

Foreword

A handy phrase that can be used in discussions of the subject of security is a variation of a saying by Wojciech Roszkowski, namely that security is like “old wine in new bottles”¹ or an old issue of constantly changing form. Such a description of security points at two very important characteristics of security. The first is its timeless nature and universality due to its deep historical roots. The second is the fact that the issue of security undergoes continuous changes and covers ever newer areas. This condition is the result of the impact of both internal factors, such as the political and the social situation in a given area, and external factors, such as the international situation, the geopolitical constraints, globalization, etc.

The above factors contribute to the dynamic growth of the academic field of security studies². This is reflected in the stream of new publications on the subject of security or dangers³. Many of them contain different definitions of security, typologies, models, types, mechanisms, concepts, etc. Despite this broad presentation of the subject of security, most authors pay little attention to the practical applications of the solutions they discuss, e.g. when analyzing the status of security in a given territory; forecasting it in the short, medium, and long run; indicating causes of threats; or describing both internal and external determinants of the issues in question. The point is not to discredit or reject theoretical considerations of security, but rather to encourage their practical use, taking into account the real situations and facts.

Despite the changes taking place in this area, security is still looked at only through the lens of ‘hard security’ which covers political, legal, police, and military factors (the so-called security quadrangle). ‘Soft security’, on the other hand, which covers the social, economic, cultural, ecological, demographic, and other factors, is often overlooked.

Another typical trend is to analyze security only with reference to specific conditions (levels). This takes the form of analyses of more or less official reports,

¹ W. Roszkowski, *Nationalism in East Central Europe: Old Wine in New Bottles*, in: *Contemporary Nationalism in East Central Europe*, ed. P. Latawski, St. Martin’s Press 1995, pp. 13-25.

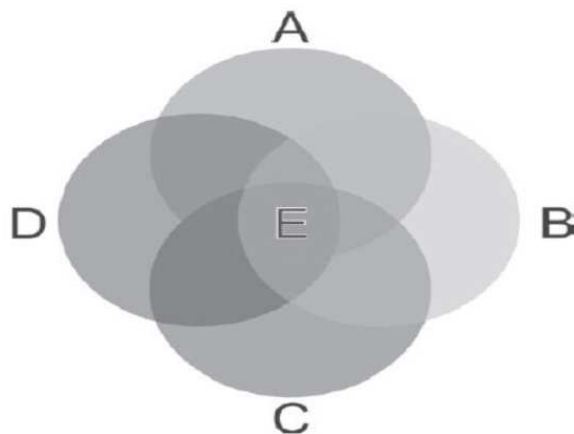
² See for example new academic journal “Przegląd Strategiczny” <http://www.studiastategiczne.amu.edu.pl>.

³ See: R. Jackson, L. Jarvis, J. Gunning, M. Smyth, *Terrorism. A Critical Introduction*, London 2011; R. O’Kane, *Terrorism*, Pearson 2012; S. Wojciechowski, *Terroryzm na początku XXI wieku. Pojęcie, przejawy, przyczyny*, Poznań 2013.

strategies, and expert papers. This approach neglects the so-called sense of security⁴ determined on the basis of, for instance, the results of public opinion surveys on various aspects of security, conducted by opinion poll centres (such as the CBOS, the Eurostat, or the Pew Research Centre).

Given this, thanks to the grant received from the National Science Centre in Kraków and under the patronage of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań⁵, the research project entitled “Key Determinants of Poland’s Security in Early 21st Century” was initiated. The participants of the project are representatives of various academic centres and government institutions. One of the key products of the project is the present publication. The first of its key objectives is to present various aspects of the contemporary security of Poland, such as the military, political, economic, and social aspects, as well as the interdependence between ‘hard security’ and ‘soft security’. The second objective is to demonstrate the correlations between the status of security and the sense of security in Poland. The third objective is to use theoretical deliberations on security in practice, for example based on the pentagonal model of security presented in this publication.

Diagram: Components of the interference security concept



Source: Author’s concept.

⁴ See also subjective sense of security - for example T. Balzacq, *Securitization Theory: How Security Problems Emerge and Dissolve*, London 2010; W. Kostecki, *Strach i potęga. Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe w XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2012.

⁵ Institute for Western Affairs in Poznan is affiliated with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.iz.poznan.pl>.

The theoretical basis of the publication is the interference⁶ security concept (ISC) whose purpose is to analyze security based on the following aspects:

- A) the area(s) of analysis, such as Poland, Russian Federation, and European Union,
- B) the individual type(s) – sector(s) of security, such as the military, economic, and social sector,
- C) the components of security, e.g. mechanisms, laws, and institutions,
- D) the factors (internal and external) that affect security, for example globalization or the financial crisis,
- E) various interactions taking place between the above aspects, e.g. the impact of European integration on the level of security in Europe.

The publication does not contain an exhaustive presentation of the subject of contemporary security of Poland. Thus, it cannot be considered as a comprehensive study of this subject. The primary intent of the authors and editors was to emphasize the complex, multi-faceted, dynamic, and evolutionary nature of the subject, the multiplicity of problems in the area of security, and the diversity of its determinants. Thus it is envisaged that the aforementioned ‘old wine’ (a synonym of security) will be with us as long as possible – and of the best grade.

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