

## ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND CLASICAL TYPOLOGY OF SECURITY STUDIES

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### Abstract

*Since 1960s, the concept of environmental security has slowly but irreversibly influenced the agenda of security studies. The acceptance of the environmental issues in security studies is permanently contested with traditionalists, who claim that only military and political sectors matter. Some scholars, on the other hand, regard the environmental security as the principal issue of today's world. But it is important to realize that this concept lacks transparent borders – the meaning of the environmental security varies and every author brings their own definition. The aim of this article is to compare classical typology of security studies and various concepts of environmental security in order to gain better understanding of the concept and also to assess whether the typology is relevant.*

### Key words

*Environmental security, security studies, traditionalists, wideners, deepeners.*

### INTRODUCTION

Motto:

*Environmental security is not a concept, it is rather a debate.*

*(Floyd 2008: 1)*

Environmental security has already had for several decades within the framework of security studies a special position – there has not been achieved a consensus regarding the appropriateness of the inclusion of this issue into a research agenda. Some researchers therefore completely ignore the environmental threats, some of them devote the highest attention to them and others are sharply against “the emptying” of security studies.

This work is focused on the familiarization with the discussion on the concept of the environmental security in security studies. At the same time it will be a test of the functionality of the most frequent view of the development of security studies in recent decades – the division of researches into traditionalists, *wideners* and *deepeners*.

Our interest will be to pick up the whole width of issues hidden under the umbrella of the term environmental security.<sup>1</sup> We will pursue the progress of

a debate in a historical context. The important objective of this paper is also the assessment of the appropriateness of a classical typology of researchers within security studies for recording all poles in a pursued debate.

For lucid recording of the appropriateness of a classical typology we will use an adjusted scheme of widening and deepening of the agenda of security studies taken from Wais (2003: 49). The areas in which an individual group move will be marked in colors – blue color traditionalists, red color wideners and green color deepeners (see Table 1). The specification or the content of the term “environmental security” will be brought in this scheme according to various conceptions. In conclusion we will try to answer the question if a classical typology is, in case of environmental security, meaningful.

*Table 1*  
*Sample for filling in various conceptions of environmental security*

| Reference object | Sectors (sources of threats) |           |          |        |               |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------------|
|                  | Military                     | Political | Economic | Social | Environmental |
| State            | Traditionalists              |           | Wideners |        |               |
| Mankind          |                              |           |          |        |               |
| Individual       | Deepeners                    |           |          |        |               |
| Environment      |                              |           |          |        |               |

## 1 PENETRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO SECURITY STUDIES

In this chapter we will follow the gradual penetration of the environmental threats into security studies. We will be interested first of all in specific works which brought this theme into a wider debate.

Since the sixties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century we have seen, first of all in advanced countries the growth of the sensitivity to the quality of the environment. The turning point was the book by Rachel Carson *Silent Spring* published first in 1962. This book is taken as a threshold marking the beginning of the environmentalist movement. A decade later the environmental issue is already the topic of many international summits (Barnett 2007: 184). The merge of the environmental issue and the security occurs uniquely already in the eighties (Wais 2005: 112), however, these issues do not get into the center of attention until the beginning of the nineties. In this connection we should consider the internal and external causes of this development.

Among the **external factors** we can range first of all permanently increasing interest of the governments and the public in the environmental issues<sup>2</sup>. The awareness of the necessity to protect the environment has been expanding,

NGOs focused on ecology become quite active (Friends of Earth, Greenpeace etc.). The themes such as ozone layer disturbance or acid rains become hot discussed issues. From this viewpoint the inclusion of the environmental issue into the agenda of civil security might be understood as the adaptation to fancy trends or as the reaction to new findings of the research in scientific disciplines.

