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State Security in the Systemic Aspect

Abstract

These considerations have been devoted to fundamental issues directly related to the functioning of the modern state, i.e. security and the inseparable threat concept, as well as the state's potential in this respect comprised by the security system. Due to the editorial framework, only a general signaling of the problem was possible, although it allowed the intentional signaling of its most important aspects. The complexity of the problems related to the functioning of the modern state in an extremely complicated international security environment still does not allow the possibility to precisely define the conceptual framework of the term state security. It seems that this quality is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future given the increasing complexity of social relations over time, not only in the area of a single country, but also in a global context at an international level. This will undoubtedly affect the increasingly high level of complexity in the formation of the state security system. Among others for these reasons constant analyses are required by the issue of state security and the resources, procedures and instruments assigned to it, in the form of a state security system.

Keywords: state, security, threat, system, security system, state security

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Bezpieczeństwo państwa w ujęciu systemowym

Abstrakt

Niniejsze rozważania poświęcone zostały fundamentalnym kwestiom bezpośrednio związanym się z funkcjonowaniem współczesnego państwa, a więc bezpieczeństwu i nierozłącznemu z nim pojęciu zagrożenia, a także potencjałowi państwa w tym zakresie ujętym w ramach systemu bezpieczeństwa. Z racji ram edytorskich możliwe było jedynie ogólne zasygnalizowanie problemu, choć pozwoliło ono na zamierzone zasygnalizowanie w wyraźny sposób

jego najistotniejszych aspektów. Zawilość problematyki funkcjonowania współczesnego państwa w niezwykle skomplikowanym międzynarodowym środowisku bezpieczeństwa wciąż nie daje możliwości precyzyjnego określenia ram pojęciowych terminu bezpieczeństwa państwa. Wydaje się, że właściwość ta raczej nie ulegnie zmianie w dającej się przewidzieć przyszłości, zważywszy na rosnącą w czasie złożoność relacji społecznych nie tylko w obszarze pojedynczego państwa, ale także w kontekście globalnym na płaszczyźnie międzynarodowej. Bez wątpienia wpływać to będzie na coraz wyższy poziom złożoności konstrukcji systemu bezpieczeństwa państwa. Chociażby z tych powodów problematyka bezpieczeństwa państwa oraz przypisanych mu zasobów, procedur i instrumentów ich realizacji w postaci systemu bezpieczeństwa państwa, wymaga ciągłych analiz.

Słowa kluczowe: państwo, bezpieczeństwo, zagrożenie, system, system bezpieczeństwa, bezpieczeństwo państwa

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Безпека держави в системному підході

Анотація

Опрацювання присвячено фундаментальним питанням, безпосередньо пов'язаним з функціонуванням сучасної держави, тобто безпеці та спорідненому понятті загрози, а також потенціалу держави в цьому відношенні, включеному в систему безпеки. З погляду на редакційні рамки, вдалося лише в загальному накреслити проблему, хоча це дозволило виразно окреслити її найважливіші аспекти. Складність проблематики функціонування сучасної держави в надзвичайно складному міжнародному середовищі безпеки все ще не дає можливості точно визначити концептуальні рамки безпеки держави. Здається, що ця властивість навряд чи зміниться в осяжному майбутньому, враховуючи зростаючу з часом складність суспільних відносин не тільки в рамках однієї країни, але і в глобальному контексті на міжнародному рівні. Це, безсумнівно, вплине на вищий рівень складності конструкції системи безпеки держави. Навіть з цих причин, питання безпеки держави та пов'язаних з нею ресурсів, процедур та інструментів у формі системи безпеки держави потребує постійного аналізу.

Ключові слова: держава, безпека, загроза, система, система безпеки, безпека держави

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1. Introduction

Security is defined and understood in different ways [1]. It is clearly a value impossible to overestimate for the individual, the nation and the state. The increase in the hazard level and the ever intensifying awareness of this phenomenon changes the feeling of security on various areas, ranging from the local scale up to the global one. The formulation of the policy and development of management methods related to national security is one of the most important challenges faced by the contemporary state [2, p. 5]. Also in the Republic of Poland national security is considered to be the superior interest. An integrated system is needed to cope with such challenges for the state to be able to guarantee security, or at least take up real efforts to guarantee it in a situation of continuously appearing new hazards characterised by high dynamics of changes [3, p. 53]. In such a way a new concept appeared in the discussions, and namely the “system”.

