

Centre for Aerospace and Defence Laws, NALSAR University of Law

Introduction to Security

Evolution and
Meaning

Theories

Introduction

Securitization

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What comes into your mind
when I say the term
"SECURITY"?

Aim of
session

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- To understand the meaning of security
- Evolution of security studies
- Traditional Schools of security studies
- Non-traditional or Critical security concept

Evolution of concept of Security

- Before World War-II, the concept is studied in/as war studies.
- After 1945, distinctive literature is developed and the concept of security and security studies evolved.
- During Cold war, security is mostly in the ambit of military agenda and questions surrounding Nuclear weapons, and ideology threats.
- From 1970s, the nuclear relationship between superpowers matured and the original breadth carried by the term security, re-emerged. This new scope made way to the emergence of Economic and Environmental Security.
- In 1990s, this scope is further widened. Concepts of Societal (or Identity) Security, Human Security, food Security, Space Security and other forms emerged.

Meaning and Definitions

- Walter Lippmann (1944) views security as the capability of a country to protect its core values, both in terms that a state need not sacrifice core values in avoiding war and can maintain them by winning war.
- Arnold Wolfers (1952) argues that "security" is generally a normative term. It is applied by nations "in order to be either expedient—a rational means toward an accepted end—or moral, the best or least evil course of action". In the same way that people are different in sensing and identifying danger and threats, Wolfers argues that different nations also have different expectations of security. Not only is there a difference between forbearance of threats, but different nations also face different levels of threats because of their unique geographical, economic, ecological, and political environment.
- Richard Ullman (1983) has suggested that a decrease in vulnerability is security.
- David Baldwin (1997) argues that pursuing security sometimes requires sacrificing other values, including marginal values and prime values.
- Barry Buzan (2000) asserts that security is about freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile while its bottom line is survival.

Contd....

- Adrian Hyde-Price (2001) describes how some academics argue it cannot be defined in any "objective" way, and that any problem can become a security issue once it has been securitized by policymakers. Hyde-Price then points out, this makes the security field entirely reactive to what policy makers deem a security threat, removing any independent analytical value.
- Roland Paris (2001) says "a 'security threat' connotes some type of menace to survival"
- William (2008) says - "Security has to do with freedom from danger or threats to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Thus internal security could be seen as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion, and the corporate existence of a country and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people".
- Sola Ogunsanwo says "Security is more than military security or security from external attacks".

Theoretical approaches

Broadly classified, there are two schools of thoughts in security studies.

1. Traditional
2. Non – Traditional/Critical studies

Traditional

Non-traditional

Traditional School of Thought

- Traditional School of Thought favours the maintenance of the Cold War conception of security.
- This school of thought defines security in this sense to mean safety from danger and from external attack or infiltration.
- Traditional security paradigm is a realist construct of security in which the referent object is the state.
- It equates security with peace and prevention of conflict through military means i.e. deterrence policies, non-offensive defence and the like. This is why Walt defines security as a study of threat, use, and control of military force.
- It explores the situations that make use of force more likely, the ways the use of force affects individuals, states, societies and the specific policies that states employ in order to prevent or engage in war.

Realist Approach

Realist are further classified as -

- Classical Realism
- Neo realism
 - i. Defensive structural Realism
 - ii. Offensive Structureal Realism
- Rise and Fall Realism
- Neoclassical Realism



Liberalism

- Traditional or Kantian Liberalism
- Douce Commerce or Commercial liberalism
- The democratic peace thesis
- Neo-liberal Institutionalism

Constructivism

- Constructivism has become an increasingly prominent theoretical approach to inter- national relations since its emergence in the 1980s.
- Constructivism, a term first elaborated by Nicholas Onuf in his groundbreaking book "World of Our Making" in 1989, is a broad theoretical approach to the study of international relations that has been applied to a range of issues, from political economy to international organization and security.
- Security as social construction



Non-Traditional School of thought

- This school attempts to widen and deepen the definition of security.
- It argues that other issues like environment, political, economic and social threats endangers the lives and properties of individual rather than the concentration on the survival of the state.
- It does implies that a predominantly military definition does not appreciate the fact that the greatest threat to state survival may not be military but environmental, health, political, social and economic.
- Security in this sense is human emancipation oriented. It means that people/citizens must be liberated from those challenges, difficulties and constraints that may prevent them from carrying out what freely they would choose to do which includes epidemics, poverty, oppression, poor education, crises and so on.