At the same time, since the beginning of the nineties, security studies have been undergoing an extensive **internal** change. The end of bipolar confrontation, arguments about “the end of the history” and “democratic peace” – this all contributes to a widely accepted opinion that security studies must be redefined. Classical topics such as arms control, nuclear deterrence, limited war etc., become obsolete and useless. Marginal topics become main topics (e.g. research of civil wars) and new tendencies appear to extend substantially the agenda of security studies, i.e. include also threats regarding social, economic, environmental, health area etc. Moreover a classical conception of a state as a primary reference object has been gradually eroded and some researches point out to the necessity “to deepen” security studies in terms of the extension of the scope of endangered entities that are supposed to survive. Even this deepening brings an expressive impulse for the research of environmental threats because while the existence of a state is not endangered directly, an individual is exposed to the danger much more.

## **1.1 Three generations of security and environment research**

The history of penetration of the environment topic into security studies is mapped very well in the article by a Norway researcher Carsten F. Rønnfeldt (1997). Despite the fact that this article was published in the *Journal of Peace Research* already in 1997, it is very beneficial even these days. Rønnfeldt comes up with a lucid division of security and environment studies into three generations and enables this way to follow, instead of tens and hundreds of separate articles, common trends in the research. In the sub-chapter we will use this division and come closer to the research history in this area.

### **1.1.1 First generation – penetration into the security studies agenda**

Apparently absolutely first text promoting newly sophisticated understanding of security which encompasses also the environmental issue is the article by Lester R. Brown *Redefining National Security* of 1997<sup>3</sup> (Brown 1977). This wording did not attract major attention<sup>4</sup> in security studies apparently because the author comes from the community of ecological activists and was a leader of protective think tank World Watch Institute. The article was generated outside the established community of security studies<sup>5</sup> then. However, it resembles in many aspects (including the title) to the Ullman text *Redefining Security*, which was published in 1983 in the journal *International Relation* and is frequently considered a pioneering one and the first of its kind which promoted the change of a security concept towards higher environmental sensitivity (see e.g. Wais 2005: 115). The citations of Ullman article are frequently used as the introduction to contemporary discourses on environmental security.<sup>6</sup> The elementary Ullman argument is the

statement that threats of non-military character including the environmental ones have the same or even higher potential to disturb national security than “conventional” military threats. In his opinion, this results in the necessity to change the agenda of security policy because non-military aspects “will probably become less manageable and the danger of their negligence will grow up” (Ullman 1983: 153).

First generation of researches within security studies (bounded by the eighties according to Rønnfeldt) is focused on the redefinition of the concept of national security. As to the rest, traditional security studies are in this period exposed to the pressure of economic or social arguments for the agenda extension.

### 1.1.2 Second generation – research of the relation of the raw-materials shortage and a forcible conflict

Second generation starting at the beginning of the nineties is focused on specific empiric researches which in the previous period were absolutely missing (Rønnfeldt 1997: 475). A major representative is a Canadian researcher Thomas Homer-Dixon from university in Toronto and a team of researchers around him (so called Toronto (Dabelko, Lonergan and Matthew 2000: 30). The researchers are limited to one specific topic and by applying specific cases they try to test the thesis on causal relation between the shortage of (renewable) raw-materials and a forcible conflict.

Nevertheless also in a period which Rønnfeldt encloses for the second generation, the papers which could be filed into the first generation come out in a parallel. For example the researchers from Copenhagen school who at the beginning of the nineties work on a new conception of security and whose major and summarizing piece “*Security – New Framework for Analysis*” comes out in 1998.

Regarding the promotion of the concept of the environmental security, the second generation perhaps did for it much more than the first one. The emphasis on specific cases, collection of empiric data and the application of quality methodology (process tracing etc.) namely substantially strengthened the thesis on the interconnection of the themes related to the environment and security (compare Rønnfeldt 1997: 476). In this case therefore factual results were much more valuable than conceptual arguments constructed in the best way.

