



NATIONAL SECURITY AS A MODERN SCIENTIFIC-TEACHING DISCIPLINE

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Abstract

The subject of research in this paper is National Security which is defined as authentic and special scientific discipline. The independence of this scientific discipline arises from the content of its subject, the specific application and selection of scientific methods in the processing and systematization of those subject contents. In this paper, the author defines the contents of national security as a scientific-teaching discipline. In this paper, the author describes national security content as scientific and teaching discipline and the methods used by this scientific discipline. In the final part of the paper, the author determines the multidisciplinary character of this scientific and teaching discipline has content: for the function of achieving, developing and improving social and state values and interests; the function of controlling security challenges, risks and threats; for the security environment; for the security environment; part where activities will be identified, measures to build the resilience of the state and realize the preventive component in building resistance; as well as content to achieve real sustainable development (sustainable development covers three pillars of development – economic development, social development and environmental development). The content will be created based on the analysis of foreign literature and using electronic content. In preparing the content of the paper, the author will apply the general scientific methods: the descriptive method, the normative method, the comparative method and the content analysis method as a special scientific method.

Key words: *National security, subject of research, research methods.*

Introduction

Like other social sciences, national security is a science and is a systematic body of knowledge that can be researched, tested, learned and imparted.

National security as a science has its own conception, principles (arising from the shaping of practical experiences), methods and techniques, approaches and overall categorical apparatus.

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Of course, in theory, solutions for all practical problems cannot be found. This practically means: to do the right things in a given situation, while at the same time being faced with the reality that exists.

National security as a teaching and scientific discipline uses scientific methods of observation, experimentation and research. These methods are based on studied phenomena (analysis of security phenomena) and systematic classification and analysis of data.

With the increasing scope, diversity and destructiveness of security challenges, risks and threats, the context of security is constantly changing. Knowledge of problems is a necessary condition for solving them. This has led to the development of security sciences, including national security science, where special methods systematize knowledge about security phenomena and invent new knowledge.

National security as an educational and scientific discipline

Today, National Security is determined as an authentic and special (separate) scientific discipline, primarily because it has a separate, clear specific object of study, theoretical and logical foundation, a basis for its knowledge, a specific research methodology with a series of research, general, special and individual methods, as well as a developed conceptual and categorical apparatus. The independence of this scientific discipline results from the very content of its object of study, the specific application and selection of scientific methods has an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character.

National security is an independent, unique and synthetic theoretical – empirical teaching and scientific discipline within which the content of the security of society and the state is studied, i.e. the realization, maintenance, improvement and protection of their vital values and interests from various threats coming from outside or arising from within the state.

At the same time, it is a fundamental discipline (it seeks to acquire new knowledge and expand the existing stock of scientific knowledge). It is also an applicable discipline (it seeks to find solutions to specific security problems) because it provides an overview of real-world security phenomena, processes and conditions.

National security, applying a specific methodology of scientific research and using a unique conceptual-categorical apparatus, studies laws to achieve, promote and protect vital social and state values and interests.

Today, the subject "national security" represents a special discipline, which in its study uses already known methods of social sciences but also applies specific research methods and techniques that are characteristic and adapted to its subject of research. National security is a security science and a separate teaching and scientific discipline that has as its subject of research the following contents:⁷⁷ content for the achievement, development and advancement of social and state values and interests; content to control of security challenges, risks and threats; content for national security policy

⁷⁷ Gerginova, T. (2023). Global security (Basic textbook - Second supplementary Edition), University "St.Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola, Faculty of Security, Skopje.



and national security strategy; security of state sovereignty; social security; societal security; environmental safety; economic and energy security; information security, etc. Security environment – global challenges and key risks and threats to national security; European Union activities in suppressing national and global security threats and challenges; Preventive action by states in preventing contemporary risks and threats to national security, etc.

