Seyidova Mahabbat

The fundamentals of security issues in international relations

Seyidova Mahabbat
Doctoral Candidate at the Department
of International Relations
Baku State University
Academician Zahida Khalilova str., 23,
Baku, Azerbaijan
ORCID: 0000-0002-1856-2648

The pertinence of analyzing security issues within international relations arises from their substantial impact on global order and stability. This abstract provides a comprehensive overview of statistical data related to various facets of security in international relations, including armed conflicts, terrorism, cyber threats, nuclear proliferation, and human rights violations. The statistics presented underscore the magnitude and gravity of the security challenges confronting the international community. The first dimension, armed conflict, is illustrated through data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which indicates that global military expenditures remain elevated, reflecting persistent instability in international conflicts. The second dimension, terrorism, is examined using data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), which highlights the ongoing issue of terrorist activities and their geographic dispersion. The third dimension, cyber threats, is represented by statistics from the World Economic Forum (WEF), which document significant economic losses due to cybercrime and the imperative to bolster cyber defenses. The fourth dimension, nuclear proliferation, is investigated using data from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), identifying challenges to nuclear security and regional stability. Finally, the fifth dimension, human rights violations, is analyzed using data from various organizations, emphasizing the necessity of enhancing respect for human rights and accountability for violations. These data collectively provide critical insights for the formulation and implementation of security policies and actions in international relations. Given the aspects discussed, statistical analysis plays an essential role in comprehending contemporary security issues and shaping policies and strategies for their resolution. Consequently, the analysis of statistical data, as a vital component of managing security in international relations, aids in fostering peace, stability, and prosperity within the global community.
Key words: *International relations, security, terrorism, cybercrime, human rights, stability.*

Introduction. Contemporary security challenges in international relations necessitate meticulous analysis and comprehension based on empirical data. Statistical analysis is indispensable in investigating various dimensions of security, including armed conflicts, terrorism, cyber threats, nuclear proliferation, and human rights violations. These data facilitate a more accurate assessment of the problem's magnitude and the formulation of effective strategies to address and mitigate threats.

Degree of Problem Elaboration. The perspectives of scholars such as Abraham H. Maslow [4], N. Machiavelli, and T. Hobbes [8], along with the theories of F. Ratzel and H. Mackinder [9], are explored in this article concerning international security studies.

Objectives and Tasks. The objective of this article is to synthesize contemporary security challenges in international relations through the application of statistical analysis. The task involves scrutinizing information resources, primary sources, and scholarly opinions.

Methods. The research employs statistical-analysis methodologies. Additionally, it incorporates a systematic approach alongside analysis-synthesis methods.

Main Section

1. Concept of International Relations

International relations constitute a multifaceted and dynamic domain where interactions among states, international organizations, and other actors are pivotal in shaping global order and ensuring peace and security. Despite extensive efforts to establish and sustain stability, security issues remain among the most urgent and significant concerns in the international sphere.

Within this framework, it is emphasized that a nation's internal political climate substantially influences its foreign policy. Prolonged periods of international stability diminish the capacity and willingness of government leaders to mobilize resources in crisis situations.

This study examines the principal factors influencing the emergence and evolution of security issues in international relations. Various perspectives, theories, and approaches will be evaluated to understand and address these problems, including illustrative examples from contemporary international relations history to gain a comprehensive understanding of their complexity.

Before delving into specifics, it is crucial to understand the concept of "security" in the context of international relations. Security often denotes a state wherein military, political, economic, social, and environmental threats, risks, and dangers are minimized or managed. However, numerous approaches exist for defining security, and it can be perceived differently by various actors in diverse contexts [2, 72].

The investigation of security issues in international relations also necessitates an analysis of the factors

precipitating these issues. These factors include states' geopolitical ambitions, racial, ethnic, and religious conflicts, instability of regimes in individual countries, inequality in resource distribution, and diverse social, economic, and political dynamics.

A fundamental characteristic of security issues in international relations is their diversity and interconnectivity. For example, armed conflicts can result in widespread human rights violations, which, in turn, threaten global order and international stability. Consequently, addressing a single security problem often requires a holistic approach that considers its impact on other facets of international relations.

