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Personal Security within the Human Security Paradigm

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PERSONAL SECURITY WITHIN THE *HUMAN SECURITY* PARADIGM

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to answer the question of for whom is security relevant, and whether security is a category which constitutes the point of reference to the idea of personal security. Until very recently, security was associated with threats originating from the political and military situation of the state, not individuals. The traditional system was based on the state-centric approach to security. The idea of human security, on the other hand, in contrast to the traditional system, expands the definition of security threats. Human security combines the security of individuals with that of the state. The article focuses on examining the relations between the security of the state the idea of human security. Analysing those relations allowed for the development of the term: personal security.

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INTRODUCTION

After the end of the Cold War, it was discovered that wars were not the primary threat to human security, but poverty and hunger, pandemics and climate changes. Therefore, it should be asked whether the understanding

of security from the point of view of nation states¹ overlaps with the actual threats relevant to individual persons. Attempting to answer this question caused a focus shift from the military aspects of security to other fields.

Personal security first received attention in the 1970. This is when research was conducted aimed at forming a stable world order, one that would approach the issue of security from the point of view of individuals. The research was part of the World Order Modern Project. The reports of the Club of Rome from the 1960s indicated the existence of issues relevant to all parts of the world, such as: poverty, unemployment, urbanisation, abandoning of traditional values, population growth, malnutrition, depletion of non-renewable natural resources. According to experts, these constitute challenges and threats for states, the globe as a whole, but also for individual persons as well.

Nevertheless, the issues mentioned above are relevant to security issues which arise within or at the interface of social worlds².

In the early 1980, the reports of the Brandt Commission³ on the North-South divide (1980, 1983) emphasised that survival is in the interest of all of humanity. Survival requires solving problems related to war and peace, as well as eliminating poverty, hunger and disproportions in levels of development. This would increase the security of both nations and individual persons.

1991 saw the adoption of the Stockholm Initiative on *Global Governance*, which postulated that the concept of security should be expanded to include issues arising from developmental restrictions, environmental pollution, and excessive economic growth, as these issues affect the security of individual humans. In 1995, the UN published a report titled *Our Global Neighbourhood*⁴, which determined that the idea of global security should move away from states and towards individuals.

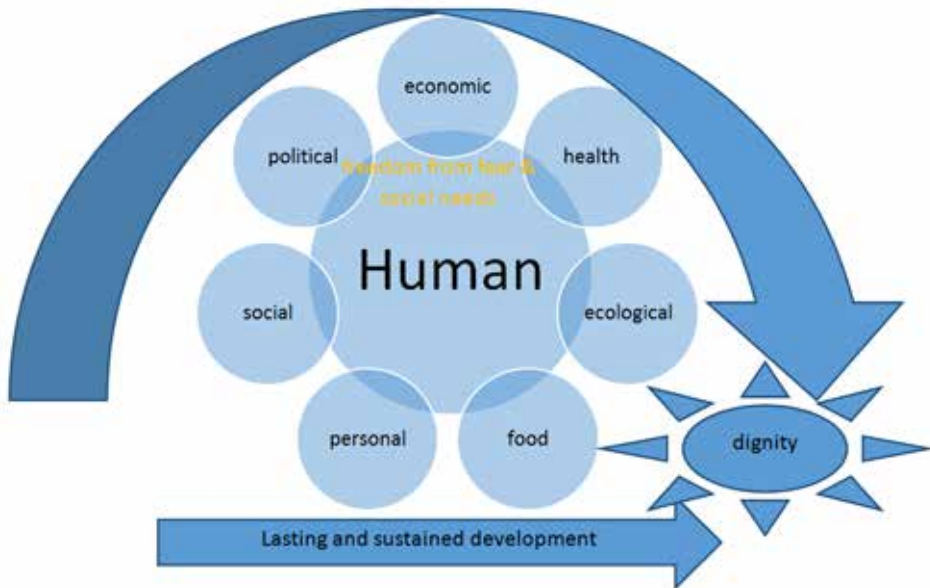
¹ E. Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, Cornell University Press, New York 2009; J. Piwowarski, *Transdyscyplinarna istota kultury bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku, Słupsk 2016, p. 57.

