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# EVALUATING ROLE OF SECURITY AND DIFFERENT OPINIONS IN POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## MARYAM POUYA

University of Velayat

**\*Corresponding Author: Baraghoosh@yahoo.com**

## ABSTRACT

The application of great powers (technology, culture, economics…) and their impact on the international system reveals new realities in the international relations area. It has also made the present interpretations in international relations and scientific filed inefficient. Certainly, power is the most fundamental concept associated with international relations. Therefore, evolution of the concept of power of international relations is only possible via evolution of international relations theories. Role of security and its theoretical determination in the power of international relations is one of the issues thatneed a theoretical review. The present paper intends to determine role and position of security in international relations. The research aims to confirm the issue that paying attention to forming an international system as a functional framework of security could eliminate the inefficiency of theories of international relations in the analytical field.

**Keywords: International Relations, Power, Security, Structure, Great Powers**

## INTRODUCTION

The present paper intends to study the evolution of concept of security from different international relations perspectives including realism, liberalism, and world system theory. Then, based on the theoretical schools, it evaluates role of concept of security in the power of international relations. To achieve a better understanding, domestic and foreign studies in this field are investigated.

**J. Jackson- Preece (2011)** presented the article "security in international relations". In

this article, the issue of security in international relations is studied in a 300-period plan regarding economics, management, finance, and social sciences. According to this plan, the order and stability within the government and among the governments have been clarified. Results of the research indicate that security is only a concern for governments and military forces, but the security agenda has been developed so that it includes questions related to policies, military preparation problems, immigration, poverty, and other social and environmental issues. Moreover, understanding the concept of security as a fundamental value of human life and also awareness of security policies help to respond to main questions such as "what is security, or how is it achieved?"

**Richard Rosecrance (2006)** presented the article "power and international relations: the rise of china and its effects". The international relation studies need the investigation into power relations among great governments. "Power" is a variable term and there are different types of it. Some of the types of power are under relatively the same conditions including conflicts among participators. Some others are result of the sum of all variables, and the conflicts are decreased via them. However, the most fundamental point is that the power of a nation does not indicate its policies and behaviors. If some nations follow their power, they might fail to apply their power or they might follow aggressive actions to show their unlimited power. The result of both of the cases is instabilities originated from very high or very low application of power. Tensions result from confrontation of those who highly exploit power and those who rarely exploit power, this condition disturb the balance. **PetrSuchy (2004)** has studied "role of security and strategic studies within international studies". In this research, the concentration is one the role of the future of security and strategic studies in the post- cold war era. The research considers positions and goals of different groups participated in discussions related to this subject matter. Moreover, the study analyzes development of relevant branches of the international relations in the recent decade of 20$^{th}$ century. The researcher declares that the experts should not believe that security and strategic studies are unimportant in the post- cold war era. In fact, strategic studies have an important role clarifying important subjects such as post-cold war threats, role of nuclear weapons in the second nuclear era, weapons controlling aspects, irregular warfare, RMA, and so forth. **Ashlagi (2004)** analyzed security in the paradigms ruling the international relations.

The present paper has studied security, war, and military power from perspective of main theories of international relations including realism, liberalism, and world system theory. The result of the research indicates that a combination of the mentioned theories determines security analysis in international level. In other words, none of them could determine security by itself.

**METHODOLOGY**

In each scientific research, regarding the research subject the proper method will be selected. Selecting the proper method is one of the basic issues that guarantee achieving desired results.

Tools for gathering data

In this research, gathering data is done based on library method, and it follows research field.

**Data analysis method**

In this research, descriptive-analytical method of analyzing data has been applied.

**DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

**The concept of security**

The best way to define the concept of security and operating it is to mention abstract and concrete implications of the concept, and also analyze the components that form it. In both micro and macro levels, there are risks that threaten the fundamental values of the concept of security. There might be no risk,

but people could imagine it. On the other hand, there might be a risk, but people could not imagine it. Therefore, the concept of security could be divided into four categories of vital values of the concept of security, risks, risk factors, and vulnerability of security in confrontation with risks. In other words, the concept of security encompasses all the mentioned components (**Kolodzieg, 1992**).

**Security and international relations**

There are many discussions regarding origin of thinking about international relations, however, their common point is that the beginning of thinking about international relations depends on ending the war. In other words, war, peace, and security have a significant position in international relations development.

Realistic such as E.H. Carr believe that international relations have originated from Thucydides's notion and the conflict that occurred among the Greek city-states 2500 years ago. In his book "the 20 year crisis, 1919-1939", Carr declares" the majority orders because it is more powerful, and the minority obeys because it is less powerful". According to this reasoning, the Peloponnesian war is justifiable. Based on a different perspective, KalHolsti attributes the origin of international relations to the late

middle agesand peace of Westphalia. Torbjorn Knuten agrees with Holsti's idea and declares that the theory of international relations refers to "the sixteenth century of murder". It should be noticed that the three theoretical frameworks agree that international relations have originated from insecurity, consequences of war, and fear of peace instability. As a result, the thirty year lasting Peloponnesian war and the 1ˢᵗ world war are the main causes of international relations formation. Some believe that the international relations are one of the secondary branches of security. Robert Jervis declares "we think about international relations based on deterrence and incitation which are basic concepts of security studies related to relations among governments" (**Jervis, Robert, 1991**).

