



DYNAMICS OF RISK FACTORS IN THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract – The past decade was marked with an embrace of both positive and negative trends that entrenched new global security threats that occasioned both international and regional risks. However, it is possible to achieve major objectives in this time lapse; yet there has been an emergent necessity to build a new architecture of international/ regional security phenomenon. Nevertheless, the contemporary world still offers numerous conflicts based on the access to resources and such aspects as ethnic, cultural, religious and ideological diversities.

The present paper now turns to one of the areas greatly affected by instability, uncertainty and disruption of the established international relations. Current conflict dynamics depict a different picture, with terrorist attacks in 2015 being clear evidence of need for different approach to the problem than the military one. They have a significant role in protecting national security as public order is a state of order within a country characterized by harmony, law and order in societies. It is essential as it relates to stability and protection and which requires national and international security to be in synergy and to admit extensive multidimensional international cooperation. This era stresses out the need to update national legislation to the international level and the development of international police cooperation. A management of public order through information is crucial to tackle existing security challenges. Thus, the protection of security and public order is currently one of the main worldwide and regional priorities in a condition of constant alteration and uncertain risks, requires an extensive and integrated interdisciplinary view on the current and future problems.

Keywords: National security, public order, terrorism, human trafficking, organized crime.



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1. Introduction

At the turn of the century, the security situation towards a new phase that is characterized by interaction of positive and negative factors that give rise to global as well as regional threats. The big goals in this period are realistic and the formation of the new global and regional security system is gradually gaining significance at the international level. The world is still a place of conflicts and the forces of conflict are dominant in the acquisition of resource and in different ethnic, cultural, religious and ideological cleavages.

Security at the national and international level is an uncertain and unstable environment in the international system. In terms of dynamics the latest conflicts demonstrate a shift and the terrorist attacks of 2015 point out the fact that security cannot be completed through force alone but it will call for an agreed understanding of encompassing security.

Public order is thus a central idea if there is to be any stability and security within the country. Public order thus withdraws playing a role of a social organism, as it is a sine qua non for economic success and progress.

It also stresses the need to adapt the internal legislation of countries to the normative acts of the international community and enhancing the cooperation of police bodies of states. Information is also central in management of public order to meet the contemporary complexity of security and public order.

Therefore, under the circumstances of a constant search for change in the global context and the existence of multifaceted threats to security and public order, their establishment becomes a top-priority activity at the international and regional level, being in need for effective and multiple approaches to address the present and future challenges.

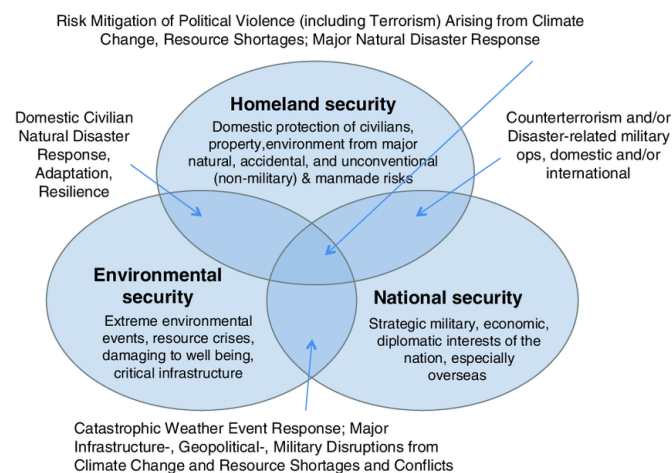


Figure 1. Hypothesized Relationships among Homeland, Environmental and National Security

(Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Hypothesized-Relationships-among-Homeland-Environmental-and-National-Security_fig1_277605472)



2. National Security, Public Order and Modern Approaches

Public order is one of the aspects of security, which defines balance, tranquility, and adherence to legal accomplishment and citizenship standards of the nation. It is explained by values such as the recognition of the constitutional rights and freedoms, the functioning of the rule of law and the credibility of institutions. Sustaining and recreating public order is achieved through activities that apply constitutional legal means of influencing the population by using both the appeal to reason and force backed by state authority.

