REVISITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN TERMS OF EVOLUTION PROCESS*

Çevre Güvenliğinin Gelişim Süreci Açısından Yeniden Değerlendirilmesi

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Abstract

Environmental problems have been a growing human-induced challenge that intensively affect our life and our future. Therefore, this paper aims at analyzing the evolution of environmental security. Although environmental concern had emerged earlier in the 1960s, the setting relations between environmental decline and security started in the 1980s. Environmental decline like transboundary pollution and resource scarcity have been deemed to have undesirable impact on the security of states, communities and individuals. Environmental security suggests that environmental problems, notably resource scarcity and environmental decline can cause violent/conflict among states and communities.

***Keywords:** Environmental Security, Pollution, Resource Scarcity, Evolution, Energy.*

Öz

Çevre sorunları, insan kaynaklı olup, yaşamımızı ve geleceğimizi yoğun bir şekilde etkileyip, büyüyen bir sorun haline gelmiştir. Bu yüzden bu makale çevresel güvenliğin evrimini tüm yönleriyle incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Çevre kaygısı, 1960'lı yılların erken dönemlerinde ortaya çıkmışsa da çevrenin bozulması ve güvenlik arasındaki temel ilişkiler 1980'li yıllarda başlamıştır. Sınır aşan kirlilik ve kaynak kıtlığı gibi çevresel problemlerin devletlerin, toplulukların ve bireylerin güvenliği üzerinde istenmeyen etkilere sahip olduğu kabul edilmiştir. Çevre güvenliği, çevre sorunlarının, özellikle kaynak kıtlığı ve çevresel azalmanın, devletler ve topluluklar arasında şiddete/çatışmaya neden olabileceğini öne sürmektedir.

***Anahtar Kelimeler:** Çevre Güvenliği, Kirlilik, Kaynak Kıtlığı, Gelişim, Enerji.*

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental problems have been a growing human-induced challenge that intensively affect our life and our future more than six decades. Human induced environmental worsening has led to security implications since the 1980s and it has become a debate topic of international relations. As the environmental worsening has become widespread and globalized, the debates about impact of this worsening on states, community and individuals has also been intensified. Because, environmental degradation has started to affect human life, non-human species and the planet.

Environmental degradation has occurred in many aspects which deeply affected all living species. Besides, strategic control of vital natural sources such as oil and natural gas is also another concern for states. All have different impacts on the environmental security for human perspectives.

The security concept of international relations encompasses military and political aspects until the 1980s.[1] However, growing environmental problems have caused the states to perceive those problems as a threat to their national security. Traditional security discourse normally encompasses political and military aspects, however, since the 1990s the contents of the security term has been widened to include non-military dynamics such as environmental worsening which has adversely impacted humans and the planet in the last six decades.

Therefore, this paper aims at analyzing the evolution of environmental security. To do this, first, environmental problems and transformation of them to security challenges will be analyzed. Then, security concepts will be analyzed to understand environmental security. Finally, the interaction of security and environment will be analyzed.

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1 Kadir Ertaç Çelik-Mehmet Seyfettin Erol, "Aralık 2017 Ulusal Güvenlik Strateji Belgesi Bağlamında ABD'nin Karadeniz Politikası ve Türkiye", *Karadeniz Araştırmaları,* 15(60), 2018, p. 103.

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A qualitative and narrative research methodology based on scientific studies and sources in scholarly books, academic journals and reports are used to make this analysis.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SHIFTING THEM TO SECURITY CHALLENGES

The human-dominated relationship with the environment is very complex, diverse and seems destructive. Actually, the environment is an essential asset for humans to sustain their life. Therefore, the environment is the master of humanity. Although the environment provides humanity with its necessities, or "goods and services".[2] humans have always abused the environment for its greediness. Human-induced environmental decline has resulted from many factors such as overpopulation, rapid growth, overuse of natural resources, proliferation of new technologies, and biodiversity losses. Human exploitation of the environment to increase wealth has caused many environmental perils that jeopardized nature, humans and ecological balance.[3] All these dictate that rapacious human beings are the main culprit of environmental decline.

Since the 1960s there has been growing concern about environmental worsening and this concern has shifted to global institutionalized effort in the 1970s. *Limits to Growth*[4] and the *Blueprint for Survival (Ecologist 1972)* were almost the first comprehensive scientific analysis trying to find an urgent remedy for this decline.[5] *Limits to Growth* anticipated that environmental resources would run out if development and

2 Rudolf De Groot et al., "A Typology for the Classification, Description and Valuation of Ecosystem Functions, Goods and Services", *Ecological Economics,* 41, 2002, p. 393-408.