By providing a detailed examination of these elements, this article aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of contemporary security challenges in international relations and to the development of effective policies and strategies for their resolution. Analyzing empirical data as an integral component of managing security in international relations aids in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within the global community [3].

It is important to note that security issues can be both global and regional in nature. Global threats such as climate change, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation impact the interests and security of many countries worldwide [4, 60]. Concurrently, regional conflicts and tensions can have extensive implications for peace and stability in specific areas of the world.

In conclusion, understanding the fundamentals of security issues in international relations necessitates a comprehensive approach, incorporating the analysis of various factors, dynamics, and interconnections. Only by comprehending the roots and consequences of these problems can effective strategies and measures be developed to resolve them, ensuring global stability and security.

2. Researchers' Perspectives on International Security

One of the main challenges in the field of international relations is the lack of universally accepted criteria for describing "situations" on the ground and the absence of conceptualization. This issue characterizes international relations as a social science, given that the objects of study are inherently diverse. The concept of security also suffers from ambiguity due to its numerous interpretations.

Renowned scholar Abraham H. Maslow, in his hierarchy of needs, positions the concept of security immediately after physiological needs and defines it as a "state of protection from danger" [4, 92]. Similarly, other definitions present security as "protection from situations and attacks through material, legal, and psychological means" or "freedom from threat, fear, and terror."

Security can be defined as "a state where there is no longer a threat to values", and it can also be understood as "a state and feeling of freedom from fear and danger". Thus, the phenomenon of security encompasses two distinct dimensions: the psychological, representing a sense of existence, and the physical, representing the state of the body.

This duality can create difficulties in decision-making, particularly within the context of international relations. Historically, states have prioritized physical security, shaping their strategies around concrete threats rather than abstract dangers.

There are also challenges related to whose security is being ensured or discussed. Various entities, including nation-states, the West, individuals, international organizations, companies, societies, and cultures, represent different institutions seeking to ensure security. There are multiple definitions of national security as well, including "a nation's ability to protect its values from external threats" and "freedom from threats to national borders and state interests posed by other states".

Additionally, there is the issue of the "security dilemma", described by Robert Jervis, where the desire to enhance one's security can lead to its reduction due to the actions of other states. These complexities make it difficult to define and analyze the concept of security within the context of international relations [6, 48].

3. Security Issues in Global Practice

One of the primary security problems in international relations is military conflicts and tensions between nations. Historically, conflicts have arisen from territorial disputes, resource competition, ideological differences, and power struggles. For instance, during the Cold War, competition between major powers led to proxy wars, arms races, and geopolitical tensions that shaped the dynamics of global security. Today, regional conflicts in areas such as the Middle East, South Asia, and Eastern Europe continue to pose significant challenges to international peace and stability.

Terrorism is another pressing security issue that transcends national borders and affects countries worldwide. Terror organizations, driven by political, religious, or ideological agendas, target civilians, infrastructure, and government institutions. The September 11 attacks in the United States and subsequent terrorist incidents in various parts of the world underscored the global reach and impact of terrorism. In response, countries have implemented counterterrorism measures, enhanced intelligence cooperation, and engaged in military interventions to combat extremist groups.

Cybersecurity has emerged as a critical security issue in the digital age. States, non-state actors, and criminal organizations exploit vulnerabilities in cyberspace for espionage, sabotage, and financial gain. Cyberattacks targeting government networks, critical infrastructure, and private companies pose

significant risks to national security and economic stability. Efforts to counter cybersecurity threats include enhancing cybersecurity capabilities, promoting international norms and standards, and strengthening cooperation between governments, the private sector, and civil society.

Nuclear proliferation remains a persistent security problem, with the spread of nuclear weapons technology posing risks of regional instability and catastrophic conflict potential. The threat of nuclear weapons being used by state and non-state actors underscores the importance of non-proliferation efforts, arms control agreements, and diplomatic initiatives to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce the risk of nuclear conflict.

