

# Views on the Security of Nation-States in the Context of Non-Traditional Security Issues under the Globalization

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**Abstract**—After the end of the Cold War, a decline in threats to traditional security has been seen in most countries and regions of the world. At the same time, in the context of globalization in the economic, political, cultural and other areas, the diversity of threats to non-traditional security is becoming increasingly complex and comprehensive. These threats, originated in traditional competition between countries and the historical or natural factors affecting the balance of interests, are caused by human factors. Due to the fact that nationalism and national interests still prevail in international relations, adapting to the new world order remains to be difficult. The author explores the competition and the interaction logic of nation-states in the context of international anarchy. The article focuses on the requirement of capital for deterritorialization and interdependence between the state and other institutions. Moreover, it discusses the principle of protecting the main interest – the sovereignty of the nation-state and boundaries of identity. The contradiction between state institutions and globalization has intensified a number of international problems. In the era of globalization, such threats exist in the interaction between world actors, often with great secrecy, uncertainty and surprise, the scope of the threat is more difficult to determine.

**Keywords**—security, Nation-State, sovereignty, globalization, deterritorialization, non-traditional security threats

## I. INTRODUCTION

From the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th centuries, nation-states were formed in Europe as a result of revolutions and socio-political transformations. The United Nations, established after World War II, has defined that the nation-state is the only legitimate national model and strengthened the sovereignty of the nation-state. The traditional concept of security is also based on ensuring the security of national sovereignty as the main interests of each country. According to Waltz, a representative of Neorealism (or Structural Realism), security is the primary goal under anarchy. Only when a country has ensured its survival, can it pursue other goals, such as stability, profit, military strength, etc. [5] This ideology induces each state to guarantee its own security.

However, under the influence of capitalism and nationalism, peripheries and centers have been formed both within sovereign states and globally after many years of

competition for global resources and capital accumulation among modern competitive countries. Resulting from the deterritorialization in the context of globalization, the security threats confronting the humanity now go beyond the borders.

## II. GLOBALIZATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS

At present, with the presence of nuclear and other modern weapons and close economic ties between countries and world powers, a large-scale bloody conflict or a war between states, such as world wars, is almost disappearing. The possibility of encroachment on the sovereignty of other states is significantly reduced. Despite the fact that local wars still occur, in general, the source of traditional threats to security has decreased.

The global transformation of the world after the end of the Cold War led to the revival of related discussions. The general trend, which is increasingly emerging with the appearance of new approaches to the conceptualization of security problems, is mainly associated with a significant rethinking of the very concept of security [4]. In addition to the issues of traditional security, the sovereignty of the state includes internal security, ethnic security, regional security, public security, etc., the issues of non-traditional security have other study objects, making itself more comprehensive compared to the security studies conducted under neorealism. Up until now, the content and scope of non-traditional security issues have expanded significantly, and its content will change and diversify.

In fact, rapid globalization to some extent creates new sources of non-traditional security threats and leads to the proliferation of such threats in all areas of the international community, generating a significant negative impact. For example, the weapons facilitating international terrorism activities, the tools utilized by transnational criminal groups and the increased cooperation between extremist groups and drug trafficking groups, are all closely related with the global market. Therefore, globalization plays the role of a “catalyst” in the growth of non-traditional security threats.

### III. SOVEREIGN STATES PROMOTING GLOBALIZATION LIMITS DETERRITORIALIZATION WHILE ADDRESSING NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Indeed, with the presence of non-traditional security threats, we cannot blame globalization only. The globalization has continued for centuries since the Age of Discovery, and the so-called “globalization” has different characteristics at different historical stages. The current global challenges regarding future sustainable development are largely derived from the current mismatch between state institutions and the nature of globalization.

Despite that the capital in the globalization is promoted through the activities of state power, its key spirit is indeed deterritorialization [2]. In fact, in the modern world where nation-states dominate, the popularizing of nationalism is a product of globalization, energized by the expansion of capital. The concept of “national security”, as well as many other concepts that appeared during the scientific revolution in the 1990s-2000s, was borrowed from the terminology of Western civilization countries without any adaptation to the features of (another) civilization country [1].

Today, the tension between national and capitalist space [6] is becoming conspicuous. In the colonial period, the western countries and their allies as sovereign states with territorial boundaries are located in the center, and colonies and semi-colonies on the periphery, the difference of which was obvious. While in the modern era a direct correspondence between the center and sovereign territorial units no longer exists. At present, inequalities within developing and developed countries are becoming more and more apparent [6]. Center and periphery may exist within every country. In the context of strengthening globalization, problems at the periphery can spread abroad, to the center within the country, and even to the rest of the world: extremist ideology, environmental problems, climate change, etc., all these are obvious examples.