In the simplest terms the system, from the Greek *systema*, is nothing more but something complex, which may be understood as something physical, tangible, but concurrently of an abstract nature. Those items comprise sets of mutually related elements in specific systems, which as a whole fulfil a certain superior function or a set of functions [4].

2. Safety system

According to the *Słownik języka polskiego (Polish Language Dictionary)*, the term “system” signifies the following [5, p. 339]:

- set of elements characterised by a specific structure and forming a logically structured whole;
- assembly of many devices, roads, conduits forming a single set and operating as a whole;
- organs or other elements of a living organism that jointly fulfil given functions;
- specific way of executing some action or rules for organising something;
- organised complex of assumptions and views forming some theory;
- form of political system;
- set of rocks formed during a single geological period;
- complete and organised set of tasks interrelated by logical reasoning relations.

In scientific studies this concept is interpreted in a similar way, and namely:

- “coordinated set of elements, a collection forming a certain whole conditioned by constant and logical organisation of it as a whole” [6, p. 387];
- “overall and ordered set of task interrelated by logical reasoning relations” [7, p. 1065].

The most convincing definition of the meaning of the analysed term may be found in the encyclopaedia, which clarifies the meaning of the word “system” as a set of mutually related elements, distinguished from the surroundings taking into account those very relations, with the correlations (interactions) between elements of the system forming its structure, and as a set of means (methods) of operation, executing complex activities, as well as overall organisational procedures, all rules and standards binding in the given field [8, p. 152].

And all this gives rise to the question: what is the state security system? The search for an answer should be commenced with finding an answer to a more general question, and namely: what is the security system?

Roman Kulczycki was of the opinion that the security system is a complex of relatively separated subsystems yet concurrently organisationally, functionally, substantively and legally bound into a total whole of all subsystems, having the potential to counteract threats, and assuring lasting, sustainable and safe development [9, p. 14].

3. State, safety, state security system

So what is the state security system? It is possible to find an answer to this question by presenting the definition of the state and of state security.

Finding solutions to the problem reflected in the above question gains further complexity due to the fact that “in reality there are no commonly acceptable definitions pertaining to the sphere of security. As a result diverse entities approach this issue in a prudent (selective) way. Security is perceived and interpreted differently by lawyers, (...) soldiers and officers of institutions responsible for security, citizens – taxpayers” [10, p. 14]. All the same the appropriate answer should be further sought.

Jean Jacques Rousseau was convinced that the concept underlying the establishment of the state is to find a form of association that would “use all resources to defend and protect the individual and the goods of each of its members and thanks to which very individual, although associating with all the others, would nevertheless listen to himself only and remained free as before” [11, p. 21].

On the other hand, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel considered the state to be an organism in which “the individual has freedom and makes use of it, but only to the extent to which is constitutes a part of awareness, beliefs and the will of commonalty” [12, p. 57].

A characteristic feature of modern communities is the functioning of voluntary or compulsory relations of its members, because “each individual tries to safeguard,

to the extent possible, their own goods and secure them from any damage possible. But when on its own, it would be impossible for such an individual to guard them in an incessant way. (...) An individual protects his goods from a hazard when as an effect of his actions a state of affairs is created in which such goods may simply not be destroyed by any destructive or even intentionally harmful action; or that it does not become seriously hindered” [13, pp. 80, 83].

Furthermore, pursuant to Bernard Wiśniewski it may be assumed that common good for a society perceived in the category of an element of the state is the readiness to counteract threats and to eliminate consequences of their occurrence in order to assure unconstrained existence and development possibilities. This remains strictly correlated with measures aimed at assuring security of the state, which in turn relates to caring for satisfying common needs and goods [14, p. 37].

Those selectively chosen views have played an important role in contemporary perceiving of the state. The essence of the state is reflected by the opinion of Krzysztof Lorant who argues that “by its nature the state is based on the law, and should all the same respect the freedom of individuals and requirements of democracy. The obligatory law should be enforced, and if necessary coercive measures should be used for the purpose. Consequently the state may not merely apply to the good will of the citizens (as in the case of the concept devised by Rousseau), but must also have at its disposal judicial and organisational means. The adopted laws are binding both for the citizens and elites that head the state” [15, p. 12].

At this point it should be emphasised that elementary state attributes comprise the following:

- political system – the system of power;
- territory;
- sovereignty;
- citizens.

