

# Perspectives on Economic Security



# Perspectives on Economic Security

By

Rosario Adapon Turvey

**Cambridge  
Scholars  
Publishing**



Perspectives on Economic Security

By Rosario Adapon Turvey

This book first published 2023

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2023 by Rosario Adapon Turvey

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-5275-9327-4

ISBN (13): 978-1-5275-9327-5

For Michael James and my parents



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures and Tables .....	ix
Acronyms .....	x
Preface .....	xii
Chapter 1 .....	1
Introduction	
Chapter 2 .....	11
The Security Concept	
Chapter 3 .....	30
Framing Economic Security and Insecurity	
Chapter 4 .....	60
Economic Diplomacy and Security	
Chapter 5 .....	79
Economic Security and the Labour Sector	
Chapter 6 .....	92
Economic Security in Global Development	
Chapter 7 .....	138
Economic Security as Geo-Security: A Spatial Perspective	
Chapter 8 .....	151
Economic Security and the Fragile States	
Chapter 9 .....	166
Vulnerability, Least Developed Countries and the Economic Security Question	

Chapter 10 .....	185
Economic Security and Sustainability	
Chapter 11 .....	201
Measuring Economic Security and Insecurity	
Chapter 12 .....	226
Final Notes	
Index.....	230



# LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

## Figures

Figure 3-1: COVID-19 Pandemic and Decline in HDI Values

Figure 3-2: Perceptions of Human Insecurity Worldwide

Figure 6-3: Human Development Index Dimensions

## Tables

Table 3-1: Headcounts of Insecurity, Selected European Countries

Table 6-2: Goalposts for Human Development Index

Table 6-3: Top 10 Countries with Highest Human Development Index  
2019

Table 6-4: Top 10 Countries with Lowest Human Development Index  
2019

Table 6-5: Goalposts for Gender Development Index

Table 8-6: List of Fragile and Conflict Affected States

Table 8-7: FY23 List of States in Conflict with Institutional and Social  
Fragility

Table 10-8: Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030

Table 10-9: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2015)

Table 11-10: IEWB Index of Security in Selected Countries

Table 11-11: Scale in IEWB Security Index

Table 11-12: Index of Economic Security (2014), Top 10, Bottom 10  
Countries

## ACRONYMS

AIDAB	Australian International Aid Bureau
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CCED	Center for Community Economic Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus-19
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCs	Developing Countries
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DFID	Department of Finance and International Development
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Commission of the United Nations
ED	economic diplomacy
EMCs	Emerging market countries
ENSU	Environmental sustainability
ES	economic security
ESI	economic security index
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESP	export support performance
EU	European Union
EVI	environmental vulnerability index
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FCS	fragility and conflict- affected states
FDR	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
FPL	Federal poverty level
GATT	General Agreement on Tariff and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GWP	Gross World Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HDRO	Human Development Report Office
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IEWB	Index of Economic Well-Being
IGO	Inter-governmental organizations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPE	International Political Economy

LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LICUS	Low-Income Countries under Stress
MDGs	Medium Development Goals
NAM	non-aligned movement
NAS	non-aligned states
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NIDL	New International Division of Labour
NGOs	non-government organizations
NOW	New World Order
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSS	People's Security Survey
SARS	Severe-acute respiratory syndrome
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SD	sustainable development
UN	United Nations
UNCDP	UN Committee on Development Policy
UNCSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	UN Commission on Trade and Development
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNHCR	UN Humanitarian Council for Refugees
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
WB	World Bank
WCED	World Commission on the Environment and Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

## PREFACE

With the call for relevance in intellectual inquiry and pedagogy, this book is written to serve as a reference guide for anyone with a practical, professional and academic interest in economic security and human welfare. My objective in publishing this book is to focus on particular outlooks concerning economic security and well-being by drawing on recent thinking and current literature. Until recently, there has been scant literature that can be used as a resource to better understand the multi-faceted nature and relationships of economic security with current thematic areas such as insecurity, sustainability and global development.

The book draws together varied perspectives on economic security (ES) with a goal to provide a quick reference material for understanding its relationships with the nation-state, households, individuals and the labour sector, institutions, economic diplomacy, and so on. Among the aims of this publication is to bring together in an accessible format a wide collection of overviews that connect pertinent topics associated with economic security. While the publication may not cover every aspect related to, and of relevance to, ES, it does cover one of its most important dimensions during the 21<sup>st</sup> century - its links with human welfare or well-being as advanced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other organizations. The scope of discussion in this book has been grounded in published scholarly works and varied research focusing on the intellectual and educational influences of economic security that widely concerns policy makers, institutions, individuals, households and society in general.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

In recent times, the need for educational resources on economic security has never been more urgent, as the world economy confronts difficult socio-economic challenges and fast-paced changes driven by globalization and technological advances such as global economic restructuring and overall shifts in the world of work, business and industry, directly affecting national economies and societies. Around the world, the situation during the last few years has been complicated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning in 2020, and the emergence of other diseases like monkeypox which WHO declared a public health emergency by the third quarter of 2022. The UN reports that economic insecurity was already a worsening problem in many countries before COVID-19 crashed the world economy in early 2020 (UN DESA, 2021; Osberg, 2021).

