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## THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN ACHIEVING HUMAN SECURITY

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**Abstract:** *THE AUTHOR TREATS THE ISSUE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL IMPACT OF INFORMATION IN MODERN SOCIETY (REGARDED AS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE) AND THAT OF INTELLIGENCE (REGARDED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE TRIAD ORGANIZATION-ACTIVITY-PRODUCT) THAT ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY. THE AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE STARTS WITH THE PREREQUISITE OF THE INCREASED ROLE IN SOCIETY OF THE ELEMENTS THAT DEFINE HUMAN SECURITY, REGARDED AS A NECESSARY ELEMENT OF BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COLLECTIVE, HIGHLIGHTING A MINIMAL SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT SHED LIGHT ON SOME OF THE WAYS THIS APPROACH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE CONVENTIONAL APPROACHES ON SECURITY, WHICH WERE CENTERED ON THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE CONCEPT. THE NECESSITY OF INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTIONS IN ACHIEVING STRATEGICAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THE NATIONAL DECISION-MAKERS IN THEIR MANAGEMENT OF THE MODERN ASYMMETRICAL SECURITY THREATS, LIKE TERRORISM, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, CYBER ATTACKS OR PANDEMICS IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE AUTHOR'S APPROACH.*

**Keywords:** *INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION, ACCESS, TRANSPARENCY, SECURITY, CITIZEN, SOCIETY*

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### 1. HUMAN SECURITY- A 'NECESSARY PARADIGM'?

'Security' as a concept has changed its approach that has dated almost half a century ago, the two World Wars being the primary sources of the changes in individual and collective mentalities, as well as in the international society.

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the threats and risks on global security have become less predictable, multidimensional and more vague. In recent years, the security analysis has used the concept of 'human security', due to the fact that the referent subject of security is the individual- the

human being. Human security has to be the starting point of every research on the subject, regardless of the level that has to be analyzed (national, regional or global). One of the premises of the approach on human security states that the central element of human insecurity is its vulnerability that can be increased by the rapid development of humanity.

The notion of human security has been addressed first by the United Nations Organization, with the purpose of expanding the traditional military concept on security to a higher level, that includes economic, health, environment, social, political, personal security.

Human security deals with the main priority of the individual status, as a main approach in achieving national, regional or global security.

Even if it is a disputed subject, 'human security' has been the base of all security models, centered on the individual, as opposed to the old strategies that were centered on national security. Human security may offer a new approach on both security and development, by combining human rights and human development.

In its general meaning, security is defined as the absence of physical aggression, while the notion of development must be regarded and treated as an increase of comfort and life standards from a material and spiritual point of view.

Development should mean much more than a decent life standard and should include a complex behavior, like the everyday sense of security of the individual and even the involvement of the individual in the decision making process, due to the fact that human security is part of human development.

When dealing with the concept of 'human security', a set of principles are identified (Ozanu, pp.11-12): these principles deal with the ways in which this approach is different from the conventional approaches on security and development. Primarily, it centers on the *supremacy of human rights*, these being fundamental rights of any individual, regardless of religion, race, sex or sexual orientation.

In comparison to the past approaches when security was centered on national interest, nowadays human rights are above all other interests, regardless of their nature. Human rights also include economic, social, civil and even political rights, this meaning that even in the case of conflicts the right to life, home and even the right to speech have to be honored.

On another note, the *legitimate political authority* must guarantee human security. In most cases, legitimate is a concept mistook as legality, but legality is a necessary but not mandatory requirement of legitimacy.

Legitimacy is a social phenomenon that is directly entwined with the founding of power. Its definition originates from the latin term *legitimus*, which means according to the law. Legitimacy states that a government system, a political power exists and performs by a right given by the citizens through the democratic vote.

Human security is correlated with the existence and operation of the legitimate institutions that have to own the public trust and are authorized by the power to impose.

Nowadays, one of the most important aspect of interest that contributes to achieving human security is the *multiculturalism*. Multiculturalism is affiliated with the international institutions and serves to unite the powerful nations but also to give voice to the smaller and less powerful nations that would otherwise not bear much influence. Also, multiculturalism may allow a great nation to influence another one of the same status.