The demand for the deterritorialization of capitalism has caused some non-traditional security problems that are not possibly resolved by only a sovereign state within the country. Although the problems faced by the mankind transcend national borders, for the nation-states, the confliction between "self" and "the other" and the competition with other countries are determinate factors for different government in resolving non-traditional security problems with respect to specific situation.

Despite the fact that international and regional organizations have been created to solve a wide range of problems, the country's priority tasks still prevail over other joint issues. The negative impact of the exclusivity of nationalism impedes the emerging global ideal of sustainable development. It is in this contradiction that globalization has increased non-traditional security threats.

### IV. NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE MODERN ERA OF GREAT-POWER COMPETITION STILL PLAYS MAJOR ROLES

In an anarchic state, the logic of competitive countries makes boundedness crucial for countries. Otherwise, it is difficult to strengthen the competitiveness of a country that distinguishes itself from the rest in the world. Despite the fact that the scale of the current non-traditional security threats seems to outweigh the traditional ones, the importance of traditional security is not overshadowed. The logic of territoriality still plays a strong role, and this territoriality exists in the form of a nation, a state, and even a rebel movement [3].

Although a large-scale bloody conflict and a war between the great-powers may not occur, but at the regional level, traditional security problems between neighboring countries still stand out. Local ethnic conflicts keep occurring on the Eurasian continent. The traditional ethnic, religious, sectarian, heterogeneous cultural opposition, etc. see an increase. “Ethnic conflict” and “religious conflict” have become more obvious and common, threatening national security. As the world’s population grows steadily, the issue of resource scarcity may become more serious.

Regardless of the political regime of a state, the coalitions between countries and the signing of international treaties, countries and people cannot avoid conflict in the face of resource scarcity. With the intervention of external forces, the conflict may be aggravated. According to the theory of Neorealism, “power politics” still holds the main positions in international relations. Such a view attaches importance to the status of the nation-state, the act of Self-help, the desire for absolute supremacy in a Zero-Sum game, for which one can see its political philosophy and worldview of monism” [7]. In the context of globalization at a high level, the world is still in an era of competition between major powers. The exclusivity of a nation-state makes the government incline to downplay or even sacrifice the interests of other countries, with the attempt of expanding sovereignty, protecting their own interests and strengthening their political authority.

Non-traditional security problems arising from the games of countries and their competition for resources spread to other countries and regions, accompanied by globalization. Non-traditional security threats can be developed by traditional security threats. There are not absolute boundaries between two kinds of security threats, thus under certain conditions their mutual penetration and transformation occur. In addition to the noncooperation of certain issues, deliberately worsening the internal security environment of hostile countries complicates the resolution of non-traditional security issues.

### V. CONCLUSION

Currently, although cooperation between countries to solve non-traditional security issues is the common interest, this task should give way to the sovereign security of the state. In the era of globalization, it would be unrealistic to

specialize their own security requirements and underestimate the relevant needs of other countries, as well as to ignore the influence of the world order on national security.

Despite the consensus on international anarchy, a clear agreement over the concept of global security is unavailable. Another reality is that the interdependence on technology, capital, information and resources continues to increase, and regional integration continues to deepen. Obviously, most of security problems are transnational, many of which cannot be solved by military means only, and even global powers such as the United States, Russia or China cannot cope with them alone. In the future, security (traditional or non-traditional) is not only dependent on the national government, but also relies on a newer, more flexible and realistic management model to guarantee protection.

In addition to sovereign states, it is still impossible to ignore the factor and strength of other participants. However, in the medium term, national interests will prevail over global ones, resulting from the internal socio-political and economic processes. The tendency is that neither can current globalization bring prosperity and a high standard of living, nor can it reduce historical or religious tensions and the possibility of military action between neighboring countries.

Therefore, it is inevitable to pay more attention to global governance. After the Cold War, we are witnessing the growing influence of regional organizations and regional integration on transnational activity and cooperation. Some regional organizations have different degrees of sovereignty over the nation states. National interests are combined with multinational or global interests. Nationalistic ideologies have also evolved with these changes. The protection of national sovereignty is no longer a top concern for the nation-state, though nationalism can hardly be abandoned by national leaders. In recent years, waves of anti-globalization have wrapped many countries. On the other hand, new regional organizations are established and regional cooperation strengthened, making the transferring of partial sovereignty possible under the current globalization. Moreover, two views of the new regionalism theory are encouraging: New regionalism does not oppose the existence and role of nationalism. It advocates the compromise and harmony of regional integration and globalization, despite regionalism also has many types. Attempts to connect similarly functioned regional organizations cast lights upon the move from a regional formation to the improvement of globalization with sustainable development.

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