This book strongly considers economic security as a cornerstone of well-being; it is a human right, source of innovation, and means of social connection and building societal and institutional trust, as is advocated in current literature (Jimenez and Roig, 2021; UN DESA, 2021; Case, 2021; ILO, 2005). More importantly, while there is high interest in economic security in the current scholarly and political agenda, statistics show a climbing trend of high economic insecurity arising from a multiplicity of factors and causes, ranging from economic instability to social changes, weak interaction between shocks, impacts and buffers, and recent structural changes in the economy (Ranci, Beckfield, Bernardi and Parma, 2021; Stiglitz, Fitoussi, and Durand, 2020; Osberg and Sharpe, 2014). In the policy brief of the UN Decade of Action, two elements are often associated with defining economic insecurity: 1) people's exposure to, or expectation of, adverse events, and 2) their (in)ability to cope with and recover from the consequences of such events (Jimenez and Roig, 2021; Kopasker et al., 2018). While this book focuses on economic security, broader aspects of economic insecurity are also discussed in pertinent chapters to broaden our understanding of the concepts, as people seriously

worry about their economic future. In short, it is about time we take a long hard look at economic security and insecurity.

Nowadays, economic security is viewed with much greater concern than ever before, given the current impacts of high inflation and past experience of recession and financial crisis (2008-2013), when individuals' sense of well-being fell sharply in affected countries (Stiglitz, Fitoussi and Durand, 2019). Since the 1990s, the deregulation of labour markets and the rise of new social risks have eroded the social foundations for stability, thus spreading economic insecurity (Ranci et al., 2021). Though economic security stands as a major aspect of people's well-being, one reason why governments pay inadequate attention to it is because it is not currently reflected in standard statistics for measuring economic and social progress (Hacker, 2018). Why should we care about economic security? One of the various reasons why we should pay equal attention to economic security as poverty reduction is this: while the goal of "no poverty" must remain a national and global issue, it has been seen as an "outdated standard" for measuring economic and social progress. Arguably, economic security is not only related to poverty issues, but also linked to growing gaps between people's expectations and their actual situation (Jimenez and Roig, 2021). In the US, the federal poverty level (FPL) is taken as an outdated measure when defining who is poor and who is not poor; "for too long, the centre of debate and policy has been focused on reducing poverty" (Insight, 2021). At this point, the world needs to give equal attention to the other end of the socio-economic spectrum concerning economic security. The Insight Centre for Community Economic Development in California views economic security as: "the freedom to thrive, the peace of mind to live today and plan for the future without always worrying about economic hardship nipping at your heels" (Case, 2021). In the real world, even when one finds work and gradually gets out of poverty, it is nonetheless a long way to go from making ends meet and to getting ahead (Case, 2021). Insecurity affects so many people that, if not addressed, it could have major political impacts (Jimenez and Roig, 2021). Surprisingly, since the recession in 2008, economic insecurity has spread in Europe, where the debate remains very much focused on poverty trends and social exclusion as insecurity expanded into EU's middle class (Viemincks and Foster, 2004; Cantillon and Vanderbroucke, 2014; Mood, 2015). While valuable research continues to develop better means of measuring economic performance and well-being beyond the GDP in terms of national accounts, (e.g., Hacker, 2014; Osberg and Sharpe, 2014 and Stiglitz et al., 2019), the world is beset with a range of global issues such as rising economic insecurity and climate change. Further, strong impacts of

insecurity in the economy and society have been felt in recent times with the changing structure and workings of the world economic system in the context of globalization and the pressures of high inflation and global warming.

Globalization defines the present era of history and has influenced human life as we know it. Invariably, it is about flows and connectedness, vastness of scale, and fast-increasing speed of technological advance, communication, spread of viruses, and rise of carbon dioxide around the world and across borders (Haass, 2020). Though globalization has its merits and innovative contributions, there are also concerns in terms of its impacts on the worlds of work, industry, and society. In the present century, while digitization raises consumer choice and access to new services, there are insecurity concerns with regards to the impacts of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), in terms of displacement of jobs and occupations (Stiglitz et al., 2019, 103). In Asia, robots perform a growing share of labour - South Korea, for instance, leads the world in industrial robotics, with 500 robots per 10,000 manufacturing workers (Khanna, 2019). These are just a few examples to show how the work world has changed. From this perspective, economic security (ES) is, in essence, a valuable, influential and noteworthy subject of intellectual inquiry in the social sciences and interdisciplinary fields like geography, political science, economics, international studies, and sustainable science. Attention to ES as subject in teaching, research and policy development is more pressing than ever, as realized across the globe during the Great Recession of 2008-2013, where higher economic insecurity and lower trust in public institutions was recognized by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance launched under the auspices of OECD (Stiglitz et al., 2019). When economies confront recession and experience deep downturns, people realize the severity of its impacts for well-being if and when a sense of economic insecurity grows. Even high-income countries beset with inadequate health care and weak social security systems could drive higher levels of economic insecurity as research evidence indicates (Osberg and Sharpe, 2014). As recognized, people worry about their economic future when they do not have adequate insurance benefits and social protection systems, and when they see the reduction of other people's well-being (Stiglitz et al., 2019; Osberg and Sharpe, 2014). This situation makes societies vulnerable if there are inadequate insurance systems, economic losses (i.e., income or job loss), macro-economic volatility and inadequate safety nets or buffers to cushion negative shocks and extreme events. Countries that confront deep economic downturns also face varying types of inequalities such as gender