Critical Theory



- 'Critical theory' does engage with present problems but without losing sight of the historical processes that have produced them, and proposes alternatives that are 'feasible transformations of the existing world'.
- 'traditional' and 'critical' approaches differ most notably in their treatment of the state. Traditional security studies views the world from a state-centric (if not statist) perspective.
- In contrast, critical security scholars have argued that states are a means and not the ends of security policy, and hence they should be decentred in scholarly studies as well as in policy practice .

The 'Aberystwyth School' of critical security studies and Copenhagen School of critical security studies

- Students of critical security studies do not 'securitize' issues, but 'politicize security'. They do this to reveal the political and constitutive character of security thinking and to point to 'men's and women's experiences of threat' so as to be able to decentre the military and state-focused threats that dominate traditional security agendas.
- Copenhagen School calls for 'desecuritization' out of a fear that those issues that are labelled as 'security' concerns will be captured by state elites and addressed through the application of zero-sum military and/or police practices, which may not necessarily help address human insecurities.

politicizing security Vs desecuritization

The Aberystwyth School prefers 'politicizing security' as opposed to 'desecuritization' for three main reasons.

- The first reason is strategic.
- The second argument is ethico-political
- The third argument is analytical.

relationship between security and emancipation

Booth summarized the relationship between security and emancipation as follows:

Security means the absence of threats. Emancipation is the freeing of people (as individuals and groups) from those physical and human constraints which stop them carrying out what they would freely choose to do. War and the threat of war is one of those constraints, together with poverty, poor education, political oppression and so on. Security and emancipation are two sides of the same coin. Emancipation, not power or order, produces true security.

Feminist approaches in international security

- Liberal feminists privilege notions of equality and have tended to focus on questions of women's representation within the public sphere. Feminists who work from this perspective collect empirical information about women's roles – are women present as decision makers in areas of international security? If not, why not? Are they present in national militaries? When they are present, what is the impact of their presence, and, if they are not present, what are the barriers to their participation? Many liberal feminists focus on the ways in which, within governments and international institutions, women remain highly under-represented.
- Radical feminists, by contrast (sometimes called essentialist feminists or difference feminists), focus less on notions of numerical equality and more on notions of difference.

