

COOPERATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS IN ENSURING SAFETY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to examine theoretical assumptions dedicated to increasing violence and the pursuit of measures to ensure the security of society in the country and around the world. In general, safety is understood and defined differently; however, it belongs to the values which are highly prized and protected by individuals, institutions and whole nations too. The need to ensure security can be found in the catalogue of key needs and tasks of countries and international communities as well as different types of institutions. Furthermore, it is important to present the mechanisms of cooperation between countries and their administrations along with forces aimed at limiting threats from structural and functional factors, which can have an influence on the balance or stabilisation of a sense of security.

Key words: violence, security, country, world, cooperation

Introduction

Political changes, together with proceeding market globalisation, are critical phenomena that demand the whole world is 'vigilant' in the face of global threats, in order to improve security. The increased significance of security assurance in the functioning of the country and its business entities is being seen more clearly.

The concept of security was initially limited to the political and military area; however, evolution extended it to the fields of economy and ecology. The processes and phenomena which one comes across in the functioning of current organisations, security assertion and management of crisis situations are playing a bigger and bigger role. The specificity of risk in the 21st century means that we face the problem of natural disaster, technological threats and terrorist attacks more frequently. These situations demand the creation of complex and integrated tools to develop crisis management. The understanding of a crisis has a multidimensional character. We can perceive it as processes of adverse events, breakthrough developmental stages of organisations, or even problems resulting from making decisions and leadership. It is often possible to meet the opinion that crises are inseparable from contemporary

governance. The conditions of contemporary threats present completely new challenges for organisations, which create a new shape of relations between an organisation and its environment. The challenges arise from global changes. The changes, which have a contemporary organisation, are very important in order to form its structures properly and implement tasks in order to counter threats.

The scope of violence and the security essence globally

What is violence and what is security?

Violence in the contemporary world is a phenomenon more clearly seen and increasing alarmingly. Commonly, the concept of violence is replaced by terms such as brutality, atrocity, criminality and aggression¹. Violence is a difficult problem to diagnose. The size of the phenomena connected with violence indicates that it is one of the most important social problems. It requires well organised prevention programmes planned for many years. It is important to take action to improve the cooperation of people involved in solving and combatting violence, developing services addressed to people affected by violence and dissemination of knowledge connected to the phenomena of violence. One of the most important directives of a contemporary country is to provide its citizens the basic conditions of protection against potential danger connected with the occurrence of hazards and different situations caused by forces of nature or human activity as well as resulting from hostilities and, more recently, by the spread of terrorism. These directives result from commonly accepted customary and legal standards shaped by civilisation, whose aim is to help people achieve the right to life and participation in society. For this purpose, the international system of human protection against possible threats during times of peace and war was created and is still being improved. This matter is essentially connected with prevention of dangerous events, early detection of them, methods for alerting and organising the evacuation of people, providing rescue activity, assisting victims who need medical, and other necessary, help.

Despite the huge development of civilisation, people around the world still have not found a way to maintain security that ensures everyone - poor and rich, good and bad - a safe and happy life. There is not an effective method to get rid of hatred, jealousy and other negative features, which have been the reason for social and political conflicts for centuries.

What is security and how can we understand the safety concept? We can find a definition in an encyclopedia which says that security is general conditions and institutions that protect life, health and citizens' property, where this duty rests

¹ W. Szewczuk, *Encyclopedia of psychology*, WSSE, Warsaw, 1998, p. 472.

on all state authorities². It is also possible to find different records which say that security is an abstract category which functions only in theory and in colloquial speech. The majority of researchers admit that security is a disputed concept. The concept of security is inextricably tied with the acceptance of such a dimension of a nation and a human life as confidence of existence.³ Security is a condition and a process simultaneously. While talking about a condition, we feature its dimension, sustainability scale and territorial scope etc.; however, by the process we understand an incessant formation and security strengthening defining its dynamics at the same time, which is mostly indicated by its increasing personal, objective and spatial scope. Thus, security in the most general meaning is a condition without threats. It is a condition of confidence, peace and protection of everyday life. In a broader sense, by security we can understand a social connection, based on mutual trust and relations without aggression and hostility. Security is a foreground value for each citizen as one of the most basic human needs. Whereas, the sense of security is an expression of the subjective aspect and refers to awareness of threats, lack of awareness or lack of knowledge connected to the possibility of preventing threats⁴. The basis of security is proper communication.

