

POJEDNANIE O PARADIGME TEÓRIE BEZPEČNOSTI

A Treatise on the Paradigm of Security Theory

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ABSTRAKT: Ľudstvo, ktorého vývoj je v ostatných niekoľkých dekádach veľmi významne ovplyvnený prehlbujúcimi sa globalizačnými procesmi, musí v súčasnosti čeliť mnohým bezpečnostným problémom, ohrozeniam, rizikám a výzvam. Aj z toho dôvodu je v 21. storočí riešenie problémov bezpečnosti súčasťou riadiacich procesov na všetkých úrovniach a vo všetkých oblastiach života súčasnej ľudskej spoločnosti, nielen na úrovni štátu. Aby človek dokázal riešiť vzniknuté bezpečnostné problémy, eliminovať bezpečnostné hrozby a riziká a čeliť novým bezpečnostným výzvam, nevyhnutne potrebuje na plnenie svojich úloh v oblasti zaistovania bezpečnosti adekvátne poznatky, znalosti, skúsenosti, metodické a iné nástroje – potrebuje teóriu bezpečnosti. Aj preto autor v tejto štúdii s využitím relevantných metód interdisciplinárneho vedeckého výskumu pojednáva o potrebe teórie bezpečnosti, pričom sa primárne zameriava na paradigmu teórie bezpečnosti.

Kľúčové slová: bezpečnosť – veda – teória – ľudstvo – spoločnosť – paradigma.

ABSTRACT: Mankind, whose development has been significantly affected in the last few decades by deepening globalization processes, now faces many security problems, threats, risks and challenges. For this reason, in the 21st century, solving security problems is part of the management processes at all levels and in all areas of life of contemporary human society, not only at the state level. To be able to solve the security problems, eliminate security threats and risks and face new security challenges, adequate findings, knowledge, experience, methodological and other tools to perform its security tasks are necessary – a security theory is needed. That is why the author of the study submitted uses relevant methods of interdisciplinary scientific research and discusses the need for security theory, focusing primarily on the paradigm of security theory.

Key words: security – science – theory – mankind – society – paradigm.

INTRODUCTION

The current stage of human society development is fundamentally affected by deepening globalization. On the one hand, globalization processes bring many positives for people as an individual and mankind as a whole, but on the other hand, there are also many negative trends, threats and challenges that require individual actors to change their relationship to security, to address global, regional and local problems of human society and also to ensure favourable conditions for the sustainable development and preservation of human civilization. Otherwise, irreversible changes in the natural environment, together with the failure or insufficient solutions to political, social, economic, environmental, demographic, security, technical and other problems, and challenges will escalate into a situation causing dramatic social crises and environmental disasters.

Numerous reports, information and data on natural disasters, industrial accidents, armed conflicts and incidents, terrorist and armed attacks, organized crime and criminality, epidemics and pandemics, and many other negative phenomena and tragic events indicate that people are failing to comply with security requirements and principles. It can be stated that without any doubt, many current manifestations of human behaviour and the activities of individual actors in the political, social, economic, environmental, technical, technological, and other sectors of society threaten the conservation of a man as a biological species.

For the above reasons, the demands to ensure the security of individuals, social groups, nations, states, and the whole civilisation are receiving increasing attention. Unfortunately, not always adequately. Man as an individual and mankind as a whole must, in their own interest, consider the possible impacts of their activities on the environment and on other people, social groups, ethnic groups or states. This requires perceiving security as a dynamic, multidimensional, multisectoral and multifactor phenomenon that is logically and causally interconnected to all areas of human society and the spheres of human existence.

In the processes of examining and ensuring security, man acts as a subject. The subject of scientific research and cognition are always cognizant, researching and practically acting people, with the required intellectual preconditions, knowledge, experience, and necessary personality traits [1]. This role requires mastering a wide range of knowledge, laws, regulations, requirements, techniques, and methods for solving security problems. Man, as the main subject of security, necessarily needs knowledge, methodological and other tools to fulfil the tasks in the field of ensuring security, they need a security theory [2].

METHODOLOGY AND GOAL

Basic research methods based on interdisciplinary security research were used in the study, especially the method of content analysis and analytical-synthetic methods, which are quite often used by other authors from research institutes dealing with security studies abroad. The text of the study is based on published works by renowned authors from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, as well as works of foreign authors dealing with the security issues. At the same time, it is supplemented by the author's own research concerning security.

The primary goal of the author of the study is to expand the perception of security and bring readers from the professional and lay public known, but also new information in the field of security with emphasis on the paradigm of security theory.

EXAMINING AND DEFINING SECURITY

The issue of security has accompanied humanity throughout its civilized history. The society itself began to organize primarily to ensure its security. The state and its previous organizational forms were created precisely to ensure the protection and survival of the community. The state performs a number of functions, but the function of ensuring security is one of its priority functions [3]. Today, at the beginning of the third decade of the third millennium, solving security problems is already part of management processes at all levels and in all areas of life of contemporary human society, not just at the state level.

