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Economic Security - Organic Dimension of National Security

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2 July 2009

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/17936/>
MPRA Paper No. 17936, posted 18 Oct 2009 18:25 UTC

ECONOMIC SECURITY

~ Organic Dimension of National Security ~

Initially an attribute of the state, carrying a single meaning, namely the lack of military conflict, the notion of “security” has evolved in time from its traditional significance, where the emphasis was on the military dimension, to the conflict arising among countries and threats against state borders, up to the modern sense, where several other dimensions, namely economic, social, political, environmental, are taken into consideration. The problematic concerning security is not to be mistaken with the state’s normal functioning along these dimensions, but it exclusively refers to those threats, which, within the limits of the above-mentioned dimensions, jeopardize the existence of the state itself. The connections between economy and security, in the context of a multicultural international background, generates important, significant aspects.

The complexity of economic security comes from the implications of a multitude of processes and economic, social and financial phenomena, and as a result of globalization, seen both as a process, as well as a phenomenon, which interacts systematically and continuously on national economy. Its dynamics owes to the frantic rhythm of economic processes and phenomena, which appear at national and global levels alike.

Key-words: economic security, globalization, economic dimension of security, inflation, unemployment.

From the plenary point of view of national security, approached systematically in sense and meaning, the economic security represents a complex concept, which, essentially, refers to the ability of a state, of a society, to timely, cursively, plentifully and effectively ensure the material resources, which are needed by the other dimensions of national security, in order to reach their ultimate level of their operational preservation. If applicably defined, the most sensitive dimension of national security represents the organic pillar of the other components of the fundamental preservation of the existence of the Romanian state, in case of threats to its fundamentals, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty, when the economic security ensures not only the safeguarding of resources for the state and national vitality, but also the development potential, under estrangement circumstances for sovereignty and independence. In the procedural context of globalization, the credible safeguard of economic security is even more difficult as the dominant effect of interdependencies imposes servitudes, to which not any economic system is able to resist, keeping with its stipulated national interests.

From the perspective of this reality, it can be asserted that the economic field of national security shares a dependence relation with the global economic procession, and implicitly, this emphasizes a certain degree of dependence of the national security to the international economic system. Under these circumstances, it

becomes obvious the virtues of the national economic security consist exactly of its ability and potential to ensure the best resource needs, in order to maintain the vitality of the other systemic fields. This explains why, during the management process of the national economic society, the politicians and governmental representatives with decision power take always into account the following: cultivating a certain ability to maintain independent capabilities of military production within a global market; the likelihood of using economic dependence on the global market in order to reach some political purposes; the possibility that the evolutions on the global market may lead to the increasing of the economic inequalities among states; the risk the economic globalization may lead to the diminishing of state economic functions, hence generate vicious effects, such as subterranean economies, illegal trade, technology traffic, environment altering; chances the global economy might enter a crisis, due to a mildly generalized political leadership, to the decline of international institutions, to certain uninspired protectionist reactions, or to the financial instability.

From the operational perspective, generally speaking, the economic dimension of national security can be projected, analysed, evaluated and designed or remodelled in a systemic manner, taking into account such indicators as: *the state capability to manage issues like inflation, unemployment, quality of life, unhinged balance of payments, lack of economic opportunities, increased level of protectionism, dependence on foreign natural resources, and so on: the states' ability to economically preserve the independence of military production, thus reflecting the relation between the economic and the military power; the continuous knowledge of relationship intimacies between those who win and those who lose on the global market, aiming to analytically emphasize the conditions which induce the deepening of economic inequities; the proliferation of illegal trafficking with humans, drugs, light weapons, mass-destruction weapons, and so on.* Nowadays, without getting into a profile specific analysis, it can be assessed as the most important issue, as regarding the economic dimension of security, *the persistent and widespread poverty*, as attested in significant countries within the global area.

The economic security is ultimately the direct consequence of the state economic power, being caused by such factors as: size of the country, stability of the political system, relationships with the international economic environment and the institutionalization of external contacts, the ability to institutionally and socially adapt to the changes occurring in the internal and external conditions, and so on.

It appears as a truism to assert that the economic power, under functioning parameters of positively preserving national security, generates security, while its organic flaws lead to uncertainty, anxiety and insecurity. Nevertheless, generically, security does not refer only to a protection system against threats, dangers or hazard risks, as insecurity cannot be simply reduced to the lack of such a protection system. Security represents a significant system and process function, a systems' functioning condition, as well as maintaining a dynamic equilibrium, needed to cohabit in a complex environment, continuously changing, tensed, competitive, undergoing intricate evolutions, most often unpredictable. In the context of this approach, one can perform a certain difference, conceptually modified, between *economic security and economic dimension of security*. The first concept relates to the functioning of an economy, to the economic security of the individual, family, community, state, of financial and economic conditions for life; the second concept refers to the functioning, in the quantum of the specificities for organizing and running the society, of the social and political systems, of the state, public institutions, national

organizations and authorities, and, as part of these, international alliances and coalitions, and so on. In essence, economic security aims at ensuring the conditions for maintaining the economic activity between normal parameters, as well as counteracting the various types of attacks, out of which the most important are the following: financial fraud, strategic dependence, cyber-infractions, industrial espionage, corruption, subterranean economy. At the same time, we can talk about *the territorial economic security*, understood as a protection system for resources, markets, enterprises, jobs, in the same way we can talk about *economic security* in terms of preserving national strategic assets, namely those sectors of strategic importance, such as major infrastructure elements, energy, military industry and information technology.

