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Essential terminology of national and international security

Outline

The article presents basic terminology concerning modern comprehension of national and international security. The terms were defined as well as related ones were explained: the values of national security, national interest, areas of national security, national defense, armed forces, policy, strategy and national security system, internal and external dimension of national security, international security dimension, international security as a process, categories of international security: global and regional, areas of international security. The terminology presented in the article is the synthesis of author's reflections on theoretical basis of the national security published in a monograph *National security. Theoretical study* published by Academic Publishing House at Pomeranian University in Słupsk.

Key words: national values, national interest, national defense, armed forces, policy of the security, security strategy, global security, regional security

Introduction

The state remains the main subject of security, which is why the topic related to the state security identified with the national security is well widespread in academic writings. Yet, the huge majority of papers focus on its specific aspects and at the same time only to a little extent identify general regularities existing within the activity of the state, country and community for the national security.

*National security. Theoretical study*⁹¹ fills the gap since it makes the general theory of security more specific in the context of the country and the community. Its aim is to explain, organize and present holistically the theoretical knowledge and terminology connected with that concerning the state security, reflected also in the term of national security. The article presents the idea of the basic terms and definitions included there in a nutshell.

Definition of the national security

National security reflects the national character of the state in which the sovereign is the national community. The close relation of the state with the national community causes that national security is often identified with the state security and both terms are used interchangeably. In a traditional, narrow understanding, national security is of political-military character and is identified with the ability to protect against the aggression of another country or countries. Modern, wider range of meaning of national security exceeds its traditional, political-military terms and encompasses all the areas connected with existential needs and primary values of the subjects included in the term. In this meaning it means assurance to maintain existential values of the nation, state, community and its citizens referring to their existence, independence and development resulting from lack of threats or possessing the ability to protect against them.

Values of national security

The essence of national security refers to the protection of primary national values which comprise: 1) in terms of the state: territory and population, sovereign authorities, ability to maintain control over the territory and population of the country, legal and international subjectivity, public character and legitimacy of the power and development of the country, 2) in terms of the nation: awareness and national culture as well as political sovereignty of the nation 3) in terms of

⁹¹ L. Chojnowski, *Bezpieczeństwo narodowe. Studium teoretyczne [National security. Theoretical study]*, Słupsk 2016.

the community: values and needs of social groups and the organizations functioning in the state, 4) in terms of a citizen: needs and personal values, including the basic rights and freedoms.

National interests

The tool facilitating aggregation of needs and values of various subjects functioning in the state and their transformation for the needs of real political activities as well as their description and evaluation is the concept of the national interest used as an instrument of political activities. In this sense the national interests are understood as a group of general and constant aims for which the state and community work reflecting the needs and national aspirations in the internal dimension and in relations with other countries as well as guide the state activities towards their protection. State's interests are defined in the form of desired conditions relating to specific national values. Numerous state's interests defined in relation to specific national values are usually systematized taking as its base first of all the criterion of its intensity so the scale of its influence on the primary national values. According to that criterion one can usually point three categories of state's interests: vital, essential and peripherals. In the situation of direct threat of the country with the military aggression it is justified to define the fourth category referring to the survival of the state and the community, which has the highest priority of the state security policy.

Areas of national security

According to the concept of sectoral analysis of the security, the entirety of the issues connected with the national security encompasses six main areas: political, military, economic, cultural-identity, ecological and common security. The main issues of the specific areas are presented in the Table 1.

Sector (area)	Main issues
Political	stability and sovereignty of the state and its political bases (ideological ones)
Military	ability to resist military aggression of another country or countries
Economical	development of national economy and its resistance to a negative impact of the regional and global phenomena
Ecological	maintenance of the natural environment of the country, the basic system of support on which survival and development of the state and community depends
Cultural-identity	identity of the country, national awareness, national culture
Common security	securing physical security of the population and their property as well as critical infrastructure of the state

Table 1. Sectors (areas) of the national security

Source: own elaboration

National defense

An inseparable as well as fundamental element of the national security is national defense identified with resisting armed aggression of another country or countries. The basic role is played by armed forces that are supported by non-military defense cells. Armed forces are a specialized organ of the country designated to defend and protect the state's interests by using the means of the military fight - in the armed conflicts (in case of aggression) or as an instrument of influencing the behavior of other actors, including the means of deterrence and maintaining the balance of forces.