² Cf. P. Cressy, *The Taxi-Dance Hall. A Sociological Study in Commercialized Recreation and City Life*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1932; J. Piwowarski, *Transdyscyplinarna istota kultury bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku, Słupsk 2016, p. 441. A. Strauss, *A Social Worlds Perspective*, „Studies in Symbolic Interaction”, 1978, vol. 4, p. 171–190.

³ *North-South: A Programme for Survival – Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues*, chaired by W. Brandt, MIT Press, Cambridge 1980.

⁴ *Our Global Neighbourhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1995.

FIG. 1. LAYERS (AREAS) OF HUMAN SECURITY



Source: J. Gierszewski *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne w koncepcji bezpieczeństwa człowieka (human security)*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo państwa we współczesnej Europie. Zagrożenia i przeciwdziałanie*, WSAiB Gdynia 2017, p. 249.

LAYERS OF SECURITY WITHIN THE HUMAN SECURITY PARADIGM

The UN's human development report of 1994 (Redefining security: human, hereinafter referred to as the HDR) expressed the necessity to transform the idea of security in two respects:

- shift the focus from territorial security and political power to the importance of human security;
- shift the focus from the military security of states to other areas of security, including ensuring lasting and sustained human (mankind's) development.

In addition, the report identified to seven main security categories: economic, nutrition, health, environment, personal, political and social.

This way, the idea of human security was based on a broader assumption that the security of the state is not equivalent to protecting the state's territory and its residents. These are not the only factors in human security, as humans do not only expect military security from the state, but prosper-

ity and environmental protection as well. Within this paradigm, the human becomes a legitimate security subject, ceasing to be treated solely as an object of protection. This idea also points to the necessity of stabilising the relations between the state and human needs, so that the synergy of mutual actions strengthens both the security system of the state and human security. This approach to security does not replace the role of the state as its guarantor, it does however point to the need of collaboration between various institutions, including international institutions, for the sake of human security.

The concept of human security is an extension of Barry Buzan's fundamental areas of security (military, political, economic, ecological and social⁵), adding new areas.

Economic security is related to (fig. 1) the income of natural persons earned through work. Economic security issues resulting from loss of employment are an important factor which generates political tension and public security concerns.

Food security requires that every individual is able to access basic food items. Faulty distribution mechanisms and lack of purchasing powers are the main problems in this regard. Health security is about guaranteeing a minimum of protection from diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. Threats to health security usually have a greater impact on those from impoverished rural areas, especially children. This is a result of malnutrition and inadequate access to healthcare, clean water and other basic amenities.

The aim of ecological security is to protect humans from dangers of both human and natural origins (e.g. dangers related to access to clean water, air pollution, or global warming caused by greenhouse gases).

Personal security aims to protect humans from physical violence of the state and other entities. For many, the greatest fear is falling victim to crime.

Social security protects from the loss of traditional values, as well as ethnically-motivated violence.

Political security is related to the basic human rights, and its aim is to protect humans from political repression, torture, mistreatment or abduction.

⁵ Cf. J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo socjalne, społeczne a bezpieczeństwo społeczne państwa w ujęciu systemowym i sekurytyzacji*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo w administracji i biznesie jako czynnik europejskiej integracji i rozwoju*, M. Chrabkowski et al., WSAiB, Gdynia 2015, p. 461 et al.

In the context of the above-mentioned layers of security, the HDR points to the potential layer of humanitarian security (*la sécurité humaine*), introduced by Canadian researcher Charles-Philippe David⁶. Nowadays, it is often associated with saving and protecting human lives during cataclysms and catastrophes, or helping those suffering from the consequences of long-lasting crises. This is why it is associated with overcoming developmental problems related to e.g. migrations caused by human actions (wars) or nature (long-lasting droughts), as well as with not only the right to live, but with respecting human dignity as well. As an aside, it could be added that the issue of migration often reflects the tragic nature of the relation: state – secure humans.