*Table 2*  
*Three generations of security and environment research*

|                         | <b>First generation</b>    | <b>Second generation</b>       | <b>Third generation</b>                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Period beginning        | 1980->                     | 1990->                         | half of the nineties                         |
| Scientific approach     | Conceptual debate          | Process tracing                | Wide spectrum of socioscientific methodology |
| Main object of analysis | Environment and security   | Renewable sources and conflict | Environment and security                     |
| Analysis level          | Global/national/individual | National/sub-national          | Global/regional/national/sub-national        |

Source: Rønnfeldt 1997: 474.

### **1.1.3 Third generation – substantial extension of the agenda and complex understanding of the issue**

What the third generation will look like, Rønnfeldt only estimates from new trends which appear in the new agenda. A long time that has passed since the article was written enables us to evaluate reversely the fruitfulness of the forecasts.

Rønnfeldt presupposes that a new generation will enlarge substantially the spectrum of researched themes. A narrow alignment of Toronto Group when the lack of sources was an independent variable and an armed conflict a dependent one will be overcome. Complex understanding will be emphasized along with the inclusion of a number of variables. (Rønnfeldt 1997 : 478). The former limitation to state or sub-state level will be extended and the research will discover a global platform or small groups and also individuals.

In this regard Rønnfeldt's suppositions are absolutely filled. First of all the topic "global warming" and its research responds to the forecasts on growing complexity, new methodology approaches and on substantial proliferation of topics<sup>7</sup>.

However, it is necessary to mention that the previous generation does not disappear with the rise of the new ones. On the contrary they persist – even at present there are conceptual debates on the position of environmental security in security studies the same way as many researchers are involved in the relation between a war and a lack of sources.

## **2 ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SECURITY STUDIES DIVISION**

In the introduction of this work we offered a table for illustration of various conceptions of environmental security. This table shows three classical streams of thinking inside security studies which will be briefly introduced in this chapter. Only after this we come up to the filling itself into the matrixes with the objective to assess the appropriateness of this typology.

Traditional division of security studies after the end of Cold war comes from the article by Sarah Tarry (1999). This typology appears in the Czech environment in connection with Mares (2002: 16) and its wide application witnesses about the rationality of the division<sup>8</sup>. Opinion streams inside security studies can be therefore divided into three categories:

### **1. Traditionalists**

A group of traditionalists is characterized by military and a state-centered focused view (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 9). The only threats worth mentioning are the threats influencing the national defense, its survival, political sovereignty. Traditionalists do not apprehend the end of the Cold war as the reason to change the current direction of security studies. Neo-realistic perspective does not force at the beginning of the nineties to look for a new research agenda – the quiet at that time is only seeming and sooner or later new conflicts will rise.

For example, J. Mearsheimer and S. Walt belong to this group according to Wais (2003: 26).

## 2. Wideners

Wideners or a group supporting conservative reform of the security studies agenda agree that the national security should be accentuated. New security environment requires to include into the analysis the threats of the economic, social, health and environmental character, though. Not always the supporters of a conservative reform of security studies agree upon the extent of widening i.e. upon what sectors in security studies to search. The major connecting element of wideners is then basically first of all the fact that everybody points out to the importance of non-military threats for the national security in a contemporary world.

According to Wais (2003: 27) we can include into this group e.g. R. Schutz, R. Greenwood, P. Katzenstein, T. Risse-Kappen, E. Adler, M. Barnett, A. Wendt and further e.g. J. Mathews or P. Roges (O'Connor 2010). Several works of researchers of Copenhagen School also belong to this category<sup>9</sup>.

## 3. Deepeners

So called deepeners support a radical reform of security studies. They agree with the necessity to widen a spectrum of threats with non-military issue. However, a state-centered view is apprehended as binding and overcome. A legitimate reference object can be not only a state but also an individual, nation, tribe, family, human beings as well as the environment etc. (Wais 2003: 28). Several followers of a radical reform also bring into the agenda of security studies feministic topics (Tarry 1999: 9).