In the view of this approach, it is important to add that some states are less preoccupied with such a protectionism of economic security, while others have never given up – nor have they intend to do so – their levers of economic security, in order to protect, defend and preserve crucial economic infrastructure elements, private enterprises, resources and markets, and so on. On the other hand, the economic security dimension is proved by the fact that without a strong modern economy, there does not exist, or there cannot truly exist, safety, prosperity and stability, neither at individual or family level, nor at state, or international community level. Security and defence represent those components which put into practice means of fulfilling vital interests for states and communities. Economy and political neo-liberal currents existing in some states do not prejudice, or they fail to succeed in doing so, or to significantly diminish the security or the defence concepts. Even in those states where they intensively cultivate the market economy philosophy, namely freedom of action for certain economic factors related to economic dynamics, economic measures to secure, protect and defend the enterprises' interests, as national interests are the most drastic. Many times, the insistence involved in suggesting or imposing means of coming out of Keynesianism, more or less direct, that is eliminating any form of state interference in economy, does not refer to the natural tendencies to make the economy more dynamic, to implement some new modern and effective methods for economic growth, by rapidly adapting to the real and concrete economic situation, but this insistence represents simply another facet – somewhat more subtle – of economic war. Several national economies have also faced disaster due to economy fractioning and to the introduction of economic chaos, under the form of the necessity to liberate economy. The fall of a national economy leads to extremely grave effects, on all fields, starting with the economic security of the individual and its family, and continuing with the diminishing of the economic security of the state, its potential to act and react in case of conflict, and magnifying the political, economical, social and military vulnerabilities of that specific state.

As it has been argued above, there is no security if there is no power. And there lacks any kind of power if there is no economic power. The economy represents a generating factor of power and well-being. Even if security, from the perspective of national definition and approach, consists of other components, also extremely important, like demographic potential, systems of values (that is a certain culture, including a security and defence culture, a culture of alliances and coalitions), diplomatic potential, and others, economy has always been present as a power resistance structure, as an architecture generating power, security and stability.

An economically powerful state is a stable state, affording political and strategic initiatives, always to be credited and obeyed. This is the case of Japan, which, practically, does not have almost any natural resources (90% of raw material

is imported), of Switzerland, located in an area without resources, as is the case for other countries as well. In conclusion, it can be stated the security economic dimension fits the pattern of being synergic and essential, as it is surrounded by and integrates in the same power concept all the other dimensions - human, cultural, social, informational, military -, lending them with force and consistency. Among the main characteristics of the security economic dimension, actually of economic security, and, like it or not, implicitly, of defence, are to be found the following pieces of evidence: *it is a generating factor of material and financial resources; it represents a support for all types of security (economic, financial, individual, collective, institutional, governmental;, and so on); it is a dissuasive factor for intrinsic and indirect security; it encompasses an architecture both stable in its resistance structure, and dynamic and complex in its evolution; it represents a powerful globalization factor (together with the information), which, in future, will probably diminish the disputes among states, thus generating other types of relationships; it stands as the foundation pillar for strategic partnerships, alliances and coalitions; it changes gradually from central material and financial pillar of the state of right into a new configuration, as support for cooperation among states of right, and for improving their relationships.*

All these characteristics, to which others may be added, show how economy, without diminishing its powerful role of generator and support of the state's power, and, implicitly, of the national security systems, passes on to a new dimension, where the power supports are getting more international and global. For now, this feature of internationalization is discontinuous and fractured, but there prefigures already a reconfiguration, not quite comforting, of new pillars and new power areas, implicitly of economic power.

It must be emphasized that the security problematic, including economic security, does not mix into the normal functioning of the state in these dimensions, but it solely refers to the threats which, through the above-mentioned dimensions, endanger the existence of the state itself. As for us, concretely speaking, the operational optimization of the economic dimension of the national security can essentially take form through the agency of: the consolidation of macroeconomic stability and implementation of coherent fiscal policies, while promoting a stimulating, firm, constructive type of law-making system; improvement of business environment; bureaucracy diminishing; favourable laws for investors and constant stimulation of economic growth, through notable production, as required by the market; encouraging the small and medium sized enterprises through effective laws; strategic continuation of long-lasting restructuring and modernization of the national economic system; promoting applicable economic policies, in accordance with the market's ever changing social needs and requirements; development of international economic relations, focused on active, stimulating, mutually beneficial forms; reinforcement of the banking and insurance system, as well as control over capital markets, where major actors from the social environment are involved; agricultural and forestry rebirth, as significant fields of state's economic power; optimal territory planning and rehabilitation of transport infrastructure; widespread promotion, within all fields of the economic spectrum of the social system, of new technologies, essential for the society's post-modern development; attracting significant foreign investments, mainly those belonging to the united European and North-Atlantic areas, similar to the collective security systems to which Romania is a member; development of activities subordinated to internal trade, and encouraging consumer protection, and, none the least, guaranteeing a free, fair, honest competitive system.

The theoretical approach incorporated in this issue highlights the essential role, if not vital, of the economic security, in the frame of the national security dynamic complex, standing for a reality which allows us to consider economic security as the

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