3 Athanasios Valavanidis, *Current Environmental Issues and Emerging Global Challenges in the 21st Century for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development,* 2019, p. 1-52.

4 Donella Meadows et al., *Limits to Growth,* Universe Books, New York 1972.

5 Robyn Eckersley, *Green Theory,* T. Dunn et al., eds., International Relations Theories, Oxford University Press, UK 2007, p. 250.

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industrialization continued its current trajectory. These efforts overlapped with the first UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972,[6] which formalized that the environment was now a global issue.[7]

The concept of sustainable development was perceived as a stunning answer to the environmental decline based on the expectation of maintaining growth /development while ensuring environmental protection accordingly. Later, the green growth concept was utilized, together with sustainable development. Both do not replace, but support each other. Currently green policies are quite prevalent around the globe although it accounts for additional costs for business.

Although environmental concern emerged earlier in the 1960s, the setting relations between environmental decline and security started in the 1980s as environmental decline such as depletion of the ozone layer and global pollution[8] were deemed to have undesirable impact on the states' security. Moreover, resource scarcity has also been a critical issue to be resolved. Bear in mind that the fears of resource scarcity can be linked to theories of Thomas Malthus on population change, conceptualized at the end of the eighteenth century.[9] His formulation was that food increase would not meet the overpopulation in the world through the years. But this theory was not actualized as progress in science has yielded much more food to feed humanity.

However, other resources such as fossil fuels and water impose a huge burden for states to compete with increasing needs. These have been unexpected factors that might trigger wars among/between states and societies. The actual fear resulted from the transboundary pollution

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6 Hugh Dyer, "Green Theory", S. McGlinchey-R. Walters Scheinpflug C, eds., _International Relations Theory,_ E-International Relations, Bristol 2017, p. 84-90.

7 Eckersley, _op. cit.,_ p. 250.

8 Andree Kirchner, "Environmental Security", _Fourth UNEP Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy,_ 2000, p. 1.

9 Simon Dalby, "Climate Change", _The RUSI Journal,_ 158(3), 2013, p. 33.

encountered in 1980s when there were natural and man-made disasters such as forest fires in Amazon such as Chernobyl disaster.[10] The war of 1973 among Arab States and Israel highlighted the resource scarcity as oil prices increased fourfold in a short period. Besides, drought and less precipitation caused water problems in the Middle East. In summary, humans have been observing the global environmental challenges as industrialization, economic development and overpopulation increased at unexpected speed.

A new debate started on how those environmental challenges can impact on the security of states. societies and individuals. Therefore, the focus was on how to prevent any violent conflict among states and societies caused by environmental challenges.[11] All of them contributed to perceive the environmental challenges to be viewed as a de-securitization factor for state security. So, environmental challenges seem to be a security issue for states and societies.

Summarizing, during the Cold War, traditional security prevented the fear of resource scarcity and transboundary pollution as a major threat for states. Bipolar world security architecture preceded other security challenges because of fear of any huge conventional or nuclear attack from other pact. But, the increasing environmental deterioration was viewed as a serious threat to humanity at 1970 and 80s. Then environmental challenges resulting from transboundary pollution, resource scarcity, global warming and climate change were deemed as threats to the security of state and society and individuals. The debate continued whether environmental challenges can lead to violent conflict among nations.

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10 Dalby, *op. cit.,* p. 33.

11 *Ibid.*

Historically, in the 1980s, environmental issues were taken into account seriously. The security expertise started to think over including the environmental problems with the lenses of national security standpoint. Alongside with scholarly research, the related UN bodies also thought over the environmental degradation and its effect on any interstate violent conflict.

THE DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Before explaining the environmental security, it will useful to comment on the term of security in general. Historically, security term was first publicized by Cicero and Lucretius denoting to a political concept in the context of 'Pax Romana'.[12] The word was used to refer to a peaceful situation across Roman Empire to ensure 'Pax Romana'.

