VISION DOCUMENT

ISTANBUL SECURITY CONFERENCE 2016

"Change in State Nature: Borders of Security"

(02 - 04 November 2016, Istanbul)

Nation-state, as is known, is a modern concept emerged from changing political structures going back to the Middle Ages. In the beginning of modern period, as states were trying to form nations, throughout 19th century, depending on the growing nationalism, "nations" were in tendency to build their own states and eventually "nation-state" has become a norm-political structure of the time.

As a result of the opinion arguing for the ultranationalist movements, however, are the main reason for both the 1st and 2nd World Wars, and the efforts of the states to keep their functions up within a global liberal capitalist system have caused, a certain extent, the deformation of nationalism and to become intense the integration efforts based on the "common market". A change started from nation-state to market-state and the first example of this is EEC/EU. This change still continues all over the world. Particularly, considering the facts that China has experienced during the last three decades, in terms of giving priority to the individual or state, it's being observed that the nature of state has also been ideologically changing.

The changing nature of state means changing regulations in domestic affairs and changing strategic tendencies in foreign affairs. Changing laws or regulations, sometimes, causes other changes in strategic tendencies and some other times strategic tendencies can have some dominant effects on domestic policies. For this reason, domestic affairs and foreign policy interactions need to be arranged in a right suitable way.

Legitimacy in international system-wide is of great importance especially in terms of sustainability of the system itself. The system may keep its functions up as long as it will be able to justify the needs and expectations of all influential political actors. Today, in terms of terrorist acts, it's also vitally important that legal use of force by nation-state is open to accountability. Losing its resort to the use of force may lead to "wars" that will be made between terrorist groups and "legitimate" states in the future. Today, these thoughts lying behind the conflicts and tensions are still persisting in the countries such as Iraq Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Security literally means "the state of being free from danger or threat". In other words, security is not being in a state of fear and danger. Arnold Wolfers tries to describe a security concept by dividing it into two different constituents. For Wolfers, security, in a practical sense or objectively, is not being in a state of threat in terms of fundamental values. On the other hand, security, subjectively, is being in a state of fear and anxiety about the possible attacks directed to the fundamental values.

Depending on this specification, we can say that the reason for being of this security phenomenon is the "threat". The threat can be described as a statement of intentions, acts and facts, which have potentially

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negative effects on the life of any state, society or individual or even on the fundamental values of all these elements.

Security, in current conditions, can be defined as minimizing or eradicating the risks threatening the human life. This means, the risks have gradually become the forefront as much as the threats. However, this attempt to re-define the threats or risks usually does not come forward as a scientific effort, but rather as a political or an ideological instrument. For David Baldwin, efforts for re-defining the security concept have recently become some sort of industry within international relations studies. Nevertheless, the large part of these efforts do not pertain to the security concept itself, but rather the re-defining attempts about the political agenda of nation-states. This, generally, takes the form of presented offers mostly aiming to give primacy the issues such as human rights, economy, environment, drug trafficking, epidemics, crime and social injustice, and still in addition to the prevalent security concerns up against the external military threats. These offers or suggestions often are encouraged by a mixture of the normative debates over the question about which peoples or groups of people and values are supposed to be preserved as well as the empirical debates over the nature and size of the threats for these values.

The thing that should immediately be noticed is, however, to re-build security understandings rather than security policies.

Due to its approach that commodifying the security concept, the realistic approach has diverged from the reality that demonstrating the security is a psychological fact. Thus, human-individual's security has been disregarded and gone beyond the scope of security studies. State centered conflicts and fights that have turned into ethnic conflicts have brought the society and the individual into question, as a unity of analyzes, since Cold War was over. For this reason, the unity of analyzes of current security studies diversifies form global system into state, society and individual.

Even though it's a current phenomenon, the globalization has eventually become an observable fact and consequently the security domain had its share from this sort of developments during the post-Cold War period. The globalization phenomenon was presented to security field through the studies being in search of security concerning the post-Cold War period. Extending and deepening process of the security concept gained speed depending on the threat perceptions as a result of the changing process caused by globalization during the post-Cold War period and in almost all domains. Through its "expanding" definition to some other fields, the security concept tended to fall within a broader domain including military security as well as non-military domains such as economics, environment and society. The "deepening" of the security field, however, is a process of scientific study, which included the unity of analyzes from that time on, as part of the security arguments that not only about the states but also individuals, social groups and non-governmental parts of society as well.

One of the most important reasons for the changes being observed in security perceptions is that the changes are not symmetric and has only one dimension anymore, because the threat diverged to a multi-dimensional status by moving away from conventional state-to-state forms. This refers that the conventional models and understandings, in terms of the efforts trying to fight against the current threats, are no longer effective. It's also clear that the fight arena is the whole world in order to be able to figure out the source, time and type of the risks and threats in advance, in such a new security environment, in which, contrary to Cold War period, to predict the threats has become impossible.

The effects of changing nature of state, during the process of globalization, on the security domain can be analyzed in such titles as follows:

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1. **Emerging of new threats in security domains**: Cyber terror, attempts to destroy the ecological equilibrium by scientific studies (genetics), new type of disorders/illnesses (bird flu) etc.
2. **The issues, contrary to what they used to be, are being considered as a part of Security Domain**: Individual's security, environmental security etc.
3. **Transformation of conventional security threats**: Changing manners and re-emerging of certain threats such as terrorism, war and organized crime.

New state and new society mechanisms are forced into acting in a way to serve the new security understandings, through changing nature of state. Perception, reason for being, responsibilities and borders of state, however, not only dominate the state and human centered new route of security discussions but also re-designing its borders. It's required that certain things still yet to be fulfilled, which continue to exist both in academic environment and international system, through the borders of security - as the debates are gradually deepening instead of becoming prevalent- aiming to identify new concepts and facts needed to be discussed.

Istanbul Security Conference 2016, organized by **TASAM Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies** in co-operation with **National Defence and Security Institute (MSGE)**, with the main theme **"Chance in State Nature: Borders of Security"**, aiming to re-evaluate the state and security perspective, which the current discussions focused on, will be held in **Istanbul**, on **02-04 November 2016.** The sub-themes of the conference, which a wide range of participants from state representatives, academicians, politicians, policy makers, civil and military bureaucrats as well as think-tanks are expected to attend, are as follows:

Main Theme
"Chance in State Nature: Borders of Security"

Sub Themes (PANELS)
Chance in State Nature, Expectation Management and Security
Security and Defence Reform
Changing Security Concepts: Theoretical and Conceptual Debates
Institutions and Institutional Approaches
Border Security
City Security
Human Security: Food, Environment, Health, Life
Special Security Firms
Regional Conflicts
Security Governance: Strategies and Players
New Security Technologies, Autonomous Weapons: Ethics and Legal Approaches
Space/Aviation, Security and Defence: Defence Management and Practices
Energy Security
Information Security Governance: Cyber Security
Hybrid Wars: Transformation of Armies

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Workshops

National Mega Defence Projects Workshop

Security, Defence and Defence Industry 2023-2053 Vision of Turkey Special Workshops

- **Vision of Turkish Armed Forces 2033**
- **Security, Defence and Defence Industry 2023-2053 Vision**
- **Security Vision of Turkish National Police**
- **Security and Defence Education**
- **Management of Authority in Security and Defence (Civilian - Military - Police)**
- **Political Communication and Public Diplomacy in Security and Defence (Media in the West/East and Public Opinion)**

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