

Original Paper

Dialectical Discussion on Thinking about Security Issues at the National Level from the Perspective of Globalization

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Abstract

In the context of globalization, this paper explores the dialectical perspectives on national security and its implications. While globalization has fostered integration in areas such as culture, economy, and ideology, it has also introduced novel challenges to traditional concepts of national security. The paper argues that while globalization has led to a shift in security perceptions from the national to the global level, national security remains a fundamental concern. It discusses the impacts of globalization on security aspects including information technology, economy, military, social stability, and international terrorism. It concludes that a balanced approach, integrating both national and global security considerations, is crucial in addressing the security challenges posed by globalization.

Keywords

Globalization, National Security, Security Challenges, Integrated Approach

1. Introduction

In the backdrop of today's rapidly advancing globalization, the integration of various aspects such as cultural, economic, and ideological elements has become increasingly evident. This inevitable trend has already begun to exert a significant influence on human social activities, and consequently, on the security factors that are of utmost concern to people. Some scholars argue that security considerations can no longer be confined to the national level; instead, decision-making regarding security factors should entirely shift to the international level. However, there are other scholars who believe that security should primarily be addressed at the national level, emphasizing that the fundamental aspect of ensuring security lies in implementing robust security measures across the nation.

Since the advent of the nation-state concept, security has been a paramount concern for all peoples and national leaders worldwide. Security, in essence, is a dynamic concept, evolving with the changing times. Across various historical epochs of a country or different stages of human social development, the focal points of security have consistently shifted. Traditionally, national crises often stemmed from external military aggression, making military and political security the primary focus at the national level. However, since the conclusion of World War II and the subsequent scientific and technological revolution, a comprehensive understanding of national security has gradually become the prevailing mindset. As a result, the scope of security has broadened to encompass measures aimed at preventing internal unrest and safeguarding national economic development. More recently, financial and information security have surfaced as significant considerations within the realm of national security.

Given the inherent variability of security, a pertinent question arises: how should we perceive the concept of security within the context of globalization? Undoubtedly, globalization has exerted profound influence and brought about significant changes to human society. To some extent, these changes have facilitated societal progress. However, they have also presented new challenges to the security issues that are of utmost concern to people. This paper aims to explore several aspects related to this topic. Firstly, it will delve into the problems and challenges that globalization poses to security, specifically at the national level. Secondly, it will examine the potential impact of addressing security issues on a global scale on the current situation. Thirdly, it will discuss the consequences of maintaining security solely at the national level. Finally, the paper will present assumptions and opinions on whether security can still be considered solely at the national level in the era of globalization.

Security remains one of the foremost concerns in today's globalized context. It has evolved beyond being merely a national issue and now demands consideration at a global level. Nonetheless, addressing safety challenges often necessitates a national-level starting point. Within the framework of globalization, security has transformed into a multifaceted and interconnected concept (Aydinli & Rosenau, 2005).

2. Drives, Problems and Challenges on Security by Globalization

When globalization has been driving forward the various aspects worldwide, it also has brought a number of unprecedented security issues and challenges globally. To sum up the drives, issues and challenges, they are mainly in the following areas.

2.1 Information and Technology Security

Information, science, and technology constitute the driving force propelling globalization. Globalization itself encompasses the globalization of information and technology, which has propelled world globalization to a deeper level. Based on this reasoning, it can be affirmatively stated that information technology serves as the primary impetus and a pivotal aspect in the process of globalization. The principal characteristics of information and technology globalization encompass

features such as the escalating trend of globalization in information and technology research endeavors, the research and development initiatives of international corporations, and the rapid advancement of strategic technologies across diverse enterprises, coupled with the enhancement of regional information and technology cooperation. Currently, nations worldwide prioritize the advancement of information technology as a crucial means of safeguarding national interests and bolstering overall national strength. Consequently, there is fierce competition in this domain. The progress of information technology can revitalize a country, whereas its underdevelopment can significantly hinder a nation's progress. The emphasis on information and technology security varies among countries. Developed nations, backed by sophisticated information and technology, possess a robust sense of security. They strive to uphold technological supremacy and monopoly through strategic technology blockades and rigid intellectual property rights. Conversely, developing countries are apprehensive about the potential threats posed by these technological advantages.