National security is the process of safeguarding the essential interests of a country in any sphere, be it political, economic, social, military, cultural, etc., from any threat that may be averted in peace time, emergency, crisis or war. The state is thus to emerge on its own and act normally and autonomously in order to promote vital interests.

Since early 1990s, security studies have been an independent and an ever-evolving field of study originated and influenced mainly from Anglo-American tradition identified as one of the major subfields of international relations. These studies have concentrated on nuclear disarmament, the shaping of armed forces, resource mobilization and handling of crises.

Before the 1990s, security was largely associated with military concepts, while the development of such schools as in Copenhagen was marked by a different approach. In this school, which is based on the work of Barry Buzan, a modern concept has been described which marginalized the study of threat and the military factor. In the work named *People, States and Fear* (1983) the author redesigns the concepts of threat, danger, risk and vulnerability in a much wider meaning that also involves securities, as well as the weaknesses and the opportunities. (Barry Buzan, 1991)

The security studies continued their autonomous evolution since the '90s and rose to be an important field of the inquiry of international relations. National defense priorities have included diverse objectives like poverty eradication, migration, human trafficking and economy or politics threats.

Law and order figure in this context and it is an important security role that helps to bring order in the society. In a wider sense, public order refers to the political, economic and social conditions within a state preserving law and order and also the rights of the citizens.

Our society functions as a formal structure with certain set-down procedures for proper human conduct realized out of tolerance, followed by proper conflict resolution that recognizes mutual interests. Civil peace is essential to create the proper setting for appropriate actions and to help preserve the actor and the entire society.

2.1. Coordinates and Typologies. Instability Factors from the International and Domestic Environment

Thus, when relations become more internationalized, collaboration becomes very central to global stability. No state today can defend or maintain its security all by itself in today's deeply inter-connected world. EU is an exemplar of the effectiveness of a community where people value their individually different culture and are free to move, study and work across borders. Security management cannot be attained individually but rather on a global floor since threats are universal.

As a result, the priorities and the general conditions become the pillars for creating a proper organizational and managerial framework to provide a public order on the national and the international level.

Public order can only be effective if ethnic issues are addressed and dealt, employment issues solved, migration issues addressed and housing issues timely provided. There is always the need to minimize acts of criminality and to fight transnational crime. That’s why opportunities for threat and danger manifestations in relation to national security and public order are multicolored and have no analogue in terms of their extent and complexity: both internal and external factors act. These are the political and economic shifts, social and cultural dynamism, information and communication threats, ecological and technological aggressiveness, and military threats. Some of these risks can have an impact on relative and international stability and security, and therefore they should be professionally and skillfully managed by the concerned bodies.



Figure 1. The strategy process

Figure 2. The Main Points of National Objectives

(Source: <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Making-Twenty-First-Century-Strategy%3A-An-To-Modern-Drew-Snow/1fb9d1ebde046b1295e7f9eeca390744cecd8a82>)



3. The Main Risk Factors for Public Order in Romania

The Quality-of-Life Research Institute of the Romanian Academy identified in the report of 2017 the need to focus on the factors that cause threats to public order in the country. Cumulative issues cannot be overlooked; new issues have to be foreseen and new issues need to be prevented.

It is argued that in the European context there is added-Complexity and a crisis of the vision of the European construction inasmuch as it contributes to the current difficulties found in Romania. It is integration into common and cooperative security structures, that globalization acts to increase risk factors for public order and national security.

It remains crucial for Romania to devise and set its development and action program to function as a state strategy for ruling the above risk factors as well as adjusting to the evolution of the international environment and global power relations.

3.1. Terrorism: A Threat to National Security and Public Order

Terrorism is one of the biggest social evils of the modern world and the people's response is mostly one of anxiety and despair. September 11, 2001 in the US, March 11, 2004 in Spain and the like have added much to this worry. A knowledge evaluation of terrorism requires a review of its modus operandi in relation to its history as well as the various contexts in which it manifests itself in different societies. (Gheorghe Carp, 2005)

Terrorism has had a historical development of its manifestation since the middle of the 19th century and by the end of the 20th century, it transformed itself into modern terrorism with targets at the civilian population. These goal posts for this type of terrorism are to instill fear, to make pressure on the authorities, and to erode confidence on the political class.

