

# Emerging Challenges to National Security

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**Abstract - Abstract:** In international relations, national security is regarded as an important concept. The sovereignty, territorial integrity has been linked with national security. Traditionally concept of national security has been military in nature. Since the end of Cold war world is facing security risk from non traditional areas. Today as the world is becoming more interconnected so are our security threats. This paper discusses two emerging threats to national security environmental and human security.

**Keywords:** National security, Non Traditional, Globalisation, Environmental security, Human Security.

**Introduction** - The phrase “national security” consists of two components: nation and security. In assessing the historical context, it is essential to analyse the terminology meticulously concerning its historical and philosophical underpinnings<sup>1</sup>. Security is a more nuanced and antiquated idea when considered at the human level compared to its national counterpart. Security denotes a state of being free from danger and fear. It is a transitory psychological condition that engenders a sense of assurance. The concept of nation-state emerged from the Treaty of Westphalia<sup>2</sup>. After the treaty of Westphalia, the world became structured around the sacrosanct boundaries which were gradually engulfed in obsessive nationalism. External forces have posed a threat to national security since ancient times. Typically, it was an assault perpetrated by a foreign nation. Consequently, the country’s survival and existence were inextricably linked to the security of its borders. Therefore, since primordial times to the present, states have prioritised the expansion of their military capabilities in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The definition of security was traditionally confined to a military aspect of inter-state relations. However, the key concept of security is no longer limited to the state and its ability to defend against external military threats; it increasingly encompasses societies and human associations as well. The notion of national security changed after the end of the Cold War. According to Barry Buzan, ‘security is taken to be about the pursuit of freedom from threat and the ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile. The bottom line of security is survival’<sup>3</sup>. This definition has broadened the perspective of security. Consequently, concerns such as infectious diseases, environmental degradation, drug trafficking, human smuggling, cybercrime

and related challenges are being examined in academic circles as urgent concerns with security implications. These non-military issues are classified in the security studies literature as non-traditional security challenges.<sup>4</sup>

Non-traditional security challenges engender unease for a sovereign state and its community at large. There are numerous non traditional threats to the security of a country. These threats become dangerous and complicated at the same time because of highly intricate global network established by modern communication, transportation, and information technology, encompassing both transnational and non-state entities.

**Environmental Security:** One of the biggest threats that is looming over whole mankind is from the very environment that surrounds us all. The misconception that nation states are threatened by the military might of the neighbouring countries is now waning away. Existence of countries like Maldives, Tuvalu, Marshall Island are at stake because of the rising sea levels due to climate change. Therefore, today environment is regarded as the biggest security challenge cutting across all nations.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), after prolonged and in-depth research came to the conclusion that ‘anthropogenic activity is contributing to climate change’.<sup>5</sup> The planet is experiencing rising temperatures chiefly due to the repercussions of industrial production and agricultural methods, deforestation, and industrial emissions, which emit numerous gases—especially carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapor—into the atmosphere. These gases capture thermal energy from the sun that would otherwise dissipate into space<sup>6</sup>. This phenomenon is referred to as the greenhouse effect. Because of this, temperatures all across the world have shot up by substantially since the late 19th

century, with the most recent decades exhibiting scorching rates that have never been seen before. This process has been accountable for an extensive range of ecological repercussions, such as the thawing of glaciers and ice at the poles, the upward movement of sea levels, the occurrence of heatwaves that are more frequent and intense, the alteration of rainfall patterns, and the occurrence of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and wildfires. Additionally, because of global warming, ecosystems are deteriorating, biodiversity is under threat, and there are significant dangers to human health, agriculture, water security, and economic stability. Despite the fact that it is a worldwide problem, its effects are not uniform. Vulnerable populations and poor countries frequently face the most severe consequences, despite the fact that they are the ones that contribute the least to the problem.

In terms of national security, these environmental concerns are non-traditional and cross-border risks that threaten a country. It will be difficult to bring this issue under control via traditional military or political methods. For example, climate change is a cause to increasing sea levels, severe weather, and extended droughts, all of which have the potential to relocate communities, inflict damage to vital structures, and decrease the availability of water and food. These kinds of upheavals can result in financial difficulties, instability in society, and massive migration, each of which put an impact on the power of a nation to preserve its stability and carry out its administration. In places like South Sudan in Africa, the stress caused by the environment has intensified the ethnic tensions that were already present, leading to rivalry over limited resources that ultimately resulted in armed war.