inequality, inequality of opportunity in the distribution of household economic resources and others. According to Stiglitz et al., (2019, 86) 'equality of opportunity' could mean that "individuals exerting the same level of effort should have the same outcomes (or the same probability distribution of outcomes) regardless of their circumstances." Global inequality can be separated into three main factors: 1) inequality among countries of the world per capita incomes unweighted; 2) weighted by country's population, and 3) inequality between world individuals (Milanovic, 2007).

While most published materials paid attention to ES in remarkable proportions, the reality is that educational resources with multiple perspectives are limited in pedagogic terms. The idea behind this book is to offer, in a holistic way, varied perspectives on economic security – namely, economic diplomacy, labour sector, global development, fragile states, economic insecurity and sustainability. It is my hope that the book contributes teaching, research and practice in the ES field, based on sound and current scholarship. It is expected to serve as a gateway to further reading and foster learning for individuals and communities in building economic security. Likewise, it is expected to generate greater interest in doing research on how best to measure economic security and insecurity, and broaden its professional practice to sustain public trust at the community and institutional levels, as well as in the policy-making arena. As we move towards the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the field of ES has been filled with debates, conversations and new discourses, as novel ideas arise in attempts to tackle intellectual and pragmatic issues that matter to us all – that is, not just to academics but to policy makers, practitioners, individuals and households and the human family. This book offers a synoptic account of the narratives on ES, as it is grounded on peer-reviewed published works and current scholarship. The perspectives included herein are selective, and not an exhaustive reflection of the current intellectual landscape in terms of ES. By examining certain themes and aspects of the existing knowledge, conceptual orientation, and theoretical grounding of security and ES, this publication seeks to fill the knowledge gap – more specifically, to chronicle how economic security relates to such areas as the labour sector, diplomacy, sustainability and global development.

The objective is to capture, from varied intellectual accounts, the state of knowledge on economic security, with academic rigour and proper depth of inquiry. With the wide-ranging views emerging on ES, a substantive review from a range of viewpoints is appropriate, as it comes at an



important and propitious point in time - one of intellectual progress and relevant policy reform across the globe with a view to find ways to solve the related issues of poverty, social inequality and insecurity. In an aggregate and collective way, the content of the discussions represents only a snapshot of the current and evolving knowledge production on ES; it has become a ‘new global deal’, being a cornerstone of well-being within the Decade of Action according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2021). In its Decade of Action policy brief, the United Nations recognizes the ‘significance’ of ES for well-being, and cites Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states “everyone has the right to adequate standard of living and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age and lack of livelihood and other circumstances beyond their control.” As indicated, the UN made the case for ES “to the forefront of a new global deal”, given the concerns surrounding the impacts of economic insecurity in terms of possible occurrence of societal discontent and political instability.

Following this introduction, the next chapter discusses the security concept as defined by several authors in current literature, before explaining what economic security means in this book specifically. What follows after the definitions is a revisiting of conceptual foundations, based on recent thoughts and viewpoints on ES as a non-traditional type of security, from a number of perspectives in order to unpack its links by themes such as economic diplomacy and sustainability. Apart from its spatial viewpoint, the book includes perspectives on economic security as it relates to the labour sector, global development, the fragile states, and sustainability. There are twelve chapters in this book, including this introductory chapter. The first chapter indicates the need for this economic security book as a learning resource, and explores ES as a relevant field of study in interdisciplinary and international fields, from geography to political science to the social sciences. It provides a background on how the book is presented, states the book’s rationale and importance, as well as the approach taken by thematic orientation and subject area. Chapter 2 explains security as a field of study and subject of research; reviews its meanings as drawn from existing literature and summarizes the progress that has already been made based on the traditional and non-traditional variants of security. The chapter also discusses the security concept from the lens of international relations and politics, including advanced knowledge of security thinking. A discussion of challenges to global and national security presents an overview of emerging aspects of terrorism and other issues of violence which have changed the security landscape

