

Foreign Experience in Ensuring National and Economic Security

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Abstract

Security issues today are considered from a much broader perspective than in the past. Security is not only personal protection or protection from military threats, although these remain primary objectives of central governments. The concept of security now includes protection from epidemics and infectious diseases, combating terrorism and organized crime, ensuring safe transportation and reliable food supplies, protection against energy supply disruptions, counteracting destructive climate change, and more. Countries increasingly depend on the external world due to globalization. Each country addresses these challenges based on its developmental specifics, available resources, and ability to cooperate internationally.

Keywords: economic security, national security, development strategy, security threats, cybersecurity

Introduction

Technological advancements have created strong interdependencies. Information technologies have improved life for most people, but their use for hostile purposes by states and individuals is also increasingly evident. Security levels are changing rapidly. Many factors that previously contributed to success can suddenly become vulnerabilities. Recent international events have increased requirements for countries to ensure security.

Digitalization promotes innovation and development, creating new channels of communication, increasing access to knowledge, and expanding the ability to form opinions and think critically. However, it also facilitates the dissemination of hostile messages that challenge fundamental values and societal security. Current conditions suggest that all countries must develop the capacity to prevent, withstand, and manage crises.

Foreign Approaches to Economic Security

Analysis of foreign approaches to economic security shows that, alongside theoretical understanding, countries have developed economic strategies and mechanisms for government management. Depending on the continent, economic development, global

integration, population mentality, and national priorities, countries adopt different approaches to national and economic security.

The United States aims to promote freedom, respect for human rights, free markets, and the rule of law. Its strategy seeks global and regional stability through leadership and engagement, pursuing four mutually reinforcing goals:

1. Protect the U.S. and its citizens from attack;
2. Uphold and expand historical, treaty-based, and collective defense;
3. Prevent any hostile power from dominating or controlling critical regions;
4. Avoid conflict by reducing regional instability and limiting proliferation of advanced military technologies.

U.S. national security comprises physical security, economic security (ensuring citizen well-being within a dynamic and accessible economy), and the promotion of pro-American values worldwide. Traditionally, it is considered in terms of the defense-industrial complex, military base functioning, funding reductions, international sanctions, and export controls. Economic considerations—budget deficit reduction, immigration, trade, and innovation—complement these measures.

Recent U.S. debates focus on three global issues: rising terrorism and militant Islam, the consequences of the global financial crisis, and the growing influence of emerging economies such as China, India, and Brazil. The U.S. National Security Strategy emphasizes peaceful conflict resolution, cooperation with the EU and allies, support for democratization, and the spread of Western culture. Economic policy prioritizes market capitalism, security over economic cost when necessary, and monetary and fiscal stimulation over industrial policy. Economic strength is a cornerstone of U.S. national security, providing resources for defense, citizen welfare, and international influence.

European Union Experience

The EU emphasizes national and economic security as crucial for establishing its global position. European integration enhances competitiveness through resource sharing, achieving economic security and an equitable standard of living across member states. Challenges include slow post-crisis recovery, high unemployment, migration pressures, Brexit, and rising nationalism. Security between states is closely linked to internal security, and EU member states consider Russian military actions in Crimea, Ukraine, and Syria as threats.

Sweden has developed a national security strategy integrating internal and external security. It emphasizes protection of life and health, societal functionality, fundamental values such as democracy, rule of law, and human rights, and international collaboration, including cybersecurity. Sweden prioritizes regional cooperation, particularly with the Baltic countries, the EU, and the U.S., gender equality, and citizen participation in security initiatives.

France

France faces hybrid wars, rising powers such as China, Russia, Turkey, and Iran, and cyber threats. Recent crises—migration, geopolitical tensions, and defense budget reductions—expose vulnerabilities. Military equipment is aging, with many systems from the 1960s–1970s still in service. Security forces total nearly one million personnel, but coordination challenges persist. National security efforts remain fragmented and reactive, lacking a coherent European defense strategy.

China

China prioritizes national defense and military modernization as a strategic task. Its security strategy includes adapting to changes in national security, implementing the Communist Party's military objectives, pursuing active defense, protecting sovereignty and development, and realizing the “Chinese Dream” of national rejuvenation. Emerging threats include terrorism, piracy, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and cyber warfare. China emphasizes space and cyberspace as strategic domains, nuclear energy as a cornerstone of national security, and focuses on political, logistical, and technological development in defense.

Conclusion

National and economic security ultimately depends on the resilience and strength of the national economy. A strong economy enables effective protection of national interests amid global competition and economic imbalances. States must develop national security strategies based on global experience while reforming internal and external economic policies to safeguard all economic actors.

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