Global problems require global solutions. The problem of environmental security cannot be tackled by individual countries at their level. Therefore, United Nations has come to play an important role. The passage of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 is credited with marking the beginning of climate change's recognition as a major global environmental concern. The first conference was United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) popularly known as the Earth summit. It institutionalised sustainable development as global agenda. Later, the UNFCCC came up with the Kyoto Protocol which set legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries. The important outcome was the Paris agreement which was a legally binding international treaty under the UNFCCC. It adopted a bottom-up approach. All the nations are required to show progress overtime and no uniform targets have been set. The countries are required to report regularly on their emissions and progress.

**Human Security:** Amartya Sen in an interview to the newspaper, the Hindu said that if we are speaking of security, it has to be human security<sup>7</sup>. It is a recent

development to the threats to national security. The concept of human security is very different from the traditional concept of national security, where state was the primary actor and threats were external. Protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty were accorded primacy. Whereas, in human security focus is the security of the individual. During the 1990s, particularly after the conclusion of the Cold War, it became abundantly evident that the conventional notion of security was unable to accommodate human welfare, particularly the liberation of disadvantaged groups, marginalised sectors, and poor people. After some consideration, it was determined that the approach to human rights ought to be strengthened by the implementation of developmental measures and the protection of people all over the world. For the sake of national, regional, and global stability, it was abundantly evident that human security, also known as security that is centred on people, is absolutely necessary. The Human Development Report that was published by the United Nations Development Program in 1994 is considered a significant milestone because it brought attention to the necessity of "human security" in order to combat global insecurities that plague individuals, particularly those who are poor, marginalised, and disadvantaged.

In terms of the implementation of human security, the approval of resolution 66/290 by the General Assembly<sup>8</sup> on September 10, 2012 was a key milestone. It is the right of individuals to live their lives in freedom and dignity, free from destitution and hopelessness. In order to provide human security, it is necessary to implement solutions that are prevention-oriented, broad, specific to the situation, and focused on people. These responses should increase the protection and empowerment of all individuals and communities. The concept of human security is so wide that it encompasses almost all kinds securities which are faced by mankind.

In certain circumstances, errors in human security can pose significant dangers to the functioning of the national security system. When the fundamental requirements and rights of individuals are disregarded, it can result in widespread dissatisfaction, civil strife, radicalisation, and occasionally armed conflicts. These fundamental necessities and rights include the right to food, medical care, schooling, housing, security, and liberty. As an illustration, conditions such as severe inequality, poverty, and unemployment can serve as a breeding ground for the growth of insurgent groups or extremist beliefs, which in turn pose a threat to the internal security of a state. In these kinds of situations, the deterioration of human security affects social cohesiveness, undermines the legitimacy of the state, and has the potential to escalate into more significant national crises. It is therefore vital for governments to implement policies that are centred on people in order to maintain both state and social resilience. Neglecting human security concerns can directly affect

national security, which is why it is essential for governments to embrace such policies. In order to deal with the problem, the UN has created the Human Security Unit within the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to mainstream the human security approach.

**Conclusion:** Globalisation along with information technology revolution made borders meaningless. Globalisation meant free movement of people, capital, goods and services across the world. Communication revolution brought the world closer. As the borders started becoming meaningless, new threats to security started emerging. Thus, a non-traditional concept of security developed which was very different from traditional concept. In the non-traditional concept alongside the border other challenges came to be recognised as security threat.

There is urgent need for worldwide collaboration to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, shift to renewable energy sources, and adopt climate adaptation and mitigation techniques is something that must be addressed in order to address the issue of environmental security. This problem cannot be solved by a single country. Several attempts have been made to ensure environmental security like the Earth Summit, Kyoto protocol, Paris conference on climate change. World is divided between developed and developing countries over the issue of environment. Still much needs to be done.

Today there is urgent need to redefine the concept of national security. The state centric view of security should be replaced by the individual centric view of security. It is

the human life that matters. Human security is today an important aspect of national security. This concept is closely connected with the idea of human rights and sustainable development and encompasses all those aspects which are connected with secure life of an individual. It highlights the fundamental causes of insecurity, including disparity, inadequate administration, and absence of availability of vital amenities. It becomes the duty of the government to address these issues. Once the issue of human security is addressed world would become a better place to live.

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