HUMAN SECURITY OR STATE SECURITY?

The following question can serve as an inspiration for research: If the state is unable to guarantee the security of its people, then who, apart from state institutions, should be responsible for guaranteeing it?

Used in various contexts, *human security* tends to be translated into Polish as: the security of humans, the security of individuals, personal security, human security, and humanitarian security. The differing translations are primarily due to the context in which the term is used. This also points to the fact that the needs of individuals and social groups are becoming increasingly relevant to the security of the state. Therefore, the conclusion is that, in an increasing amount of cases, it is not the state that should serve as the level of analysis, but individuals in danger of possessing no opportunities for development or of living in a degraded environment. This change in the perception of security is a result of the anthropocentric, and not state-centric, approach and assessment of what is protected, i.e. it changes the focus of security from the level of the state to human security. This understanding of security results in territorial integrity and political independence trading places with human existence and quality of life as the fundamental values.

The redefinition of the traditional perception of security has its roots in the early 1990s, as it is then that the term *societal security* was coined by the Copenhagen Peace Research Institute. It was understood to mean community security (the social security of individuals and the collective

⁶ Cf. Ch.-Ph. David, *La guerre et la Paix: approches contemporaines de la sécurité et de la stratégie*. Presses de Sciences Po, Paris 2000, p. 87–121.

identity)⁷. The state was no longer at the top in this approach, instead, individuals, social groups and entire societies became the most important subjects. This begets the question about whether these security subjects have the same goals, as well as the particular sphere of security that they belong to – is it national or international security?

Human security redefines the approach to security via focusing solely on the security of individual humans⁸. The base of this concept is the aforementioned *Human Development Report 1994: New dimensions of human security*, published in 1994 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The essence of the concept is its primary interest in human life and dignity as regards security. Human security is concerned with all security aspects and global threats referred to in the Report – also those relevant from the point of view of state security, i.e. developmental disproportions, demographic issues, uncontrolled migration, increasing organised crime and drug trafficking, international terrorism and threats to the environment. According to the *Report*, analyses of human security must take into account its universality, the interdependence of all its parts, the ease of ensuring it via early preventive measures rather than late interventions, as well as focusing on helping humans.

Two main rules which anticipate threats to human security emerged within the concept of human security. The broader rule is the freedom from want, i.e. freedom and protection from such chronic issues as hunger, diseases and poverty, which may be associated with broadly-defined societal security, and in a more narrow sense, with social security.

The narrower issue is the freedom from fear, which encompasses freedom and protection from sudden and painful occurrences in everyday life, which are related to personal security due to the psychological aspect involved⁹.

Humans, or humanity to be exact, are one of the three elements of the classic definition of the state. The concept of human security indicates that political independence from external factors, as well as being in control over a territory is of secondary importance. The primary value

⁷ J. Gierszewski, J. Piwowarski, *Theoretical basics of societal security*, “Security Dimensions. International & National Studies”, 2016, No. 18, p. 41 et al.