In the era of globalization, information technology security finds its most prominent reflection in network information security. Nowadays, cutting-edge technology and the core products that underlie network and information security are predominantly controlled by Western developed countries, led by the United States. Developing nations often rely on importing communication and computer equipment from these countries. However, concerns arise regarding the safety of these imported devices, particularly whether they undergo any special processing. This issue transcends mere technology security, extending into military and economic security as well.

Moreover, as information technology rapidly advances and the Internet expands, the traditional political boundaries of nations become increasingly blurred. On the one hand, this development diminishes the sovereignty of nations lagging in technological progress. On the other hand, it elevates the status and sovereignty of those developed countries that are at the forefront of information technology. This shift in power dynamics underscores the critical importance of information technology in defining a nation's place in the global landscape (Aydinli & Rosenau, 2005).

2.2 Economic Security

The impact of globalization on economic security can be divided into two distinct stages for discussion. Initially, globalization ushered in a shift from a worldwide arms race to a competition based on comprehensive national strength, which was primarily focused on economic development. Consequently, the Cold War gradually transformed into economic and trade wars. This transition elevated the significance of economic security within the broader context of national security. Some politicians and country leaders have already acknowledged the crucial role of economic security in safeguarding national interests. For instance, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) released a report on national economic security strategy as early as 1982. Similarly, after assuming office, President Clinton prioritized economic security in the foreign policy of the United States. When Russian President Vladimir Putin came into power, there was a noticeable change in the "Russian Federation National Security Concept", with economic security being emphasized as the foremost

priority within national security (Nesadurai, 2006). In the realm of economic globalization, safeguarding national economic security becomes paramount. This is because a country's economic viability and growth become increasingly susceptible to external threats and harms amidst the interdependent and competitive economic landscape. While the content and focus of economic security may vary depending on the level of development and values of different countries, there are certain commonalities. Generally speaking, a country's economic security hinges on several key factors: the government's macro decision-making and controlling capabilities for the overall economic situation, the availability of fair competition opportunities for the country's goods and services in the international market, the ability to effectively access crucial resources amidst global scarcity, the resilience to withstand global financial crises, and the maintenance of a peaceful and stable international and domestic environment.

The second aspect concerns the impact and safeguards of globalization on domestic industries. In a globalized setting, the scope of financial endeavors has broadened considerably. Numerous industries have surpassed geographical boundaries, leading to more frequent import and export trades than ever before. In this scenario, many nations impose high tariffs, primarily as a means of safeguarding their domestic industries through tariff protection. However, this often results in a significant influx of foreign direct investment. China, as a rapidly developing nation, exemplifies this impact profoundly. Consider a specific data set from China. In 2006, in compliance with WTO regulations, China reduced its car tariff from 100% to 20%. However, car parts are still subject to a 10% import tariff, effectively raising the actual rate of protection. This serves as an incentive for foreign capital to collaborate through joint ventures rather than importing vehicles directly. Thus, attracting foreign direct investment has emerged as a primary strategy in the globalization process (Nesadurai, 2006). Nonetheless, the advent of globalization, accompanied by financial integration, is not unanimously welcomed. The influx of foreign investment can potentially disrupt domestic industries, particularly those considered vital. Controlling these industries becomes more challenging than in the past. Furthermore, several implications arise from this situation. Firstly, the presence of foreign capital often brings sophisticated technologies, which can significantly undermine domestic companies relying on research and development. Secondly, key domestic manufacturers in sectors like aircraft and computer chips may be assimilated and controlled by multinational corporations, impeding their independent development. In the global industrial restructuring, multinational companies invest worldwide through cross-border mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures. Typically, overseas joint ventures are overseen and directed by the headquarters. Lastly, when profits from foreign investments equate to or surpass national foreign exchange reserves, any contingency could trigger a substantial currency exchange, inevitably leading to foreign financial and monetary crises.

