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IN PURSUIT OF NEW PEACE BUILDING: PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Abstract:

Recent events in international relations push us to analyze comprehensively and simultaneously the issues regarding peace, security and development. Many states in the world still suffer from deep and stark economic problems. These economic problems also increase the risk of conflict especially in the developing world. If any conflict occurs, the political, social, economic and environmental disasters can be deepened as well. Therefore, any state facing chronic development problems, has greater risks in terms of the potential conflict or humanitarian crisis. The states in conflict are obliged to use their human capital as soldiers rather than their economic developments. Additionally, those countries mostly allocate their own resources for armament rather than infrastructure or investment. They are not also able to get enough foreign aid for development. These economic and security problems reproduce widespread humanitarian crises, violations of law and corruption that may undermine order and peace in those countries. In this respect, security, peace and development are inseparable issues and concepts that must be tackled together both in theory and practice. Being aware of this necessity, this paper argues that if we analyze those three concepts together, the agenda of the security studies can be broadened. This paper also deals with the case of United Nations in general, and recent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in particular that evaluate peace, security and development in the same perspective.

Keywords:

Peace, Security, Development, Peace Building, United Nations

JEL Classification: F50, F51, F59

Introduction

After the end of the Cold War peace, security and development concepts have been getting importance in International Relations. Since 1980, underdeveloped countries that consist nearly the half of the world have experienced many difficulties. During the 1990s almost five million people have died in wars across the globe.[1] Today, economic and humanitarian crises in different parts of the world continue to erupt.

Besides the obvious tolls of violent conflicts such as significant civil and military casualties, mass migration, collapse of state institutions; in the long run political, economic, social and environmental costs of the conflicts may lead to poverty. Because of the long-term effects of the conflicts, states suffer from destruction of infrastructure, increased unemployment, reduction in foreign direct investment, loss of income. Furthermore, the continued military expenditures cause the reduction of available resources for social programs and education. Conflicts have exacted heavy tolls on the state's economy, in this sense; there is a relation between poverty and conflict.

This study provides a critical overview of the contemporary nexus of peace, security and development. The first part deals with the evolution of the security concept in International Relations. In the second part, different aspects of peace and development context is examined and in conclusion the linkage between peace, security and development is outlined.

1. Widening of the Security Concept

Security is one of the fundamental concept in international relations. Studies in the field of security have showed a great increase in the post–1990 period (Özlük, 2009, p.2). Changes in practice due to the ending of the Cold War and dissolution of the ideological and epistemological extensions of the Cold War have caused a Renaissance in security studies (Walt, 1991, p.211-239). Historically the concept of security dates back to first century. During the first century, security Latinized into "securitas" and used as a synonym of Pax Romana in the West. Hobbes' notion of security articulates that the rise of the modern state system prevents civil war. Moreover, security is interpreted as freedom in the U.S. Constitution and one of the fundamental human rights during the French Revolution. Additionally, the League of Nations was founded on the new concept of collective security and the United Nations was also based on the principles of collective security. In the 1930s, the social security has come into question due to the traumatic effects of Great Depression in 1929 and the social security was accepted as a basic right in the 1948 The Declaration of Universal Human Rights (Brauch, 2008, p.1-4). United States of America introduced the national security concept after World War II and the concept provides a strategic power in order to achieve and legitimate the goals of the U.S.

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[1] "Australian aid: Approaches to Peace, Conflict and Development", *Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID),* November 2005, s.1-6.

Security as one of the perennial feature of the realist approach in International Relations is meant the capability of the state to control its sources to ensure its survival (Carey, 2005, p.51-69). In particular, national security is about how to achieve to protect the sovereignty, culture, unity and economic welfare of the state. After the Cold War, the definition of security has extended to cover various concepts under the security umbrella such as energy, food, water, health, human, gender, social security (Brauch, 2008, p.4-9).

The effects of globalization, and reshaped security concept in 2000s painted a rather optimistic picture of the world politics but this picture radically changed with the terrorist attacks of September 11 (Beeson and Bellamy, 2003, p.339-368). After September 11, the way the U.S. recognizes the world changed dramatically as who we are? (west, democratic, free) and who they are? (east, south, radical, anti-democratic, badly governed). In the anxious atmosphere of the terrorist attacks and the distinction between "us" and "them" have made the security concept both theoretically and practically vaguer (Wyllie, 2008, p.74-88). Terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda used the advantages and networks of globalization and a new phenomenon appeared as "globalization of terror" (Martin, 2007, p.644-660). In accordance with the emergence of the diverse security issues and the new threats, human security approach broadened the scope of the security concept (Baylis, 2008, p.228-239).