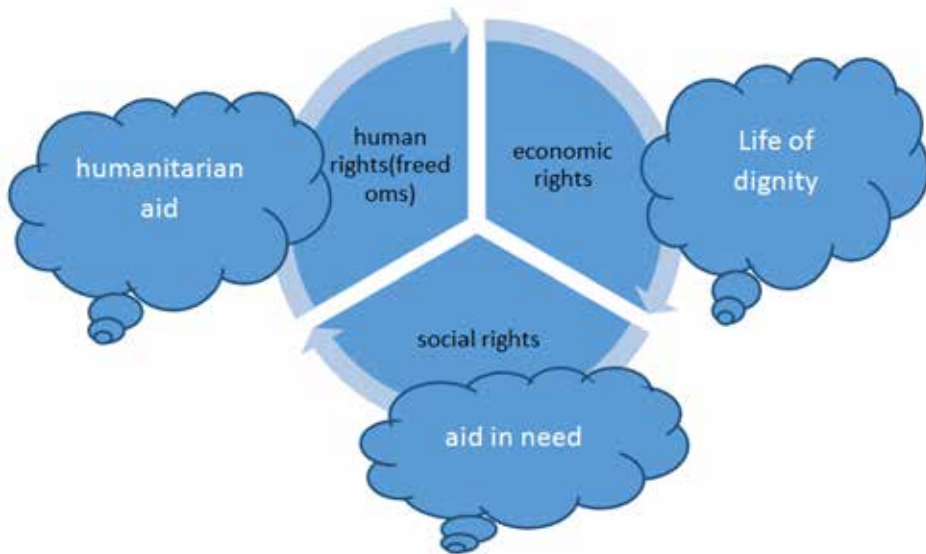
⁸ Cf.: R. Floyd, *Human Security and the Copenhagen School’s Securitization Approach: Conceptualizing Human Security as a Securitizing Move*, “Human Security Journal”, vol. 5, Winter 2007, p. 38.

⁹ Cf. A. Czupryński, *Bezpieczeństwo w ujęciu aksjologicznym*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo na lądzie, morzu i w powietrzu w XXI wieku*, J. Zboina (ed), CNBOP-PIB, Józefów 2014, p. 19.

which should be protected is the human, who deserves security even if threatened by the state itself, or if the state is unable to provide it. International agreements aimed at protecting basic human rights constitute the point of reference to the concept of human security. They indicate a strong globalisation-driven relation with economic and social rights, which together constitute the (freedom) basis of human security (Fig. 2). These laws bear a resemblance to e.g. the natural laws of John Locke, according to whom every human has a natural right to live, be free, and own property¹⁰.

Attempts to establish the origins of *human security* often associate the concept with the United Nations, treating it as an analytical tool of the UN utilised to better examine the international environment, its needs, as well as developing the methods of fulfilling them¹¹.

FIG. 2. PILLARS OF (FREEDOM) HUMAN SECURITY.



Source: J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne w koncepcji bezpieczeństwa człowieka (human security)...*, p. 251.

¹⁰ Cf.: J. Locke, *Dwa traktaty o rządzie, traktat drugi*, trans. Z. Rau, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 1992.

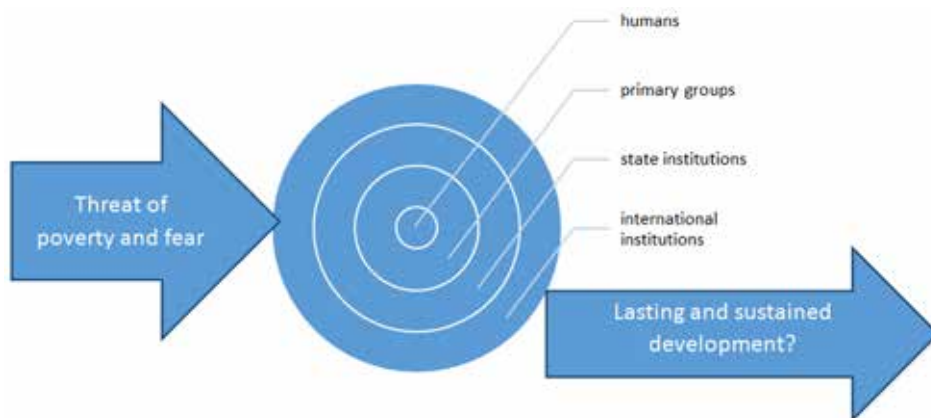
¹¹ K.P. Marczuk, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne państw członkowskich Unii Europejskiej. Od bezpieczeństwa państwa do bezpieczeństwa ludzi*, Warszawa 2012, p. 54.