The international terrorism involves three elements related to the nationality: regarding the perpetrator, the territorial state of the crime and the state of citizenship of the victim. Terrorism on the international level has serious consequences which are horrifying and enacting panic among people.

According to the data of end of 2001, fifty-four terrorist-criminal organizations were recognized, mainly operating in the Near East, Spain, Latin America and other zones. Terrorism is an act, at least one, having political objectives and involving the use of adversely intended procedures that create the phenomenon of terror, to contribute to the emergence of a common danger. (Gheorghe Carp, 2005)

Such a state of affairs underlines a necessity of international and concerted actions toward eliminating the phenomenon of terrorism and toward preserving the peace and security of nations.

Terrorism, according to specialists, is a criminal technique involving terror and violence to obtain an aim whereas according to J.A Roux it is action that is performed using dangerous elements to instill fear in the people. Moreover, Romanian specialists consider terrorism as systematic employment of the smuggling of violence for political aims or to generate confusion and submission of the populace. This they do with negative media impact by drawing attention to some emerging trends of contemporary terrorism such as the use of new technologies and weapons of mass destruction. Terrorism becomes a complex universal phenomenon with social and political consequences that are severe. (Jacques Robert, 1987)



3.2. The Main Types of Terrorism

Terrorism manifests itself in multiple aspects, fact that determined a classification, according to different criteria. A first distinction is that which takes into account the subjective element of the crime, more precisely the psychological element, the motive or the intention that was the basis of the act of violence. The main types of terrorism with an impact on public order and national security are: Common law terrorism, social terrorism, political terrorism, national terrorism and classified terrorism, according to the way of organization. (Gheorghe Carp, 2005)

3.2.1. Common Law Terrorism refers to the terrorist criminal acts that are normal crimes in the criminal law but for the method where they are executed through terror. These acts are not politically or socially motivated, but they involve great violence as the means of getting what they want.

According to this type of terrorism, one can put acts of blackmailing, the activities of robbery syndicates, groups that focus on demanding money or protection fees. These actions may be fueled by greed, or selfishness to some extent, but contain some form of terror. These crimes are considered acts of robbery under the common law and regulated by the domestic legislation of states or international organizations such as Interpol, if these crimes are considered serious enough.

3.2.2. Social Terrorism is a type of terrorism which is primarily being undertaken in an effort to create certain ideologies or ruin the existing society and social order within a given nation impacting largely at the domestic level and without causing any problems internationally. This particular terrorism type ensures that violence is upped and can be provoked from the outside by unidentified people. Such terror manifestations are within the purview of national courts; they endanger internal stability and security.

3.2.3. Political Terrorism is defined by the existence of a target, which is the state, its organs or representatives, the political structure of the state or the state's constitutional order. This type of terrorism is close to political crimes due to its goal, as well as it might share characteristics of ordinary criminal activity due to the method of committing a crime.

Previously it was also possible to extradite for common law offenses includable in them assassination, murder, poisoning, maiming or causing grievous bodily harm even if such an act is qualified as a political offence. Furthermore, any atrocities of an anarchic nature were not regarded as acts of political outrage. Political crimes as a term appeared in treaties and other legislation without any clear legal conception of what the term meant.

3.2.4. National Terrorism refers to the terrorism that happens within the boundaries of one country and does not extend impacts beyond that nation's borders. These actions are performed to overthrow political or constitutional regimes of the country, against the government or political parties and other leaders of political organization. The goal is to produce the state of fear and deal with the order, using force in order to diminish confidence in the authorities and provoke confusion. Domestic terrorism threatens tangible property and life in general that creates worry over social order and stability in contemporary legislation.