Economic instability and financial crises, as demonstrated by the global financial crisis of 2008, profoundly impact global security. Economic downturns can exacerbate social unrest, political instability, and conflicts within and between countries. Addressing economic vulnerabilities requires coordinated action, including fiscal and monetary policies, international financial regulation, and support for sustainable development initiatives to promote economic resilience and inclusive growth.

Human rights violations pose a fundamental challenge to security and stability as they undermine individual freedoms, social cohesion, and the rule of law. Abuses such as arbitrary arrests, torture, discrimination, and repression of political opposition lead to conflict, instability, and humanitarian crises. International efforts to promote human rights include diplomatic pressure, sanctions, humanitarian aid, and support for civil society organizations working to advance human rights and democratic governance.

Despite the diversity of security challenges faced by the international community, common principles and approaches support efforts to address them. These include multilateralism, diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and the promotion of international law and norms. Multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, regional organizations, and bilateral partnerships, play a crucial role in facilitating dialogue, cooperation, and collective action on security issues.

Simultaneously, the significance of small states in international relations is increasing alongside that of major powers. On one hand, the diminishing efforts of major powers to resolve conflicts, and on the other, the ability of small states to create new rules and norms in international relations, highlight the growing role of small states [1, 290]. Therefore, in examining the fundamentals of security in international relations, it is essential to also consider the role of small states, which constitute the majority of the world's countries.

Additionally, it is important to investigate the factors influencing the security strategies of small states. Many small states maintain close political, economic,

and cultural ties with larger neighboring states and tend to form traditional coalitions with them. Nevertheless, examples of security cooperation among states have evolved, enhancing efforts to coordinate international collaboration. Consequently, the strategic security challenges and opportunities for small states have changed [2, 430].

At the same time, there still exist states in our modern world that maintain their neutrality and refrain from joining any alliances. These states play a prominent role in resolving humanitarian issues and addressing conflicts in international relations, actively engaging in peacebuilding processes. The importance of these states in promoting reforms in international relations is increasingly significant [3, 320].

Issues such as the depletion of biodiversity and global climate change are among the factors threatening international security and the safety of individuals worldwide. Addressing this problem requires establishing harmony between humans and nature. Over the centuries, nature and humans have been considered separately – nature endeavors to preserve its uniqueness, safeguard ecological processes, while humans seek dominion over nature, attempting to exploit its resources and wealth. For the future of humanity, living in harmony with nature, engaging in collective collaboration to address global climate change, and achieving goals set forth, is paramount in ensuring human and international security [11].

In addition, addressing security problems necessitates a comprehensive and integrated approach, encompassing efforts to eliminate poverty, inequality, governance conflicts, and environmental degradation, along with addressing the root causes of conflicts and instability. Sustaining peace and security entails countering the fundamental drivers of non-stability and investing in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustained development initiatives.

4. Statistical Analysis of Security Issues

Statistical data on military conflicts provides valuable insights into the scale and impact of armed conflicts worldwide, shedding light on armed coercion, casualties, and displacement. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), global military expenditures reached $1.98 trillion in 2020, reflecting a continuing trend of high military spending worldwide. Additionally, data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) indicates that in 2020, there were 37 armed conflicts, resulting in thousands of deaths and displacement of populations.

The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) collects and analyzes statistical data on terrorism incidents worldwide, including attacks, casualties, and perpetrators. According to the GTD, there were over 8,500 terrorist incidents in 2020, resulting in nearly 20,000 deaths and tens of thousands

of injuries. The data also highlights regional variations in terrorism activity, with countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Syria facing high levels of terrorism violence.

Statistical analysis of cybersecurity threats provides information on the frequency, severity, and impact of cyber-attacks on governments, institutions, and individuals. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), cybercrime is estimated to cost the global economy over $1 trillion annually, with businesses and governments facing increasing cyber threats, including malicious programs, phishing, ransomware attacks, and data breaches. Statistical data on cybersecurity incidents underscores the need for international collaboration in cybersecurity measures and mitigating cyber risks.