The concept of security “security of the human” can be explained as being based on freedom, fulfilling the necessary needs (social rights) and enabling development (economic rights), while respecting human dignity. The conditions necessary to ensure security are social progress and improvement of living conditions, and not only a strong army. Probably the reason why it was decided to combine them with the right to freedom from poverty and fear in such an unambiguous manner was the conviction that economic factors play a very important role in stabilising the existence of individuals. The idea of “human rights” is of a legalistic nature, while the concept of *human security* focuses primarily on implementing pragmatic solutions aimed at fulfilling the existential needs of humans.

PERSONAL SECURITY

Personal security can trace its origins to the human rights proclaimed in 1941 by the president of the USA – Franklin D. Roosevelt, which related to four types of freedoms inherent to every person: freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship God in one’s own way, freedom from want, and freedom from fear¹².

FIG. 3. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM OF HUMAN SECURITY



Source: J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne...*, p. 252.

In 1945, America’s secretary of state relayed to his government the conclusions drawn from the San Francisco founding conference: “The bat-

¹² F.D. Roosevelt: State of the Union Address to the Congress (6.01.1941).

tle of peace must be fought on two fronts. The first is the security front where victory spells freedom from fear. The second is the economic and social front where victory means freedom from want. Only victory on both fronts can assure the world of an enduring peace”¹³.

The expression “freedom from fear and want”, due to the preposition “from”, creates a vision of security which is negative in nature. It is complemented by the expression “to enjoy lasting and sustained development”, which lends the concept of *human security* a positive character, demonstrating the relation between humanity’s sustained development and its security. Security of humans is largely based on social security and means freedom from fear social needs, moving in the direction of lasting and sustained development of humans. It is humanity, not the state, that is treated as the ultimate beneficiary of development.

It follows from the above considerations that social issues related to existence and quality of life are much more important an object of concern than external threats. As was noted by Ulrich Beck, the spot of the community of poverty is taken by the community of fear. To put it simply, security of humans is currently primarily affected by the fear for their existence¹⁴.

Fen Osler Hampson, in his analysis of personal security, pointed to three possible interpretations of the idea. The first defines security of the individual based on natural laws and the rule of law. The second is related to the idea of humanitarianism and actions aimed at strengthening international laws on genocide and war crimes, eliminating weapons especially dangerous for civilians, and humanitarian interventions. The third is related to the idea of social justice¹⁵. The three interpretations focus primarily on problems related to development and human rights protection, which correspond to freedom from want, and humanitarian interventions aimed at protecting the lives and rights of individuals, leaning towards freedom from fear.

As regards the concept of *human security*, the authors of the report based it on the following premises:

- 1) being universal for all of humanity (regardless of territory);
- 2) interdependence of all of its sub-areas (dimensions);

¹³ After: K.P. Marczuk, *Pojęcie i zakres human security*, [in:] *Trzy wymiary współczesnego bezpieczeństwa*, S. Sulowski, M. Brzeziński (ed.), Elipsa, Warszawa 2014, p. 4.

¹⁴ Cf. U. Beck, *Spółczesność ryzyka W drodze do innej nowoczesności*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe „Scholar”, Warszawa 2002.

¹⁵ F.O. Hampson, *Bezpieczeństwo jednostki*, [in:] *Studia bezpieczeństwa*, P.D. Williams (ed.), Kraków 2012, p. 227.

3) the ability to reach goals via prevention rather than intervention; 4) being focused on the human, not the state¹⁶.

The concept becomes even more important in particular in the context of the internationalisation of local conflicts caused by ethnic tensions, famine, economic crises and disintegration of states.

Primary and secondary groups play an important role in actions aimed at improving the security of humans. These are complemented by institutions such as the state, international organisations, and other personal security-oriented NGOs (Fig 3). Security of humans must be approached broadly through the lens of the humans themselves participating in ensuring their security. This activist idea of humanity is related to the claim by Protagoras that “man is the measure of all things”. It privileges humans by entitling them to create security, which is threatened by various social conflicts and natural phenomena. Janusz Świniarski was of the opinion that security made sense only insofar as it was related to humans. He divided security into personal and structural security¹⁷. The first is related to establishing proper conditions for humans to exist. The second relates to organisational and institutional aspects of social life at various levels of organisation. Its essence is to direct the activities of all institutions in such a way that guarantees personal security, including universal access to public assets, such as education and healthcare.

