

CHANGE IN THE NOTION OF SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY¹



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ABSTRACT | The aim of the study is to explain the transformation of security in terms of environment by analyzing environment security relation with regards to globalization. To achieve that, new security perspective is explained along with the terms of security and environment and environmental security is described after the subject of security is analyzed. The rapid change all around the world has caused changes on perspectives on global security problems. The concept of security is no more just a subject of national security, but has become an international subject with the rise of environmental problems.

Keywords: Environmental security, new security perception, cold war

JEL Codes: Q01, Q53, Q54

Scope: Environmental Studies

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¹ Ethical rules are followed in the study.

GÜVENLİK KAVRAMINDA DEĞİŞİM VE ÇEVRESEL GÜVENLİK



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ÖZ | Çalışmanın amacı, çevre ve güvenlik ilişkisini küreselleşme süreci bağlamında inceleyerek güvenliğin çevresel boyutuyla ilgili olan değişim ve dönüşümünü açıklamaktır. Bu doğrultuda, güvenlik ve çevre kavramları ile yeni güvenlik algısı açıklanmıştır. Çevre bağlamında güvenliğin konusu üzerinde durulduktan sonra çevresel güvenlik kavramı tanımlanmıştır. Dünyada yaşanan hızlı değişim, uluslararası alanda güvenlik sorunlarının algısında da değişimlere yol açmıştır. Güvenlik kavramı, çevre sorunlarının artması ile ulusal güvenlik kapsamı dışına çıkmış, uluslararası alanı ilgilendirir hale gelmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çevresel güvenlik, yeni güvenlik anlayışı, soğuk savaş

JEL Kodları: Q01, Q53, Q54

Alan: Çevre Politikaları

Türü: Derleme

1. INTRODUCTION

With the scope of globalization, the concept of security has also been globalized. In general terms, the concept of security expresses living safely and the state of not being in any kind of danger. Before, the countries handled the issue of security just in terms of military, but especially after cold war era, social, economic, and environmental subjects have been added to the security field. In this context, while realism and neo-realism evaluated the concept of security as elements of military power and the distribution of power between states, the Copenhagen School critically handled the concept of security in a wide scope and argued that the political, social, economic, military and environmental sectors should be included in the concept of security. Along with this, concepts like individual, national, and environmental security have emerged. The problems such as global economic crises, climate changes, the state of illegal immigrants have risen above the level of traditional security perception. When it is considered that the new understanding of security contains a lot of new concepts like environment, it is seen that traditional understanding of security is inadequate in addressing the matters raised by globalization.

Lately, environmental problems of a lot of countries are too big to be solved by them alone and have transgressed the boundaries. In other words, with the environmental problems reaching global levels, it is necessary that the countries act together. Also, security is too wide a concept to be analyzed just by the elements of crime and violence. In terms of these necessities, states have begun to handle the issue of security in terms of their relationships with their environment and environmental security concept has emerged.

This study consists of four parts; firstly, the terms are being described in terms of environment and security relationship, then the concept of environmental security and its scope are discussed along with the new understanding of security.

2. THE NOTION OF SECURITY

Security means to be in safety and in existence of no threats. Turkish Language Institute defines security as safety, carrying out the legal state in society and individuals' living without fear (<https://sozluk.gov.tr/>, 2021). The term security first used in western world by Cicero and Lucretius as 'securitas' to mean 'expressing psychological state of mind'. After that, its meaning has widened according to actors and conjuncture of the time and terms like social security and national security have become common. Since 1970s, the term has been widened gradually and since 1990s this widened meaning has been used in states and scientific studies (Brauch, 2008: 2-6).

While old understanding of security was inadequate in military area, security is a comprehensive word nowadays. The concept, including a wide range of issues from individual security to protection of the state, varies like individual, social, local, national, and global (Kaypak, 2013: 13).

The main reason for individuals to live together is the need for security. Security need is number two after need for nourishment. As a result of individuals' need to feel physically, economically, socially, and politically secure, the need for security has emerged. Therefore, the security has become a social need. The duty of maintaining security has moved from individuals to institutions. One of the main duties of the state, to maintain public safety has risen as a result of the need for security (Kaypak, 2013: 12). Maintaining public safety and providing basic human rights and freedoms and protecting this safety environment is the main duty of modern states but it is also a public service that cannot be left to private sector (Toprak, 2016: 6).

Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde, the leading names of the Copenhagen School, criticized the traditional military-oriented security approach and emphasized the necessity of expanding the scope of the security concept. Starting from the ideas of securitization and normalization, they focused on three concepts: sectors, regional security and securitization on the scope of security (Çetinkaya, 2012: 255). In his book, *People, States and Fear* (1983), Barry Buzan introduced the expanded concept of security against the traditional approach that narrows security; examined in five different sectors as military, political, economic, social and environmental (Buzan, 1983: 19-20).

3. ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY RELATIONSHIP

Environment is a set of universal values that includes the interactions of all living and non-living things. Environment does not mean a certain place. While the environment includes all living and non-living things, it also includes natural and artificial values and social environment (Keleş & Hamamcı, 2005:22). Environmental problems can be described as a state of irregularity that hinders the processing or sustainability of this system (Şahin, 2004: 432).

As a result of migration after industrial evolution, immense destructions after two world wars, rivalry process caused by polarized environment especially after Second World War, and petrol crisis of 1970s, the damage of the industrialism and armament to the environment has been questioned.

Today a lot of problems from different sides of the world are in interaction. As a result of various reasons such as borders, refugee problems, environmental damage by nuclear wars, famine as a result of usage of sources irresponsibly, the notions of peace and security are need to be redefined (Kaypak,

2012: 9). Countries' not being in a war is not enough for peace and security. With the speed globalization has gained, the notion of security needs a wide-ranging definition.

The period when the question of environment started to be discussed, is the period after the cold war. With the changing world order, a lot of different terms are needed to be redefined. The notion of national security which had come to be used by that time was found to be inadequate and the necessity of including environmental security in the definition was emphasized. In such a period when the social movements also gained pace, environmental security started to be discussed along with the traditional understanding of security (Allenby, 2000:9). In addition, a lot of new subjects like arms trafficking; energy, safety, and economy were added to the term (Garcia, 2008:5). As a result, the notion has become wider, going beyond just including military security.

As a result of Thomas F. Homer-Dixon's research between 1990-1993, examining the relationship between environment and security, in his work *Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict* (1994) he explained how environmental problems can affect security. In his research, he asked the question whether climate change, droughts, population growth and famine could cause a social conflict. In case of environmental change, population growth and unequal distribution of resources, environmental scarcity can reach a certain level that cause conflicts. Food, water, energy security problems and epidemics are at the top of the world's agenda. This study of Homer-Dixon is important in terms of examining the environment-security relationship with different dimensions. Especially in recent years, when we have increasingly felt the effects of climate change, the study still maintains its up-to-dateness.

4. CHANGE IN THE NOTION OF SECURITY: A NEW UNDERSTANDING

It is emphasized in previous chapters that traditional understanding of security used to be defined by only military security. When the studies from Second World War and the polarized world order created after that are examined, it is seen that the traditional method developed in a monotone logical pattern. It can be said that this formed according to actors, conditions, and international conjuncture of the period. In 1970s, criticism against traditional method started. Even though this period was named as transition period, the dominant understanding is the traditional understanding of security (Sandıklı & Emeklier, 2011: 21). According to this traditional understanding, which was dominant between 1945 and 1990, security is to maintain peace between two main actors of the polarized world.

During the Cold War period, it was easier to see and define the existing threats in two-sided power relations of the time. However, in the process of globalization after the cold war, traditional understanding of security has become insufficient with the complication of definitions of threat and security and with the widened definitions of security. As a result, definitions of security that questions the traditional method and add on the method has emerged (Sandıklı & Emekliler, 2011:28). In these definitions, while the military side to security is declining, security has become an ecological, economic and sociologic term.

Table:1 Broadened Security Concepts (Brauch, 2008: 11)

Security Concepts	Indicated (whose security)	Value under risk (whose security)	Sources of threat (from whom/ what)
National Security (military-political aspect)	State	Sovereignty	Other states, terrorism (non-state actors)
Social security	Nations, Social Groups	National Unity Identity	States, Nations, Immigrants, Foreign Cultures
Human Security	Individuals, Humanity	Quality of Life	State, Globalization, Global Environmental Problems, Nature, Terror
Environmental Security	Ecosystem	Sustainability	Humanity
Gender Security	Gender Relations, Local People, Minorities	Equality, Identity, Solidarity	Patriarchy, totalitarian institutions (governments, religions, elites, culture), intolerance

While addressing the concept of security, there should be answers to the existence of the environmental threat and the security of whom and what. In every situation and place, state of threat and the answers to these questions can be changed. E.g; While protecting the borders of the state was the primary issue of security in the narrow-scoped security understanding before, today, many factors such as rapid population growth, intense environmental destruction, and the development of information technologies have become affecting most of the societies. As a result, the field of security has begun to transcend national borders.