Security in a general meaning refers to 'a situation free from threats' for individuals, communities and states. In the general approach, it means the absence of threat or risk for a state's sovereignty and its survival. From a traditional perspective, security encompasses military and political aspects in national view which actually implies the protection of the territorial integrity of the State and sustains its political power.[13]

The term of security encompasses a wide range of meanings in accordance with the context of IR theories and scholars' each own scientific backgrounds or preferences. Each theory in IR has conceptualized the security according to their discourses. However, until 1990s, the security concept had mostly been discussed in state centric

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12 Hans Günter Brauch, "Environment and Human Security", *Interdisciplinary Security Connections,* Publication Series of UNU-EHS, 2, 2005, p. 6.
13 Kirchner, *op. cit.,* p. 2.

approach within anarchic situation of international politics[14] via realist, liberal and structural perspectives.[15] However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolution of the Warsaw Pact in 1991 the security concept has undergone profound changes in scope and meaning.[16] Namely, the Copenhagen School has widened the security to cover economic, political, societal and environmental [17] attributes, along with military. Besides, the commentary IR theories (constructivist, critical, post-structuralist, feminist etc.) set forth that security is 'no longer has any given (pre-existing) meaning; rather, it is a social and intersubjective construction'.[18] That explains us that security has diverse meaning, based on the perceptions and understandings of individual or societal values. Therefore, it displays the subjectivity of a political value or perception and is connected to individual or societal value judgment.[19]

In the last six decades, humans have encountered many environmental challenges such as cross boundary pollution, climate changes, global warming, scarcity of natural resources, droughts etc. As for the definition of environmental security, it essentially relates how environmental problems can influence the security of states societies or individuals. In this context, environmental security can be defined from many perspectives.

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14 Barry Buzan, "The English School: A Neglected Approach to International Security Studies", *Security Dialogue,* 46(2), 2015, p. 126-143.

15 All these were analyzed in detail at Sertif Demir-Muzaffer Ercan Yilmaz, "An Analysis of the Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Turkey's Politic-Military, Social and Economic Security", *Gazi Akademik Bakış*, 13(26), 2020, p. 1-19.

16 Demir-Yilmaz, *op. cit.,* p. 1-19.

17 Buzan, *op. cit.,* p. 126-143; Demir-Yilmaz, *op. cit.*, p. 1-19.

18 Rita Taureck, "Securitisation, Theory and Securitisation Studies", *Journal of International Relations and Development,* 9, 2006, p. 53-61; Demir-Yilmaz, *op. cit.,* p. 1-19.

19 Hans Günter Brauch, "Security and Environment Linkages in the Mediterranean: Three Phases of Research on Human and Environmental Security and Peace", Hans Günter Brauch et al., eds., *Security and Environment in the Mediterranean. Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts,* Springer, Berlin-Heidelberg 2003, p. 52.

A comprehensive definition was defined by Stuart Horsman[20] with many contents. He described security as either 'a cause and/or objective of conflict; as an instrument of war; environmental degradation resulting from military action; the indirect influence of environmental degradation on security via development and welfare; or environmental degradation and protection with anthropological consequences.' As seen, this definition has covered many perspectives. On the other hand, AC/UNU Millennium Project defines the environmental security as 'the maintenance of the physical surroundings of society for its needs without diminishing the natural stock'.[21]

THE ANALYSIS OF EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

The concept of environmental security has been linked to environmentally induced conflicts caused by environmental degradation in the following fields: overuse of renewable resources, pollution or impoverishment of human-settled places,[22] scarcity of resources and transboundary pollution. In fact, resource depletion and transboundary pollution were invoked to assess the environmental problem as a serious environmental threat. It has required a global and comprehensive response to prevent any violent conflicts.

Specifically, environmental security sets forth that environmental problems, notably resource scarcity and environmental decline can cause violent/conflict among states and communities.[23] Looking at the history,

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20 Michael Renner, "Environmental Security: The Policy Agenda", *Conflict, Security&Development,* 4(3), 2004, p. 315.

21 Felix Muller et al., "Landscape Management for Environmental Security: Some Perspectives of Adaptive Management Approaches", Irene Petrosillo et al., eds., *Use of Landscape Sciences for the Assessment of Environmental Security, NATO Science for Peace and Security Series C: Environmental Security,* Springer, 3, 2008, p. 1350-1356.