# 3 CRITICISM OF A CONCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Environmental security undoubtedly is not a generally accepted concept. In contrast to e.g. economic agenda which managed to gradually penetrate also into realistic thinking<sup>10</sup>, the environmental topics are in security studies marginal or completely ignored. The attempts to put through the issue of the environment and security meet with the resistance minimally from two independent areas. Inside security studies, first of all the criticism by the supporters of different ("traditional" and others) conceptions of security is apprehended. Against the connection of security and the environment is, however, also a part of the "environmental community"<sup>11</sup>. In this chapter we will bring near the positions and arguments of both groups.

### 3.1 The criticism inside security studies

Inside critical studies at a debate on a conception of environmental security can be heard many critical voices. Skeptical opinions come from various positions and in available literature a lucid division of this debate have not been found yet. Mostly criticism by individual authors is available then. For our purposes it is more important to record all relevant opinions rather than monitor factual researchers. The positions (traditional, critical security studies etc.) from which they come will not interest us until the next chapter.

A significant criticism of the concept is the claim that it is an *inadequately wide concept* (and therefore a useless analytical tool) that encompasses huge number of far coherent topics. Nina Graeger compares this concept to the sustainable development: “ it is a slogan applicable for lobbying for whatever goal” (Graeger 1996: 113). This problem is anchored in the single definitions of both expressions from the concept – security and the environment belongs to ones of the widest terms used in social sciences. On the example of the Copenhagen School and also B. Allenby we can see that seriously taken attempt to delimit the searched area ends up basically by stating that the environmental dimension is inherent with all security threats (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 91 - 92).

To the previous issue, also another one is related: Environmental security is sometimes apprehended as the one that threatens national security. To ensure the protection against the environment *requires means that might be missing for the army, police and other “conventional” security units* (Wais 2005: 122).

Other authors are against the connection of the environment and the security due to the fact that security is, according to them, the question of violence. The claim that “ the institutions which ensure safety against the degradation of the environment, and institutions protecting against the violence are absolutely incompatible” (Floyd 2008: 3). Also this opinion comes out of the persuasion that too wide agenda of security will result in emptying the conception and reducing "real" security.

A very interesting criticism is brought by a constructivistic methodology of Copenhagen School. The agenda of security policy is not generated (only) by virtue of the objective characteristics of threats. On the contrary, it is a result of an inter-subjective process where we can observe the interests of many various actors. First of all O. Waever warns that we should “give up the presumption that the security is necessarily a positive phenomenon” (Waever 2003, cited in Floyd 2008: 7). This awareness is not among the propagators of the environmental topics widened, though. 41). The researchers of Copenhagen School see the main risks of the proliferation of security topics in the limitation of free discussion ( and the extent of freedom in society generally), in potential wasting of means etc. (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 13).

### 3.2 Criticism from the environmentalists

The environmentalists are often apprehended as main securitizing actors of the environment issue. First of all various ecologically aimed NGOs admit that the severity of threats must be overestimated in order that they attract the attention at all. On the other hand these securitizing steps are not outright accepted by all members of a wide community.

The main worry of some environmentalists is the fact, that connecting the environment issue and security will end up in “militarization” of their agenda (Dabelko, Lenergan and Matthew 2000: 46). According to the persuasion of many environmentalists, the protection of the environment is: not static, not competitive, cooperative, nonviolent. The entrance of traditional security actors, who may be attracted by the label “security”, might on the contrary mean only the transfer of the battle field to another front.

Modern armies are from the environmentalists viewpoint accused that their enhanced interest in the environment results from the disappearance of traditional threats after the end of the Cold War. The offers of the intelligence (analytical) and also material capacities for the solution of the environmental issues which were occurring at the American Defense Ministry were often understood as an *effort to ensure for the army stable budgets* and the riddance of the necessity to safe means (Floyd 2008: 2 - 3).