The state as an organisation plays the role of a guarantor of security by implementing adopted strategic objectives and tasks that arise from them [16, p. 7]. Those tasks pertain to “universal and undisturbed growth that as an effect are meant to allow satisfying existential and behavioural needs of the society. The state is primarily a social organism functioning on a given area” [17].

In summary, it seems to be justified to have the state defined as a political organisation comprising the territory and the population inhabiting that territory, including sovereignty over that population and that territory [18, p. 148]. In the above

context it is crucial to bear in mind that “all the specified factors undergo historical transformations, both in the aspect of the power that evolves from a monarchy via an aristocracy – oligarchy to democracy. Furthermore, the territory changes frequently depending on the results of wars and pacts. Such changes also take place to the society, which may take them from being one country into another as a result of voluntary or imposed pacts (...). All causative factors are ultimately subordinated to the objectives of the state, which is the common good of its citizens and safety of their existential actions” [19, p. 10].

The contemporary state is implementing several functions [20, p. 72], and namely:

- external function, consisting in keeping up relations with other entities of international law;
- internal function basically aimed at guaranteeing security inside the country;
- economic and organisational function related to implementation of an economic policy by the state;
- social function that comprises assuring the minimum existence conditions to the population;
- cultural function connected with assuring access to cultural goods;
- educational function related with providing access to education;
- health protection function which comprises assuring the appropriate number of health care centres;
- environment protection function, the objective of which is to form a basis for preventing the degradation and to preserve the existing state of the natural environment.

Having presented considerations concerning the state, let us pass to a review of definitions of security to allow working out conclusions.

Jerzy Stańczyk understands security as a “state of lack of hazard, peace; state and feeling of certainty, freedom from hazards; freedom from fear or attack; opposite of hazard; feeling of threat resulting from an unstable order in which we are living; freedom of actions that is not accompanied by the feeling of threat, and hence also the state of mind determined by the specific form of international order; condition for survival; rational living standard” [21, s. 23].

Tadeusz Jemioło, on the other hand, writes that in numerous “studies in the field of societal sciences security appears to be an ability of surviving, independence, identity or certainty of development. In analyses concerning security the occurrence of two negatively perceived phenomena are reviewed, which comprise challenges and threats. Challenges are understood as the appearance of a new situation, in which occur inextinguishable

needs that require the formulation of answers and taking up the required actions by the state to assure the assumed state of security. Unresolved challenges may potentially transform into threats that endanger state security. Consequently in research concerning security attempts should be made to make a clear differentiation of challenges and hazards, which is frequently not reflected in numerous analyses pertaining especially to international security” [22, pp. 15–16].

The most frequently used division of security allows the distinguishing of its two dimensions [23, p. 57], i.e.:

- personal aspect, in which security is of a direct nature, i.e. private, individual and personal;
- structural aspect, in which security is of an indirect nature, i.e. social and global (security is implemented under social and state structures).

A slightly different division applied both in theoretical and practical terms, is proposed by the recognised security theoretician Ryszard Zięba. This division is made according to such criteria, as [24, p. 9]:

- subjective considerations: state security and international security;
- objective considerations: political security, military security, economic security, social security, cultural security, ideological security, ecological security, IT security;
- spatial considerations: personal security of individuals, local security (state-national security), sub-regional security, regional security (coalitional security), supra-regional security and global security (universal security);
- time: state of security and the process of security;
- organisational method: individual security, cooperational security, collective security.

Worthy of taking into consideration for the subject of our discussion is the standpoint of Waldemar Kitler who is of the opinion that the universal understanding of security in the subjective aspect concerns [25, pp. 30–32]:

- a person (as an individual) having a system of inherent values, which from his point of view require appropriate securing, protection and defence;
- groups of people (social groups), either formalised (family) or non-formalised (ethnic groups, national groups, religious communities and associations) that generally have common needs worthy of protection (habits, social standards, beliefs), of a different scale;
- various organisations formed by people acting on the market (entrepreneurs), in the sphere of politics or other forms of social activity (e.g.: political parties, social organisations);

- formalised and territorially identifiable structures operating on the basis of specific legal norms, such as: commune, county, province and first of all the state, and perhaps even a group of countries.

In the context of discussions related to security it should be assumed that in the general societal meaning it “comprises satisfaction of such needs as: existence, survival, certainty, stability, wholeness, identity (oneness), independence, protection of living level and quality” [26, p. 24–25] in the micro scale – of an individual, and in the macro scale – of the society.