Nevertheless, the acceptance of the field of security as an integral part of social life encounters problems that have provoked many heated debates on theoretical and methodological aspects not only of research, but also of the definition and overall understanding and perception of security. For example, in the case of the definition of security, it can be stated that, despite many attempts, there is still no uniform, unified, and generally accepted definition of security. The reason is the way in which politicians, scientists, academics, soldiers, security and other experts think about security, from what perspective it is viewed and how they approach it. Therefore, it is quite logical that each of them emphasizes different indicators and factors. In this context, Eichler states that the individual theoretical directions and the authors themselves differ in their approach to security and its definition in a few aspects, each of which has its strengths and weaknesses [4].

In the professional Slovak, Czech and foreign literature, there are many different definitions of security. As for the Slovak authors dealing with security, Volner defines security as *“a concrete-historical, dynamic, relative, diverse, multifaceted, multifaceted and multilevel*

phenomenon” [5]. His perception of security is not abstract, permanent, and unchanging, but always concrete, because it always concerns a specific phenomenon, process, relationship or thing, specific conditions and circumstances, a specific environment, time and space, and a specific form of expression and quality. Unlike him, Hofreiter states that “*security is a state in which the security risks of an object and its interests are effectively limited and this object is effectively equipped to limit current and potential security risks*”. According to Lasicová and Ušiak, “*security is a complex concept, a category of being at various analytical levels of individual, group, local, state, regional and global level, where several differentiated, flexible external and internal social factors (military, economic, domestic, social, legal, environmental, energy, cyber), which have the capacity to create temporary (relative) stability at the causal level and through which all kinds of crises, risks, threats and wars can be eliminated*” [7].

As for the Czech authors, Slepecký defines security as “*the ability of a system to withstand external and internal threats that may be military, political, economic, environmental, social, information and energy*” [8]. Sak says that security is “*the state of an entity in which its existence, structure, and function are not disrupted or threatened*” [9]. According to Janošec “*security is a name for real elements, processes, ideas, structures ... at a specific time and space, when there is a balance between security actors*” [10]. Eichler considers security to be “*a fundamental value and the highest goal of any state or multi-state security community*” [4]. And according to Mareš (2002) “*security is a situation where threats to the object (usually the state, or even an international organization) and its interests are eliminated to the lowest possible level, and this object is effectively equipped and willing to cooperate in eliminating current and potential threats*” [11].

Among other Slavic academics dealing with security, Korzeniowski, as a representative of the Polish theoretical school, defines security as “*a certain objective state, which consists in the absence of a threat that subjectively is (perceived) by individuals or groups of people*” [12]. Pokruszyński and Piwowarski consider security “*to be the highest, absolute and eternal value, necessary for the development of human society. The highest, because it is the foundation of everything we do; absolute because it covers all sections of society; and eternal, because it is necessary at every stage of human development*” [13].

Ukrainian academician Zaplatynskyi speaks of security as of “*a state that enables the functioning, stability and development of the state, preserves peace, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, internal order in the state, fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and protection of life and health of people, property and the environment*” [14]. Serbian scientists Todorović and Trifunović consider security to be “*the science of the*

condition of the state and the processes within the state, specifically the conditions and processes that enable the normal functioning of the state and development” [15].

From other foreign authors, it is possible to offer readers definitions of Moller, Purpura and Bailliet for a better illustration and comparison of views on security. Moller refers to the term security as *“the absence of risks to the acquired values or the absence of fear that these values will be endangered” [16].* Purpura defines security as *“getting rid of or resisting potential harm (or other undesirable coercive change) from external forces, where the recipients of security can be individuals and social groups, objects and institutions, ecosystems, and any other entity; or a phenomenon that is threatened by undesirable changes in its environment” [17].* In contrast, Bailliet characterizes security as *“a state in which individuals, groups and states do not feel threatened by serious threats, resp. they are considered to be effectively protected from them and they can shape their future according to their own ideas” [18].*

As can be seen from the above definitions, depending on the perspective of security, the approach or position chosen, the differences between the definitions of security for some authors are either very small or very large. Sometimes even no intersection can be found between them. The only unity is that security is a difficult concept to grasp. Therefore, it is essentially impossible to determine exactly what this term means, or to assign unambiguous numerical values to it, in contrast to a number of quantities known from the natural or technical sciences [19]. However, it is certainly possible to agree by consensus that security is one of the highest values, which is a prerequisite for the development of mankind and a guarantee of the freedom of human society. At the same time, security is one of the basic human needs that must be constantly developed, protected, and met [6]. That is why mankind urgently needs a security theory.

THE NEED FOR SAFETY THEORY

So far, there has been no comprehensive security theory in the world that would be fully accepted by the society. However, there are at least two ways of understanding security theory. One is based on a political science and the other on a systems approach. The political science concept of security theory is based on the Copenhagen Security School (for more details see: [31]) and focuses primarily on solving security problems at the international and state level. It is perceived as part of international relations and is a subject of security studies at universities. It emphasizes in particular the relationships between actors and reference objects. The system

concept of security theory focuses on security issues at lower analytical levels, at the state level, but especially at the level of the organization and the human as individual. From the perspective of the state, this is an area of internal security. Other reference objects, organizations and individuals are added to the state. In contrast to the political science approach, the systems approach emphasizes the causality of security breaches [20].

