THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE PERIOD OF COLD WAR AND POST-COLD WAR

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The concept of National Security has undergone paradigm shift in the period of Cold War and after it. In the paper, an attempt was made to understand the concept of national Security from the perspective of various authors and establish fundamental differences between them.

Methodology: National security has been defined in various ways by different authors. Some common elements in these definitions include the concepts of freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity. One author who has defined national security extensively is Zbigniew Brzezinski. In his book.

Results: These concepts were further elaborated with analysis of relations between USSR during the cold war era and between US and China in post-Cold War era.

Conclusions: Understanding of concepts of National Security has undergone paradigm shift in the period of Cold War and after it. While during the cold war the national security was primarily viewed from the lens of military capabilities, in the post-Cold War era, National Security has come to encompass various other forms such as economic security, human security, political security etc.

Originality/ Value: This Study was conducted to understand the concepts of National Security during the cold war the national security.

Keywords: national security, cold war, post-cold war.

O CONCEITO DE SEGURANÇA NACIONAL NO PERÍODO DA GUERRA FRIA E DO PÓS-GUERRA FRIA

RESUMO

Objetivo: O conceito de Segurança Nacional passou por uma mudança de paradigma no periodo da Guerra Fria e depois dela. No trabalho procurou-se entender o conceito de Segurança Nacional sob a perspectiva de vários autores e estabelecer diferenças fundamentais entre eles.

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Metodologia: A segurança nacional tem sido definida de várias maneiras por diferentes autores. Alguns elementos comuns nessas definições incluem os conceitos de liberdade, soberania e integridade territorial. Um autor que definiu extensivamente a segurança nacional é Zbigniew Brzezinski. Em seu livro.

Resultados: Estes conceitos foram desenvolvidos com a análise das relações entre a URSS durante a era da Guerra Fria e entre os EUA e a China no pós-Guerra Fria. Conclusões: A compreensão dos conceitos de Segurança Nacional sofreu uma mudança de paradigma no período da Guerra Fria e depois dela. Enquanto durante a Guerra Fria a segurança nacional era vista principalmente a partir da lente das capacidades militares, no pós-Guerra Fria, a Segurança Nacional passou a englobar várias outras formas, como a segurança econômica, a segurança humana, a segurança política etc.

Originalidade/valor: Este estudo foi realizado para compreender os conceitos de Segurança Nacional durante a Guerra Fria, a segurança nacional.

Palavras-chave: segurança nacional, guerra fria, pós-guerra fria.

1 BACKGROUND

The concept of national security has been prominent since the Cold War and even more so in the post-Cold War period. The end of the Cold War led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. This created a power vacuum in Europe and Eurasia. The end of the Cold War led to a more complex and uncertain international environment. This made it more difficult for states to predict and manage security threats. It also led to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It also led to the rise of new actors on the international stage, such as China, India, and Brazil. These countries are now competing with the United States and other Western countries for influence and power.

Second, the rise of globalization and technology has made it easier for states to obtain weapons of mass destruction and to spread their influence around the globe. This has made it more difficult for states to protect their citizens from potential threats. Third, the 9/11 attacks showed that non-state actors could pose a serious threat to national security. This led to a greater focus on counterterrorism and other security threats that are not easily detectable or deterred. Finally, the economic recession has led to a decrease in funding for national security, which has made it more difficult for states to maintain their security.

The Cold War was a period of heightened tensions and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, and their respective allies. The post-Cold War period has seen a more complex array of threats to states, including terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and cyber-attacks. The concept of national security is
complex, and there is no single definition of it. In general, national security refers to the security of a state from external threats. This can include threats to the territorial integrity of the state, its citizens, or its critical infrastructure. National security also encompasses the security of the state from internal threats, such as coups or civil unrest.

According to Brands (2018), as the nature of threats to governments develops, so does the idea of national security. Historically, national security was primarily concerned with military threats. Non-military threats, including as terrorism and cyber-attacks, have grown increasingly prevalent in the post-Cold War era. National security is a complicated subject with no one meaning. In general, national security refers to a state's protection against external dangers. This may include challenges to the state's territorial integrity, people, or key infrastructure.

2 RELEVANT THEORIES/CONCEPTS

National security has been defined in various ways by different authors. Some common elements in these definitions include the concepts of freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity. One author who has defined national security extensively is Zbigniew Brzezinski. In his book, The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geopolitical Imperatives, Brzezinski defines national security as "a condition in which the vital interests of the state are not subject to outside coercion or serious internal challenges." He goes on to argue that in order to maintain national security, a state must possess military, economic, and political power.