Integrating a state entity in a multilateral alliance increases individual and collective security. Furthermore, multiculturalism implies that some rules and regulations must be created and the issues are solved by cooperation and enforcing rules.



Human security must exist on a global level and can only be enforced through multilateral action, as a commitment to work together with the international institutions and through multinational procedures.

An efficient approach on human security requires a coordination of all actors involved-external, development, social policy, etc.

As UNO states, human security is a broad strategy that is focused on prevention and deals with a broad range of threats on both communities and individuals.

Human security is focused on the background: on what makes people fear, on the threats that may vary because of different locations, so a bottom-to-top approach, based on real life dynamics, is needed (The London School of Economics and Political Science, n.d.).

This said, the strategies used to ensure the achievement of security must adapt to the changes in circumstances so they stay relevant and useful. The traditional political security approach and the use of a 'human face' cannot be enough: a new approach on the protected target, through means of security that lead to decrease threats has to be ensured.

Human security can be described as the security of small matters, as it does not imply the use of the armies or arsenals of the states, boarder control and boarder defense, which are standard issues and interests of the traditional security approach. The small matters are important from a strategic point of view: the assurance of a home or of a workplace, access to resources, the right to education or health, etc. The small matters are fundamental in achieving long-lasting peace and building a sustainable stability by preventing conflicts and simultaneously promoting development.

Human security or 'bottom security' implies the increase in individual capacities and not only of those that bear the traditional decision-making, thus defining the values, regulations and security objectives, as well as those of democratic and development. Bottom security includes communication, dialogue and partnership with the local population with the purpose of improvement of early alerting, information correlation, inclusion of local assistance.

## 2. ACHIEVING KNOWLEDGE AND SECURITY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE

Motto: „*Intelligence represents the ensemble of the operations of collecting, filtering and analyzing data and information and the dissemination of the products of intelligence that have an action value in order to satisfy the needs of a specific customer.*“

Herbert E. Mayer, *Real-world Intelligence*

When approaching this issue we must start with the certainty that there are some differences between knowledge and intelligence and these differences are mostly in quality; information represents small groups of simple data on a field of interest, while intelligence is the result of an analysis and of correlations of different information and data, which were processed on a high level with the purpose of using them in making decisions.

The importance of gaining information has been proved even in the old days, the activity of seeking and using information being known through biblical references.

All through history, human evolution has rendered its desire to gain and use information as a need to achieve security, a subject we have discussed in the previous chapter, and stop threats. When we discuss the means of execution, these two needs that characterize different individual or collective behaviors have complemented each other due to the natural need of humanity to achieve security but not necessarily by using brute force, but by using the power of knowledge: thus, the evolution of society in its different forms of organization was marked by the results of gaining knowledge (DEX, n.d), meaning the knowledge or news that has contributed to the development of social life in all its aspects, from the material to spiritual but also through the knowledge that can enable dominating an adversary (Peptan, 2020 b, pp. 83-88).



Moving on from these primarily theoretical approaches, we have witnessed in the last half century the developing of the concept of intelligence as an important factor in using information and achieving security, in the public space and its rapid spread on a global level, especially in the Western world. The concept of intelligence can be understood in different ways, like a science of political and strategic sectors, but also as an assembly of mechanisms, tactics and techniques (Maior, 2014, p. 12).

Most definitions of the term intelligence refer to the idea of some information given to the decision-makers or to the secret way of obtaining information and influencing different entities in order to extract important information that can be used in achieving security and national development (Boraz, Jones, Lipsy & Treverton, 2006).

Due to the fact that there isn't an exact definition of the term intelligence, the non-existence of a multitude of points of view is surprising (Kent, 1947, p.117).

Oxford English Dictionary defines the notion of intelligence as a process of gaining information through a structure/institution such as an intelligence agency. Regarding this definition, we may conclude that by intelligence we also refer to a structure that deals with obtaining information.

Lowenthal defines the notion of intelligence as a tridimensional structure of the concept, i.e the process, the product and the protection of the two (Lowenthal, 2002, p. 8). In addition, Thomas Troy claims another theory that states that intelligence implies knowing the enemy (Troy, 1992, pp. 433-554).