The idea of *human security* combines this dichotomous division. Personal security must be based on structural security. If the state fails, international institutions remain. In short, it is an approach to security based on the idea of a life of dignity in social and economic security conditions. As has already been emphasised, for many ordinary persons, insecurity is a result of their fear for their everyday lives, rather than their fear of war¹⁸.

The idea of personal security can be divided into three approaches to security:

1) the liberal idea of natural law and the rule of law,

¹⁶ United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report 1994, New York 1994, p. 22–23; K.P. Marczuk, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne w poszerzonej agendzie studiów nad bezpieczeństwem (szkoła kopenhaska i human security)*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne państwa. Wybrane zagadnienia*, S. Sulowski, M. Brzeziński (ed.), Warszawa 2009, p. 69–70.

¹⁷ J. Świniarski, *O naturze bezpieczeństwa*, Warszawa–Pruszków 1977, p. 179–181.

¹⁸ Cf. United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report 1994, New York 1994, p. 22.

- 2) the humanitarian idea based on strengthening international law, especially as regards crime and genocide, and by implementing bans on weapons particularly dangerous to civilians,
- 3) the social idea involving the expansion of the idea of security into areas which impact quality of life, i.e. economic, social, health, and environmental aspects¹⁹.

The vast array of areas of personal security, the achievement of which is possible, can be presented as freedom pillars of human security, which are located in social spheres (Fig. 2), i.e.:

- life of dignity and freedom,
- aid in need,
- humanitarian aid.

Human security is therefore related to important threats to humans and guaranteeing the rights of humans, but regardless of particular state borders, powers and populations, that is the elements that constitute a state. This way, human security ceases to be an area accessible only to sovereign governments, or an internal affair of the state, and becomes an international matter.

The 1999 UNDP Report on globalisation emphasised the necessity of combating threats such as international crime and the destruction of the environment, as well as the necessity of supporting different cultures²⁰.

The idea of personal security becomes connected with the essence of the broadly-defined concept of security, which is based on the conviction that security of humans is also important to the security of the state. Threats to the security of humans can quickly and easily transform into much more serious social conflicts. In addition, when analysing the issues of human security, the authors of the *Human Security in Africa* Report indicated that there are a number of key matters that should be taken into account, i.e.: the sides of the conflict, refugees, integrated help after the conflict is over, abject poverty, sudden economic crises, healthcare, education, public information, and promoting the concept of human security²¹. The Authors of the Report claimed that modern threats were caused primarily by humans, and not by the actions of states.

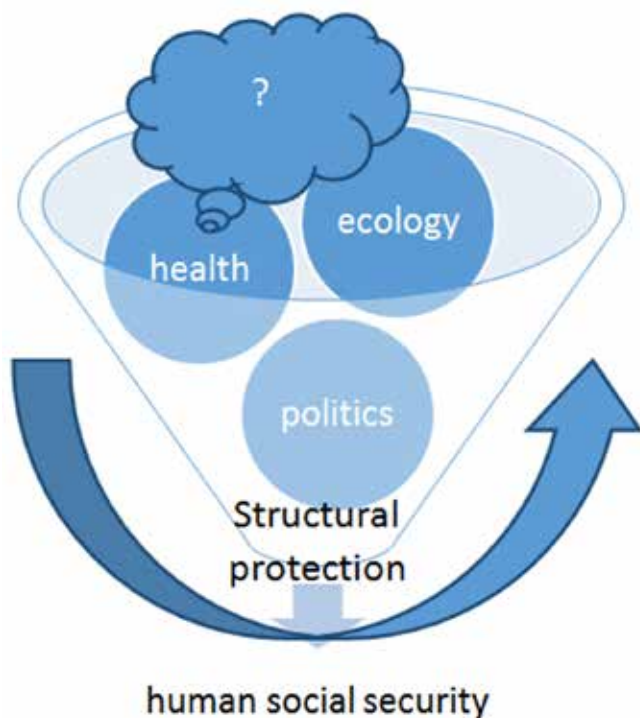
¹⁹ G. Michałowska. *Bezpieczeństwo ludzkie*, [in:] *Świat wobec współczesnych wyzwań i zagrożeń*, J. Simonides (ed.), Scholar, Warszawa 2010, p. 227.