The environmentalists also often attack the results of the researches which prove that the degradation of the environment contributes to an armed conflict. Especially they consider an international conflict, as a result of the exploitation of raw materials or the degradation of the environment, improbable (Dabelko, Lonergan and Matthew 2000: 46). Again it seems that the environmentalists deny the significance of their own issue – probably it means a purposeful argumentation as the defense against two above mentioned problems.

## 4 PLURALISM OF APPREHENDING THE RELATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

In a previous chapter we tried to outline the process of the penetration of the environmental issue into security studies. However, it is necessary to realize that the environmental threats are within the framework of security studies understood diversely – there is no consensus on the content of terms such as “environmental security”, environmental threat” and quite often similar expressions are used.

In this chapter we will try to make you familiar with individual approaches in order to display the whole width of this issue. At the same time we will try to watch these approaches through the optic of the division into traditionalists, wideners or deepeners.

#### 4.1 Environmental versus ecological security

The environmental and ecological security can represent first two opposite approaches. In the Czech environment these terms are for the present used as synonymous ones (Khol 2002: 32, Komar 1999). In abroad (see e.g. Barnett 2001: 108 – 109) are, however, these terms often used for denotation of two contradictory positions<sup>12</sup> - in the conception of environmental security the environment represents the source of threats and the people, states and other human institutions are those endangered. On the contrary ecological security is focused on the protection of the environment and human activities are the main threats to it.

Definitely, this division is not without problems – one of typical signs of environmental threats is the high complexity. For example deforestation of vast areas through this angle would be the issue of ecological security, whilst the consequences of deforestation (desertification, soil degradation, floods....) would rather fall into the area of environmental security. To differ the impacts on human society and nature is rational only in a specific limited number of cases. Both above mentioned terms therefore often include the same agenda and their main practical purpose is the clear declaration of value oriented focus of a researcher – focus rather on the protection of the environment or on the contrary the defense against negative impacts on human population.

*Table 3  
Ecological versus environmental security*

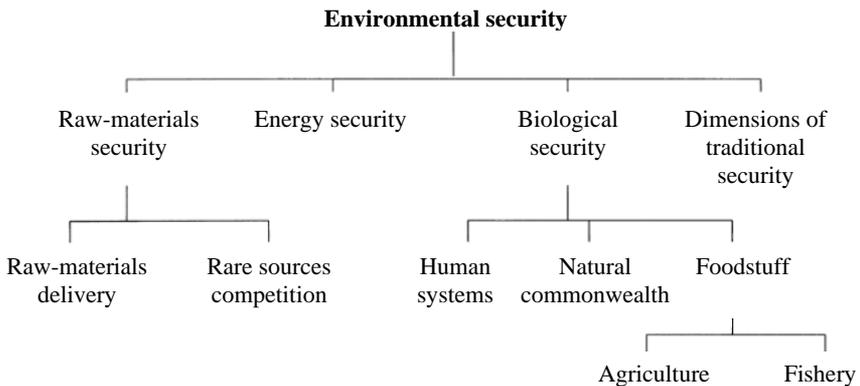
| Reference object | Sectors (sources of threats)                   |           |          |        |                                      |
|------------------|--|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
|                  | Military                                       | Political | Economic | Social | Environmental                        |
| State            |  |           |          |        |                                      |
| Mankind          |  |           |          |        |                                      |
| Individual       |  |           |          |        |                                      |
| Environment      | <i>Wide conception of ecological security?</i> |           |          |        | <i>Ecological Security – narrow?</i> |

At the same time there is a question if ecological security should include all threats for the environment let them come from various sectors – e.g. military operations, economic growth etc. It is possible to argue that before the environment is impacted, each threat from these sectors is “transformed” into an environmental threat (a narrower concept). However many environmentalists see the highest danger for the nature e.g. just in the progressing economic growth.

Their apprehension would be justified rather by *a wider concept* of ecological security as it is in Table 3.