Historically, national security is inextricably linked to the state and its security sector. However, it gradually occupies the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The practice confirmed that the state can also be threatened by internal turmoil, economic disturbances and social disturbances, especially in communities that do not have a sense of identity and social cohesion.⁷⁸

Instability in the economic sphere, as well as in the social, humanitarian and environmental spheres, has become a greater threat to the peace, stability and security of many countries.⁷⁹

Contents related to the security of state sovereignty; social security; societal security; environment safety; economic and energy security; information security etc.⁸⁰

The achievement, development and promotion of social and state values and interests is aimed at achieving values and interests at certain levels of security (individuals, communities, states, the international community). They are achieved through the implementation of security policy in the broadest sense (economic, environmental, social, educational, technological development policy, etc).

Today, security problems are of natural, human, economic, informatics, technical-technological origins and are extremely complex and require complex mechanisms for their solution.

Basically, hazard occurrences are controlled by actions of counteraction, i.e. preventing their occurrence, suppressing the problem and averting harmful consequences.

It is the values that are being attacked. The "Control of Security Challenges, Risks and Threats" function includes:

Prevention of security challenges, risks and threats; Suppressing the occurrence of threats, sanctioning and controlling threat holders i.e. suppressing security challenges, risks and threats and Mitigating harmful consequences and protecting, assisting and improving the situation of victims, i.e. remediation and revitalization of endangered values.

Responding to the security system requires the engagement of multiple entities from the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental sectors and the application of activities and measures of security, based on national and international positive law on the achievements of domestic (national) and foreign security theory and practice, and on respect for social, political, economic, moral, educational and overall security conditions.

⁷⁸ Avramov, S. (2001). Bezbednost u XXI veku, Zbornik radova SIMVON 2001, Beograd, str. 423.

⁷⁹ According to UN - Doc. S/PV 3946, 31 Januaru 1992, p. 142-143).

⁸⁰ Gerginova, T. (2023). Global security (Basic textbook - Second supplementary Edition), University "St.Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola, Faculty of Security, Skopje.



European Union activities in suppressing national and global security threats and challenges – taking into account the fact that modern threats have a complex content, the need to respond to the entire society is also imposed. It implies the need to build national capacities to improve resistance to modern threats through a broader, more integrated and better coordinated approach at the national level.

The European Union's approach to resilience is followed by the Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis-Prone Countries 2013-2020.⁸¹

The action plan also sets priorities: EU support for the development and implementation of national resilience approaches integrated into the National Development Plans. The intention is to develop joint assessments, strategies and implementation plans to build resilience.

Resilience is the ability of an individual, household, community, country or region to endure, adapt and recover quickly from stress and shocks.

Resilience shall be understood, acknowledged and accepted, at the expert/technical level, as well as at the political decision-making level.⁸² European Union support at regional level will strengthen the capacity or regional organizations and stakeholders to strengthen the integration of resilience into planning of EU regional financial instruments and support regional capacities to identify, assess and monitor risk by improving analytical tools. EU interventions in areas such as food and nutrition security, climate change, DRR, agriculture, health, education and social protection, peace building and the building of the state, contribute to building resilience as a basic political priority.

The European Union establishes external aid whose main goal is to achieve resilience, i.e. reduce poverty and save lives.

Resilience is defined in the EU's 2016 Global Strategy as "the ability of states and societies to reform, thereby enduring and recovering from internal and external crises".⁸³

In 2020, the European Union adopted a new EU Security Union Strategy for the period 2020 to 2025, which provides guidance on strengthening security by preventing and detecting hybrid threats.⁸⁴

Through this strategy, the European Union describes the tools and measures to ensure European security, both in the physical and digital worlds and across all sections of society, through the prevention and detection of hybrid threats.

⁸¹ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2020. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/resilience/com_2013_227_ap_crisis_prone_countries_en.pdf

⁸² Gerginova, T. (2023). "Building Resilience – The NATO and European Union approach to Building Resilience - a paper published in Proceedings of the 14 International Scientific Conference "The strategic and security concept for the countries of Southeast Europe", Struga, organized by the Faculty of Security, Skopje.