With the growing of the definition of security, there emerged a new understanding of security that criticizes the classical understanding with the questions “for whom and what, where, to what extent and how”. In this respect,

the narrow scope of traditional security is questioned with respect to postmodern, feminist and structuralist theories (Sandıklı & Emeklier, 2012:26).

5. A NEW TERM: ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Environmental security is one of the most discussed terms in international security studies. As a result of problems about usage of natural sources among different states and global climate change in the last twenty years, the notion of security needs to be redefined and the scope of the notion of security has to be widened by adding environmental problems and finding new solutions is a necessity (Sürmelioglu Parlar & Aslantürk, 2014: 70).

Hecker defines national security as sustainability, accessibility, and management of the assets important for human needs and life support system in ecosystem and defining of the processes that will reduce poverty and fights (Hecker, 2011: 12). In other words, it is to make the environment safer by distancing it from risky and threatening situations.

Environmental security is about the environmental aspect of security problem. Environmental security as a term coming out as a result of environmental problems' threatening of security, occupies a wide area from local to global (Kaypak, 2012: 11). "problems that reached global boundaries such as climate change, thinning of ozone layer, desertification, decreasing biological diversity, acid rains, illegal trade of dangerous waste, scarcity of natural sources affect the entire planet, humanity, and all living things at the same level" (Algan, 2002: 21). Traditional understanding of the security is inadequate since it does not include this environmental aspect. Especially after environmental problems' reaching global levels lately, it became a necessity to add an environmental aspect to the security notion.

Environmental security notion first appeared in 1970s when environmental destruction and change was started to be seen as a threat and has gained speed with the studies on scarcity of resources (Ak, 2013: 109). In his 1971 work on environment and security relationship "This Endangered Planet", Richard Falk states that traditional understanding of security needs to be enlarged to include environmental elements.

Environmental security issue first came out in Lester R. Brown's thesis of "natural resources' wearing out and destruction of nature are so serious a threat for the states that the term 'national security' needs to be redefined. Brown tried to redefine national security in his work *Redefining National Security*. In 1983, Richard Ulmann, in his article titled "Redefining Security", expanded the concept of national security and stated that it would be an insufficient definition to see

security only as a military threat, and that security should be redefined and evaluated by the threats against it (Ulmann, 1983: 133).

In 1982, the term, collective security, was used for the first time in "Collective Security: A Disarmament Program" report. The meaning of security was expanded and threats like "poverty, global environment problems, and nuclear war" were added to the term (Kaypak, 2012: 12).

This term first used by World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 in the report named Our Common Future. In the report the link between environment and security was established and it is stated that the environmental problems should be handled in relation with security (Sürmelioglu Parlar & Aslantürk, 2014: 70-71). It has been stated that states should take responsibility for ongoing environmental problems and that security should be handled with priority along with its environmental dimension (Uğurlu, 2008: 84). In this sense, the report draws attention to the fact that global environmental problems can be security problems, and is the first international document that deals with the relationship between environment and security (Barnett, 2017: 192).

Another international document that enables the environment-security relationship to find a place in the international community is the 1991 Strategic Concept in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The document expanded the definition of security and emphasized the change of security environment in Europe. Instead of the traditional conflict-oriented discourse, the concepts of cooperation and dialogue are included in security policies. In the 1999 Strategic Concept, the concept of security was also examined from a wider perspective, and it was stated that security should be considered together with political, economic, social and environmental factors (Kaya & Ilgit, 2021: 181, Aksu Ereker, 2019: 4-5).

