. This can be practically reflected in the organization of the integrated border management system, which has been widely implemented in recent years. Information sources, information resources and user connection procedures, these are the elements of the information environment of the border environment that make up the information system of this structure. Special attention should be paid to the development of border infrastructure and modern technical equipment of border authorities. Technological backwardness in the most important areas of informatization, telecommunications and communications, which is largely decisive for the full protection of borders in the information age, must be overcome.[8]

The new reality not only changed the nature of the threats themselves, but also affected the perception of security. Gradually, the traditional, militaristic vision of security was eroded, and economic, social, cultural, value and other factors came forward in the process of planning and implementing international or national security policies. This period coincides with the beginning of the process of rethinking the traditional security policy in Western countries, which became even stronger after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The

security environment has become even more complex during the last decade due to the "return" of geopolitics in international politics and the start of a new wave of conventional threats, which did not occur at the expense of reducing non-military threats, on the contrary, new types of hybrid threats resulting from the fusion of conventional and hybrid threats push states to develop appropriate approaches.[9]

New types of threats, which focus on disrupting public institutions, breaking values, manipulating sentiments, etc., especially increase the vulnerability of countries with small and open societies. In such a situation, it is increasingly difficult for states to deal with threats alone, as traditional, military methods of defense are often powerless to contain such threats, unless they have a large civilian support. Therefore, in the process of rethinking the security policy, vital importance was given not only to the protection of the public, but also to the active participation in the planning and implementation of security by a wide spectrum of the public itself. In this regard, the concept of social security is interesting, which emphasizes the need for close cooperation between the state and society, focusing on a unified public approach to security.

Social media and cyber security

Social media plays a role in national security. In addition to its positive aspects, it can also be a potential threat to the country as well as to individuals. Its use and distribution are very fast, therefore the information disseminated in it spreads at lightning speed, which in many cases causes differences of opinion and controversy between users. Social media is still not fully understood, and analysts cannot settle on a single definition of social media. For example, Bruce Lindsay believes that "the term social media refers to the Internet links that allow people to interact, share resources and information. Social media includes discussion forums, blogs, chat rooms, YouTube channels, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. Access to social media can be accessed via computer, as well as via smartphones, cellular connections, and text messaging on mobile phones. Social media can be used as a weapon against Georgia's cyber security. That is, to use information warfare. This means that the attacker paralyzes the adversary's information system in order to gain an advantage. For this, he spreads misinformation or spreads information containing the context he needs. This problem is quite active in Georgia because Russia is currently using this attack on Georgia. As the last indirect attack, we can consider the story covered by one of the Russian TV stations, where the map of Georgia is distorted, and the occupied territories are not considered part of Georgia. Countries, terrorists, criminal organizations, protest and revolutionary groups and government officials abuse social networks. All these organizations, groups, countries, or government officials harm the country's security. All of them use different methods for cyber-attack, for example: disinformation among the population, intimidation, disclosure of confidential information, theft and disclosure of personal information, etc. [10]

International experience shows that a well-organized cyberspace architecture, properly distributed powers, and sophisticated mechanisms of accountability and coordination are the main prerequisites for the proper and secure functioning of cyberspace. The growing importance of the field of cyber security in the security architecture of the modern world makes it necessary to pay more attention to the strengthening of cyber security in Georgia. Georgia is a country that has repeatedly become the object of cyber-espionage and full-

scale cyber-attacks. Based on the statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the number of cyber-crimes is increasing day by day.[11]

Cyber security, which is one of the main state challenges. The increasing frequency of cyber-attacks poses a significant challenge to global security. Cyber-attacks can affect infrastructure, government institutions and private enterprises. Georgia, like other countries, faces cyber threats that can affect its digital infrastructure. Nation states may engage in cyber espionage to gain unauthorized access to sensitive information,[12] which may include state secrets, intellectual property, or national security data. Also worth noting are selective malware attacks, which are a type of malware that encrypts a user's files and demands a ransom for their release. [13]

In order to ensure the protection of cyberspace, it is important for Georgia to share the experience of friendly countries and cooperate with them. Also, 38 significant factors are the determination of strategic partners and potentially advanced countries for the country. Based on research, analysts assume that sooner or later the world will engage in a new type of cyber-war. In this war, physical force and fighting techniques will not be used. Cyber warfare will be much more sophisticated, in which a task designed at the strategic level can cause much greater damage, while the attacker can suffer colossal damage. The sophistication of this war means that the attack will be carried out on vitally important areas, for example: the banking sector, the health sector, the energy sector, and critical infrastructure objects can become the target of cyber-war. Cyber-warfare is likely to be far more devastating to any country than traditional war, disrupting or destroying the most vulnerable sectors, paralyzing all levels of state structures, causing massive chaos and civil panic. It is also possible that it will lead to massive destruction of human life. The world has 6 main players, namely: the United States of America, Russia, Iran, China, North Korea, and Israel. Apart from the USA, the rest of the countries do not shy away from cyber-attacks on a global scale due to their own interests. And less important countries are limited to small-scale cyber-attacks. Some of these listed countries pose a serious threat to Georgia.

Conclusion

The recent history of independent Georgia over the past 30 years has made it clear that only the traditional security model was insufficient to successfully contain the wide range of threats facing the country. Today, when the target of the attack is not only the state territory, and the adversary is also focusing on disrupting public institutions, breaking values and manipulating moods, it is increasingly difficult for the Georgian state to deal with hybrid threats with the existing security model. That is why it is important to research relevant approaches to security, which should inspire the country to find an optimal security model and adapt it to the Georgian reality.

At this stage, identifying clear mechanisms for the adaptation of the social security model in the Georgian context relates to many difficulties. However, despite these difficulties, when understanding the diverse threats facing the Georgian state and society, the need to introduce a social security model is clear.

Despite the improved regulation, parliamentary supervision, and control over the security sector in Georgia remains weak, which is due to the low priority of the security issue in the Georgian political space, the weakness of institutional and political traditions, and various technical reasons.

The securitization of poverty and inequality is almost non-existent in the Georgian political reality, which is directly related to the strength of the traditional paradigm of security in political and academic circles, the dominance of neoliberal economic ideology, and the lack of preventive policies.

In Georgia, the traditional, state-centric approach to security is still the leading paradigm, and socio-economic issues remain outside the security policy. And this prevents the introduction of a unified public model of security in the country because it is not possible to ensure the wide participation of the population in the processes.

In the current reality, Georgia's choice is practically one: either the country will remain a polygon "on the border" of spheres of influence, or with the cooperation of its partners, it will be able to highlight its functional usefulness, which, in fact, will make it a regional "cornerstone".

Based on the current reality, the national security of Georgia is facing a few challenges, both domestically and externally, therefore it is critically important for Georgia to have conceptual and strategic documents that will serve as a kind of guidelines and show the authorities directions in planning and implementing a security policy and will allow adequate steps to be taken for the country's national security. During security challenges and potential threats. In the new information age, the security of modern Georgia, as well as other countries, is generally determined by new challenges and threats. Ensuring national security is in turn related to the security of the border of Georgia. Due to this, in the recent period, the emphasis is placed on ensuring the security of the border. However, it should also be said that the existing risks and threats are not properly considered. Strategic documents do not adequately consider the full range of threats.

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