In today's interconnected world, a correct comprehension and proactive engagement in economic globalization are pivotal for maintaining national economic security. Globalization is a complex and double-edged sword, offering both benefits and drawbacks to nations across the globe. It has ushered in

a myriad of opportunities, yet simultaneously introduced risks and uncertainties. Whether the pros outweigh the cons, or vice versa, hinges not only on a country's level of development and its standing within the globalization matrix, but also on the proactive stance adopted by its participants. By assessing situations accurately and leveraging advantages astutely, participants can minimize the insecurities stemming from economic globalization.

2.3 Military Security

Globalization indeed exerts a substantial influence on military security, effectively altering the landscape of military activities worldwide. Military security primarily entails maintaining a robust national defense and possessing a formidable military capable of deterring and resisting aggression. Historically, warfare has been a crucial mechanism for preserving national security. A renowned dictum in Western international relations theory states, "When you want peace, prepare for war". Guided by this principle, several nations engaged in arms races and vied for military supremacy during the Cold War.

Since the 1980s, particularly post-Cold War, the advent of globalization ushered in a new era characterized by peace and development. These themes have since become prevalent in the contemporary world, shifting the focus of national security from mere survival to sustainable development. Simultaneously, peace and development have propelled globalization's profound progression, fostering increased interdependence among nations in various domains and diminishing the likelihood of a world war. The political and military expedience of forcibly occupying foreign territories or plundering resources to expand "living space" has waned, as the costs associated with the use of force have escalated while the benefits have dwindled.

Japan and Germany serve as compelling examples of post-World War II revival. These two nations have emerged not as military powers, but as economic giants, ranking amongst the world's most advanced countries. Their prosperity stems primarily from business endeavors and advancements in science and technology, rather than territorial expansion or conquest, as was the case with their predecessors. In the era of globalization, the international system has evolved beyond the anarchic world order of the past, without progressing to a world government that supersedes sovereign states. Nowadays, numerous international organizations and institutions exist, equipped with well-established norms. Military bilateral and multilateral agreements have become the predominant form of cooperation among nations. Collectively, these elements have facilitated the establishment of cooperative frameworks and mechanisms aimed at managing conflicts, mitigating military threats, and reducing the likelihood of wars. As previously mentioned, globalization has significantly altered the landscape of military activities, imparting distinct characteristics to the current military situation. In this context, the outbreak of a world war appears increasingly unlikely. While the possibility of interstate wars has diminished, there has been a notable surge in regional and internal conflicts. Such conflicts often involve foreign intervention or interference. In the post-Cold War era, interventionism, particularly Neo-interventionism led by the United States, has become prevalent. This strategy

essentially aims to expand spheres of influence and shape the course of globalization through military means. Various reports indicate that in recent years, large-scale armed conflicts worldwide have predominantly been civil wars. For instance, in 1999, out of 27 armed conflicts globally, 25 were civil wars. These conflicts primarily occurred in marginalized countries experiencing extreme poverty amidst the process of globalization (Till, Chew & Ho, 2009).

Military force remains a crucial instrument for safeguarding national security, particularly in the current global political landscape characterized by hegemony and power struggles. However, in the era of globalization, shifts in military paradigms worldwide have contributed to a more stabilized global security situation overall. Despite this stabilization, military security still confronts significant challenges and issues, primarily due to severe local wars and conflicts. These conflicts not only endanger a country's internal security but also hinder its progress in the globalization process.