around the world. Security has been analysed and scrutinized ceaselessly, and definitions abound in relevant disciplines, from political science to international relations. It has been debated on the international stage with the rise of new concerns and challenges that will shape the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The third chapter focuses on the definitions and current advances in the research landscape that frame economic security and insecurity. As a non-traditional variant of security, discussions on economic security from pressing concerns and global issues in international relations, sustainability and human welfare are included. Specific and varied meanings of economic security as a forward-looking, goal-oriented and inclusive concept will be included. Aspects of ES in terms of the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector are highlighted, as well as links with food security and environmental security. Equally important is a discussion of economic insecurity as it is comprehended by present-day societies. Specifically, the links between relevant global concerns such as food security, mental health and climate change are also discussed in this chapter. In attempts to broaden an understanding of ES, chapter 4 discusses the ongoing debates and trends in economic diplomacy, international relations, and political science. The objective is to establish if there are any close links between ES and economic diplomacy as practised in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in relation to evolving aspects of new diplomacy. A review of the progress of economic diplomacy is also included here. Exceptional work has already been done to conceptualize economic diplomacy, but it is essential to look at new diplomacy as it is applied in theory and practice, as it could potentially contribute to welfare policies and economic security worldwide.

In the fifth chapter, economic security is highlighted as one variant of non-traditional security and is discussed in relation to and as influenced by the labour sector as a major factor of economic activity. In a changing world scenario ranging from the New International Division of Labour (NIDL) and adoption of regulatory arbitrage in the corporate world, there has been an increased importance of intellectual capital in knowledge-based industries. Pertinent labour concepts associated with economic security are examined such as labour controllability, labour flexibility, tertiarization of the labour sector, feminization of the labour force, and polarization of occupational structures. Relevant topics directly related to economic security, such as labour market security, employment security, job security, skills security, and income security, are briefly discussed here by drawing from ILO annual reports. With a goal to take an inclusive view of economic security, chapter 6 provides a synthesis of major aspects of global development in the context of the developing world. Though not

exhaustive, the review highlights global development as an important element of world security, particularly in the ways that it is relevant to economic security. With a fast-changing world economy with an unprecedented rise in emerging economies, a revitalized interest on economic security deserves rethinking, as it poses new challenges, if not threats and risks, from unexpected shocks and crises in poor countries, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Along with major aspects of international cooperation and development, the engagement of NGOs, donor countries and development agencies are featured, with special emphasis on the role of the UN and other organizations tasked with advancing the 17 SDGs and promoting international development partnerships and cooperation to make poverty history and promote human welfare in the context of developing countries/LDCs. Certain modes of development partnerships and technical cooperation are explored here as well. Also included in this chapter is a section on measuring development. The next chapter (chapter 7) pertains to the geographic aspects of economic security and insecurity. Scholarly attention to the geography of security is relevant to security studies. While there is much dynamism in security studies as a newly expanding field of international relations, the spatial dimension of security has been somewhat neglected and taken as given in security thinking. This chapter attempts to address the question whether the spatial perspective of security is a conceptual necessity. Chapter 8 is focused on the fragility of states as it relates to economic security. Overall, global security is complicated and analytically difficult, yet too important to ignore, especially when it comes to the situation of fragile states and failed states around the world. Of great concern to the security arena is the perception that fragile states are likely to threaten regional and global stability - if and when they fall or fail and turn into breeding grounds for criminal activity and terrorist network. This chapter analyses ES in terms of how the world views the fragile states and failed states, and how they are treated as 'other places' in the context of world development. In recent times, the dilemma of weak, failing and fragile states has been at the forefront of global assessment research and international development. The question is how the world can work together to resolve their difficult situations, challenges and constraints. Chapter 9 highlights the Least Developed Countries from the perspective of their place-identity as vulnerable places, with the objective to address the economic security question in terms of how it affects their position in the international political economy (IPE). While it does not make a critique of the burgeoning literature on vulnerability, the idea is to explore the need for economic security - not just for framing development policy

and conducting IPE research, but also for promoting growth and stability as the process of graduation from the list of LDCs looms large in these countries. Also included in this chapter is a narrative of LDCs, a review of place-identity studies, and an analysis of LDCs in development policy and the notion of vulnerability and place-identity relative to economic security and development.

