



## FORMATION OF THE SOCIETAL SECURITY BY THE STATE

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### SUMMARY:

*The article presents the problem of societal security as the one of security elements. The role and the importance of a country in creating conditions of societal security was emphasized, pointing among others to the unfavourable phenomena such as excessive development and income polarization as well as actions which have to serve the improvement of societal security.*

### INTRODUCTION

The character of a contemporary state is undergoing a dynamic evolution. However, the essential question arises about its role as a regulator of socio-economic processes in the context of the states' changing roles. The state was ascribed to new functions, even in the most liberal concepts created on the basis of inspiration with social agreement concluded by Greek philosophers (Democritus) who claimed that only individual things exist but the whole and systems are solely the creation of human mind. In the views of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, the community means, according to the agreement, only the fact done by people, some activities, which are similar or complementary.

The community's task is to remove difficulties preventing the individuals from achieving security. It is the security which has been entered into the catalogue of state's functions which, at the same time, were treated for many years as military security, internal order or the guarantee of economic freedom. Since the Big Crisis, it started being viewed differently on the state's role in economy and the New Deal concept by Roosevelt, sanctioned with the views of J.M. Keynes, appeared in the economic politics of states for a long time. A concept of State's Prosperity imposes even the social obligation on the state towards citizens. At present, on the events of financial crisis, people are standing at the crossroads again and searching for the answer to the question whether the societal security is the responsibility of the state or rather the rare privilege for few communities on an international scale.

### SOCIETAL SECURITY IN THE NATION'S SECURITY CONCEPT

The new way of thinking about security has appeared in connection to the end of the Cold War and publishing the innovative work *People, States and Fear* by Barry Buzan, which presents "range of international security studies in post cold-war order" [Buzan, B., 1991]. In relation to the necessary security conditions, Buzan analyses types of security threats and describes its five broad sectors: military, political, social, economic and ecological, by which he supports multi-layered approach towards security maintaining realistic paradigm but, however, with considerably extended depiction of the security nature. Buzan describes societal security as an identity concept. "Societal security concerns the traditional language patterns, culture, religious and national identity as well as customs to be maintained on the satisfactorily developing level" [B. Buzan, 1991,p.19]. Nationalism and pressures to mark the borders may again lead to tension in the countries in which people are of diverse ethnic origins.

Societal security is also closely connected with "social security" which concerns social threats caused by illiteracy, discriminations, illnesses, poverty, crime, drugs and terrorism [Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe, Centre for Peace and Conflict Research, 1993]. Societal security may as well be threatened by international problems or the traditional threats of national security.

The broadening of national security interest into the area of societal security results alike from the role of contemporary democratic state which duty is to care about its citizens, irrespective of their material status, in order to

let them authentically take part in the social life. Economic "disorder" of large social groups causes democracy to become facade and institutions of a democratic country are unavailable for large social circles [Leszczyński M., 2008]. Therefore, societal security is defined as the protection of existential bases of people's lives, assurance of fulfilling one's individual needs (both material and spiritual) and realization of life aspirations by creating conditions to work and study, health protection and pension guarantee [Skrabacz A., 2006, p.413]. "(...) There are tight connections between security and conditions of creating interrelations, well-being, liberalization of economy and strengthening of democracy. In other words, security is closely connected with what happens in economy. The stronger the economy, the lower the unemployment, the wealthier the society the bigger interest of a given country is showed in the economy stabilization of other countries. This action is not charitable in its character; it results from the matter of a country which involves itself in it" [Żukrowska K., 2006, p.32].

Societal security encompasses the entirety of lawful and organization actions realized by governmental (national and international) and off governmental entities as well as the citizens themselves. They aim at providing a certain level of life to people, families and social groups and try not to permit them to marginalization and exclusion from society. The point here is to provide help to people temporarily or permanently unable to work, who have found themselves in hard situation as a result of their own helplessness or have fallen victim to an event of fate beyond their control, e.g. fire, flood or other natural disasters. Here, the crucial meaning has the attention on necessity of strengthening citizens' responsibility for their own and their families' fate because the fight with marginalization and the overriding role of the nation in this process cannot mould the bases known as a learned helplessness syndrome. It consists in gradual losing one's own abilities in handling with difficult life situations and reaching the social institution for help in inappropriate circumstances. The second element of societal security is the creation of development conditions. As the author of this work understands it, the issue here is the active participation in creating the income (participation in labour market) as the basis of economic independence [Leszczyński M., 2008].