22 *Ibid.*

23 Brauch, *op. cit.,* p. 6.

it can be seen that there are many wars among states resulting from controlling a territory for raw materials, energy and food.[24] This kind of violent conflict over scarce or critical resources is best conceptualized in realist discourse as the generation of national power in economic, military and political perspective is assured through accessing or controlling critical assets or resources.[25] Both the Iraq Wars in 1993 and 2003 and the US' Afghanistan operation highlighted the importance of controlling or accessing critical natural resources. From an environmental security perspective, scarce resources seem a very critical factor in any violence occurrence. The scarcity of resources can either be through insufficiency of supply caused by unexpected weather conditions, or overpopulation which increases demand or unequal access and distribution of resources.[26]

Indeed, previous empirical studies came to the conclusion that economic resources wars took place at a venue where there were abundant resources with limited economic choices, instead of scarcity of resources.[27] This discourse best fits with the situation in the Middle East region Although the region has abundant oil reserves, it has limited economic alternatives to run those natural resources by its own capacity. Instead, big powers control the extraction, conversion, transportation and distribution of rich oil reserves. But, major powers employ force or apply wars to handle oil in the region. This clearly highlights that major powers see scarcity of energy resources as a cause of violent conflicts. Bear in mind that fossil fuels are abundant in the region.

24 Nils P. Gleditsch, "Armed Conflict and the Environment: A Critique of the Literature", *Journal of Peace Research,* 35(3), 1998, p. 381-400; Peter Hough, "Back to the Future: Environmental Security in Nineteenth Century Global Politics", Global Security: Health, Science and Policy, 4(1), 2019, p. 1.

25 Michael T, Klare, *Resource Wars: The New Landscape of Global Conflict,* Metropolitan Books, New York 2001; Erika Cudworth-Stephen Hobden, "Beyond Environmental Security: Complex Systems, Multiple Inequalities and Environmental Risks", Environmental Politics, 20(1), 2011, p. 43-44.

26 Thomas. Homer-Dixon-Jessica Blitt, eds., *Ecoviolence: Links Among Environment, Population and Security,* Lanham, Rowman and Littlefield, 1998, p. 280; Allenby Braden, "Environmental Security: Concept and Implementation", International Political Science Review, 21(1), 2000, p. 8.

27 Simon Dalby, *Environmental Security, University of Minnesota Press,* Minneapolis 2002; Dalby, op. cit., 2013, p. 34-43.

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First environmental security studies were seen in the 1970s, focusing on the emerging environmental risks on the states' security. The second generation environmental security studies focused on whether any scarcity of the resources can force a conflict as seen in Toronto groups study. Third generation has focused on significantly expansion and complex understanding of the issue.[28]

Given these facts, any state implements the environmental security policy based on the many rationales. First of all, a state can pursue the environmental security policy for the national interest through ecological threats to security.[29] This rationale is based on motives for protecting the environment. Second, a state may need to fulfil the demand of powerful domestic interest groups that have internationalized domestic norms and rules.[30] This aims to appease interest groups for political objectives. Third, a state may need to adapt its green norms and values to international environmental rules, norms and values.[31] This implies that a state needs to accept and implement international law, norms and values for environmental security policies. In summary, states follow the environmental security policy for its national necessities, for their citizens' demand or willingness and to internalize the international environmental security norm and policies.

Generally, there are three aspects of environmental security. First one refers to whether environmental worsening and shortage of resources or raw materials can cause violent conflict among states.[32] The second one relates to human security which sets forth that environmental

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28 Petr Martinovsky, "Environmental Security and Classical Typology of Security Studies", *The Science for Population Protection,* 2, 2011, p. 4.

29 Alexis Rwabizambuga, "Environmental Security and Development, *Conflict, Security&Development,* 7(1), 2007, p. 205.

30 Rwabizambuga, *op. cit.,* p. 205.

31 *Ibid.*

32 Larry A. Swatuk, "Environmental Security in Practice", *31 of the Pan-European Conference on International Relations,* The Hague, 9-11 September 2004, p. 1.

security encompasses the insecure situation of human beings as their needs, rights and values are under threat of environmental degradation.[33] Human related environmental security centers on how individuals and communities are at risk from environmental change or degradation.[34] The last one is about ecological security which analyses the negative impacts of human behaviors on the environment.[35] Although the first two versions of environmental security highlight the influence of environmental degradation on national policy and human security, the last one directly concerns human effects on the environment. That means all three versions of environmental security policies put different emphasis on state, human and ecology. Bear in mind that environmental security tries to answer how and why environmental degradation can be assessed as part of national security. This is the main theme of environmental security.

The focus on environmental security was abated because of American's War on terror strategy after the terror in New York to twin buildings at 9/11.[36] Military threats preceded other non-urgent threats. But after 2007, there was a re-emergence of environmental security because climate changes were high-profile in the world[37] when the Kyoto protocol was put into force.

Traditional IR scholars refuse the containment of environmental problems in a national security context,[38] seeing it in secondary importance or inappropriate. But some scholars favoring the widening

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33 Hough, *op. cit.,* p. 1

34 Nicole Detraz, "Environmental Security and Gender: Necessary Shifts in an Evolving Debate", *Security Studies,* 18(2), 2009, p. 345–369; Cudworth&Hobden, *op. cit.,* p. 43-44.