2. Peace in International Relations

Peace has many different meanings in different cultures and studies concerning peace date back to the ancient times (Illich, 1980). However, Peace studies as an academic field of study was born since the second half of the 20th century. Since 1960, Peace Studies experienced dramatic growth right after Vietnam War, treaties to build up nuclear weapons in the Cold War era and fall of the Soviet Union. Peace Studies is essentially critical approach and its main concern is to trigger the systemic change (Griffits et al, 2008, p.248).

Peace in International Relations was introduced by liberal tradition, which was pioneered by Kant and his legacy. The liberal tradition in IR is mostly focused on free trade, international law, the role of the international institutions, cooperation between states, disseminating of the democratic regimes across the world for the global stability. This approach also emphasizes the importance of the state's interaction with other states and contains some normative assumptions for understanding these interactions. According to the liberal approach states should be democratic in terms of political structure and market should be liberal in terms of economy (Weber, 2005, p.41; Danke and Risse, 2007, p.92-93).

One of the most important contributions of the liberal approach in the IR is Democratic Peace Theory. Democratic Peace basically means democracies cannot fight each other (Henderson, 2009, p.205; Dunne, 2009, p.108; Owen, 1996, p.116-127). This theory argues that democratic institutions and liberal market within the state can affect the state's foreign policy. In accordance with Democratic Peace Theory and the foundation

of the UN, peace and development efforts have gained an unprecedented momentum (Illich, 1980, p.2-9).

3. A Contested Concept: Development

Development is an essentially contested concept and debates about development focused on mostly the classification of the developed, developing and underdeveloped countries of the world (Griffits et al, 2008, p.77). Developed and industrialized states have seen development as a synonym of economic growth.

The end of the colonialism reinforced the modernization and development theories in IR and sustainable economic growth seems to be the necessary part for combatting poverty. But income inequalities raise social and political concerns. Equal share of food, access to clean water, shelter, clothing and household utensils are an indicator of development. Moreover, sustainable development has utmost importance for future generations. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[2]

In 1990s post-colonialism and human security studies, with the undeniable contribution of the dependency theory, started to engage with development (Sakellaropoulos and Sotiris, 2008, p.210-211; McGowan and Smith, 1978, p.180; Snyder, 1980, p.726; Wallerstein, 1974, p.5; Targ, 1976, p.461-482). Furthermore, since 1980s there are many efforts to end the poverty and to meet the basic material needs. In 2000, the world leaders gathered to initiate the Millennium Development Goals that include 8 goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators for measuring progress between 1990 and 2015, when the goals are expected to be met. The United Nations Millennium Declaration commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.[3] In this sense, economic development and human development are directly linked with democratic governance and the principles of good governance (Abdellatif, 2003).

Conclusion

Development and security are inextricably linked (Thomas, 2008, p.470-487). A new understanding of the security concept is evolved and human centered approach to security is developed. This new approach encompasses economic development, social justice, environmental protection and respect for human rights. But there is a gap between the practical use and theoretical study of peace, security and development concept in IR. Since the end of the 1990s, in practice The UN Security Council focused on the main reasons that cause conflict in the world, like poverty and under development. The UN Security Council underlines the need to address root causes of conflicts, noting that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked

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[2] http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-02.htm
[3] http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/

and mutually reinforcing.[4] However, theoretically the traditions of realism focus on security, the traditions of idealism focus on peace and the tradition of Marxism focus on development issues. In IR, advancing a comprehensive approach to peace, security and development concept is essential to be able to analyze the countries that face conflicts, inequalities and weak institutions.

The UN Security Council emphasized this comprehensive approach by promoting economic growth, poverty eradication, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, the rule of law, as well as respect for, and protection of, human rights.[5] In a 2010 Resolution, the Security Council has underlined the need to address root causes of conflicts, noting that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.[6] Traditional threats to security are not coming primarily from poverty; terrorism, flows of refugees, gender, ethnic, religious issues can be counted as the underlying causes of conflicts. In order to prevent conflicts and new threats, and contribute peace-building, security and development agenda explicitly should work both practically and theoretically on a comprehensive approach.

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[4] http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37519#.WBML6vmLQ2w
[5] https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/267/94/PDF/N9926794.pdf?OpenElement
[6] http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/sc10133.doc.htm

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