## Various viewpoints regarding position of security in the international relations

The international relations are considered as one of the branches of human sciences that directly deal with groups behavioral patterns and the relations among them. Explanation of security is one of the main applications of the international relations, however, there are different viewpoints regarding security as a result of being influenced by social realities. The following perspectives could be mentioned:

- Neorealism (realism)
- Neoliberalism (liberalism)
- Globalization
- Constructivism (**Rajaei, 2000**)

At the first look, it seems that each of the perspectives explain some aspects of the international relations better than the other perspectives, and a combination of them explain the main causes of international relations, however, the reality is that none of the perspectives could fully respond to the international relations concerns and their various dimensions. In fact, each of them looks at the international system from a specific viewpoint.

## Realistic perspective and security

This perspective introduces the functional framework of security. It declares that the highest vital value of the governments rely on principles such as government centrality, power centrality, and importance of system structure. It introduces weakness of vital values, lack of power, and lack of appropriate distribution of power in the system level as the most important risks, and also indicates that vulnerability of the mentioned parts is because of their weak state of power (**Waltz 1959, 1979, 1990, Buzan 1993, Keohane 1986**).

## Criticism and evaluation of the realistic perspective

There are several criticisms related to this perspective:

1. Power of governments is completely unequal.

2. Governments are not independent of one another.

3. Despite the opposition of benefits, there are patterns of cooperation among governments.

4. Governments are merely actors of the international relations.

5. Realists divide the policies into high and low policies. They categorize system issues into the high policies, while economic affairs and welfare into low policies. Today, as a result of some evolutions made in the field of international relations, many of the hygienic issues such as aids, environmental problems, economic and technological problems are categorized into high policies, while military issues are categorized into low policies. Therefore, redefining of international relations concepts such as governance, power national security and so forth has led to security providing factors replacement with anti-security factors (**Ashlagi. 2004**).

**Liberal perspective and security**

Liberal perspective is one of the perspectives related to studies on role of security in the international relations. Neoliberalism accepts principles of neorealism, but it considers new characteristics such as mutual dependence for the international system. In other words, the international system influenced by security based on complicated mutual dependence has experienced a fundamental evolution. According to this perspective, risks, vulnerabilities, and their causes have new characteristics that necessitate new techniques as international regimes. Therefore, security pattern is defined in this framework (**Keohane and Nye, 1987, p: 753-55, Keohane, 1984, Baldwin, 1993**). The complicated mutual dependence indicates new processes based on security and its impact on the power process of international relations. In liberal school, the field of sociology has a specific importance. The phenomenon of security in the sociology is clarified based on social foundations and great powers of the society in both national and international levels. As a result, individual factors and technological force are used to analyze role of security in international relations (**Rosenau 1990, 1995, pp: 193-200**).

**Reference of security based on different perspectives**

In realistic perspective of security, government is introduced as the reference of security. Buzan determines three types of threats for governments: treats to government's notion, threats to physical foundation of the government, and threats to the political system. Many of the neorealists believe that system is the dominant factor and believe that security is the result of anarchic nature of the system (**BarryBuzan, 1991**).

The second group declares that the third world states (governments) are the reference of security. They believe that security is a kind of political condition via which the third world states are in danger of foreign threats and domestic threats. Characters such as Nicole Ball introduce the dominant regimes as the main reference of security. The other analysts believe that security refers to individuals' security. According to this perspective, threats such as hunger, disease, and inability should be considered (**Nicole Ball, 1988**). Kan Booth declares "true security is the result of freedom not power or order. Theoretically, freedom is security." (**Susan Strange, 1998**).

Security might refer to citizens' security, nation's security, system's security, and government's security. This issue makes the actions and reactions among different actors more complicated (**Brian L., Job, 1919**).

# CONCLUSION

Security, war, and international system are the issues that have concerned humans for many years. There are many perspectives that study security, its causes, and its effects on international relations. As mentioned in the paper, the realists of the international system put emphasis on rules of power, they clarify role of security in the international relations and introduce the government as the most important actor that is supported by military force. Moreover, liberal world view pays attention to common interests that are obtained via interdependences within the international relations. According to liberal ideology and regarding the injustice within the international relations, wars and insecurity occur as a result of economic exploitation relations. Constructivism emphasizes the interaction between international policy and domestic relations as well as the interaction between internal security relations and international security. Therefore, it pays attention to norms, the relation between interests and identity, and common ideas presented in security and insecurity issues. In order to analyze world policy issues such as security and its role in the international relations, a combination of the perspectives are presented. Regarding the criticisms toward each of the perspectives and special

aspects of each of them, it seems that none of them is able to thoroughly analyze the world policy, however, the awareness of different perspectives helps one to know the international relations and the power and security position better. The present paper analyzes security position and considers the structure of the international system as the basis for addressing inefficiency of the perspectives in order to understand that international system has a heterogeneous atmosphere with a specific characteristic in each part of the system. Therefore, the position of security and its analytical perspective in each field should be distinguished from the other ones.

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