Critical thinking on security dilemma in international politics

Law, Security

International relations experience radical changes in how security is conceptualized. Traditional studies of inter-state relations typically define security in military 1 and determinism 2 or fear and conflict 3. However, in light of recent international developments, particularly in a post-Cold War era, non-state actors are increasingly viewed as fundamental in international relations not only between but also within states 4. The case for security is lent further urgency, moreover, due to an increasing privatization of military skills in an international market of corporate warfighting 5. This is not to mention notable gaps in women's roles during war – gaps which highlight major flaws in framing security in international relations and politics 6.

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Indeed, security remains a largely underdeveloped concept for a broad range of reasons 7, from changing international structures 8, shifting alliances 9, to securitization 10. This paper aims, consequently, to address major problematic issues in security as a dilemma in international relations in order to explore viable frameworks for understanding and qualification.

Historical frameworks of security in international relations emphasize a state-centered, military approach 11. These frameworks - such as nation-state-centered ones 12 – show increasingly flawed conceptualization of security in a radically changing international context, particularly when state is no longer a defining actor of security in international relations. More innovative frameworks are, consequently, emerging to address gaps in understanding security, particularly in a post-Cold War era 13, 14.

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Indeed, one most influential framework of security is securitization 15. Though conceptual and non-policy-making framework, securitization remains an indispensible security analysis approach used in identifying, not a material object of security as in classical state-centered, military approaches, but actor(s), object(s), and audience(s) engaged in a securitized context 16. Human security is no less an influential framework. Addressing issues of development and equality 17, human security is increasingly been viewed as a replacement of conventional national security frameworks. The main emphasis

in a human security framework represents, in fact, a major paradigm shift from a

military-centered approach to security to much broader conceptions of

security not only at state level but also at sub-national and individual ones

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Although both securitization and human frameworks help cover crucial gaps

in understanding security, a combination of both – and additional, emerging

frameworks – should contribute to a more dynamic, holistic framework given

current complexities of international relations and politics. Indeed, shifting

international structures – of all factors – is one most significant one in establishing such a framework. For not only actors are no longer limited to well-defined, centralized ones, mainly state actors, but major institutional changes 19 as well as outsourcing a once state monopolized military service 20.

In conclusion, modern security dilemma has seen dramatic shifts in international developments. Growing international (in)security issues render conventional, state-centered, military frameworks obsolete. As a result, more dynamic, innovative frameworks are emerging in order to address unfulfilled gaps. Still, existing, evolving frameworks require more sophisticated engagements in order to address more complicated issues in an increasingly, fluid world of international politics.

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