Armed forces

Armed forces realize two basic functions: internal and external. While performing the function of the instrument of the internal state's policy armed

forces are the means of violence, assistance and community's integration⁹². The realization of the internal functions of the armed forces is aimed at supporting the maintenance of order and internal security, particularly in the situations when the dedicated state's institutions are not able to secure the maintenance of control over the territory of the state and population (as a means of violence or rather coercion). Moreover, because of the possessed abilities they support the community in emergency situations, especially in the area of rescue and protection of the population as well as when performing specialist activities such as engineering support or neutralization of unexploded ordnance (as a means of help). The common duty of military service gave the army its national character contributing to shaping of the patriotic attitudes in their citizens and at the same time to integrating the community around primary national values (as a means of social integration). The external function of the armed forces is their main mission and consists of opposing external military threats from other participants of international relations. They are a key element used by the state to reach their political aims in international relations. The realization of the external mission is the basis to develop required military capability necessary to achieve success when confronting the armies of other countries.

In order to fulfill their functions armed forces have their specific characterization. They are highly organized, hierarchical and armed social group based on discipline and loyalty, integrated by traditions, customs and military habits. Armed forces are the main depository of the weapon and military equipment and are entitled to use it if need be with the usage of drastic form and methods of armed fights. No other organ of the state has a similar potential to use the means of violence, which means that no other force in the country would be able to resist the army. In such a situation, in order to prevent armed forces from becoming a threat to the democratic country, various mechanisms were developed

⁹² B. Balcerowicz, *Siły zbrojne w stanie pokoju, kryzysu i wojny*, [Armed Forces at peace, crisis and war times], Warsaw 2010, p. 32.

that provide civil control over the army. Its aim is to maximize the operational skills of the armed forces, in accordance with the state's interests on the one hand and providing loyalty of the armed forces towards the state and democratically chosen authorities as well as reducing the risk of alienation and destabilization of the army on the other⁹³.

Policy of the national security

Efficient providing of the national security requires an established attitude of the state to protect and defend the existential national values. One of the essential elements of this activity is the policy of the national security which is the main pillar of the state's (national) policy. The policy of the national security is part of the politics in its very general meaning, referring to the realization of vital (existential) state's interests. Its realization takes place in the sphere of security separated from the area of public issues, which is treated with priority since it concerns the existence of the state, country, community and citizens. The threat to the sphere justifies the usage of extraordinary measures, including the means of violence, especially military forces. National policy refers both to the internal sphere of the state as well as the international environment encompassing various participants of international relations, particularly sovereign states, which is why we can separate two basic categories of the state's policy: foreign and domestic. The policy of national security includes: formulating the state's interests and the reason of state, conducting a strategic assessment, formulating the aims of the policy of security and resulting from it tasks of the strategy of the national security and implementation of the strategy of security performed by formulating the system of national security and coordination of its functioning.

Strategy of the national security

The instrument of conducting the policy of the national security is the strategy of the national security defined as the choice made on the basis of knowledge and

⁹³ Z. Trejnis, *Siły zbrojne w państwie demokratycznym [Armed forces in a democratic state]*. Warsaw 1997, p. 42-46.

strategic analysis, of appropriate and necessary measures that are or could be at the disposal of the state and ways of their usage in order to achieve strategic objectives. Formulating the strategy of security is based on defining and establishing the relations between the strategic objectives, means the country has or could have at its disposal (resources) and ways (or methods) of their usage to achieve strategic objectives. The ways of using the resources of the state to achieve the strategic objectives in the international environment result from a generally accepted concept of international security which can be divided into: unilateral, multilateral and mixed.

System of national security

The defined by the strategy of national security way of using the state's resources in order to achieve strategic objectives resulting from the aims of the policy of security is the basis to formulate the system of national security. The system of national (state) security is defined as a separated from the state structure group of mutually related material and non-material elements making up logically arranged whole and performing the function of ensuring the national security. The system of national security includes numerous smaller systems, known as sub-systems for which still others work, and for them still other ones etc, establishing in that way a kind of system of systems. The mission of the system of national security is providing the security of the state and its functioning should take place in the way defined in the strategy of national security, which is an instrument of the policy of the state's security conducted with the view to realizing the state's interests reflecting the existential national values.