⁸³ "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe", A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, 2016. Available to: <http://europa.eu/globalstrategy>

⁸⁴ See more: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-eu-security-union-strategy.pdf>



Preventive action by states in preventing contemporary risks and threats to national security
– In relation to prevention, a resilience-based approach is needed that identifies and mitigates vulnerability and minimizes the effects of potential threats and that emphasizes the importance of the capabilities of actors conducting response and recovery actions.

Broadens the conceptual scope of resilience to include critical infrastructure resilience and energy security, as well as secure and resilient systems to ensure the communications security of NATO countries; It is necessary to establish cooperation with the EU and NATO

institutions aimed at tackling hybrid threats; A multi-layered strategy and a broad systemic perspective aimed at both reducing the multiple risks of crises and at the same time improving mechanisms for rapid management and adaptation at the local, national and regional levels are needed; Each nation-state should adopt a Strategy for Building Resilience and Dealing with Hybrid Threats – this document should establish content to create a national capability to successfully deal with hybrid threats or crises (which threaten national society and democratic values, and destabilize the functioning of state institutions); Building high-quality and trained key personnel, as well as upholding the basic principles of national security and societal resilience through continuous basic training.

Policy of national security and strategy of national security

Two very important topics explored by National Security as a teaching and scholarly discipline are national security policy and national security strategy content.

Advancing national security and effectively countering challenges, risks and threats to the state and the community require strategic planning and organization of subjects, forces, measures, works and activities in the national security system.

Therefore, "stable states", through the concept of national security policy and strategy, determine the state strategy in terms of achieving the protection of vital values and interests.

Security policy can be defined as a part of the general policy which, on the basis of relevant facts, obtained through security assessments of the degree of endangerment of values, determines the means and measures by which certain security objectives can be achieved at home and abroad.

Security policy in a broader sense, it is made up of several national policies: foreign, defense, economic, social, environmental, health, energy, education and other policies through which the so-called special state strategy. Security policy creates a strategy of national security. Security policy appears as domestic and foreign policy and it should contribute to the realization of the internal stability of the country by gaining insight into the factors (phenomena) that are important for its strengthening and development, as well as the factors (phenomena) that bring or can later lead to a threat to national security.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ Listed according to: Mijalkovic, S., National Security, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 259.



In determining the policy of national security, there are basically two approaches.⁸⁶

The first approach to the policy of national security (for example, the Republic of Serbia – The Strategy of National Security of Republic of Serbia since 2009) starts from its general goal and is completed with goals and objectives in complementary policies: foreign, domestic, defense policy, economic policy, towards politics in other areas of social life.

The second approach to the policy of national security is very similar to the approaches of many countries around the world. This approach, starting with national values, determines national interests and activates those interests for the purposes and determines activities, mechanisms and instruments for the realization of those goals (for example, the Strategy of National Security of Republic of Serbia since 2019).⁸⁷

The term strategy (Greek – stratós, stratiia – army and agein, ago – running; strategos – military leaders).⁸⁸

It consists of practical action based on the general program viewing for the directions of development and the survival of the state through which the highest goods, values, interests and goals are determined. The external-state relations and the internal-state relations, the manner of building political, economic and military power and the direction of the national resources in those relations are taken into account.⁸⁹

It is about general and integral programmatic viewing for the purpose of achieving, preserving, protecting and successfully developing vital national and state values and interests, by engaging the overall mental, spiritual and material potentials of the state, by achieving defined goals in peacetime and extraordinary circumstances.

The Strategy of National Security is a basic and public document that defines the term security of the state and treats: national interests, security goals, security risks and threats, the possible response of the state to those risks and threats, security policy, as well as the structure of the national security system, but also the views and attitudes regarding defense, crisis management, with special emphasis on optimizing security resources, the organization and guidelines for increasing opportunities and readiness of states to respond the challenges, risks and dangers to the country's security. The strategy also determines the components of national security.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ See: <https://odbranaibezbednost.rs/2020/04/08/politika-i-strategija-nacionalne-bezbednosti/>

⁸⁷ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, April 2009. See: www.srbija.gov.rs accessed on 12.06.2020

The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia 94 / 2019-13. See more: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20-%20Lat..pdf accessed on 12.06.2020

⁸⁸ Listed according to: Mijalkovic, S., National Security, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 259

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⁹⁰ Mijalkovic, S., Keserovic, D. (2010). *Basics of security*, Faculty of security and protection, Banja Luka, p. 259.