Abraham Shulsky and Gary Schmitt claim that classification is a necessary component of the activity of intelligence, thus the connection between intelligence and classification represents the fundamental element that singles out the intelligence as opposed to other intellectual activities (Shulsky & Schmitt, 2008, pp. 255-264).

The EU/NATO states use a specific definition of the concept:

1. in a general sense- it represents the process through which the information that hold a relevance to the national security are gained, processed and disseminated
2. in a narrow sense
  - a. to expose the entire institutional context that is necessary in the effective unfolding of the process
  - b. the product that is achieved through this process
  - c. the actions necessary to take in order to protect the product and the information gained” (Nițu & Perianu, 2012, p. 22).

Francis Bacon claims that information means knowledge and knowledge is power, while Alvin Toffler discusses a new formula available nowadays - knowledge on knowledge is what will matter most, meaning intelligence.

The concept of intelligence, that defines the set of activities related to the field of information, counter-information and protection of the fundamental interests of the state, doesn't have an exact translation in the Romanian language, but if we look at it through a social value, intelligence represents the product of collecting, evaluating, analyzing, integrating and interpreting all of the information gained in regard to a certain subject of interest for the assurance of stability in society.

Romanian experts of the field define the concept of intelligence as the product gained by processing information in regard to objects, phenomenon, process of interest or facts in relation to other elements that were gained through experience, deduction and concluding, based on the analysis of information and the capacity to solve issues and situations, with the help of the experience gained in collecting and assessing information and knowledge (Ciuflea, 2011).

Basically, intelligence represents a complex interdisciplinary issue and it bears distinct features of the field of activity and specific courses of action through specific methodology (Maior, 2011).



Intelligence as an organization uses particular actions such as legal methods, means procedures and techniques with the purpose of obtaining, processing and making available the information to the beneficiaries. This is, after all, the purpose of the intelligence agencies.

Intelligence, regarded through the perspective of the final product, is treated as the essence of the activity of processing information by the authorized structures of the agencies (as described in the paragraph above): the information takes various forms of documentation, such as notes, newsletters, summaries and any other legal form of gaining information for the beneficiary.

The product of intelligence, in its final form, that will be the object of information for the decision-makers, is the result of the complex analysis process of the information gained, usually through a diverse set of sources of information (classified, open, technic).

The purpose of intelligence agencies is to contribute to the aid of decision-makers in understanding the meaning, manifestation and evolution of the risk factors and the negative effects these may cast over society.

Nowadays society deals with a series of threats and vulnerabilities that are much more elaborate than those of the last decades. In regard to this aspect, strategic knowledge and anticipating events occurring in the medium and long run is increasingly difficult, almost hard to predict. We are in the presence of a continue change of the intelligence structures, while at the same time more types of war emerge and a variety of new organizations appear (Maior, 2010, p. 14).

Most of the threats are linked with gaining information, cyber attacks on national or private information systems, these being the most eloquent example for the need to gain information to use for a personal gain or to alter it in a distructive manner (Coldea, 2018, pp. 41-42). Due to this context, information and intelligence have become powerful tools of the security services (structures that deal with processing, informing and implementing informational defence tactics) that operate in the interest of the statal entities. We can thus deduce the importance of information both as a rough and processed state as having the purpose of ensuring the necessary knowledge in order to gain actual power of a state, both internally and externally, with regard to the relation between different state and non-state actors (Maior, 2010, p. 10). At the same time, in regard to the strategical knowledge, intelligence is the base form at the starting point in decision making when dealing with risk management (Maior, 2010, p. 10).

As previously stated, the operational and analytical source of obtaining and processing information is the intelligence service of a nation. Thus, these institutions can hold strategic and information assignments for the decision-makers and also deal with the tactical part of preventing and counteracting the different threats (Coldea, p. 18).

The necessity and importance of knowledge and information is rendered by the diversity of the threats present in our society, such as: terrorism, cyber attacks, migration, hybrid war and the rapid development of technology that requires an increase in counter-intelligence.

**Terrorism** is a complex and dynamic phenomenon and has been proven as one of the greatest threats on national, international and even global security, due to its constant evolution (Coldea, p. 49). Terrorism's increase and high risk have been subjected to many researches on the field by specialists and has led to creating new areas of expertise in the academic sector.