Security policy as a particular function of a state has a multidimensional character, not limited to a narrow mining of security in a military sense, but also contemporary confrontation of emerging threats. The thing which can be considered widespread is an awareness that contemporary military threats, which are natural disasters and negative results of human activity, are equally as dangerous for nations and states as military conflicts or wars. It is correct and realistic to consider that the contemporary concept of defence against threats has expanded significantly, which has led to an increase in national security.

National security over the last few decades has gradually changed together with a broader than military level of moves which should help to achieve protection and public defence of goods and the environment as well as the state and its public institutions⁵. Due to the fact that people had taken into account a lot of different causes of security threats, as well as those in the modern era, it is not only military forces that can be an impact tool on different members of international relations and other sources of threats⁶.

Nowadays, it is more and more difficult to distinguish the border between external and internal security in the state. On the political surface, it is more frequent to admit that systems of governance and ideology have a strong impact not only on internal stability but also on international security. The disappearance of guarded

2 R. Łąkowski (red.), *Universal encyclopedia Polish National Publishing*, PWN, Warsaw, 1983, p. 277.

3 J. Stawnicka, *The security policy in the Silesian region*, WSB, Dąbrowa Górnicza, 2015, p. 9.

4 M. Gajos, *Protection of classified information*, UŚ, Katowice, 2012, p. 71.

5 W. Kitler, *The national Security*, TWO, Warsaw, 2010, p. 19.

6 W. Kitler, op. cit., p. 20.

borders has not only allowed free movement of people but also made it easier for international organised crime to develop. As a result of globalisation, no nation is isolated from negative phenomena coming from different states and even continents. Nowadays, security is very difficult to control because of a number of problems, such as unemployment, poverty and the migration of people from countries with armed conflicts, which certainly poses a threat.

Assumptions and tasks of the administration system in ensuring safety

The subject of the sense of security in a country is constantly present in political and scientific life. Each country considers how to provide security and sovereignty as the most important aspect⁷. A country is established to implement the interests of citizens of every nation. The country, as the most important form of society organisations, takes responsibility for entrenching order, security and compliance with the law. The law basics constitute a codification of statutory goals, tasks and duties concerning national security creating rules and behaviour guidelines. Despite these laws, national and international regulations, not all countries respect the assumptions, let alone criminal groups and terrorists. The basic assumption of each public authority and government administration, as well as local government, is to provide an appropriate level of security to citizens of the whole country, allowing balanced progress of society and its institutions. Such a task has been continually performed as an assertion of conditions which allow people to survive and protect their property and environment.

In this century, security topics are very complex, so it is important to focus on external and internal security conditions. Since the 1990s, security has been mainly understood in categories of the peaceful progress of a society. Security was perceived differently in the 1990s, differently at the beginning of this century and differently now. Looking at our country, although Poland is situated in quite a fortunate geographical location because there are no earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or typhoons, the risk of events which can cause extraordinary threats have been seen recently in Western European countries, and terrorism has been increasing globally. It should be mentioned that before and also after the 9/11 attack in 2001 in the USA, Afghanistan was a source of local and global terrorism. There were different views according to the future meaning of international security. The earlier and recent events in Ukraine showed that the concept of security in multidimensional understanding is a concept which never fades. After the Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain, it might be considered that issues concerning security in this part of the world will not be seen as they were before.⁸ A lot of politicians thought that the direct

⁷ W. Malendowski, *International relations*, AWR, Wrocław, 2000, p. 37.