Methods of security science

The scientific method is a way of acquiring, verifying and developing scientific knowledge. Scientific is any knowledge that is general, true, objective, precise, systematic, verifiable and is an element of the knowledge system of a particular science. The basic functions of the scientific method include the discovery and proof of new scientific claims, practical verification and assessment of scientific knowledge, self-correction (abandonment or modification) of one's own claims about science and orientation of the researcher in relation to the objects, to the reality being studied.⁹¹ Scientific research is a systematic, objective, critical and controlled process of acquiring new information necessary to identify and solve problems in science and other areas of human work.

Scientific research is a systematic, objective, critical and controlled process of acquiring new information necessary to identify and solve problems in science and other areas of human work. The methodology of (scientific) research deals with the origin, development and cognitive value of knowledge methods and technical procedures of scientific research, as well as the study of the components of scientific research and the structure of scientific knowledge. Security sciences, like most social sciences, do not yet have a fully developed autonomous methodology of scientific research. Of course they use general methods of research, above all general logical operations of reasoning and conclusion, i.e. induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis, analogy, generalization, then principles of formal logic (principles of identity, non-contradiction, exclusion of the third, sufficient reason) to arrive at certain scientific descriptions, scientific classifications, scientific explanations, scientific laws and possible scientific predictions. Moreover, in security theory it is often emphasized that "scientific goals are descriptive, analytical (analysis of sui generis problems) and receptive (finding solutions to problems based on prediction).⁹²

National security as a scientific discipline and research methods

Today, the subject "National Security" represents a special and young scientific discipline, which in its study uses already known methods of the social sciences, but also applies specific research methods and techniques that are characteristic and adapted to its subject of research. Scientific knowledge is more conditioned by the epistemological foundations of the subject of research and by a theoretical fund, and the method is known to be the most dynamic constituent of the security sciences.⁹³

⁹¹ Mijalkovic, S., Keserovic, D. (2010). *Basics of security*, Faculty of Security and Protection, Banja Luka, p.47.

⁹² Mijalković, S., Keserović, D. (2010). *Security Basics*, Faculty of Security and Protection, Banja Luka, p. 49. See more: G.: Notes toward the Definition of Global Security, *American Behavioral Scientist*, No. 6, May 1995, p. 821.

⁹³ Milošević, N., Milojević, S., (2001). *Osnovi metodologije bezbednosnih nauka*, Policijska akademija, Beograd, strana 28.



In the study of security reality (which is the subject of national security research) a number of scientific methods, techniques and instruments of research are applied. In particular, national security, as a scientific and instructional discipline, often uses general, specific and individual methods.

Depending on the breadth and variety of the subject being researched and of course, depending on the research goals themselves that need to be realized, the application of any of the above methods also depends.

In its research, national security as a scientific discipline applies the following general scientific methods: the statistical method, the comparative method, the modeling method and the axiomatic and hypothetical deductive method.

National security as a scientific and teaching discipline also uses special methods; the method of analysis and synthesis, the method of induction and deduction, the method of definition and classification, etc.

This scientific discipline also uses individual methods (these methods are also called empirical methods in methodological science): the most commonly used methods are observation, experimentation, examination and content analysis.

Individual investigations also require the use of other methods such as operational research methods, case study and case method and forecasting method.

Each of the methods listed above has a special function in the realization of research – in the plan of collecting, arranging or processing research material or in data analysis or verification of hypothetical views.