35 Detraz, *loc. cit.;* Cudworth-Hobden, *op. cit.,* p. 43-44.

36 Mehmet Seyfettin Erol-Doğacan Başaran, "Afganistan Merkezli Gelişmelerin Türkiye ve Türk Dünyası Jeopolitiğine Etkileri", *Demokrasi Platformu,* 10(35), 2021, p. 7.

37 Dalby, *op. cit.,* 2013, p. 35.

38 Hough, *op. cit.,* p. 3.

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security context contemplate that environmental challenges can be treated as part of hard security when environmental problems are likely to be the cause of wars and/or jeopardize the sovereignty of national states.[39] On the other hand, traditionalist ecologists disagree with the 'securitization' of environmental challenges as viewing it inappropriate to find solutions to complex environmental issues with the militaristic approach.[40] The inclusion of environmental security in national policy means especially the prioritizing of military answers over diplomacy[41] which implies to use inappropriate instruments toward environmental problems.

The UN, NATO and other security organizations see environmental problems as an urgent issue in the new millennium. For example, the UN perceived and counted the environmental degradation among six clusters in 2004.[42] Besides, NATO also highlighted environmental security in its Strategic concepts in 2010 to cope with in next decades.

There is some empirical research that tries to prove whether there is a link between environmental security /resource scarcity and violent conflicts among states and societies. In this perspective, the study of Toronto Group sets forth that resource scarcities indirectly lead to civil conflicts, such as insurrections, group conflict, military coup etc., within a state. However, the research did not suggest a connection between environmental scarcities and inter-state conflict.[43]

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39 *Ibid.*

40 *Ibid.*

41 Daniel Deudney, "The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security", *Millennium,* 19(3), 1990, p. 461-476; Cudworth&Hobden, op. cit., p. 47-48.

42 Brauch, *op. cit.,* 2005, p. 7.

43 Thomas Homer-Dixon, "Environment, Scarcity, and Violence", Princeton University Press, Princeton 1999; p. 104–106; Tom Deligiannis, "Moving towards Consensus", Rita Floyd-Richard A. Matthew, eds., *Environmental Security Approaches and Issues,* Rutledge, London-New York 2013, p. 38.

In summary, Homer-Dixon and his colleagues underlined that scarcities do not trigger conflict alone, instead, they cause a conflict interact with a wide variety of related aspects[44]

Additionally, a research conducted by Günther Baechler's Zurich-based Project on Environment and Conflict also came to similar results of the Toronto Group. This research did not find a direct link between scarcity of resources and interstate conflicts.[45]

Some scholars accuse capitalist globalization as a major culprit of massive devastations of the natural environment through destroying ecosystems, not leaving any particular area for living. According to them, all these greedy behaviors must be considered acts of equal to genocides and crimes against the planet which should be treated like crimes against humanity.[46] They also suggest establishing an independent environmental body under the UN, mandated with both judicial powers, with equal voting rights[47] to conserve the environment against maltreatment.

There are three groups of security scholars which can be related to dealing with environmental security. Traditionalist groups are less connected with environmental security. They view security from a state-centric focused perspective, taking into account only the threats that massively affect national defense and political sovereignty.[48] According to their perception of security, environmental security has no impact on a state's political sovereignty and national policy.

The second one is called the widener who prefers a reform at conservative security perspectives. They still favor national security in traditional meaning; but also agree to cover the economic, social,

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44 Deligiannis, *op. cit.,* p. 37-38.

45 Brauch, *op. cit.,* 2005, p. 6; G. Baechler, "Violence Through Environmental Discrimination: Causes", Rwanda Arena, and Conflict Model, Kluwer Academic Publishing, London 1999, p. xi; Deligiannis, *op. cit.,* p. 39.

46 S. Faizi, "Ecocides: On the Need for an Environmental Security Council (ESC)", *Capitalism Nature Socialism,* 32(3), 2021, p. 36.