⁸ B. Koszel, *A review of internal security 11/14*, Warsaw, 2014, p. 282.

threat was gone. Therefore, increased attention should implicitly be given to security connected with terrorist attacks, economic security as well as cyberspace. The wave of recent terrorist incidents is alarming and it is necessary to control them all the time around the world. The technical progress and other processes connected with global terrorism, formerly a local phenomenon, has grown into an international issue. But, it is difficult to precisely define how globalisation affects it. The interpretations of the newest wave of terrorism lead to cultural, economic and religious categories. Explanations related to these are a subject for discussion; however, it is clear that as a result of technological progress, the actions of terrorist groups have become more deadly. Nowadays, human security can depend on one terrorist or one bandit.

Transformations which we have been experiencing now, or we will be in the near future, can be much more drastic than the transformations from the past, because the pace of change in the modern world is faster than ever. The changes are more extensive, occur in many different areas, under discontinuity and uncertainty, but the results will be seen in different time perspectives⁹.

The process of globalisation means that international threats quickly become a factor which destabilise local or state security. The beginnings of the extraction of internal affairs administration should be sought at the stage of development of public administration when state management requires greater specialisation¹⁰. Specialist public institutions in terms of actions of security administration in every country, including in Poland, should be prepared to prevent these kinds of threats and actions, and if they occur, take appropriate coercive action. Since the beginning of state institutions, it has been possible to find an archetype of contemporary administration, which deals with protecting public order. These organisational systems have changed from having a wide operating range to being highly specialised. The contemporary states have disposed of expanded administration, which mainly performs tasks in the field of citizens' security, and also defend the order of law and protect against external threats. It is important to remember that a country takes part in European structures responsible for security across Europe and all over the world. At the state level, as agreed about the actions of administration, the people responsible for security are the President, the Prime Minister and the government and particular issues are the responsibility of particular ministers, including the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of National Defence responsible for particular ministries and organisations responsible for security. To carry out tasks in internal and external security, the National Security Council, an advisory body at the central level, is responsible for expressing positions and consideration of the general principles of national security policy. On the each level of public administration, the competent authority of general administration is determined, and is responsible for appropriate action in the security sphere. The control and the tasks should be carried out by regional or local authorities as well as the general government, which has responsibility for the results of complex

⁹ M. Romanowska, *The basics of management organization*, Difin, Warsaw, 2001, p. 33.

¹⁰ A. Misiuk, *The administration of public order and security*, WAiP, Warsaw, 2008, p. 21.

administration in crisis situations and in the sphere of security and public order. The position of a provincial governor who becomes a coordinator of all actions in terms of security taken by authorities in the area of county activities has a particular significance. The range of activity on particular levels of local governments is diverse. On the lowest level of local governments, one can include a district office and community. The organisations, in their scope, take care of residents through their inspections, services and internships, implementing their assumptions of support to the local community. Apart from authorities, there are a lot of institutions taking care of security; however, it is impossible to mention them all and describe their work.

Cooperation of “organisations” while under threat

In the modern world, everyone is part of the global system and is dependent on each other. Thus, we can say that we do cooperate when the restrictions, which constitute a barrier in the implementation of our tasks, are distinguished. The restrictions cannot be overcome by one person. This is only possible when people are conscious of the need for cooperation with others in order to overcome the limitations and achieve an established goal¹¹. Variability, unpredictability and surprise which emerge from contemporary threats mean that in creating safe conditions in a country, there are many decisive and executive issues. Because of the specifics and complexity of organisations appointed for state protection, a lot of collaboration is necessary for effective disposal of means and the skills of people responsible for it. Standing up to security threats requires all ‘organisations’ working together for security. These efforts should be undertaken in cooperation which good organisation can improve identification of threats. The cooperation of all elements of a security system is an essential condition for security. It is difficult and complex but, however, necessary because none of the participants of the project is capable of governing and carrying out assigned tasks concerning security independently.