#### 4.2 Environmental security as a wide umbrella concept

Environmental security is apprehended also as an umbrella which includes a wide range of topics. Uncertainty of the concepts *security* and *the environment* causes that so far no clear borders of this pattern have been specified and therefore “environmental security is rather a debate than a concept” (Floyd 2008: 1).



Source: Allenby 2000:15.

#### *Scheme 1*

*The content of the environmental security concept accord. to B. R. Allenby*

One of the examples of a wide conception can be the specification of **Copenhagen school** which finds in an environmental sector a wide spectrum of topics (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 91):

- disturbance of ecosystems (climate changes, deforestation...),
- energetic issues (exploitation of sources, accidents),
- population focused issues (epidemics, migration...),
- food issues (poverty, famine...),
- economic issues (not sustainable growth, asymmetry in wealth division),
- civil disputes (eco-terrorism and degradation of the country during wars)<sup>13</sup>.

Such a wide delimitation is not always accepted. The authors themselves claim that “purely environmental thematic areas are closest to “eco-system disturbance”. Left items of our list overlap the agenda of other sectors, however, here we watch them through the optic of the environment.” (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 91 -

92). This formulation is not far from the view that absolutely all security problems are environmentally dimensioned. This thesis is defensible though, however, the concept of environmental security itself would be with this approach irrational (see e.g. Graeger 1996: 113).

Copenhagen school also gives the name to a new reference object which is often present in securitization efforts in this sector – it is *an attained civilization level* (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 92).

*Table 4*  
*Environmental security according to Copenhagen school*

| Reference object                | Sectors (sources of threats)                                |           |          |        |               |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--------|---------------|
|                                 | Military  | Political | Economic | Social | Environmental |
| State                           |   |           |          |        |               |
| Mankind                         |   |           |          |        |               |
| Individual                      |   |           |          |        |               |
| Accomplished civilization level | Entire spectrum of topics related to environmental security |           |          |        |               |
| Environment                     | Second wing of env. movement                                |           |          |        |               |

*First wing of env. movement*

Another attempt concerning a wide delimitation of environmental security is the concept of **Braden Allenby**. His objective is to create (similarly as in the book by Buzan, Waever and de Wilde) "analytical framework which will enable the transformation of the concept of environmental security into operational programs and projects" (Allenby 2000: 14). Four dimensions are in scheme No. 1. In this case the environmental security encompasses classical "ecological" ("biological") topics (biodiversity, climate changes, foodstuff availability), but also conflicts regarding sources, the issue of nuclear and other materials and protection against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (Allenby 2000: 14). Also the entire dimension of energy security has been included, therefore efforts concerning the provision of the availability of supplies of energy, raw materials, and sources. However, there is a question whether this dimension should not be included into the previous one – into the issue of raw-materials security (Allenby 2000:14) The last dimension includes traditional threats influencing national security (wars etc.) which are environmentally oriented on the territory of other states.

*Table 5*  
*Environmental security according to B. Allenby*

|                  |                              |                        |                 |                     |                 |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                  | Sectors (sources of threats) |                        |                 |                     |                 |
| Reference object | Military                     | Political              | Economic        | Environmental       | Social          |
| State            | Raw-materials security       | Raw-materials security | Energy security | Energy security     | Energy security |
| Mankind          |                              |                        |                 |                     |                 |
| Individual       |                              |                        |                 | Biological security |                 |
| Environment      |                              |                        |                 |                     |                 |

Environmental security is apprehended as an umbrella concept also by an Australian researcher **Jon Barnett**. Within the agenda of this term he sees seven areas (Barnett 2001: 8):

1. the efforts to redefine security,
2. looking for environmental factors in violent conflicts,
3. environmental security of a state,
4. the relation between armed forces and the environment,
5. ecological security,
6. environmental security of individuals,
7. the issue of securitization.

It is a real view of a contemporary scientific debate over environmental security rather than a conceptual and by theory constructed delimitation of the content of a concept. In another book Barnett (2007: 188 – 189) comes with a rather different division – he offers six different interpretations of the concept, see Table 6.