A hazard is an antonym of security [27, p. 8], which in the *Słownik języka polskiego* [*The Dictionary of Polish Language*] is defined as a state of lack of threats, peace, certainty [28, pp. 54–56].

Due to the ubiquity of threats presently “we are caught in the very middle – on the one hand we feel helpless in relation to many threats: potential acts of terrorism, criminality, calamities, diseases, and on the other hand we are aware of the fact that a lot depends on us, on our behaviour and our actions. We do not want to accept the lack of certainty and inevitability of events, we prefer to believe that we have control over our life. Security and health are values which are accepted by the people *en masse*” [29, p. 147].

Colloquially the term “threat” is “intuitively comprehended and related with concerns of individuals pertaining to the loss of such values, as: health, life, independence, freedom, or material goods [30, p. 3]. However, literature offers different definitions for this term may be found in various sources” [31, p. 17].

In an attempt at ordering our reflections concerning the meaning of a threat, first of all a reference should be made to the *Słownika języka polskiego* [*The Dictionary of Polish Language*], which specifies it as a situation or condition that endanger someone or in which someone feels endangered, as well as someone who gives rise to such a situation [32, p. 31].

In the *Mały słownik języka polskiego* [*Small Polish dictionary*] the term “endanger” is translated as an announcement of something under the threat of violence, create a state of threat, become threatening, hazardous for someone [33, p. 147]. Based on the above briefly presented definitions a slightly wider interpretational scope of interpretation of this concept should be strived at, taking into account terminology strictly correlated with it, such as challenges and risk [34, p. 965].

Conclusions drawn from the above quoted definitions allow the presumption that all activities taken up to seek potential threats, and then the process of counteracting

them, indicate a limited approach to shaping of security. It should be emphasised that it is equally important to identify the appearing chances that should be benefited from, as well as to recognize correctly the challenges that should be undertaken [35, pp. 239–253].

From the viewpoint of the state it is important to recognise that state security [36, p. 78] is related with the notion of national interest [37, pp. 51–60], which remains strictly correlated with the fact that “regardless of the age and the regime, the actions of the state on an international arena is subordinated to two primary motives that reflect fundamental national interests. The first one is the will to survive, and hence preserving one’s own existence and also – to a different extent – identity, which in the event of a nation formed into a country means securing the sovereignty and territorial integrity, and contemporarily also increasingly frequently the political regime and the social and economic system, as well as at least to a certain extent also civilizational values” [38, p. 8].

To recapitulate it may be presumed that security of a state is a “consequence of the nature of the world, its history and diverse traditions in the area surrounding the place of residence of the Poles, life of societies close to us, the dimension and nature of challenges and threats and the state of civilizational development (...) of the statehood, as well as potential and tangible capacity of international security institutions. This results from the fact that (...) variability, unpredictability and surprise [39, p. 230] cause changes that may simply not be predicted” [40, p. 8].

Taking the above into account, along with considerations concerning the theoretical aspects of the system, it may be presumed that the state security system is constituted by all mutually related forces and means that implement tasks related to security, which should be appropriately organised, maintained and prepared to the execution of those tasks [41, p. 17]. The state organises and maintains the security system, with focus on the binding law and consistently with the needs, including in the first place qualitative needs, as well as social and economic possibilities [42, p. 28].

4. Summary

Safety occupies a due position in the group of universal goods, apart from such concepts, as: goodness, truth, justice [43, p. 17].

Safety is something immeasurable, contrary to hazards, the level of which may and should be measured [44, p. 9].

State security is not a category that could be defined in an explicit way, which results not only from universally accepted definition of the state, but to a much bigger extent from differences in the way that safety is perceived. Yet it may be assumed that in the most general meaning it is connected with elimination of hazards to form a basis for unthreatened existence of the people and development of the state [45, p. 47]. It should also be borne in mind that security is a value of importance for the individual and for the security.

They may be defined as the ability of the state to defend and to protect commonly accepted values in order to allow the survival of the state, secure its territorial sovereignty and preserve the existence of the people [46, p. 18–19].

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wokół problematyki racjonalizacji funkcjonowania instytucjonalnego systemu bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego RP, koordynacji w ramach systemu bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego RP, oddziaływania procesów imigracyjnych na bezpieczeństwo publiczne oraz wpływu zagrożeń terrorystycznych na bezpieczeństwo publiczne.

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