2.4 Social Stability

The impact of globalization on social stability is profound. In a globalized environment, threats to security originate not only from external sources but also from within society itself, making social stability a pivotal aspect of overall security. Broadly speaking, social stability refers to a well-ordered social operating state, emphasizing the coordination and unity of social groups to maintain a cohesive and orderly societal structure. More narrowly defined, it encompasses three key areas that can undermine stability: crime control, emergency management, and disaster response. Ultimately, a country's social stability hinges primarily on the domestic policies implemented by its government. Factors such as governmental decision-making errors, corruption, wealth disparities, social injustice, high unemployment, and elevated crime rates all have the potential to destabilize society.

In the era of globalization, a country's social stability extends beyond domestic affairs and is increasingly influenced by the international community's actions and interventions. Certain nations, driven by ulterior political motives, back hostile internal forces in other countries to perpetrate subversion and sabotage, posing a significant threat to social stability. For instance, the "Falun Gong" movement, regarded in some Asian countries as an anti-science, anti-humanity, and anti-social cult, significantly undermines social stability in those regions. Nevertheless, some Western nations overlook the societal harms caused by "Falun Gong", distort facts, and wield the banner of "religious freedom" to baselessly criticize Asian governments' handling of the movement. Conversely, the United Nations Security Council's decision to officially designate the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement" as a terrorist organization in September 2002 represents the international community's active support in combating terrorism and preserving social stability. Social stability holds a crucial role in security matters because various factors of insecurity often manifest as social protests and unrests, potentially leading to government crises and national dysfunction. To enhance the predictability of social insecurity and improve operational efficiency amidst the expanding globalization, establishing a social stability warning indicator system and assessment mechanism becomes critically important and urgent.

International terrorism has emerged as a paramount global concern, particularly given its profound impact on national security in the era of globalization. Since the September 11th incident, there has been a profound realization that threats to national security extend beyond interstate conflicts to include non-state terrorist organizations. Consequently, nations worldwide have invested significant resources in combating terrorism and preventing terrorist attacks, yet the struggle persists. In a sense, contemporary international terrorism can be attributed to the negative repercussions of globalization. Firstly, globalization has exacerbated injustices, inequalities, and the polarization between the wealthy and impoverished, fostering despair and resentment among the latter. Secondly, globalization has, to some extent, eroded national sovereignty, undermining legal and regulatory frameworks, thereby creating a vacuum that terrorism has exploited to establish cross-border spheres of influence. It's worth noting that following the recent announcement by the U.S. government of the elimination of AL-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, speculation has arisen that this development may trigger a renewed state of heightened terrorism. There are concerns that members of AL-Qaeda may retaliate with terrorist attacks, potentially inciting similar actions from other terrorist organizations, posing significant national security challenges.

3. Security Based on National Level

The paper delves into the question of whether security ought to remain confined to the national level in a rapidly globalizing environment. As previously analyzed, globalization has indeed catalyzed progress for humanity on a grand scale, advancing development across multiple domains. However, this integration on a global stage has also ushered in a multitude of complexities and challenges, as alluded to earlier in the paper. It raises the pertinent question of whether security matters should evolve beyond the national scope and be addressed at a global level. This is a question worthy of contemplation. Supposing that, in the era of globalization, security considerations are still viewed primarily through a national lens, what implications would this have for nations deeply intertwined in the web of globalization?

3.1 Information and Technology Security

Like mentioned earlier, information and science and technology are the driving force of globalization, which can largely promote the development of globalization and the state. But even so, many countries still have much to concern in the information and technology security issues. The localization of Information and technology features are as follows: information and technology research activities are confined to the domestic, and the extent of multinational researches and development is restricted to national policies. As mentioned earlier, the majority of information and technology security attention was focused on the network information security. Network development and information and technology development are closely related, which is fully understood by all countries in the context of globalization. Nevertheless, many countries still have restrictions in the network, for example, blocking access to foreign Web sites, setting up the network restrictions, and prohibiting the use of network

resources abroad, etc. Take China as an example. Although China has been greatly influenced by globalization, there is no way to keep up with the pace of globalization in information and science and technology security. There are many network limitations, the relevant departments to set up restrictions on the network, resulting in the situations in which people can not log on foreign Web sites. There is no way to pass information and advanced technology quickly through the network. Also, the implementation of network-related industry monopoly has resulted in slow network speed and poor signals which are unable to meet domestic demand. All the above are seriously hampering the development of information and technology (Bertucci & Duggett & International Institute of Administrative Sciences 2002).