As the title of chapter 10 states, there is a pressing need for robust research on economic security and its relationship with sustainability thinking in conceptual and practical terms. Although both concepts have distinct meanings, they are focused on the same problems and have a common goal to promote human welfare, a healthy environment and stable economy for a sustainable future. Chapter 10 briefly traces the origins of sustainable development and provides a synthesis of sustainability thinking, as well as exploring ES' links with environmental sustainability. Overall, the purpose is to summarize the 17 goals for sustainable development (SDGs) by 2030 in efforts to achieve human welfare and sustainable communities. Another point of discussion is the measurement of economic security and insecurity, if and when it is applied in the real-world context. Chapter 11 focuses on existing research and methods employed by highly reputable scholars dedicated to measuring economic security and insecurity. The subject of economic insecurity is attracting such interest in the social policy debate that there is little doubt that studies could create significant contributions in building hope towards human welfare and security. Chapter 12 provides the final notes on, and analysis of, the expectations of the publication. The book will conclude with statements that highlight the aggregate contributions of ES as a field which strives to achieve better ways to operationalize securitization within the framework of human welfare and sustainability. With emphasis made by the UN, the OECD and the ILO, as well as by leading economists like Stiglitz et al., (2019), there is no aspect of individual well-being that is more important than economic security. A synthesis of the relationship of ES with economic justice, sustainability, SDGs, and well-being is likewise provided. As the UN Policy Brief on Decade of Action (2021) states, economic security as a human right is a universal concern, and therefore a global responsibility. Further, "the desire for economic security is a powerful, universal sentiment that most people can relate to..." (Jimenez and Roig, 2021). One thing is certain: economic security has yet to received serious attention in research and policy development, and deserves to be examined in the same way as concepts of justice, freedom, inequality and poverty are studied in the academy and the political arena.

## References

- Cantillon, Bea and Vandenbroucke, Frank. 2014. *Reconciling work and poverty reduction. How successful are European Welfare States?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Case, Annette. 2021. “Economic Security is... Concept Paper”, *Metrics Matter Insight*. Oakland, CA: Centre for Community Economic Development.
- Haass, Richard. 2020. *The World: A Brief Introduction*. New York: Penguin Press.
- Hacker, Jacob. 2018. “Economic Security”. In *For Good Measure: Advancing Research on Well-Being Metrics Beyond GDP* edited by Stiglitz, Joseph E., Jean-Paul Fitoussi and Martine Durand. Paris: OECD Publishing.
- Insight. 2021. *Metrics Matter: An Initiative of the Insight Centre for Community Economic Development*, Concept Paper. [insightccd.besa/metrics-matter/economic security](https://insightccd.besa/metrics-matter/economic-security)
- ILO (International Labour Organization). 2005. *ILO People’s Security Surveys (PSS)*. Geneva: ILO.
- Jimenez Maren Andrea and Roig, Martha. 2021. *Decade of Action, UN Policy Brief 90*. Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, Division for Inclusive Social Development. New York: UN DESA.
- Khanna, Parag. 2019. *The Future is Asian: Global Order in the Twenty-First Century*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson.
- Kopasker, Daniel, Catia Montagna and Keith A. Bender. 2018. “Economic insecurity: a socio-economic determinant of mental health”. *Social Science & Medicine-Population Health*.
- Milanovic, Branko. 2007. “Global Income Inequality”, *Poverty in Focus: The Challenge of Inequality*, International Poverty Centre, Brasilia, Brazil. [www.undp-povertycentre.org](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org)
- Mood, Carina. 2015. “The not-very-rich and the very poor: Poverty persistence and poverty concentration in Sweden”. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(3), 316-330.
- Osberg, Lars. 2021. “Economic Insecurity and Well-Being”, Working Paper 173daleconwp2021-01, Dalhousie University, Department of Economics.
- Osberg, Lars and Andrew Sharpe. 2014. “Measuring Economic Insecurity in Rich and Poor Nations”. *Review of Income and Wealth*.  
Doi.10.1111/roiw.12114
- Ranci, Costanzo, Jason Beckfield, Laura Bernardi and Andrea Parma. 2021. “New Measures of Economic Insecurity Reveal its Expansion

- into EU Middle Classes and Welfare States”. *Social Indicators Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-021-02709-4>.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E., Jean-Paul Fitoussi and Martine Durand, eds. 2020. *For Good Measure: An Agenda for Moving Beyond GDP*. New York and London: The New Press.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E., Jean-Paul Fitoussi and Martine Durand. 2019. *Measuring What Counts: The Global Movement for Well-Being*. New York and London: The New Press.
- UN DESA (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs). 2021. *World Social Report*. New York: United Nations  
[www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-social-report-2021](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-social-report-2021)
- Viemincs, Koen and Michael F. Foster. 2004. “International Comparisons of income inequality and poverty: Findings from the Luxembourg income study”. *Socio-Economic Review* 2(2), 191-212.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE SECURITY CONCEPT

#### **The Security Field: An Overview**

Studies on the security field are closely associated with International Relations (IR), International Political Economy (IPE), Diplomacy, Geography and Political Science. In the global context, the study of security is a sub-discipline of International Relations wherein all political interactions among international 'actors' include nation-states, international organizations, wealthy individuals, the private sector and non-government bodies (Hough, 2004).