Another author who has provided a definition of national security is Joseph Nye. In his book, The Future of Power, Nye defines national security as "the protection of a country's territorial integrity and sovereignty from external threats and the preservation of a country's way of life from internal threats." Nye's definition emphasizes the importance of both external and internal threats in compromising a state's national security.

Keville (2020) says there are several key ways in which Brzezinski's and Nye's definitions of national security differ. First, Brzezinski's definition focuses exclusively on the state, while Nye's definition also includes the protection of a country's way of life. Second, Brzezinski's definition emphasizes the importance of military power, while Nye's definition emphasizes the importance of both military and political power. Finally,
Brzezinski's definition includes the concept of freedom, while Nye's definition includes the concept of sovereignty.

3 THREATS AND PROPOSITION OF THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Threats to national security can be divided into two broad categories: direct and indirect. Direct threats are those that pose a direct danger to the security of the nation, such as a military attack or a natural disaster (Humphrey & Michaelowa, 2019). Indirect threats are those that do not pose a direct danger but can indirectly lead to a threat to national security, such as an economic crisis or a social unrest.

4 PREVALENT DANGERS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

In the years since Cold War, the world has seen a dramatic increase in the number of military threats, ranging from wars and armed conflicts to terrorism. These threats can have a significant impact on a nation's security, both in terms of the physical safety of its citizens and the stability of its political and economic systems. The most obvious threat to national security is war. In the past, wars were fought between nation-states, and the primary concern was the loss of life and property. Today, however, wars are often fought within nations, and the primary concern is the loss of human security. In these conflicts, civilians are often the main victims, as they are caught in the crossfire or used as pawns by the warring parties.

Shambaugh (2018) says that the impact of war on national security can be devastating, as it can lead to the displacement of citizens, the destruction of infrastructure, and the destabilization of the political and economic systems. Armed conflict is another major threat to national security. These conflicts can take many forms, from small-scale skirmishes to large-scale battles. They can be fought between nation-states, within nations, or even between different groups within a single nation. Armed conflict often leads to the same kinds of problems as war, such as the displacement of citizens, the destruction of infrastructure, and the destabilization of the political and economic systems. Terrorism is another major threat to national security. This type of violence is often aimed at civilians, and its goal is to create fear and chaos. Terrorism can have a major impact on a nation's security, as it can lead to the death and injury of innocent people, the destruction of property, and the disruption of normal life.
Economic threats, such as economic recession, inflation, and trade disputes, can pose a significant threat to national security. These threats can impact a nation's ability to provide for its citizens, defend its borders, and maintain a stable government. In times of economic hardship, a nation may be forced to make difficult choices in order to maintain its national security. For example, a nation may choose to increase military spending in order to protect its borders, even if this means cutting back on other areas of government spending. Alternatively, a nation may choose to enter into trade agreements with other nations in order to boost its economy, even if this means making concessions on other issues. Ultimately, each nation must weigh the costs and benefits of various economic policies in order to determine what is best for its national security.

The sociological and political threats to national security are numerous and varied. They can include social unrest, political instability, and civil war. Each of these threats can have a profound impact on the security of a nation. Social unrest can lead to political instability, which in turn can lead to civil war. Civil war can have a devastating impact on a nation, both in terms of human lives lost and damage to infrastructure. It can also lead to a loss of control over territory, which can jeopardize the security of a nation. Political instability can also lead to social unrest. When people are unhappy with their government, they may take to the streets in protest. This can lead to violence, and if the government is unable to quell the unrest, it can lead to regime change (Kemmerling et al., 2022). This can have a destabilizing effect on a nation and can make it easier for hostile forces to gain a foothold.

Civil war can also be caused by political instability. If a government is unable to maintain control over its territory, rebel groups may emerge and attempt to overthrow the government. This can lead to a bloody conflict that can devastate a nation. The threats to national security posed by social unrest, political instability, and civil war are significant. Nations must be prepared to deal with these threats and to protect their citizens from the potentially devastating consequences.

Human security is a concept which has gained prominence in the Cold War and post-Cold War periods. It is generally understood to refer to a situation where individuals and communities are protected from various threats, including physical violence, economic deprivation, and environmental hazards. The concept of human security has been criticized by some for being too broad and unfocused, and for failing to take into account the security interests of states (Pienkos, 2019). However, it remains a useful
framework for thinking about the protection of individuals and communities in the context of global insecurity.