## THREATS TO SECURITY WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION ACTIONS INVOLVED

In the approach presented by some social politicians, it is proposed to examine the threats from the angle of unsatisfied needs as well. It is believed that the unsatisfied needs cause the state of lack which may become a factor of accumulating various hard situations in individuals and their families' lives [Danecki J., Auleytner J., 1999].

There are distinguished:

1. Threat to existence connected with the lack of proper water supply, lack of food, illnesses as a result of undernourishment or children born with a distinctive underweight.
2. Threat to shelter. That is, in the extreme cases, the homelessness or a flat which does not prevent from normal weather conditions or does not have proper sanitary, flat's overpopulation and a flat located in a dangerous area.
3. Threat to work. Unemployment, including the permanent (a year without work) and a mass one (over three years of temporary unemployment). The risk of a job loss, every profession undermining the employer's autonomy as well as the threats of accidents at work and industrial diseases.
4. Threat to environment. Connected with life in an area of high level of pollution or high level of noise.
5. Threat to health. Difficult access to health care, threat of diseases, bigger death rate of some social groups and threat of epidemic as well as disability.
6. Threat to childhood. Here, mainly abandoned children, neglected ones, victims of violence, being raised in pathological families, in privation and poverty.
7. Threat of loneliness. Lack of immediate family, close relations with other people, lack of support in a family, lack of support in hard life situations, old age spent in loneliness, social marginalization.
8. Economic threats. Absolute poverty, lack of proper financial security in case of definite random incidents.
9. Physical threats. An increase in crime against health; murders, violence, terrorism.
10. Threats to development. Difficult access to schools, poor level of education, lack of higher education, lack of access to cultural institutions and cultural backwardness.

Economic crisis, with which the whole world economy fights, had initially financial roots and the consumption model in separation from the income of a household may be generally regarded as its original cause. This model, based on the credit, was promoted then on unprecedented scale and was contrasted with the passive approval of the size of highly developed countries' governments and, so called, rising markets. Liberal approach to the credit policy, reduction of reserves compulsory for commercial banks, admission to the high deficit in the current sales account, financial speculations in many countries (especially in the United States) led to the domino effect in a scale of the whole world economy. Some market participants treated the economy as "roulette" and investments were made far from the reasonable economic account. These events provide everyday new information and new effects for the real economy: companies, households and the entire countries. They will bring defined negative social effects as well. With these effects, among others, the whole European Union must pit against by taking definite actions which stabilize societal security.

B. Jagiełło made the description of threats for security in the context of European Union policy. The author divides the threats into five groups. The first is "revolt of the excluded". This threat is characterized: "One of the fundamental threats results from spreading the radical positions, elementary at times, which are the bases for accusation of the rich and arising hostility towards them. This hostility may be also expressed in aggressive as well as terrorist forms included in them. In the opinion of Union politics, it arose from poverty, developmental disproportions appearing between particular world areas. These divisions are accompanied by cultural differences, the deepening lack of trust between the wealthy consumer communities and the poorer societies of the South, which are living in a want" [Jagiełło B., 2006, p.263]. The second threat is "revolt of the poor" resulting from growing income differences between the poor and the rich on a world scale. These disproportions are more and more visible mostly because of the development of means of transport and aggressive marketing methods. Developed societies, who want to increase their income, commonly make use of these instruments and means connected with the development of information and new technologies. However, they lose sight of "by-product", which means the transmission and information reception

also by those, for whom the access to well-being is difficult. Trade and international exchange globalization may encounter aversion, resistance and even hostility in poor countries. Efforts to fight with poverty and to the balanced development are the conditions of survival and further prosperity also in developed countries. The remaining threat is: "the crisis of the nation" which B. Jagiełło relates to phenomena of cumulative societal exclusion, which may result in political events leading even to the collapse of a country (it concerns especially poor countries and postcolonial ones with weak structures of democratic power and with underspecified national identity - tribal identity dominates national identity). The last two threats are: "threat for natural environment" and "international terrorism".