Since the 1990s, the security field has been at the edge of ceaseless rethinking, which shows no shortage of conceptual literature to explain what security means according to its nature and characteristics (e.g., Wolfers, 1952; Ullman, 1983; Digeser, 1994; Tickner, 1995; Baldwin, 1997; Buzan, Waever and de Wilde, 1998). If one checks the standard dictionary, "secure" means to make something, somebody or somewhere safe, or untroubled by fear or danger, reliable, and certain not to fail. The term security is derived from the Latin word *secures*, which means free from care, safety and protection of values (Malik, 2014). According to Booth (1991), the human vision of security could mean efforts to enhance the long-term health and welfare of the human family and minimize people's suffering; or it could be a conceptual shift from national security to global security where individuals, not just the state, are the focus of security, i.e., individuals must be the fundamental referents of security. There could be unhelpful dichotomies in framing security with views of division and exclusion, where one view of security privileges the state and its military power, while the other concerns human security at others expense (Booth, 1991). Closely related terms that suggest insecure and unstable conditions such as fragility and vulnerability to risks and threats are probably sufficient reasons to capture the underlying forces for certain actors and spatial units to adopt security measures, as is the case of fragile states or places faced with serious challenges in insecurity. Pertinent

security studies indicate that current definitions of ‘security’ vary by context, focus and philosophical basis. In global politics, state security in conventional terms is about national security within the international system of power relations. In this sense, security is posited as a principal goal of the states in the national security context, with the state as prime unit of analysis (Waltz, 1979, Tickner, 1992; Smith, 2000; Rengger, 2000).

### *The Security Concept*

Within the new dynamic field of security studies, the concept of security is not limited to the question of “what is to be secured” (e.g., the state), but also “for which values” and “for whom.” Early writings by Wolfers (1952) viewed security to be value-laden and that it holds objective and subjective dimensions of acquired values in national security. Security from an objective lens, according to Wolfers, is measured by the absence of threats to acquired values while the subjective view is the absence of fear when acquired values are attacked. In matters of national security, examples of values and vital interests for protection are territorial integrity and economic welfare. A more nuanced conceptualization of security by Buzan (1991) relates to the international system, in which it depends on the ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identity and functional integrity. Others, like Wheeler and Booth (1992,) argued for a stable security achieved not at the expense of others, but through a process of emancipation. From the standpoint of emancipation, Booth (1991, 319) privileges the individual rather than the state as the referent of security and asserts “...emancipation, power or order as “true security”. Theoretically, Booth (1991) claims that emancipation is security in and of itself, as it means freedom from want (poverty) and freedom from political oppression (fear). Others advanced a survivalist notion of security. In particular, Waltz (1993) interprets security with regard to conditions of anarchy and the need for an assurance of survival. He asserts that the goals of tranquillity, profit, and power could be achieved only if states are assured of survival in conditions of anarchy. Presumably, this condition of anarchy points to the existence of threats and disturbances to security, hence the concern for survival. If security is equally tied to national security or the state-centric view of security, it involves the pursuit of power, order and protection of state sovereignty in its traditional sense (Turvey, 2014). As work on meaning construction and measurement continues, a revisit of the conceptual issues of contemporary security is imperative, beginning with state-centric security from a traditional view, to the perspective of security



in terms of international affairs with new actors in the security field and conceptual security frameworks.

### *State-Centric Security: A National Perspective*

At the national stage, the traditional emphasis on national security refers to military security and economic stability. In recent decades, much criticism has been levelled against this state-centric traditional approach to security thinking. In world politics, security refers to the protection and safety of the state as the referent object or unit of analysis to be secured. Until the late 1980s, security was defined in both capitalist and statist terms with the state as the unit of analysis in international relations. Apart from national security concerns, the literature contains writings on human security, collective security versus common security in the policy agenda and non-traditional/critical security studies. Contemporary international security may take realpolitik and power calculations too seriously, which, in turn, may relate to ideas of collective security. Although military force remains an important part of international life, there are views of realistic opportunities that move beyond the self-help world of realism, particularly after the Cold War. In international relations, realism is a “position that believes the inter-state system to be inherently competitive and always threatening to every state” (Flint and Taylor, 2007, 322). Accordingly, security thinkers and states agree to abide by certain norms and rules to maintain stability and, when necessary, stop aggression (Kupchan and Kupchan, 1995). Following Bayliss (2014), collective security involves the recognition by states of such principles as renouncing the use of military force, broadening conception of national interest, overcoming the fear which dominates world politics, and learning to trust each other. By the 1990s, the security field has been the subject of ceaseless rethinking, redefinition and contestation by security scholars, political scientists and internationalists. From the standpoint of the developing world, Thomas (1987) disagrees with the rather simplistic yet persistent military orientation of security from the Western (developed world) standpoint. Her contribution to the literature asserts a more inclusive view of the concept in relation to the state’s existence. In differentiating the internal from the external types of security, Thomas argues that the internal security of the state through nation building – such as the search for secure systems of food, health, money and trade - is just as relevant to matters of external security. In the present century, the concept has been taken seriously as more utterances, criticisms and writings have focused on rethinking security so as to:

- a) widen its definitional boundaries and,
- b) identify its conceptual distinctions and characteristics.

