

RISKS AND THREATS TO THE STATES' MILITARY SECURITY IN THE 1ST HALF OF THE XXI CENTURY

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Abstract: *This article discusses scientific and theoretical approaches to the definition of such categories as “risk” and “threat”. The article looks at the states’ military security in the 1st half of the XXI century.*

Key words: *military security, military threat, approach, sources, intergovernmental contradictions, conflicts, international terrorism, drug trade.*

In the 1st half of the XXI century risks and threats to the states’ national security have different character. They can arise in any sphere of national security including the military one.

In the scientific theory there are different approaches that determine essence of such categories as “military danger” and “military threat.” Classification of their levels (degrees), are subdivided as follows:

1st approach stands for military danger that includes not only risks and challenges for military security but sometimes it becomes a separate, independent category.

2nd approach stands for military danger that becomes a general category characterized by the following levels (degrees):

- risks for military security;
- challenges for military security;
- military threats.

Approaches to the definitions of such categories as “military danger”, and “military threat” are reflected in direct ratio to the hierarchy of their levels.

Foreign specialists are of the opinion that there can be at least three levels of “military danger or threat”:

The 1st level (of risks) – means absence of the military threat when all three factors are displayed simultaneously testifying presence of military danger, but there is no specifically noticed enemy.

The 2nd level (of challenges) – means appearance or existence of the directed military threat, when the states or other antigovernment destructive forces inside the country demonstrate their military force and hostile intentions.

The 3rd level (of threats) – means that the revealed enemy having finished all his main preparations for the war resolutely intends to realize his military plans in the nearest future.

All these threat situations are directly related to the practice of ensuring military safety. In the condition when there is a kind of military danger, but there is no military threat, the system responsible for ensuring military security of the state has to estimate all the possibilities of the danger sources. The existing military security system has to predict the threat development, determine conditions and factors



under influence of which the danger can develop into military threat when the state armed forces must be ready to repel aggression in any possible direction.

In the situation when you have already determined the character of the coming threat, main forces of the system ensuring military security of the state must be concentrated in the direction (directions) of the expected threat (aggression).

According to the manifestation of its intensity military threat is a pretty changeable phenomenon. As the level of military threat strengthens and the objective of its impact is determined, the threat acquires subject character of a military threat according to both its sources and direction. But in case of lowering the possibility of inflicting material damage on the enemy, any military threat can disappear.

Any military danger gives rise to the contradictions between separate states (coalitions of states), various political groupings or inside them. In this case settlement of the existing contradictions demands use of the military force.

Sources of military danger can be both internal and external, but sometimes they can interlace. For instance:

external sources of any military danger are a state or (a coalition of states) having adherence to solving political, economic, social, territorial, religious, national-ethnic and other contradictions by use of military force.

internal sources of military danger are political, religious, separate, nationalistic and extremist forces that can use armed violence and other irregular forms of fight.

As a rule, **acute and deep enough intergovernmental contradictions** are the deepest, primary and defining causes for any military danger. It is absolutely natural that every state has the most different interests contrasting with the interests of other subjects of the world community in this or that sphere. With the help of different means and methods including the military ones, some contradictions can be resolved, other ones can be blurred out or deadened, while the third ones can be resolved with difficulty and periodically (in certain circumstances) start intensifying.

Militarization of states (coalitions of states), particularly, political views of the states' leadership and society as a whole, presence of strong armies and well-trained powerful armed groupings, assertive strive for having at their disposal more effective and destructive weapons, etc. is another source of military danger as well.

Policy of double standards in the interpretation of international rules, estimation of military and political actions of different states is one more serious source of the present day military danger.

Simultaneously, the process of transition from unipolar to multi-polar world is characterized by appearance of the new challenges and threats to security. Moreover, dynamics and contradictions of the events development, unpredictable changes in the political, economic and other reality, continuously lead to a high level of uncertainty and intensity of the international tension.

In connection with the above-mentioned, threats to military security are definitely changing. *Instead of the recently existing danger of the wide-ranging clash between opposite military-political alliances, to date, we must assert that a new system of threats characterized by limited, pinpointed and targeted character has definitely appeared.*

At present, *hybridity of threats to military security has become a new reality.* Hybridity means comprehensive use of definite effective means of impact over different spheres of activity (political, economic, informational, military, humanitarian, etc.) upon the most vulnerable centres for ensuring stability of the state security system.