The essential idea of the European Union concerning counteraction of modern threats in a long-term concept is brought to the realization of soft security. The cooperation programs and developmental projects, financial help, abolishing barriers in trade as well as promotion of development will serve this idea. Programs which counteract the threats were assigned to the new agenda of EU foreign policy: "the cooperative global management". Its message is that the process of globalization should be much open and friendlier towards poor countries. Among others, trade regulations and further abolishing of barriers would serve this process in addition to the strengthening the global institutions and international conferences' role (UN and WTO), assistance of regional cooperation by creating new regional structures under which the compromise, understanding of a partner, building regional loyalty and preventive diplomacy are taught. The development of economic cooperation between EU and other integrative and regional organizations with economic character is recognized as the basic instrument leading to diminishing the tension and eliminating or weakening factors regarded as the cause of formation of threats. Within the framework of this cooperation, the particular emphasis was put on the trade and various cooperation programs under the policy of development, which led to the poverty decrease. They are treated in long-term categories and are put to periodic assessments and modifications. In the field of short-term activities, the study of stabilization package is appropriate together with other EU partners on the basis of common and compromise position between the EU countries. At this point, essential is the balance

between particular countries which is based on the principle of European solidarity, irrespective of the economic-military potential of a given country.

As research shows, citizens attach great significance to societal security. It is understandable because societal security, which is inseparably connected to social policy, becomes the main human need. In this management there is a policy of employment, formation of income from work, policy of work and environment protection, policy of social security, policy of health protection, education and cultural policy, housing policy, policy in the scope of recreation and leisure. The catalogue of human needs and societal safety of an individual is subjected only relatively to classification and its modification changes together with the process of social, economic and political changes. Thus, societal safety may be characterized as people's intentional effort to living conditions, which guarantee non-worsening existential situation of citizens, the possibility of preserving the standard of living and creating the chance for its increase and improvement [Lisiecki M., 2008, p. 276]. Societal safety issues are to be found in the document: "The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland". In this document it is written that: "The overriding goal of the state's activities in the field of social security is to ensure a fast and noticeable improvement of the quality of citizens' lives. This requires engaging in an active social policy – primarily a radical limitation of poverty and reduction of area of social exclusion by increasing real incomes of all social groups and decreasing the unemployment rate. Actions undertaken by state institutions should also be aimed at preventing excessive stratification of the society and engaging in a policy of equal opportunities in social development for regions" [The National Security Strategy, 2007]. It is to be mentioned that the excessive income stratification issues arouse special anxiety in the case of Poland. According to the research carried out on the directive of OECD, Poland belongs to the countries of the biggest income stratification in the European Union. The income of the lowest to the highest earners was estimated by a ratio of 1:13. It is enough to mention that in countries such as Germany, France and even Great Britain, this ratio is not higher than 1:8. In countries like the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia it does not exceed the ratio of 1:7. In Scandinavian countries, the differences are still smaller. Among all OECD countries, Mexico has got the biggest stratification and it is the ratio of 1:25.

Only the United States of America, among highly developed countries, have income relations comparable to Poland. The excessive income stratification should be assessed as an unfavorable phenomenon because it causes not only the impoverishment of social groups but also constitutes the essential base for populist parties, which are often undemocratic and extreme. Significant stratification may mean a very limited in size or the lack of middle class in Poland. However, it is the middle class which constitute the natural guarantor of economic and social system stability.

Postulates of the majority of employees' circle towards income limitation, as the main factor restricting competitiveness of firms, should be treated with reserve. It is an essential question if Poland chooses the marginal way of development based on secondary technologies, low income and weak social protection for the major part of society. Nevertheless, the situation can be the other way round. Poland could try to join the main developmental trends based on new technologies, net societies based on trust and try to support creating highly profitable jobs for specialists, thus using considerable sources of qualified work. The only membership in the European Union does not determine the developmental way but can efficiently help with choosing and realizing the second model. In next part of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland one can read that: "An active social policy should also aim at ensuring an increase of citizens' social security, accounting for, in particular, a rise of the number of social groups that are active in the labour market and who are in a difficult life situations; increase of social integration and improvement of the social security system; levelling the civilizational differences between towns and the countryside; counteracting negative population changes and the migration of young generation citizens" [The National Security Strategy, 2007, p.16].

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

It is hard to overrate the meaning of the social scope of the nation's safety. In the era of uncertainty resulting from the consequences of economic crisis, citizens observe the actions of individual countries with hope. The nation becomes once again a guarantor of stability and duration of developmental processes after the years of dominance of neoliberal conception in economy. Sometimes, these conceptions deprecated the nation and its

institutions. Current situation will surely have a considerable meaning for formulating new economic as well as political order in the world. Today, we are awaiting the building of new, efficient institutions, which guarantee the

economic and societal security and, therefore, they assure the relative balance, stable development and, as a consequence, worldwide security as such.

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