3.2.5. Terrorism can be divided into several types based on their structure, as well as the objective achieved: Direct terrorism targets the direct attainment of the planned aim as a means of restructuring political systems for instance through elimination of a political figure. Musical terrorism is the last type of act of violence and is performed in such a manner as to line up with the main mission



in a lateral method, for instance using fake passports to attack another country. Symbolical psychological terrorism can be carried out with anonymous or signed threats, which significantly affect the psychological mood of the population. In the modern world some other kinds of terrorism: religious, electronic or informational, biological and chemical, racist and extreme (nationalist, neofascist, reveling religious), international and transnational. These categories describe the richness and multifaceted nature of the terrorist process in which a diverse range of tools and resources are enlisted to accomplish specific goals.

3.3. Ways to Prevent and Combat Terrorist Actions

Thus, it is crucial to elaborate a concept of countering terrorism at the national level with reference to the fanaticism of the terrorists and their sense of war justification, in accordance with which they kill civilians. In fact, it is absolutely impossible to provide complete protection of targets but a preventive approach in order to counteract act of terrorism is vital. Current cooperation against terrorism dates back to World War II with the United Nations among the organizations encouraging state cooperation to counter the menace.

Terrorist prevention presupposes predicting terrorist activities and tendencies, as well as forecasting possible terrorist-subversive actions in the context of increased information and counter-information activities of the Romanian Intelligence Service and the Foreign Intelligence Service. These steps are necessary to gather information necessary for counter-terrorism measures with cooperation with other state agencies such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Defense and Guard and Protection Service. The foresight strategy encompasses several lines of development for self and adversary.

Terrorist-subversive acts prevention is a special activity launched by the law enforcement agencies, information and protection bodies, and army formations. These actions include gathering information about preparation for the terrorist attack, enhance security status of strategic assets and identify hidden terrorist organizations. Preventive measure also implements special transport escort and access to secrecy documents controlled.

Preventing terrorist factors involves applying the Law and using anti-terrorism measures and tactics for discouraging individuals – both Romanian and foreign – from any terrorist activity in the national territory and imposing relevant legal penalties on such individuals.

Counter terrorism intervention entails hastily and stealth operations which can include identification of terrorists and their hideouts, destruction of terrorists' resources and prevention of the provision of specific commodities. In practice, this may include five phases: identification of information, restrictions, bargaining, interference, and control in the scene of the terrorist attack.

For effectiveness in peacetime, the anti-terrorist fight has to be swift, immediate, intense and uncompromising with professional and proficient leadership and military formations suited to their operational roles.



4. Ethnic, Racial, Religious and Group Conflicts

Criticizing the situation that involves the emergence and assertiveness of state entities, scholars trace major changes in ethnic identity and fundamentalist nationalism. The disintegration of multinational states like the USSR and the Yugoslavia has further highlighted integrative nature of the affairs in the European as well as the Euro-Atlantic context, stressing on a requisite for assurance of security for the new entities.

The struggles against the threat of nationalist and extreme political parties, violence related to the sovereignty, is mentioned. They can impact on question of stability of the borders and the questions related to the status of minorities in European and International level.

Nationalism can have two opposite interpretations: a constructive one linked to affirmation of national identity and an aggressive one likely to create a security threat. In the global perspective, one can identify crises pertaining to identity, religion and culture which affect the stability of the world.

Besides, it seems that religious sects are turning into the problem of public security in Europe, and the desire to have the autonomous territories based on the ethnicity requirements can cause certain turmoil and issues in the internal security at the national level.

4.1. Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking

At the final stage of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the goals and objectives of international and national security shifted dramatically in the eyes of scholars, politicians and decision-makers from geopolitical focus to other concerns that have replaced on the agenda, including the relationship between man and the living space.

Issues of an ecological nature and man within his existential, around-him space together with issues of adaptability and existence have put this one of the most intricate processes in history in to a new speed: migration.

The types that the contemporary migration phenomenon can take aims to reproduce certain invariants, such as causes of migration, if ignored or triggered by state or international actors, become risk factors to international security, which primarily reveals itself through disorder and destabilization.