²⁰ United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report 1999, Globalization with a Human Face.

²¹ Human Security in Africa FINAL, p. 5.

Personal security gives people and society a greater sense of security. People contribute to increasing security by identifying threats and implementing solutions aimed at improving their own security. This, in turn, contributes to the security of the state.

FIG. 4. THREATS TO SOCIAL SECURITY



Source: Source: J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczne...*, p. 257.

Key human security initiatives are undertaken by regional and sub-regional authorities, intergovernmental organisations, as well as by organisations and institutions of the United Nations. In the late 1990s, the UN founded the Commission on Individual Security and the Trust Fund for Human Security. In 2003, at the summit in Barcelona, it was concluded that security is the most important factor in human development²².

²² Cf. A Human Security Doctrine for Europe, The Barcelona Report of the Study Group on Europe's Security Capabilities, Presented to EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, Barcelona, 15 September 2004.

It certainly is a concept that should not be associated with institutional powerlessness. Human security is a response to modern threats, one which does not involve the use of force against the sovereignty of states, and is aimed at integrating goals such as freedom from fear, need, and to live with dignity.

It could be said that personal security expands the scope of security research by introducing the idea of “development”. Social disproportions and unjust distribution of wealth are often causes of conflict.

A question arises regarding the level of personal security required to ensure that a person is free from social needs and enjoys the feeling of lasting and sustained development. The term extreme poverty is used by OECD economists to describe the life of persons who are unable to afford at least four out of the following nine expenses: housing (rent, mortgage, utilities), heating, regular consumption of meat or protein, holidays, possessing a washing machine, a telephone, a television set or a car, and being able to cover unexpected expenses. Certainly, the basic threat to human social security is poverty combined with social inequality.

CONCLUSION

The new approach to security introduced by the UN, referred to in English as *human security*, in German as *menschliche Sicherheit* (human security), in Latin as *homo securitas* (security of humans), and which can be referred to in Polish as personal security, constitutes an interesting subject approach to security.

The concept of *human security* is barely present in literature examining different aspects of various security issues, and it may be analysed by various disciplines concerned with humans.

Personal security becomes the primary concern within the concept of *human security*. The 1994 Report of the United Nations Development Programme²³ briefly describes human security as the freedom from fear and social needs. It also defined seven aspects of human security: economic, food, health, ecological, personal, political and social security. It was also claimed that, in modern times, it is wrong to associate security solely with the threat of armed conflict, protecting state borders and the military.

Human security was generally defined as protection from threats such as: hunger, diseases and repression, as well as protection from sudden and

²³ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-1994>.

traumatic events in everyday life. On this basis, it is possible to establish the idea of human social security, which involves structural protection from being unable to satisfy material and identity-related needs, as well as guaranteeing dignified and unrestricted development opportunities for individuals. It encompasses not only freedom from social needs, but from threats to human psychosocial development as well.

Human security is an anthropocentric category, shifting the focus from the state to individual humans. As such, it allows for a deeper understanding of security, as it is markedly different from other definitions of security.

It is true that human security should be treated not as a concept which is in opposition to national security, but one which is complementary to it or constitutes an alternative. It focuses primarily on the interfaces of security subjects, i.e. the human and the state.

On the one hand, the human is an individual, on the other hand – part of a whole (a system), such as society or the state. It is doubtful whether it would be possible to obtain security outside the system. Properly-functioning states, on the other hand, obviously always have an influence on personal security.

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