In addition to the above-mentioned, we can see that in the XXI century leading foreign states started using military force for the realization of their national interests more often.



Nowadays, spectrum of the real threats to military security is constantly widening and transforming.

On the global scale we can witness attempts of the one-sided reconsideration of the UNO bases. Such examples obviously show that interests and views of the world community members can be disregarded. To date, this growing tendency is becoming one more serious threat for universal security.

Unapproved by the UN Security Council sanctions on the use of military force in the international relations, as well as use of political and economic sanctions as an instrument of impact on other states has become quite a negative practice today.

In the policy of the leading states one can trace the increasing tendency to maintain dominance in the world (region). In the frames of such a policy geopolitical competition and fight for the spheres of influence, sources of strategic resource and markets can potentially lead to the wide-ranging contradictions. Existing rivalry in the natural resources imbalance is becoming more evident at present.

Intensification of the contradictions amid the countries, linked to the discrepancy of their development is caused by the ongoing global processes. This social phenomenon is also one of no small importance factors today, because it leads to the deepening of mismatch among the world countries' level of prosperity.

In the midterm outlook international situation as a whole will be influenced negatively by:
unresolved conflicts in the Near East, Afghanistan, Iraq, a number of South Asian and African countries, as well as on the Korean Peninsula;

international terrorism;

drug trade.

International terrorism is one of the most dangerous challenges of the present time. Today international terrorism is obtaining political nature and turning into a real force pretending to come into power in a number of the world states.

To date, there is a steady growing tendency for globalization of extremist organizations activity in the world. Extremist activity is characterized by a wide geographical scale, strengthening of interaction between isolated uncoordinated groups and very quick adaptation to the ongoing changes in any situation.

Terrorists are striving to get access to the latest models of armament, equipment and technology.

At present, terrorist organizations are increasingly growing in number and developing technologically.

For their ideological platform they use laws of radical Islamic fundamentalism. Leaders of the terrorist organizations are strengthening close cooperation with their brothers-in-arms. They are striving to create belts of instability including separate states and in the future – even whole regions.

The main aim of the created “terrorist internationalism” is to resurrect by force Great Caliphate in the borders of the Near East, Middle East, the Caucasus, North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula.

By now, international terrorism led by a slogan “fight for clean Islam” has become a variety of the transnational crime. Actually, international terrorism has turned into profitable business with a billiards turnover capital that includes drug trade, weapons smuggling, precious metals contraband and capturing of hostages.

Striving for additional financial resources, terrorists are doing purposeful work on developing relations with nationalistic organizations, pirates and separatists.

So, it is expected that in the nearest future level of the terrorist threat in the world will remain quite high. Widening of the extremists' activity scale, firstly, in the Near and Middle East creates real threat of the terrorism transportation to the European countries, Middle Asia and Asian–Pacific region states.



Drug trade is a global threat to security. Today, drug industry turnover is about 8 % of the world trade. It equals to \$ 800 billion dollars.

In their criminal activity transnational drug syndicates use state-of-the-art models of weapons and ammunition, systems of electronic equipment, as well as the most modern methods of their own security assurance. They are steadily perfecting their technical and financial potentials adapting the latest achievements of the scientific-technical progress to their needs.

The following dangers to intraregional military security of Central Asia can be referred to:

territorial disputes;

interference of other countries into internal affairs of Central Asia;

cross-border criminality, first of all, drug traffic;

water-power problems;

interethnic and interreligious contradictions;

political and socio-economic instability in separate regional countries, etc.

In summary, we can conclude that spectrum of threats to military security is very wide. It is characterized by many-sided content and diversified impact.

In contemporary conditions prediction of military dangers and threats is a multifactorial, complicated, but extremely actual mission of the military theory and practice.

This mission demands to recognize clearly threats to the military security of a state at the very early stage, to classify any threat according to its degree and sources of danger, time and spatial scales, impact intensity and other characteristics.

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