The external dimension of the national security

National security is provided in certain conditions resulting from the external surrounding of the country as well as it is open to the influence of the factors related with its internal situation. It contributed to natural shape of its two basic, mutually complementary dimensions of national security: external and internal. The criteria of the dichotomy division result from the localization of the sources

of chances, challenges and threats to the existential national values as well as the direction of the state's activity for the security- outside or inside the country. Still, the interdependence and less and less visible border between external and internal conditions of the national security cause that the traditional division is hard, though not impossible to justify at the level of the policy of the security of the state, although at the executive level it seems reasonable to maintain separate institutions, yet the strict coordination of the activities undertaken by them is required.

The internal dimension of the national security

The internal dimension of the national security, identified with the internal security, refers to internal problems of state's functioning, resulting from the character of its natural environment and social conditions connected with the activity of numerous groups and social organizations within its area. Incompatibility and contradictions of the interests of various subjects existing in the country can take the form of conflicts between them themselves as well as claims towards the state. They can lead to the break of the established by law social order at the same time to weakening the state as a whole and lowering its ability to realize the state interests at the international stage. Internal security of the state means assurance of maintaining its primary values resulting from the lack of internal threats or possessing the ability to protect against them. The development of the general definition requires clarification of its particular parts in relation to the threats themselves and the ability essential to protect against them.

Dimensions of international security

International security can be understood in two ways: from the perspective of a certain country or as a security of the community of the countries understood together. In the first case international security is an external dimension of the national security provided in conditions of international relations. In the second

case, international security is connected with the protection of the common values defined by community of the countries or an international system.

International security as an external dimension of national security

National security seen in the context of international relations is connected with the international security perceived from the perspective of security of individual countries as an external dimension of national security. In this meaning international security in fact concerns national security of a given country understood from the perspective of its external conditions created by the countries and other participants of international relations or together as an international system. In this meaning one can talk about external security of a country realized within its external function.

External dimension of security concerns influence of other actors of the international system on the state, especially the other countries. The most classic threat is using armed violence that is identified with military aggression. It can lead to the loss of a territory along with the population living there and political independence of the country, which in this situation would mean its failure. That in turn would result in loss of national values, usually referred to its internal sphere. To put it in other words, keeping internal national values is conditioned by providing external security, which is why states pay special attention to that. The confirmation of such an approach is maintenance of armed forces and state structures connected with the national defense.

External conditions of the state security result from privileged and dominant position the sovereign countries take in an anarchic international system. Lack of overriding authority over sovereign countries can lead to coinciding of their interests, which in turn can cause arguments and international conflicts. In order to reduce anarchy of the international relations numerous international institutions were established. They are understood as groups of principles regulating the conduct of the states in mutual relations. They are to solve the problem defined by term „security dilemma”. It is caused because of lack of trust in relations

between the countries they take decisions worse than optimal so as to avoid the risk resulting from incompatible with their expectations conducts of other countries which can be a threat to their vital interests. Although in theory (assumptions) all the states are equal to the international law (they have equal rights and duties, regardless of their potential), in reality though they have a varied ability to shape beneficial for the realization of their own interests world order. It results from their power, measured against other states and abilities to use it to realize national interests.

National security in its external perspective means assurance of maintaining existential national values resulting from the lack of threats caused by the external surrounding of the state or possessing the ability to protect against them. The abilities of the state in this aspect are reinforced by international institutions regulating the behavior of the states in international relations. Still, voluntary basis of their application by sovereign countries cause that first of all they rely on their own power and treat international institutions only as a reinforcing measure and so secondary importance.

International security from the international system perspective

The term of international security can be understood from the perspective of the international system or an international community. In this understanding it expresses a wider content than national security since it concerns not only external aspects of individual state's security, but first of all it refers to the stability of functioning of the international system. The concept of international security understood in that way is made up by not only the sum of security of individual states but also a group of conditions, norms, mechanisms and international influences which provide each country of the international system (subsystem) smaller or larger assurance (at the level accepted by the states) of its existence, survival and development freedoms. International security includes not only existential values of the states but also the values common for the international system. Activities for the international security are aimed at eliminating the

threats for the existential values of the states and values common to the international system (subsystem) and realized within the security policy with the usage of bonds and international institutions⁹⁴.

Summing up it can be assumed that international security means such conditions of international relations that provides common security of the states making up the international system. It is reflected in assurance of maintaining their existential values resulting from the lack of threats or possessing efficient measures to protect against them. International institutions serve that aim and enable the maintenance of stability of international environment of security, prevention and elimination of threats and peaceful resolving the conflicts and arguments between the countries. The level of that assurance depends on the degree of coordination of state's interests of the countries making up the international system.