Barry Buzan (1991) states that the concept of National Security closely relates with the ‘Speech Act’. In other words, it is very idiosyncratic. The leaders of state may construct their own National Security threats according to their understanding and these threats will change with change in leadership. Another factor in determining the national security objectives is that only those threats will be taken account which have backing of national leadership and academia as against national security threats being propounded by common citizen. Therefore it can be assumed that the national security threats are fluid and will take that shape which the national leadership would like it to assume.

5 NATIONAL SECURITY DURING COLD WAR – ANALYSIS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN USA AND USSR

To demonstrate the concept of National Security in the Cold War era, an analysis of the relations between United States of America and erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is undertaken. The analysis will be limited to direct threats to National Security viz War, Proxy Wars and Alliance Building, Arms Race and Nuclear Weapons.

The United States and USSR were involved in state of Cold War for over five decades from late 1950s to early 1990s when the USSR was dissolved. While both the nations were not involved in any ‘Hot’ war, these decades were characterized by relations between two belligerents. The main focus of Defence and Foreign policy of both these nations were aimed at increasing their national security from the threats posed by the other. This included limiting the influence of other party in rest of the world by providing support to respective allied parties in wars during the Cold War and embarking on enlisting support of third world countries by Alliance Building(Hager, 2019). US and USSR were involved in the proxy wars in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Yom Kippur War, and the Soviet Afghanistan War. While the US headed multiple alliances namely NATO, CENTO and SEATO, the USSR headed alliance named as Warsaw Pact containing countries in Eurasian landmass. Both proxy wars and alliances were built to limit the political and economic ideologies(Rauta, 2021). Both these nations were also involved in Arms Race in the field of Land, Air, Sea, Subsea and Space. The advent of intercontinental missiles, futuristic fighter jets flying above the speed of sound, cruise missiles launched from ships, nuclear submarines carrying nuclear warheads and race to
moon are all examples of bettering own weapon systems from that of adversary and countering any advantages which the adversary may have accrued by building better weapon systems. Another area of Cold War relations between US and USSR was building of Nuclear Weapons. While the US had produced and demonstrated the use of Atomic Bomb during the WW II, USSR began in earnest to acquire the nuclear weapons to offset the strategic advantage of US over USSR. USSR was successful in demonstrating the nuclear capability in Aug 1949 thus achieving the parity in the field of nuclear weapons. However, the technological advancements in the Nuclear Weapons continued by both nations to build more powerful weapons which could be delivered by different delivery systems (Heusera & Stoddart, 2017).

6 NATIONAL SECURITY POST-COLD WAR – ANALYSIS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN USA AND CHINA

As brought out earlier in the paper, the dissolution of USSR and ending of Cold War increased the complexity of the scope of National Security. An analysis of relations between US and China in the period of post Cold War has been analyzed from the angle of indirect threats to National Security viz Economic security, Human Security, Political Instability etc. The dramatic rise of China in past three decades has pitted it as the foremost contender for the position of Superpower rivalling United States. This rise has been primarily economic which has propelled other national security objectives viz defence and space. The US and China are now locked in a protracted trade war where one state implementing trade tariffs over the other to decrease the competitiveness of products originated in the other country. This will manifest in decreased exports and resulting decreased wealth for the other country (Wang et al., 2021). The prime example being the Huawei denied the access to western markets for installation of 5G equipment. On the aspect of Human Security, China has applied coercive policies over its population to root out any dissent against one party rule to maintain its national security objectives. This includes interning of around a million Uyghur Muslims in North Western province of Xinjiang in the so called re-education camps. The same treatment is meted out to Tibetan nationalists. Strict laws for online content sharing in China has restricted opposition to government further strengthening the grip of Communist party over China. United States have brought out these issues prominently in the bilateral and multilateral forums to highlight human rights record of China (Newman, 2020). China has also been accused of
meddling in the US politics aiming to influence prospective future senators and leaders who in turn would be supportive of Chinese policies (Vysotskyi, 2021).

7 CONCLUSION

Understanding of concepts of National Security has undergone paradigm shift in the period of Cold War and after it. While during the cold war the national security was primarily viewed from the lens of military capabilities, in the post-Cold War era, National Security has come to encompass various other forms such as economic security, human security, political security etc. In the paper, an attempt was made to understand the national Security from the perspective of various authors and establish fundamental differences between them. These concepts were further elaborated with analysis of relations between US and USSR during the cold war era and between US and China in post-cold war era. The analysis revealed that the concept of National Security is ever evolving with new facets adding while the obsolete concepts being deleted (Blankshain, 2020). Hence, for every nation, it is of paramount importance to keeping updating the national security objectives in line with new realities being realized (Buzan, 1991).
REFERENCES