The literature review shows that it is evidence that geopolitical concerns have traditionally been the authoritative determinants of the content and cost of the security concept, with human losses seen as an incidental effect. However, at the present stage the internal state of the great powers and the conditions in the countries of the “Third World” stress individual or group issues, which are not advantageous for the “camp” or ideological criteria, although, discrimination according to these criteria still exists.

Statistics compiled in Europe reveal that there exists a large number of people in Europe being refugees, displaced persons as well as migrants who continue to flock to Europe in the subsequent years. The European Commission has admitted to the need for an extensive approach that facilitates the managing of the migration phenomenon and also includes the measures that enable the immediate transfer of persons that require international protection.



Therefore, the problem of migration is multifaceted, and comes as the global one that needs global and prompt solutions to address its effects on international security and fulfill short-term and long-term goals for stability.

4.2. Human Trafficking

Criminological activities involving human trafficking are truly global, and organized crime, with the use of illicit migrants, in conjunction with various unlawful activities, including drug and arms dealing. This is not only a denial of human rights but also constitutes a threat to national and international security, political, economic, social and even produces a negative impact to the order.

The international and national organizations specialized in migration must differentiate between the different types of migration because the approaches differ from refugees, asylum seekers, and human trafficking.

Thus, according to Samara, Egypt, Libya and Turkey are the three chief points of illicit migration and probable threats of terrorism to supply migrant flows to Europe from.

In Romania the solution is found in the national defense strategy: method and organizational means regarding the fight against human trafficking and its effects as well as the cooperation with international organizations and adequate legal and institutional measures.

4.3. Organized Crime

Organized crime is a global problem that is increasingly attracting the attention of public opinion and governments. This includes a variety of illegal activities, from drug and arms trafficking to corruption and money laundering, having a devastating impact on vulnerable economies and societies.

These criminal groups adopt mafia-like tactics, acting as totalitarian political powers and resorting to violence to protect their interests. In addition, organized crime and terrorism are increasingly interconnected, influencing how attacks are planned.

4.4. Organized Crime in Romania

Numerous threats and dangers threaten the security of the Romania state and the stability of public order. Among such negative trends the following may be identified: economic decline, corruption, social amoralization and different kinds of aggressive activities such as secessionism, or territorial claims, for example. And, there is a question of approaching nearer organized crime and terrorism, as well as for the crime of the Illegal Migration and Money Laundering providing resources for 'terrorism'. (Miclea, 2001)

The consequences are highly adverse on the societal front in particular, economic front along with the political and social structure of the society. This is why it is essential to determine the incentives and get the legislative, social and cultural criteria to fight against the organized crime, and to help rehabilitation of members of these criminal organizations.

4.5. Drug Trafficking, Generator of Conflict Situations

Drugs are a major menace globally and combating this menace requires cooperation at the global, national and personal levels.

Drug trafficking is a sister to organized crime and has become thorny with the opening of borders. Many such criminal groups are specialized and rely on the given infrastructure in Europe to

boost their revenues. In Romania, both drug sales and consumption have risen and the country is emerging as a transit point for international drug trafficking syndicates.

Thus, information sharing, as well as cooperation between countries, should be considered as the main solutions for such issues. Education by way of campaigns against these substances and against criminal activity in relation to this issue should be persisted on.

5. Conclusions

The modern common international security is in a new historically unsteady period, in which tendencies of interaction and confrontation of positive and negative moments, leading to new threats and dangerous processes, predominate. Hazards are always lurking and risks can everywhere.

Stability is basic to security, of which public order is an important component. And whereas security cannot exist where there is no order, how can order exist where there is no security? However, there is a large distinction between the order that arises out of the nature of things, and the order produced by will and coercion. It can cause uncertainty in the enforced order, the dangers of enforcing it, and harm done to the structures and the procedures by enforcing them.

Romania as a part of the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union is at the present time in the process of positioning a new strategic and military model in regard (“Glossary of terms in the field of public order and security”, 2006) of the evolutive security and defense characteristics of these organizations.



Figure 3. Personal Picture: Common Security & Defense Policy Module, France, 2023.



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