3.2 Economic Security

Various issues have underscored the importance of national-level safety considerations, including macro-control policy-making, a government's overall capacity to manage economic security, competitive opportunities for the country's goods and services in the international market, resilience against the global financial crisis, and the maintenance of a peaceful and stable international and domestic environment. Bolstering economic security at the national level can significantly enhance a country's economic security and, consequently, its global competitiveness. The successful shift from a national to a globalized economic security model hinges on the continuous strengthening of national-level economic security. Once achieved, this will indeed serve as a cornerstone and catalyst for global economic security.

Meanwhile, the impact and need for protecting domestic industries remain contentious. Excessive protection can foster an environment where domestic industries develop without competition or pressure, leading to issues such as reduced service quality, sluggish technological advancements, and an inability to align with globalization demands. Notably, the emergence of domestic industry monopolies can severely impede economic progress and globalization, ultimately undermining the global competitiveness of domestic enterprises. (Nesadurai, 2006).

3.3 Military Security

In the current globalized environment, military security might appear to have diminished importance compared to the previous eras, especially given the emphasis on cooperation and development. However, it cannot be overstated that military security remains a vital and indispensable aspect of national security for all countries. It is a sensitive yet crucial topic that warrants consideration at the national level. Military security serves as a protective measure for a country, and strengthening its construction at the national level is not only a potent method but also an effective way to safeguard international relations in the globalized world and prevent external intervention. While enhancing military security can significantly contribute to domestic stability, it also has potential downsides, such as inducing psychological fear in neighboring countries and escalating military expenditures (Graham & Poku, 2000).

4. Discussion

Globalization is a very complex and contradictory process with its national security implications both at positive side and negative side. Comparison of the two parts discussed above, it is easier to infer that globalization indeed, from all aspects has promoted the development of the entire human world, in economics, information and technology, military, cultures, etc. Most importantly, globalization has opened up a new era of peace and development, resulting in minimizing war risks between countries. Furthermore, globalization contributed to changes of security concept from national-centered to global-centered.

It is worth mentioning that in the second part, we discussed the impact of globalization on the military with such a point of view that there is a decrease of possibility of wars between countries, basically there will be no outbreak of wars between nations. We have to admit the correctness of this view, because this is the result of more and more close relationship in the context of globalization. However, the globalization, after all, affected the allocation of global resources. There is the power imbalance among countries with growing polarization, leading to the emergence of interventionism. So, although basically there will be no wars between countries, in recent years there is still a very prominent examples or the existence of such an act, such as wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the most recently, the war against Libya. It is not biased to say that, regardless what the real purpose of a war, there was doctrine of interference in others' internal affairs and resource peering. This is a destruction to the globalization environment.

As described earlier, in the era of globalization, with the increasing diversity and refinement of national interests, the common concept of security has extended from the political and military security to economic, science and technology, environment, cultural and social security field which were not taken into account before the globalization, resulting in global security concept based on development. If the national security is regarded as a system, then it is composed with political security, military security, economic security, technological security, ecological security, cultural security, social security and other elements. The impact of globalization on national security reflected and focused on these elements. On the other side, some scholars have said, the nation is the fundamental of all. If some key elements are not based at a nation's level, all assumptions can not be realized. Even if this statement was said in present high degree of globalization with less effectiveness than before, it can still illustrate some basic issues and concepts in national security (Fagan & Munck, 2009).