In conclusion, statistical data on nuclear proliferation aids in tracking the dissemination of nuclear weapons technology and assessing the efficacy of efforts to preclude proliferation. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nine nuclear-armed states currently exist globally, boasting thousands of nuclear warheads. Statistical scrutiny also elucidates the hurdles of nuclear proliferation in regions such as North Korea and Iran, where endeavors to fabricate nuclear arms pose significant challenges.

Statistics pertaining to human rights violations furnish data on instances of abuse, discrimination, and repression, facilitating the identification of human rights crises and informing advocacy endeavors [8, 55]. As per Amnesty International, millions worldwide endure human rights transgressions, encompassing arbitrary detentions, torture, extrajudicial executions, and curtailments on freedom of expression and assembly. Furthermore, the statistical scrutiny of human rights-related data underscores the imperative for heightened accountability, transparency, and international collaboration to effectively address human rights infringements [9, 22].

Statistical analysis yields valuable insights into security challenges within the realm of international relations, aiding policymakers, scholars, and practitioners in comprehending the scale, breadth, and dynamics of security threats. By harnessing statistical evidence, the global community can formulate evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at fostering peace, stability, and human

security on a global scale. Nevertheless, it is crucial to complement quantitative data with qualitative inquiry, expert analysis, and contextual comprehension to discern the limitations of statistical analysis and devise holistic, multidimensional responses to security challenges in international relations.

Conclusion. The primary aim of this article was to probe security concerns in international relations. In conclusion, it is underscored that security issues in international relations are intricate, interconnected, and perpetually evolving, necessitating global cooperation, dialogue, and collective action for resolution. By acknowledging the diverse experiences and perspectives of nations worldwide, we can cultivate more nuanced and comprehensive strategies for security that advance peace, stability, and prosperity for all stakeholders.

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Основи проблем безпеки в міжнародних відносинах

Сеїдова Махаббат

докторант кафедри міжнародних відносин
Бакинського державного університету
вул. Академіка Західа Халілова, 23,
Баку, Азербайджан
ORCID: 0000-0002-1856-2648

Актуальність аналізу питань безпеки в міжнародних відносинах виникає через їх значний вплив на глобальний порядок і стабільність. Ця анотація містить вичерпний огляд статистичних даних, пов'язаних з різними аспектами безпеки в міжнародних відносинах, включаючи збройні конфлікти, тероризм, кіберзагрози, розповсюдження ядерної зброї та порушення прав людини. Представлена статистика підкреслює масштаб і серйозність викликів безпеці, з якими стикається міжнародна спільнота. Перший вимір, збройний конфлікт, проілюстрований даними Стокгольмського міжнародного інституту дослідження проблем миру (SIPRI), які вказують на те, що глобальні військові витрати залишаються високими, що відображає постійну нестабільність у міжнародних конфліктах. Другий вимір, тероризм, досліджується з використанням даних із Глобальної бази даних тероризму (GTD), яка висвітлює постійну проблему терористичної діяльності та її географічного розпорошення. Третій вимір, кіберзагрози, представлений статистичними даними Всесвітнього економічного форуму (ВЕФ), які документують значні економічні втрати через кіберзлочинність і необхідність зміцнення кіберзахисту. Четвертий вимір, розповсюдження ядерної зброї, досліджується з використанням даних Міжнародного агентства з атомної енергії (МАГАТЕ), які визначають виклики ядерній безпеці та регіональній стабільності. Нарешті, п'ятий вимір, порушення прав людини, аналізується з використанням даних різних організацій, наголошуючи на необхідності посилення поваги до прав людини та відповідальності за порушення. У сукупності ці дані дають важливу інформацію для формулювання та впровадження політики безпеки та дій у міжнародних відносинах. З огляду на обговорювані аспекти, статистичний аналіз відіграє важливу роль у розумінні сучасних проблем безпеки та формуванні політики та стратегій для їх вирішення. Отже, аналіз статистичних даних, як життєво важливий компонент управління безпекою в міжнародних відносинах, допомагає сприяти миру, стабільності та процвітанню в рамках глобальної спільноти.

Ключові слова: *міжнародні відносини, безпека, тероризм, кіберзлочинність, права людини, стабільність.*