47 *Ibid.*

48 Martinovsky, *op. cit.,* p. 5-6.

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health and environmental risk within the security meaning.[49] Deepeners group are the radical reformists of security researchers who favor widen the security context outside of military business. Although the state is still being deemed a legitimate reference object, other groups, like environment etc., can also be considered as security objects[50] based on the widening security threats. Copenhagen school is the best example for a widener who expanded the security in context and meaning.[51]

There is a debate about securitizing environmental problems. The supporters of the securitization of environmental issues suggest that environmental problems now are considered a serious issue for scholars and it is taken into account by politicians.[52] In the end this will contribute to the efforts to conserve the environment. Opponents are against securitization of environmental issues because 'security' as meaning induces challenging issues linked with the military which ought to be kept distant from the environmental debate.[53] The militarization of green policy requires inappropriate methods and tools to tackle environmental challenges. This is likely to make it harder to find a collaborative solution to environmental issues. Because environmental challenges are transboundary and their solutions dictate global cooperation and one nation is not able to cope with all environmental problems. A global effort is essential to problems of climate changes, pollution and warming.

In order to overcome these challenges, the environmental peacemaking concept has been publicized by Conca and Dabelko.[54] As securitizing of environmental challenges invokes violent and conflicts as well as the

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49 *Ibid.*

50 *Ibid.*

51 Barry Buzan et. al., "Security: A New Framework for Analysis", Boulder CO, Lynne Rienner 1998; Martinovsky, *op. cit.,* p. 9.

52 Martinovsky, *op. cit.,* p. 10.

53 Deudney, *op. cit.,* p. 461-476; Maria Julia Trombetta, "Environmental Security and Climate Change: Analysing the Discourse", *Cambridge Review of International Affairs,* 21(4), 2008, p. 586.

54 Ken Conca-Geoffrey D Dabelko, *Environmental Peacemaking,* Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2002; Renner, *op. cit.,* p. 332.

militarization instruments for solution, a new approach is required to build confidence for cooperation among states and societies.[55] The scarcity of natural resources which have cross boundary features like rivers is a problematic issue among states. This is an existing challenge in the Middle East region as less precipitations and drought are very common.

CONCLUSION

Environmental problems have been a growing human-induced challenge that intensively affect our life and our future. Although environmental concern had emerged earlier in the 1960s, the relations between environmental decline and security started in the 1980s. Environmental worsening such as depletion of the ozone layer, transboundary pollution[56] and resource scarcity were deemed to have undesirable impact on the security of states, communities and individuals. Therefore, environmental security can be defined as the analysis whether environmental problems can initiate a violent conflict among/between states, societies and individuals.

Specifically, environmental security sets forth that environmental problems, notably resource scarcity and environmental decline can cause violent/conflict among states and communities.[57] Therefore, environmental security has been deemed as part of national policy which can invoke a conflict among states.

In general, states follow the environmental security policy for its national necessities, for their citizens' demand or willingness and to internalize the international environmental security norm and policies.

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55 Renner, _loc. cit._

56 Kirchner, _op. cit.,_ p. 1.

57 Brauch, _op. cit.,_ p. 6.

The first purpose is a very critical factor that induces conflicts if there is disagreement over the environmental degradation and resource scarcity among states which can hardly be solved peacefully.

Some research, like Toronto[58] groups, did not find a direct link between environmental security and interstate violent conflict, but environmental security indirectly impacts the conditions that pave the way for violent conflicts through making those problems diverse, complex and increasing their impact.

On the other hand, there is a debate about securitizing environmental problems. It has some pros and cons to viewing environmental problems as security issues. The supporters of the securitization of environmental issues suggest that environmentalism is now considered a serious issue for scholars and it is taken into account by politicians.[59] This forces policy makers to spend endeavors to prevent/avoid pollution. In the end this will contribute to the efforts to conserve the environment. Opponents are against securitization of environmental issues because security as meaning induces challenging issues to link with the military which ought to be kept distant from the environmental debate.[60]

They deem the militarization of green policy requires inappropriate methods and tools to tackle environmental challenges. This is likely to make it harder to find a collaborative solution to environmental issues. Because environmental challenges are transboundary and their solutions dictate global cooperation and one nation is not able to cope with all environmental problems. A global effort is essential to problems of climate changes, pollution and warming.

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58 Homer-Dixon, *loc. cit.*
59 Martinovsky, *op. cit.,* p. 10.
60 Deudney, *op. cit.,* p. 461-476; Cudworth-Hobden, *op. cit.,* p. 47-48.
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In summary, environmental security has emerged and evolved based on the environmental degradation which has portrayed a potential threat to humans and all species living on the earth. In this perspective, as the threats have shifted to diverse, complex and interrelated structures, scholars and researchers have analyzed whether the environmental security can cause violent conflicts among states and societies. This process clearly exhibits the conceptual, theoretical and practical evolution of environmental security in the last four decades.

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