National security lies in the combination of two levels, a single security level is unreliable and backward. Based on global considerations and many new challenges to national security brought by the environment, the security level must and needs to converse from national level to global level. At the same time, however, security at national level can not be neglected. As the above saying the nation is the fundamental of all "reveals that the security within a country has to be maintained and updated". The security at national level also includes economic, military, political, cultural, information and technological aspects. In a globalized environment, if safety indicators at the national level can not be

measured and maintained, it will cause a country lagging behind in the context of globalization, increased civil strife and the risk of interference by other countries.

Of course, the importance of the previously mentioned concept of national security in the era of globalization is a combination of national and global level. We can not blindly focus on national security, or on global security. It is like a scale, when a problem put on either side, or too heavy on one side, an imbalance would occur. There were examples in history, like in China's Qing Dynasty. When the world had entered the era of frequent trade and commerce, the Qing government closed all of the country's ports, prohibited all foreign trade in China, and basically cut off all diplomatic relations. The result was the isolation of the entire country. The reason for the Qing government to do so was for the simple reason that it sensed the dangers from the world to the internal security. So the same time it strengthened domestic security level, it completely abandoned the global security level, which resulted in a significant backwardness in social development and far out of touch of the whole world. The measure didn't create the internal security that the government expected, rather it led to domestic social unrest and the outbreak of the First Opium War. Although the historical events and times are different now, they do give us a lot lessons and experience. By this historical event, the understanding security can not stay at the national level only, nor consider the security issue totally and directly from global security level without taking the national security into account.

5. Conclusion

In summary, in the context of globalization, national security is no longer confined to a single country or region but is closely interconnected with the rest of the world. Globalization does not negate the importance of national-level security considerations; rather, it implies that the concept of national security should be simultaneously considered at both the national and global levels. Given the impacts and challenges that globalization poses to countries in various aspects such as economy, information technology, military affairs, and social stability, as well as the rising concern of terrorism in human society, it is imperative to pursue development at both the national and global levels simultaneously. This approach represents the most suitable development strategy in the current environment, taking into account the country's inherent security issues within the framework of globalization.

In terms of economic security, the integration of development protection and global economic cooperation is essential. The country should prioritize the protection and growth of its key industries and economic pillars, enhancing the competitiveness of local industries through policy support, technological innovation, and other means. Simultaneously, strengthening financial regulation and risk prevention measures is crucial to ensure national economic stability. Moreover, active participation in global economic cooperation and competition, as well as expanding access to international markets, will elevate the country's status and influence in the global economy through international trade, investment, and technological exchanges.

When it comes to information security, it is imperative to reinforce local information security measures while collaboratively addressing global information security issues. Establishing and improving the legal and regulatory framework for information security, raising awareness about information security, and bolstering the protection of critical information infrastructure are pivotal. Technical measures and management strategies should be implemented to prevent cyberattacks and information leaks, thereby ensuring national information security. Additionally, given the global nature of cybersecurity threats, it is vital for countries to enhance information sharing, technical exchanges, and collaborative responses. Through international cooperation, joint efforts can be made to combat cybercrime and cross-border cyberattacks, safeguarding global information security.

Lastly, while domestic military defense remains significant, it is crucial to strengthen national defense, improve the combat effectiveness of the military, and ensure the security of national territory and sovereignty. At the same time, enhancing the emergency management system and improving the ability to respond to emergencies and natural disasters is equally important. In the context of globalization, it is also significant to consider the importance of military cooperation between countries in maintaining regional stability and global security. Strengthening military cooperation with friendly countries through military exercises, intelligence sharing, and other means is essential to jointly address global security challenges. Meanwhile, seeking strategic balance with other major powers and avoiding military conflicts and wars remains a top priority.

The integrated and diversified security concept is an absolutely indispensable factor in addressing domestic and foreign security environments and challenges in today's globalized setting. Thinking about national security should not be confined solely to the national level. Globalization, while posing various impacts on national security, also brings tremendous opportunities within a global perspective.

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