

## Challenges to Security in Post Cold War Era

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Security is a contested concept. It implies freedom from threats to core values (for both individuals and groups.). The cold war period was dominated by the idea of national security which was largely defined in militarized terms. Security must include protection against all major threats to human survivals and well being, military threats. Until now security usually addressed as "National Security" has meant the maintenance of strong military defenses against enemy invasion and attack.

The accelerating pace of political technological, social and economic change in today's world, conventionally ascribed to the phenomenon of globalization is essentially changing the character of threats to security. Uneven distribution of wealth and depletion of natural resources magnify the brutality and expand the scope of armed conflicts around the globe while the somewhat "looser" nature of the globalizing post bipolar world increases the risks arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or epidemics of infectious diseases. Violent conflict and economic hardship boost largely uncontrolled migration threatening social and political stability both in advanced and developing countries. The post cold war era, however, is by no means free from threat. Terrorism, environmental degradation, MNCs, global pandemic, nuclear weapons, migration etc are the more dangerous threat to security. These threats are dynamic and are always present.

Terrorism, is significant non state actor, represent a challenge to security in post cold war era. With the end of the cold war, emergence of an uneven multipolar world, it has reached in an alarming degree Terrorism. In post cold war era especially in its newer forms has been described as the "privatization of war" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As such it presents new threats to security governance such as preventive diplomacy, adjudication, mediation, peace-keeping and arms control irrelevant when dealing with terrorism. Technology is a tool that terrorist groups and cells in the area of proselytizing coordination, security, mobility and lethality. Terrorists are using modern computers and communications equipment. Al-Qaeda,

Hauket-ul-Mujahideen, Laskhar-e-Toiba, PLO, LTTE are some of the terrorist outfits.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre (WTC) and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 (9/11), the security studies field has focussed not surprisingly on the military threat posed by global terrorism and the military response to that threat. The latter was the evident in the immediate months after 9/11 in the U.S. attack against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and, more broadly, its "War on Terrorism" that US President George W. Bush has claimed will not stop "Until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated." The response to global terrorism has been for the state elite to make it harder for terrorists to operate by limiting civil liberties within their country. This had immediate consequences for human security, with the prospect of policies, measures, rules and practices being adopted that give the elite enormous coercive power vis-a-vis their populations for example, the ability to hold without charge an individual suspected of subversion. The security agenda is being hijacked by the 'war on terror' and related conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and potentially Iran. This, coupled with the continued pursuit of narrow national and economic interests, is distracting governments from the genuine challenges that humanity faces, causing their responses to these threats to be wholly inadequate.

International terrorism, the rise of transnational organised crime as an issue in world politics poses serious challenges to security. There are direct links with involvement of terrorist networks in organising crime, drug trade, weapons, ammunition, explosives and even radioactive materials trafficking, economic activities and money laundering.

Religious fundamentalism and terrorism are considered as 'synonymous' to each other. The concise oxford dictionary of current English describes fundamentalism as the strict maintenance of ancient or fundamental doctrine of any religion, especially Islam. In the twenty-first century, Islam and fundamentalism is perceived by many as the greatest challenge to security since the end of the cold war. Fundamentalism in its Islamic guise has led to the execution of hundreds in suicide bombing attacks across the world, including attacks of September 11, 2001 when over 3,000 people perished in the Al-Qaeda attacks ordered by Osama Bin Laden. Fundamentalism is seen as a major challenge not just in terms of extreme attachment of faith and religious revivalism at a fanatical level.

Religious fundamentalism is characterised by a rejection of the distinction between religion and politics-'politics in religion.' The fundamentalist impulse therefore contrasts sharply with secularism, the belief that religion should not intrude into secular (worldly) affairs, reflected in the separation of church from state. Fundamentalism then becomes a formidable challenge and the political, social and economic context of politics ceases to matter when Muslims are portrayed as united in a hatred of the west and their own violent and antidemocratic traditions.

Along with terrorists, the challenge to security has emanated from a different source, i.e., ethnic conflicts. The acknowledgement of the importance of ethnic nationalism in world affairs reduced the relevance of unitary state. The explosion of ethnic conflicts ushered the post cold war world into an era of ethnic pandemonium. An ethnic conflict in a state is not a internal security issue but a security issue. Ethnic conflicts have been persisting in different parts of the globe and the present security system lacks the capability to contain them, leave along solve them.