Multidimensional and interdisciplinary character of the subject of national security

In science and primarily in the methodology of researching security phenomena, the prevailing view is that key issues in the field of security cannot be observed or studied in isolation, that is, exclusively from the aspect of one science, but must be investigated in a wider context. In other words, the topic of security in modern conditions requires the need for the unification or concentration of several sciences and the use of scientific knowledge obtained by some other sciences or disciplines. Therefore, it can rightly be stated that the area of security as a research object, as a whole or by segments, is of an interdisciplinary and multidimensional character.⁹⁴

For the security sciences, it is characteristic that they are interconnected, conditioned, and that in terms of scientific knowledge they always rely on social sciences (for example – economics, law, politics and communication sciences, psychology, pedagogy, sociology); natural sciences (chemistry, physics, mathematics, environmental science, geography, etc.);

Technical-technological sciences: (organizational sciences, technological engineering, traffic engineering, biotechnology, etc.).

National security is objectively conditioned, referring to the use of knowledge obtained by other sciences, for the simple reason that those sciences, certainly to a

⁹⁴ See more: Savić, A., Stajić, Lj. (2006). Osnovi civilne bezbednosti, Fakultet za pravne i poslovne studije, Novi Sad, 2006, p. 12.



different extent, and with a special aspect, treat individual issues that represent its research interest. Also, National Security must be familiar with and at the same time incorporate the knowledge gained by legal sciences: constitutional law, public, civil, administrative and criminal law, etc., and political science: political system, public policy, etc. However, by the nature of its subject area, National Security relies on numerous economic scientific disciplines and their results, such as business economics, finance, management etc.

By its nature, the subject of National Security is related with the object "Basics of Security" and is in direct relation with other security disciplines, such as Etiology of Security Threats", International Security, Methodology of Intelligence Work, Security System, Theory and Security System, Security Management, Security System of Persons and Property, Terrorism, Terrorism and Political Violence, Data and Information Security, Emergency Security, Environmental Security, Crisis Management, Conflict Theory and others.

Given that the domain or field of interest of national security also includes phenomena related to criminal, pathological or deviant behavior, security sciences and thus national security establish a close relationship with criminology, social pathology and other disciplines that are thoroughly oriented towards preventing and suppressing these forms of illegal behavior.

Furthermore, national security also refers to many other sciences outside the social sciences, primarily to a range of disciplines in the natural and technical sciences. With all those sciences or scientific disciplines, national security or forced to establish complementary connections and relationships through which it draws all the available and accessible knowledge that it needs in research, consideration and analysis in generalization and interpretations of individual thematic contents that are found in the description of her research area.

Conclusion

Finally, we can state that National Security as a scholarly discipline has a multidisciplinary character and explores the following contents:

Content for the achievement, development and advancement of social and state values and interests; content about the security environment, content to control security challenges, risks and threats; content to identify activities, measures on how to build state resilience and implement the preventive component in building resilience; Sustainable development encompasses three pillars of development – economic development, social development and environmental development; European Union activities in suppressing national and global security threats and challenges; Preventive action by states in preventing contemporary risks and threats to national security, etc.

Hence, the need to implement Specialization of higher education institutions exclusively in the field of national security education.

National security as an educational and scientific discipline in the future will be built on the basic principles on which the vision for achieving national security is based:



national security is everyone's responsibility; Promote collective and individual responsibility for creating and maintaining a mature safety culture; Integration and coordination of efforts by undertaking actions in the public and private sectors; National Security by Design; Providing guidance, management and oversight to ensure that national security requirements are met (in planning, designing, developing, selecting, and managing a system for the achievement, development and advancement of national values and interests; a system for controlling security challenges, risks and threats; implementing the preventive component in building national resilience; information system etc.). National Security is also related to the content of achieving truly sustainable development (sustainable development encompasses three pillars of development – economic development, social development and environmental development).

The resulting changes in the security environment, as well as newly emerging security challenges, threats and risks, determine the need in each nation-state to adopt a strategy of national security. Furthermore, this strategy establishes the need for continuous development of national security policy and the ability to respond to changes.

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