Though there is no standard definition of security in international relations and related disciplines, questions remain as to whether there is a need for a universal definition of security. There are proposals that frame security from a comprehensive or holistic view to reimagine the concept and widen its research agenda to reflect other, equally important theoretical positions (e.g., feminist perspective) (Buzan, 1991; Tickner, 1992). For example, Tickner (1992, 24) suggests "...to search for a broader definition of security that encompasses not only freedom from physical violence but also the material well-being of individuals and the environmental health of the entire planet." To date, however, there is no broad conceptual consensus as to what security means for policy development, research, and scientific usage in security studies. Others questioned which actors are the appropriate referents of security: from individual to national, international, and global - particularly in the context of globalization (Smith, 2000; Herd, 2001, Williams, 2003). As such, there is a renewed controversy on meaning construction and theoretical currents in security studies, given its aim to expand and deepen its agenda to consider other threats. Efforts to deepen its agenda sought to include non-traditional security matters in two ways: one expands the range of actors; the other permits a global focus of sectors that affect everyone, and also considers various security types (e.g., environmental security and economic security). For instance, in its second edition of *Freedom from Fear*, Canada's foreign policy focused on human security to enhance the safety and well-being of people abroad. The human security agenda incorporates long-term objectives, including human rights promotion, alleviation of humanitarian crises, support for safekeeping, and encouraging disarmament. From this overarching goal, Canada is committed to a person-centred, as well as state-centred, approach to security policy (<http://www.humansecurity.gc.ca>). Since 1996, Canada has argued that contemporary security challenges have fundamentally changed from those of the past; despite a decline in wars between states, a growing number of transnational threats and brutal civil wars have made more people feel insecure.

Armed conflict has changed in recent decades; genocide and ethnic cleansing are pursued within states; the lines between war and crime are blurring; rebel groups engaged in organized banditry and economic predation turning more into a rationale for continued fighting (<http://www.humansecurity.gc.ca>). There is an economic dimension to conflict, as profit rather than political power stands more as a growing

motivation for violence in contemporary armed conflicts. Wars create an environment in which some armed groups and other non-state actors seek to generate wealth through illegal means, including an exploitation of high-value resources such as diamonds, timber, narcotics, and even humanitarian aid. Broader international measures are needed, using systematic and effective strategies, to address the threats from economic conflict. While a globalizing world brings new promises as well as new threats, there is a transnational phenomenon of terrorism, international crime and human trafficking in small arms, women, and children, increasing risks to all. Hence, from a human security standpoint, putting people at the centre of Canada's security policy enhances national and international security and promotes human development and well-being.

In rethinking human security, King and Murray (2001) identified two dominant strands of foreign policy: economic development and military security. Following the end of the Cold War, one consequence has been the emergence of the concept of human security. In this context, the UNDP fostered this idea, which means "freedom from fear and want" became central to foreign policy by 1999, as they decided to "fight the underlying causes of multiple threats to human security (King and Murray, 2001). In 1994, UNDP issued its Human Development Report focused on human security, and argued that "human security is not a concern with weapons- it is a concern with human life and dignity". They went on to use this view of human security as an organizing concept for the 1995 Copenhagen Conference on Social Development. Accordingly, human security has four essential characteristics: a) it is universal; b) its components are interdependent; c) it is best ensured through prevention; and d) it is people-centred (King and Murray, 2001). From this standpoint, UNDP's view of human security has been reflected in theory and practice in development economics, public health, and security communities. Various definitions and ways to measure human security exist, including King and Murray's view of it as "the number of years in future life spent outside a state of generalized poverty (2001, 585). By generalized poverty, they see "a person is in a state of generalized poverty whenever he or she dips below the pre-defined threshold in any of the components of well-being." Important work has since been carried out and, as earlier mentioned, Canada is one of the countries that advocated it, and others such as Norway and Japan have incorporated it as part of their official foreign policies.