Ethnicity, a sense of the ethnic identity is the subjective, symbolic or emblematic use by a group of people ... of any aspect of culture, in order to differentiate themselves from other groups. Cultural construct and situational construct are its two important conceptions. Ethnicity, as a cultural construct signifies a composite of symbolic markers, real or putative, used by the members of an ethnic group who define themselves and are defined by others as having a distinctive identity. These characteristics may include combination of cultural attributes like descent and kinship. Ethnicity, as a situational construct signifies the emerge of ethnic consciousness from a situation of multi-ethnic competitiveness, serving as an effective mode of mobilization.

The negative aspect of ethnicity makes it problematic for social harmony in multi-ethnic societies. It embodies passionate, symbolic and apprehensive aspects which promotes violent conflicts. The genocide in Rwanda, Bosnia-Herziogovina, Somalia, Croatia and Kosovo underline a unique and ugly character of ethnicity. Thus, ethnicity causes adverse effects on the peace, harmony and integration of national societies. These negative effects are reflected in the political instability which have plagued a number of multi-ethnic societies around the world.

In post cold war world, one serious challenge to peace and security emanates from nuclear proliferation. It is the reason that major powers are

trying to get NPT and CTBT signed by maximum countries of the world. The nuclear powers, however, do not want to eliminate or reduce their own nuclear systems that legitimizes the use of these forces. The US despite being the sole superpower in the world politics continues to maintain string defense capability to remain the only superpower in international politics.

In post-cold war era, the continued presence of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is more a threat to security than a protector of national security. The nuclear issue represents one of the marked illustrations of the globalization of world politics. The unprecedented capacity of nuclear weapons to wreak horrible destruction across territorial boundaries has transformed the globe. Like nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapon can be weapons of mass destruction. They all have in common the inability to discriminate between soldier and civilian. Biological weapons contain living organisms.

Any weapon that is not a weapon of mass destruction is typically considered a conventional weapon. All of the armed services make use of various kinds of gun, bullets and bombs. The Navy and Marine corps use ship based cannons and submarines, planes and helicopters that can take off from aircraft carriers. These military services as well as others also use cruise missiles, which can be launched from many different "platforms", such as ships or jet aircraft. The conventional weapons used with aircraft include the cruise missile, and smart and dumb bombs. Smart bombs have sophisticated tracking and targeting systems. Dumb bombs are "gravity bombs", because they basically get from the plane to their target by gravity. The expression light weapons encompasses some of the weapons already mentioned, but emphasizes those that are light in weight, such as pistols, rifles, and hand grenades. Light weapons may not seem as effective as weapons of mass destruction or powerful and precise as cruise missiles, but they are often the weapon of choice in much of the Third world and they can also lead to devastating results.

Apart from violent challenges to security in post cold war era, other multiple challenges have attracted more attention. Firstly, the matters are associated with economic and financial challenges. The globalization and liberalization of the world economy in post cold war era has created quite different international environment for the security. In the process of increasing economic globalization, the traditional westphalian state system underwent change. Since the sixteen century, international politics was

conceived of and practiced in a manner that delineated domestic from foreign politics. In the course of information revolution, the boundaries of nation-states have become more porous. Economic liberalization and privatization have caused enormous growth and encouraged cross-border flows of capital, services and goods.

Conflicts over issues of international trade are likely to increase both among the world's major trading partners and within them. One source of these conflicts is the political ramifications of free trade. Industries go under, investors and stockholders lose money, and workers lose jobs. The problem goes beyond this because there is not a consensus, either within or among nations, that free trade is in fact always desirable.

The rise of international complex relations of state and non-state actors has provided a massive boost to transnational financial and commercial activities, but it has also permitted drugs, nuclear material, and so called MNCs that use technologies to circulate freely on a global scale, which has made the control of such hazardous traffic for more difficult. Although the activity radius of legitimate economic factors has expanded, the same applies to organized crime and international terrorism. Globalization of economy bears new risks to security and has simultaneously increased the difficulty of tackling such risks.

The proliferation of the MNCs in post cold war era has been an important phenomenon which has eroded the global peace and security. A multinational enterprise is a cluster of corporations of diverse management strategy. Apart from economic exploitation and discrimination practices, the MNCs demonstrate an extraordinary ability to interfere in and influence the functioning of nation-states. Since the MNCs are in a position to mobilize huge amount of information, expertise and money to monopolise high level technologies arising out of constant R&D, and the spread the risks over many markets, they represents a very large concentration of power. The multinational corporations are allegedly destabilizing all three balance by breeding economic inequality, psychological alienation and environmental pollution.

By the end of cold war, environmental issues had been high on the international agenda for a whole generation political leaders, government officials, scientists, industrialists and concerned citizens. It has become clear that most of the world's seas and oceans are over-fished. Soil is being degraded and eroded on a large scale throughout the world. Natural habitats

are being destroyed : e.g. the area of tropical rainforest has reduced by over 50 percent since 1950, and the process continues largely unabated. As a result, tens of thousands of species of plants and animals are probably becoming extinct each year.