*Table 6*  
*Six interpretations of environmental security*

| Security concept              | Threatened entity | Main source of threat |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Ecology security</i>       | the environment   | human activity        |
| <i>Common security</i>        | state             | environmental changes |
| <i>Environmental violence</i> | state             | war                   |
| <i>National security</i>      | state             | environmental changes |
| <i>Greening defense</i>       | armed forces      | „eco-terrorists“      |
| <i>Human security</i>         | individuals       | environmental changes |

Source: Barnett 2001: 189.

Table 7  
Environmental security according to J. Barnett

| Reference object | Sectors (sources of threats) |           |                 |          |               |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|
|                  | Military                     | Political | Social          | Economic | Environmental |
| State            | National security            |           | Common security |          |               |
| Armed forces     | Greening defence             |           |                 |          |               |
| Mankind          |                              |           |                 |          |               |
| Individual       | Human security               |           |                 |          |               |
| Environment      | Environmental security       |           |                 |          |               |

## EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

The objective of this work is zooming the debate on environmental security and at the same time to test the functionality of classical typology of research streams in security studies.

A reader may, after reading the article, rightly deem that one basic topic is missing here – the definition of environmental security. The definitions are almost always the core of whatever introduction into the issue or conceptualization. In this case, however, they were omitted purposefully. Despite the fact that we can meet the definitions of this concept from time to time<sup>14</sup>, none of them was generally accepted and discussed in more details. We may deem that the debate is even after quite a long time still at the beginning, basic theoretical problems have not been overcome yet and to look for a satisfactory definition is still early. Practically all authors cited in this work avoid the specification of the definition.

As far as the testing of functionality of classical division is concerned, just plain look on individual tables shows that colored fields (wider streams inside security studies) and ovals (delimitation of individual used terms) almost never concur – terms from the area of environmental security often include areas typical for the traditional, widening and deepening conception as well. What does this mean?

We cannot say that this perspective is purely deepening – a radical reform does not mean a simple inclusion of new threats and reference objects but also the change of the emphasis from traditional security to new topics. Therefore it is necessary to admit that the whole area of environmental security cannot be watched simply through the angle of a specific direction – the only view will be always insufficient, it will not encompass the entire reality. In this regard the classical division fails then.

On the other hand it is possible to describe the tendencies and views of individual researchers using classical terms. We can say that Barnett's conception (Table 7) could be encompassed due to included reference objects into deepeners, whilst Allenby's delimitation (Table 5) is narrower, and a state-centered perspective prompts that the author should be encompassed among wideners.

Therefore we can claim for sure that environmental security is not a concept which is brought by wideners or deepeners. It is a peculiar term and to apply above given typology to a wide group of researchers of this topic is fairly difficult<sup>15</sup>.

Another important finding of this work is the fact that environmental security can be understood in many different ways. Each researcher includes into the agenda various areas. Often only minimal unanimity is among these conceptions – the term environmental security is used for designation of a wide spectrum of issues. It is not possible to find easily either the intersection of various ways of apprehension. First of all the emphasis on various reference objects (the environment versus mankind) prevents from making an agreement upon key threats of the environmental sector.

Another question mark of this debate is also practical significance of the term environmental security. Various groups of interest express their worries about the connection of both terms (see chapter 3). The changes at a conceptual level themselves (and the acceptance of a specific definition of the term) could be, according to them, considerable. We could even talk about "securitization or overwhelmed securitization", or "meta-securitization".

In any case the concept of environmental security still has been in the process of development. No significant success in establishing the term into the agenda of security studies has not been achieved yet. Most authors of empiric researches in this field therefore prefer to avoid a clear conceptualization<sup>16</sup> and use other terms e.g. conflict (violence) and the lack of raw materials because these terms much better definable. Apparently only time will show if the environmental security is really just a fashion label or a concept practically applicable.