International security as a process

Although international security can be perceived as a defined at a certain time condition of international relations, because of the appropriate for the relations changeability and dynamics it should be perceived as a social process at the international scale. Its changeable intensity and dynamics pointed by interdependence, compatibility and contradictions of the state's interests and international systems. The driving⁹⁵ force of the process are individual or team activities of the countries aiming at providing individual and group security. The changeability of conditions of international security causes that measures and methods of their provision are subject to changes

Global security

Depending on the subjective-spatial range, within international security categories of global security (world, universal) and regional security are common.

⁹⁴ R. Zięba, *Pozimnowojenny paradygmat bezpieczeństwa*, [w] *Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe po zimnej wojnie [Post Cold-War paradigm of security]*, [in:] *International security after Cold War*, ed. R. Zięba, Warsaw 2008, p. 20.

⁹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 21-22.

Global security is connected with an international system and international (global) community. It refers to the world order and is identified with the security of the whole population in the world. Although undoubtedly there are global problems they do not have their „owner” or host who efficiently would deal with their solution. The institution that takes an effort to solve global problems of security is The Organization of United Nations, still its efficiency is far from satisfactory. It is mostly because of the fact that individual interests competing with each other sovereign countries dominate over collective security. The condition will last until the state is a basic subject in international relations. The crucial role could be served by associations and NGOs, which are not restricted in their activities by state’s interests, yet their efficiency of influencing the global politics is insufficient.

Global security indeed remains only in the sphere of theoretical reflections. Discussing it in the full sense of the world would require the system of strong supranational institutions (e.g. in the form of super-government) which efficiently would regulate the relations between the states, established the norms and rules of conduct, which first of all would take into considerations common values and needs of the whole international community and not only their particular parts connected with a specific country or a group of countries. The indicators of relatively efficient activities for the global security are for example in the sphere of ecological security in which are involved both countries as well as numerous non-state organizations (e.g. actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions)

Regional security

More rational category of international security is its regional dimension reflected in the concept of regional security. It has a wider meaningful scope than national security and includes the issue of bilateral and multilateral relations between the subjects (mainly states) of a given region as well as their external relations with the subjects of other regions and global empires. Regional security encompasses the issue of security of individual countries of a region but also a

group of conditions, norms, mechanisms and international influences which provide each country in the region with the assurance of existence, survival and freedom of development. Regional security includes existential values of particular countries of a region as well as the values the region has in common. Activities for the regional security are aimed at eliminating the threats to the existential values of particular countries and the values common for the region and are realized in the frames of the security policy with the usage of international, regional and global institutions. In literature within the regional security one can separate its two subcategories: supra-regional and sub-regional security as well as local security. They reflect a varied spatial scope of discussed security.

Areas of international security

Complexity of the international relations causes that in the analysis of international security one can separate areas that are equivalent to the spheres of states' activities when satisfying the needs of security on an international stage. This concept is labelled as a subjective dimension of international security. Most generally it is equivalent to the division used in reference to national security including the spheres: political, military, economic, cultural and ecological. They can be described as areas of international relations whose main element are the issues connected with national and international security. The sector of common security that is a domain of internal security of the states is of much smaller significance. In an international dimension this sector usually concerns providing mutual help when dealing with common threats identified with the damaging factors (physical and psychological) generated by a human and nature forces.

National security and international security

Mutual permeation of the content of national security perceived in context of international relations and from the perspective of an international system cause that the division is of purely conventional character since objectively it is always of international character. The division can only be justified since it makes the analysis of a general category of security easier because of explanation of the

functioning individual terms. In the realistic trend national security is a starting category or at least it is the context of international security analysis. In realists' opinion only the countries are meaningful subjects in international relations so analyzing their security is sufficient to get the whole picture of international security⁹⁶. It is worth emphasizing here a special feature of international security, to which Józef Kukułka draws attention and which distinguishes it from the security of the states which is so called collective reinforcement. It is strengthening stability and peace realized in frames of international security, which raises the level of security of each state achieved by means of individual measures⁹⁷

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⁹⁶ Ibidem, p. 17.19

⁹⁷ J. Kukułka, *Bezpieczeństwo a wspólnota europejska: współzależności i sprzeczności interesów [Security and European Commonwealth: interdependence and conflict of interests]*, „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, 1982, nr 7, p. 35