Tackling this phenomenon cannot be done in an easy way, but through a comprehensive, tactical and cooperant manner (Coldea, p. 50), due to its institutionalization, meaning that the statal actors and the intelligence agencies have to cooperate strongly.

Clausewitz discusses the hybrid war and states that each era has “its own type of war, its own conditions and distinct preconceptions” (Von Clausewitz, 1989, p. 593).

The theory on hybrid war states that in this type of war one of the combatants bases its optimal force structure on combining all of the available resources, both conventional and unconventional, in



an unique cultural context, in order to affect an adversary that fights in a conventional manner (McCulloh & Johnson, 2013, p. 17).

The hybrid war is known for frequently breaching international treaties and legislation, mainly by tactical occupation of foreign lands, manipulating the media of those territories and using cyber attacks. All of these have an established purpose - destabilisation of that nation for an easy occupation.

Migration has been a serious threat to global security over the last years, when the number of immigrants has increased due to enhancing of threats in the global conflict zones (Peptan, 2020a, pp. 9-18). Thus, the national decision-makers had to deal with a massive impact of transit and destination on the relationships and solidarities of the European nations (Council of Europe Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Countries of Transit: meeting a new migration and asylum challenges, 2015). The driving force and catalyst of these massive population movements is the context of globalization.

From the security perspective, the main error is to analyze and frame migration in limited terms, when in fact it is a pan-european issue, caused by a pan-arab ark of conflict and instability (Coldea, p. 51). A collaboration and an increase of activity of the nations and security structures involved is necessary to achieve a high global security system.

The evolution of technology, increased mostly in the last two decades by enhancing private investment budgets, represents an operative action of the technological process for the interested entities and has created major differences between the infrastructures of the different geographical areas and has led to the occurrence of cyber attacks by eluding the legal context.

The differences between technology status has created strategic vulnerabilities and generates challenges for the institutions' ability to use the latest technological resources (Coldea, p. 44).

The specialists in this field claim that the chronical and critical challenge lays in the changes in technology (Parker, 2015). We are at that point in which a USB/Hard that is used by specialists can create major damages on a state force institution and thus on national security.

We may state that we are on the brink of creating a new sales market in fighting for achieving national security and state development. This aspect implies a higher necessity to increase the system of counter-intelligence because the rapid growth of technology has brought new issues and opportunities for the agencies and for those involved in counter-intelligence activities (Coldea, p. 46).

As a conclusion, while the traditional issues that deal with security are important, the most threats on international security are generated by trans-national phenomenon. Trans-national terrorism is the most visible threat and the governments are aware of the issues linked with fighting an adversary that operates over the borders, that uses with its best ability the freedom of movement and travel, communication and expands its financial capacity from the process of globalization. The trans-national criminal networks pose another serious threat, mostly due to the fact that it is an invisible threat, as opposed to the terrorist organizations, because criminal networks seek financial gain rather than human victims.

Other trans-national threats have the potential of provoking destructions and pose threats to international stability: they can be man-made or provoked by natural phenomenon. Nuclear overgrowth, the development of nuclear bio pathogens, illegal gun trading and climate change represent man-made phenomenon, while the spreading of HIV/AIDS and infectious and deadly diseases like avian influenza or COVID-19 pandemic are phenomenon that occur naturally. All of these have to be known through intelligence.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The information that are at the disposal of the decision-maker/strategic beneficiary by the intelligence specialists should be objective, available, ascertainable and reliable.



The information will be given the attribute of information only after an analysis process that includes the examination, confirmation and completion through other sources: following this process, the information is drafted in an accessible format. Nevertheless, we should consider the fact that the information can be outdated and should be used in due time.

More information means more knowledge and knowledge is only built on an information base. In the absence of a solid intelligence analysis that is based on the analyst's general knowledge and intuition, the information could be misunderstood by the political decision-makers (Matei, 2018).

Intelligence should center around the information exchange, as the absence of this interaction is the reason some of the attacks couldn't be prevented, as it happened in the September 11, 2001 attack.

Gaining information is a critical part in achieving security objectives. In summary, the intelligence services are needed to prevent threats before they get the chance to escalate or to generate.

We can conclude that the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become the century of information. We might even say that a new stage has started, that will mark the future of nations, societies and individuals in the long and very long run (Maior, 2010, p. 10).



1/2021

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