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### **Résumé**

*Environmental security is one of the emerging concepts in security studies. Relevance of this topic is often contested, but on the other hand, rising number of scholars acknowledge the importance of widening and deepening the research field of security studies. The aim of this article is to put the concept of environmental security in the context with different schools of thought about security. Traditionalists find the changes in agenda questionable, but there is even no consensus among "wideners" and "deepeners" who agree that some transformation is necessary.*

*In this article the author takes a closer look on various definitions of environmental security and tries to compare them. Several tables serve as a transparent guide which should demonstrate inconsistent nature of the concept. Each scholar, even from the same school of thought has a different conception so there is no surprise that we can talk rather about a "debate" than about a "concept" which is clearly defined as Rita Floyd has pointed out. To find a suitable definition is still ahead of security studies scholars and this text shows some difficulties which will be necessary to solve in the future. It is highly probable that a current trend of the growing importance of environmental topics in security policy will continue, especially after the events such as 2005 Catherine hurricane or a recent Japanese earthquake, tsunami and a nuclear breakdown. In order to prepare all components of a security and rescue system for such disasters, the conceptual issue must be solved or at least discussed.*

*In the Czech context the article introduces and describes foreign debates about the environment, security and their connections. This could be useful in the process of creating various policies, for example new Security Strategy etc. It is quite strange that our experience with several catastrophic floods has not opened a serious debate about the change of a current concept of security.*

#### NOTES:

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<sup>1</sup> Even if there is no consensus on the fact that the environmental security is a superior term – in the same manner the terms such as ecological security etc., are used, see below.

<sup>2</sup> In the conditions of the Czech Republic and other countries of a former Eastern bloc, the environmental agenda is, moreover, of an expressive anti-regime character. The opposition against the regime and protection of the environment are mutually strengthened and both issues escalate at the beginning of the nineties.

<sup>3</sup> It is interesting that in the same year, a group focused on the evaluation of the relations between the environment and security was established inside the CIA. Naturally it is not a reaction to the Brown's article but rather a response to newly accepted international agreements restricting intentional damaging of the environment during the war (Dabelko, Lonergan and Matthew 2000: 18).

<sup>4</sup> In the literature surveys about the topic it is mentioned only exceptionally, in the Czech environment at all - it is, e. g., missing in Wais (2005).

<sup>5</sup> It was published only in a periodical of the mentioned think tank but not in a revised scientific journal.

<sup>6</sup> Which does not only witness about the quality of a concerned article but also about a snail creep progress in this discipline.

<sup>7</sup> Often all environmental topics are connected with global warming – from the disturbance of the ozone hole to deforestation, desertification, decrease of biodiversity, growth of the number of extreme weather phenomena, and ocean pollution.

<sup>8</sup> Beside others also Wais (2003: 26 – 29) and similarly also Copenhagen school (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 9 – 10).

<sup>9</sup> The authors often try to oppose this division and they range outside these categories (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde 2005: 235).

<sup>10</sup>For example in Kenneth Waltz's work etc., see Wais 2005: 45.

<sup>11</sup>This wording was used due to the absence of a more suitable term for designation of ecological NGOs, academic communities of environmental, ecologic and similar studies together with various interested individuals and groups whose primary objective is the environment, not security. These groups will be in my mind if I use in this paper the term environmentalists.

<sup>12</sup>This apprehension is introduced into the Czech environment by S. Wais (2005: 112 and further), however in the Czech scientific community this division has not been accepted yet.

<sup>13</sup>This division appears also in a short summarizing study of the CR Parliament institute "Environmental security – a theoretical framework" (Fojtik 2008: 2).

<sup>14</sup>The survey of several various definitions can be found in e.g. Millennium Project Study Group 2001.

<sup>15</sup>They result first of all from the fact the typology was determined for the embracement of the approach to *the whole* agenda of security studies, not only to its part.

<sup>16</sup>For example right Toronto school of Homer-Dixon.

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