### *Security in International Affairs*

The state of the world's security environment in the post-Cold War era has changed tremendously, with the rise of new concerns and complex challenges that differ from the past but are likely to shape the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Since the end of the Cold War, an enormous body of literature on the changing character of security and the shifting dynamics of global security landscape includes the rise of a wide range of security challenges like ethnic strife, refugee crises, and humanitarian disasters in one country after another (Hurrell, 2007; Hough, 2004). The pursuit of global peace and security is a gigantic task in today's terms. In truth, concerns for global security lie at the top of every country's agenda. In theory, there are two broad ways of thinking that underpin most people's views on world affairs and are likely to influence security thought: idealism and realism (Pearson and Rochester, 1997). Idealism takes an optimistic view and places emphasis on ethics. It sees the protection of national interests as doing good and, more importantly, promoting peace and cooperation, mostly in diplomatic ways. Realism, on the other hand, posits a pessimistic view about human nature, as it is pragmatic and believes that action should be powerful, involving a military-based approach to national defence and security strategies. Realists place a premium on competitive national interest as defined as power, and are suspicious of cooperative endeavours among states (Rourke, 2006). In global terms, the concept of security implies a classical balance of power, which refers to the collective security of the former League of Nations. Or, it can be about collective defence via economic systems of either capitalism or communism and military alliances, according to the UN framework, or alliances like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The dominant, traditional approaches to security thinking remained unquestioned until the 1980s, but are now central to the debates and assessments in search of alternative, effective ways for providing security today (Baldwin, 1997; Collins, 2003; Williams, 2003; Hough, 2004). From a national security perspective, the security of the nation-state is the central focus when it comes to tackling external threats and dangers, hence the need for increasing military capabilities. These forms of security enhancing measures could be legitimised when those measures are taken based on a threat from military build-up by other countries. Still, nation-states pursue national security by taking advantage of new technology, which is statist and based on a military framework, that uses spatial and digital technology to pursue national security. A multi-dimensional view of security involves the protection against events that threaten to degrade the quality of life, threats that affect a country's ability to meet its people's

basic needs, and risks from environmental degradation and incidence of natural disasters. Ullman (1983) considers the multi-dimensional view of the security landscape as defined in military, economic and ecological terms. From an internal view of security, major concerns are to ensure secure systems of food, health, money and trade, as seen from a national perspective. An extreme case would be when a country's own citizenry flees their home country. This signals a wave of serious insecurity in factors such as physical, economic, political, food, and environmental security - whether it is a nation-state that is fragile, failing or in crisis.

From an international relations viewpoint, the landscape of political interactions has changed so that domestic policy concerns like health and human rights are now in the forefront of the global political agenda. Events like disasters and massacres have, at least partially, informed said changes, in that these add non-military threats to states (Hough, 2004). Across the globe, pressing challenges to security have influenced the interplay of various factors and power relations in the international systems of the world economy. Some challenges pinpoint the changing nature of war in the post-Cold War era; new forms of terrorism with a global reach, global maladies due to complex forms of conflict, new deadly diseases (e.g., SARS and COVID-19) are just some of the impacts of globalization to peoples and places (UN DESA, 2021; Patterson, Kretzmann and Smith, 2005; Smith and Naim, 2000). Security in an age of terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic era reflects a complex web of challenges which are felt at both national and international levels. In this era of globalization, evidence shows an increasing economic instability and greater incidence of economic crises in one country after another (ILO, 2004).

In rethinking security, new actors and referent objects beyond the state-centred security framework are considered. International terrorism, environmental degradation and global warming are examples of global issues now regarded as security concerns (Annan, 2005). A great deal of contemporary insecurity is characterised by a complexity and multiplicity of different forms of violence from place to place, and these range from political violence, to entrepreneurial violence (criminal organizations), community violence (aimed to impose social norms) and everyday individual-level criminal violence (Hurrell, 2007). The changing nature of global security raises an important issue: whose security is to be protected, against what kinds of threats, and through the use of what sort of instruments?

### ***Conceptual Security Frameworks***

Within international relations (IR), alternative conceptual frameworks have been employed in order to comprehend the different issues in our contemporary global political system, ranging from realist views to pluralist, Marxist and socially constructivist positions (Hough, 2004). Realist are the traditionalists in IR and security studies, of which realism is the dominant paradigm adopted by governments (in the real-world context) in conducting foreign policies and interacting with other actors to assert national interests. This means that the interactions of the states on the world stage are informed by “power politics”. Pluralism, as a paradigm in IR from the 1960s, does not support the idea that neo-realism has come to characterize the changes in world relations since the 1940s. As argued, adding the pursuit of economic power to the pursuit of military power by nation-states is pluralist in the sense that there are several actors, not simply the states, that influence politics and economics on the world stage, given the involvement of inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the European Community (now the European Union) and the United Nations, as well as NGOs. The Marxist view posits a structuralist perspective; they see IR as synonymous with the international political economy (IPE). Military strategy serves the global economic interests rather than national security interests (Hough, 2004). Wars are fought to maintain an exploitative economic system, meaning the fates of individuals are not defined by the states but by a wider global system, and so only socialist revolution can enhance their prospects for the future. Since the 1990s, the social constructivism paradigm has reflected a sociological approach to understanding political events, such as the end of the end of the Cold War and the rise of the “New World Order.” Argued to promote the cultural dimension of policy making, it was seen to challenge the paradigms of realism and pluralism. Ontological questions were raised (between 1940s-1990s) in the attack on the logic of security studies, such as ‘who is being secured?’ and ‘what is it to be secured?’ (Hough, 2004). These conceptual ways of thinking about security certainly factor into the emergence and differentiation of new actors in the field, from the transnational and multinational firms to international non-government organizations (NGOs) and powerful individual actors in the global economy.

### **Threats and Global Security Landscape**

Global security is viewed to be spatially comprehensive if compared with territorially based nation-states when faced with the elimination of all