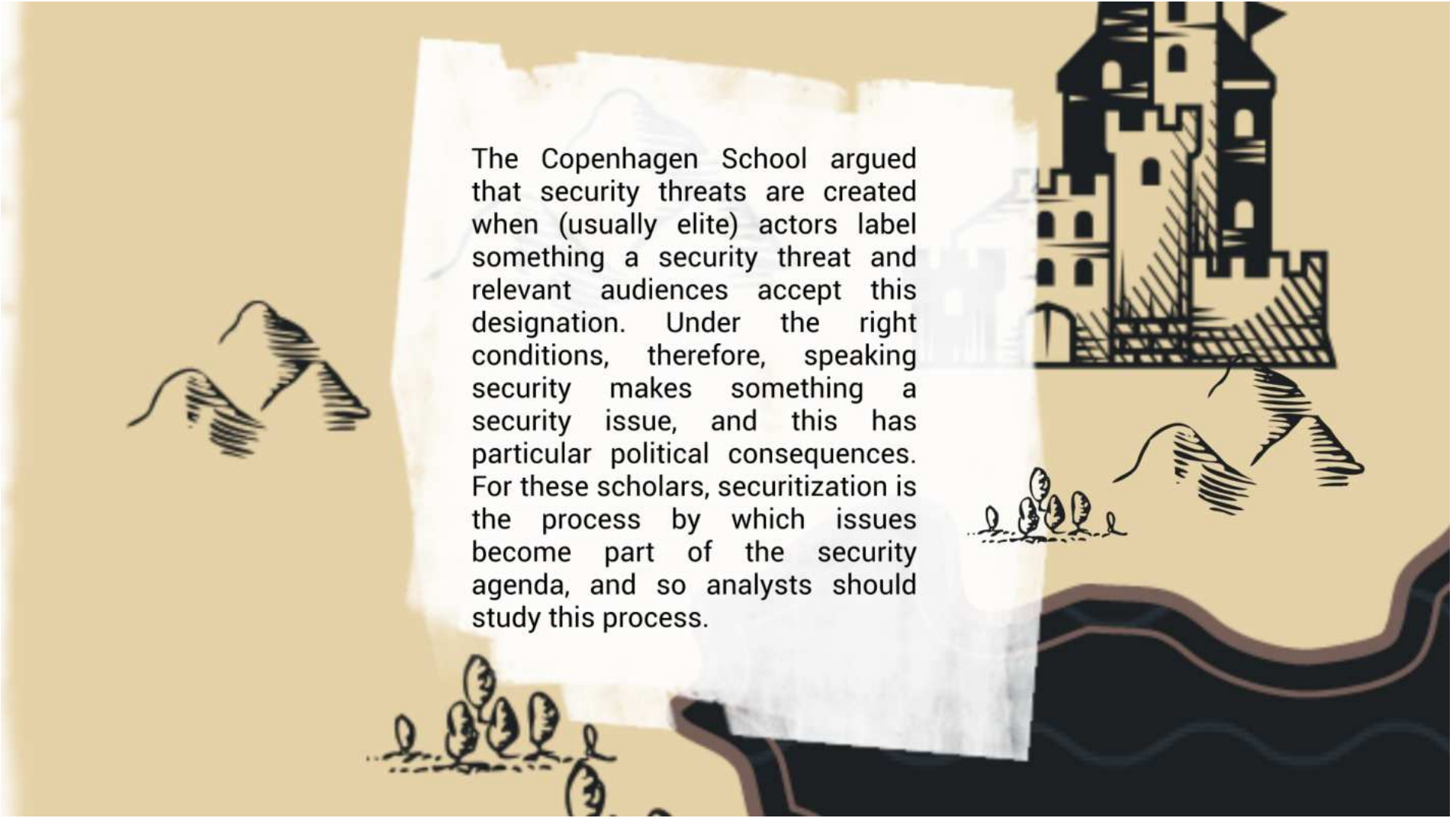
Poststructuralism

- Poststructuralist analyses of war, peace, security, insecurity, terrorism, militarism etc. have flourished over the last 15 years or so.
- 'Poststructuralism' is a loosely defined umbrella term used to group together various scholars who are contributing to new strands of critical research on war and security, in emerging (and overlapping) sub- disciplines such as critical security studies, critical military studies, critical terrorism studies, popular culture and world politics, feminist security studies, and international political sociology, as well as queer and postcolonial/subaltern studies.

Securitization or 'Copenhagen School'

It is an approach broadly consistent with constructivist thought that tries to bridge traditional and critical security studies by understanding security as a 'speech act'



The background of the slide is a stylized illustration. On the right side, there is a black silhouette of a castle or fortress with multiple towers and battlements. To the left of the castle, there are two mountain peaks, each with horizontal hatching lines. At the bottom of the slide, there is a dark, wavy line representing a river or a path. On the left side of this line, there are several small, stylized trees or bushes. The entire scene is set against a light beige background.

The Copenhagen School argued that security threats are created when (usually elite) actors label something a security threat and relevant audiences accept this designation. Under the right conditions, therefore, speaking security makes something a security issue, and this has particular political consequences. For these scholars, securitization is the process by which issues become part of the security agenda, and so analysts should study this process.

<i>Securitization</i>	the process by which issues become part of the security agenda, which moves them out of regular politics and enables extraordinary measures
<i>Speech act</i>	an utterance that is also an act: by saying, something is done. This makes security different from most forms of speech
<i>Securitizing actor</i>	the person or group that performs a securitizing move. A successful securitizing actor is usually in a position of authority, but not always of official authority
<i>Securitizing move</i>	an attempt by an actor to present something as an existential threat to a referent object. It has to follow the grammar and logic of security
<i>Referent object</i>	the object positioned as in need of protection in a securitizing move
<i>Desecuritization</i>	the process by which issues are removed from the security agenda
<i>Sectors of security</i>	Buzan et al. identify five different sectors of security that have distinctive dynamics
<i>Facilitating conditions</i>	conditions that affect the likelihood a securitization will be successful
<i>Audience</i>	whichever group the securitizing move tries to convince of the 'securityness' of an issue by means of an argument calling for extraordinary measures

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