A major threat to security arises from the politics of ecological conservation. It involves battles between the developed and developing countries, government and NGOs, NGOs and auto manufactures, and so on. A salient example is the US governments known resistance to the Kyoto Protocol, which has led it even undermine UN bodies such as the Inter Governmental Panel on climate change (IPCC). Another contentious issues between the North and the South is the slow negotiations on treaties such as the convention to protect the ozone layer, which are unable to meet the changing needs of man kind, taking as long as 15 years to negotiate and implement in the case of ecological treaties, most approaches are exploratory in nature, thus, requiring a periodic review to ensure that emerging perils do not out space old threats. Thus, demonstrating the complexity of the issues involved the politics of environmental security. The developed countries have also been trying to link environmental issues and trade in various forums. The main argument of the developed countries is that there is a need for harmonising environmental standards in all nations to negate the unfair advantage presently occurring to the developing countries due to lower expenditure dangerous ingredients.

The domestic failures and the working of international economic system also resulted in the economic and ecological problems. The debt crisis in various parts of the developing world suffered with growing poverty while exporting growing amounts of scarce natural resources. A majority of developing countries have cut back efforts to protect environment and bring ecological considerations in development planning due to rising poverty and unemployment. Thus, the political unrest and international tensions caused by the environmental decline become more important than high politics. The processes of acid precipitation, global warming, ozone depletion, widespread desertification and species loss are posing more severe threats to the human populations than military armaments. The environmental concerns become important issue for security.

Issues such as diseases, population migration, economy and poverty, are not new, of course what has changed it that the dangers and problems they pose are now transnational, or global, in scope, rather than local or

national. The world is coming to the end of an epoch in population trends which has so far been one of growth characterized by acceleration in its global increase. Completely different issues are raised in those countries. Where the rapid growth of population continues to be the main concern. The movement of population across frontier has produced a global migration crisis. International migration is inextricably connected with a wide range of issues and dilemmas that confront governments and people's across the globe today. Increasing racism and neo-Nazi violence in Germany, ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia and police brutality towards blacks in Los Angeles are all examples from the 1990s of problems that are linked to migration in one way or another.

Migration is classified as : Emigration, the movement of individuals across their national boundary, outbound; Immigration, movement within one's national boundary in bound; Internal migration, movement within one's national boundary. Migration casts light upon both the nature of the state and inter-state relations in contemporary world politics. The traditional concept of a nation-state, consisting of a population unified by history, culture, language and religion, no longer stands upto security. Democracies are increasingly multi-cultural, and to maintain their democratic status. The inability of states to maintain complete control of entry to their territory, or to prevent the formation of immigrant communities with extra-territorial connections and affiliations, points to an erosion of sovereignty. States are no longer able to exert control over their own destinies.

Thus migration contributes to, illuminates and reinforces the interdependent nature of world politics. The ability of immigrant communities to act as independent actors on the world stage undermines the traditional state-centred analysis of international relations world politics need to recognize the role played by non-state, non-governmental, even non-institutionalized actors, amongst which are politically active immigrant groups. Migration also casts light on the divided nature of the world, illuminating the vast gulf in living conditions between the developed, stable countries of the North and the unstable and underdeveloped South. It serves to reinforce the view that the turbulence created by Southern poverty and political uncertainty is not phenomenon from which the North can easily insulate itself. It provides a forceful argument for constructive and supportive Northern assistance to the South.

A shrinking globe has made spread of disease across borders rapid, frequent, and difficult to world. In the twenty years since HIV/AIDS was first recognized, more than 22 million people have died, 5 million in 2002 alone, and over 42 million individuals are currently living with the disease. By far the worst affected region is Africa where 70 percent of the adults and 80 percent of the child currently affected live and where the rate of infection is still rising rapidly. More than half of those infected are women and the number of AIDS orphans in Africa is estimated at over 13 million. Infection rates are rising rapidly in many Asian countries, especially India and China, in Russia and other successor states of the soviet Union HIV/AIDS can be so pervasive that it destroys the very fibre of what constitutes a nation : Individuals, families and communities; economic and political institutions; military and police forces. It is likely then to have broader security consequences

Never before in history has security faced the multi-directional challenges that will predictably develop in coming decades. The world politics today is hounded not only by traditional inter-state conflicts but also by nuclear-armed regional threats, even more innovative and dangerous terrorist strategies new problems arising from the dynamic of globalization, the challenges of inflamed religious and ideological extremism, the politics of range provoked by absence disparities of wealth and opportunity, and all the complexities caused by the momentum of global environmental change.

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