It has been discussed since 1980 whether the security should be considered with an environment aspect. Early discussions were mostly on how to maintain security in case of a clash environment caused by environmental destruction while discussions in the later periods have been on individual safety and possible state of crisis after exhaustion of natural resources. UN Security Council accepted that "instability started to threaten the peace and security with its non-military elements in economic, social, humanitarian, and ecological fields" in its statement from 1992. Therefore, it has been said that the threats to environmental security are need to be managed with a collective regime and international operation and mechanisms (Kaypak, 2012: 13).

Environmental security notion is explained with sustainable development and human security. Human security does not just mean protection from wars or

armed conflagration. It also means protecting human rights and to benefit from them. United Nations has emphasized the importance and universality of human security in Human Development reports. In the report, it is stated that “to be prevented from threats like hunger, illnesses, pressure and from disturbance of daily lives in a sudden and harmful manner are components of human security (Tanrıverdi, 2010:15).

Environmental security has three sides. Environmental crisis that could endanger the lives and existence of human beings and other living things; environmental problems’ threatening of economic and political stability and sharing of environmental resources, risk of environmental problems’ causing clashes among countries and societies (Keleş & Ertan, 2002: 240-241).

Whether an environmental problem has a security aspect or not depends on its relationship with environment and security. In a global world where countries’ borders are getting invisible, the negative results of environmental problems could be felt globally. The problems of national security have three variables “time, place, and effect”. It can be said that environmental security means feeling of environmental problems in macro scales (Barnett & Dovers, 2001:161).

Basic principles that national security depends on in environmental and social field could be named as such: “protection of ecological balance, prevention of conflict, supporting cooperative activity, questioning of role and function of nation state, reducing effects of military activities on environment, considering of democracy and human rights as important, supporting sustainable economic actions, reducing negative effects of population growth, reducing peripheral migration, providing source security in urbanization process, reducing poverty” (Ak, 2013: 104-109).

To ensure security in national field, a lot of conventions have been signed. Main examples are The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Biological Diversity Convention, Fighting with Desertification Convention, International Protocol Prohibiting the Nuclear Weapon Tests in Atmosphere, Space and Underwater, Physical Protection of Nuclear Matters Convention, Prohibition of Developing, Producing and storing of Biological and Poisonous Weapons Convention, Barcelona Convention Supplement-Cooperation Against Pollution of Mediterranean with Oil or Other Harmful Substances, Control of Shipment and Extermination of hazardous waste Convention, The Ramsar Convention and Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. However, there is not a pact that all countries signed (Uğurlu, 2009: 102-106).

International cooperation is not enough to ensure environmental security. As a result of the absence of an international document to which all countries are parties, security policies are left to the initiative of the states. It is emphasized that the global climate problem may threaten environmental security, especially with the concept of climate security. It is clear that, in the current situation of the global environmental problems cannot be solved by nation-states initiatives alone.

6. CONCLUSION

In the Cold War period, threats and risks and the precautions that could be taken for that were predictable. After the end of the Cold War, bi-polar world order left its place to a irregular system that has many different actors. After that, the question of where the threats could come has become hard to foresee. As a result of a lot of different threats like local, ethnic or religious identity conflicts, international organized crimes, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drugs and arms trafficking, immigrant problem, epidemic diseases, global environmental destruction, the notion of security has lost its meaningfulness and it has become hard to be defined.

In traditional understanding of security, state of security is restricted to military area but in new understanding it has changed into a political and sociological term.

A lot of different subjects like rapid population growth; industrialization, global warming, and climate change have started to become security issues. In other words, effects of environmental destruction are global. As a result, the issue of environment that was not included in traditional understanding of security has come to be one of the most important issues in the new definition. At this point, the concept of environmental security emerges. Environmental security, with its simplest definition, is a security issue related to the environment. In order to cope with this problem, first of all, it is necessary to know and define the threat well, and then to provide solutions. Many threats such as natural disasters, epidemics, water and food shortages with climate change are not limited to a single region. It can become a problem that affects other regions with migrations.

Environmental problems have exceeded the boundaries that could be solved by only one state alone. At this point, international organizations have to play a vital role and they have to be in interaction with each other. Along with this, there should be global perspective on threats on national security, and global cooperation focused on the solution of these problems needs to be increased.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

There is no conflict of interest between the authors. (Single Author)

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9. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The work was carried out by the author himself, including the collection, processing, analysis and interpretation of ideas, sources, literature review and writing.

10. ETHICS COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COPYRIGHTS

This is a study that does not require permission from the ethics committee.

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