The contemporary significance of the term management of organisations and services has a very important meaning for the direction of their development and functioning in order to provide security to society. The fundamental and output stage of management, especially the critical stage, is to plan ventures which start management procedures in the planning mode¹². A sovereign state has to strive to provide security to its residents in order to enable good conditions for a quiet life. For this purpose, the state authority forms adequate mechanisms, schemes of conduct, institutions and services, which should take care of internal order and external state security. It is very important to improve the strategy of cooperation in the area of counteracting

¹¹ R. Szynowski, (red.), *A cooperation between military and civil administration in the range of national security*, TWO, Warsaw, 2008, p. 8.

¹² K. Ficoń, *Crisis management*, BEL, Warsaw, 2011, p. 65.

threats. Under the authority of government administration, most entities of complex administration act as services, inspections, internships and organisations. Many of them fulfill their tasks in security and public order as uniformed formations or as entities which perform inspecting and monitoring functions.

The recognition of the threat to citizens' security, despite extensive action and interaction, including recognition of threats by relevant departments and taking initiatives and increasing society sensitivity, is very difficult. Nowadays, the services are faced with new challenges. On the one hand, they are organs of repression, on the other, they are important in fighting against crime. Despite these solutions, it is important to professionalise action in the area of prevention and for good cooperation and raising competence in the area of preventing violence. The most important services are those in contact with the police and their officers, who carry out tasks most often under the Police Act. In the country, we have many services, organisations which deal with security every day. These are, for example, the Internal Security Agency, the Central Anticorruption Bureau, the Central Investigation Bureau, Military Counterintelligence Service, Border Guards, and others. In addition to these services, there are a lot of organisations which cooperate with one another performing tasks in order to deal with security. The issues related to entities cooperating are for the most part regulated by law. However, international security is one of the most basic categories of contemporary international relations. It greatly affects the state of relations between particular members, and the nature of international cooperation¹³. Contemporary international relations create a complex picture of constantly changing events. The weakening of the roles and functions of international organisations which poorly adapt to change, and at the same time, the growing importance of new emerging Asian powers, Russian assertiveness and aggression and also the growing importance of local powers, such as Iran, Turkey and others as well as occurring crime and expanding terrorism, have to improve international cooperation among many countries. In the vast area of international relations the security issue has a basic meaning, and its maintenance is the main objective of the foreign policy of each country. In the European Context, it seems unlikely that in the long run, the European continent will remain without tensions and conflicts, especially if it comes to a dramatically negative development process, such as the collapse of the euro zone, the weakening of NATO or the disintegration of the European Union. We also cannot exclude the appearance of limited military conflicts. The foundation for European security is related to NATO, the European Union, and the presence today of the US on the European continent and Poland as a collective security system, UNO. These elements combine in different aspects of cooperation and competition. We may be concerned with a strategic engagement in Russia while taking into consideration the conflict in Ukraine, where the biggest potential flash point exists. Poland needs to work out relations with Russia individually and from an allied perspective. The

¹³ E. Cziomer, *The outline of the contemporary international relations*, PWN, Warsaw, 2001, p. 135.

characteristic hint for modern international relations is the increasing role of internal factors in shaping state security. Those who study international politics often face the most important problems, which may be faced by other people. One of these is the question of whether it is possible to achieve international security in the world in which we live¹⁴. It has to be said that in this matter there is much to be done in terms of security and mutual international cooperation of institutions and countries.

Summary

Nowadays, it is very important to raise social awareness and develop constructive citizenship against violence. In this context, it is necessary to stress the importance of security. The clarification of the security concept is not so easy. Taking into account the amount of violence occurring in the country and in the world, starting from the smallest to military conflicts, wars and terrorism, it may be observed that a lot of violence has happened over the last few years. This article has looked at significant threats and misbehaviour as well as proper solutions taken, and may only indicate the importance of looking for more effective help for victims afflicted by this kind of criminality. Increasingly more modern assumptions and more sensitivity to threats certainly help to put forward the thesis that this kind of process must be implemented and will bring beneficial effects to security improvement in the world. That's why, despite the existence of many international communication barriers in this regard, well-organised cooperation of many services and institutions is appropriate. It is also important to indicate and define the purposes of further cooperation. The discussion of the above-mentioned rules can turn out to be helpful for prevention and the pursuit of improved security around the world.

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