For these reasons, security research is now evolving in several directions and in several ways. While it was initially focused, as indicated above, almost exclusively on the state, military, or military and political sector, armed conflicts, and military threats within the scope of security and strategic studies in the field of international relations theory or military science, later security research was gradually extended to other sectors (especially economic, social, and environmental) and other areas of society (such as the safety and protection of persons and property, protection of occupational health, information security, fire safety, food safety, human security, etc.).

According to Hofreiter and Zvaková, in each area of scientific research, researchers created their own categorical and conceptual apparatus, their own axioms and their own research methodology. The situation in the field of security research has gradually reached a stage where there are many paradigms, and representatives of individual directions conduct polemics and defend their positions against opponents or advocates of different understanding of security issues [2]. They work in the kind of security they have adopted and develop it. Thus, a pragmatic approach prevails in the study of security problems, security issues, its concept and research are carried out independently, by individual sectors and types of security [21]. That is why it is very important for the further development of security theory to find a common platform which would enable working towards a paradigm that will partly unite the entire security community, i.e. researchers from academia and security practice, and partly its application in security research.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURITY THEORY

The term theory generally refers to a set of statements, definitions, axioms, and postulates about a subject of research that are considered true at a given stage of knowledge. This set is required to be inconsistent with previous experience and experimental results and to be internally consistent. In terms of structure, theory represents an internally differentiated but integral system of knowledge, which is characterized by the logical dependence of one element on another, by creating the content of theory based on a certain set of statements and concepts

from a given field of research [22]. In this context, Lukáš adds that a set of principles, rules, postulates, or axioms tends to be common to the entire scientific field [21].

Theory as such, as a special, universal form of intellectual cognition of the world, is applied in interaction with other forms of perception of reality. Every scientific theory is always connected in some way to certain philosophical and ideological attitudes, its development is stimulated by these attitudes and helps to strengthen their authority and influence in the system of scientific theories. Theory is the basis for thinking about the world, separate from the world, but still about it. In this way, it creates: a) stimuli for thinking about the unknown, b) a framework for critical understanding of phenomena, processes and events, c) the basis for thinking about how to organize what is unknown, d) the basis for organizing knowledge. Theories stimulate thinking about what is unknown and thus represent the driving force of research [23].

There are a number of different definitions of the term theory in the literature. Such definitions, as Lukáš state, usually emphasize the role of theory in cognition [21]. For example, in the Little Czechoslovak Encyclopaedia, the term theory is defined as: “*A complex of opinions, ideas and thoughts aimed at explaining a phenomenon. In the narrower sense, it represents the most developed form of scientific knowledge, giving a systematic, general picture of the laws and essential contexts of the area of reality which is the subject of it*” [24]. According to Hofreiter, “*theory is the most complex and developed form of scientific knowledge*” [22]. Reichel considers theory to be a “*fundamental goal of science*” [25]. Holer and Porada define it as “*a system of generalized objectively true knowledge, or a system of knowledge derived from other theories*” [26].

The process of shaping scientific theory usually takes place in successive phases. These are mainly the following ones:

- gathering empirical experience from practice,
- generalization and evaluation of experience,
- record, description of positive experience - creation of simple methodologies,
- summary of partial methodologies into more extensive theoretical instructions,
- creating coherent theoretical concepts,
- verification of theoretical conclusions in practice [27].

Scientific theory should meet the following requirements:

a) Scientific theory must have its subject matter, which exists independently of it. The theory must be a theory of something (e.g., security, law, art, music, relativity, etc.); it must be a set of knowledge and assertions about something that exists outside of it.

b) Scientific theory must be a system of statements about its subject, and the following conditions must be met:

- the system of statements must be coherent, internally contradictory, statements about the object of examination must not contradict each other;
- the system of dismissals must be consistent, i.e. all statements entering the theory must be interrelated, conditional, complementary, etc.; it is not permissible for other statements and other theories unrelated to it to be included in the theory.

c) Scientific theory must be verifiable.

- What is not verifiable cannot be considered a scientific theory.
- Temporary, conditional unverifiability of the theory as a whole or its parts is admissible, but not permanent, principal unverifiability, impossibility of verification of the theory and its parts.

d) Scientific theory cannot be definitively confirmed or refuted because the independence of facts from theory is assumed.

e) Scientific theory is not immutable.

- New knowledge, new hypotheses (confirmed, but also those that are still awaiting confirmation) can be incorporated into the knowledge system, as well as opinions, assumptions or intuitions of scientists that can be confirmed or falsified in the research process [26].

Theory can be classified as either true or false. Mostly, we want theory to provide a true picture of reality, of the subject of inquiry. However, there is also the so-called alternative theory (not necessarily false), or plurality of theories, which allows for the development of science. A theory can be considered true, and thus an enrichment of science, unless its falsehood is scientifically proven [22].

It has already been stated in the previous text that in the processes of ensuring security, man acts as a subject, and this role requires mastering a wide range of knowledge, laws, requirements, techniques, and methods of solving security problems. To fulfil this role, man, as the main subject of security, needs a theory to fulfil it. The requirements for the development of a general theory of safety, in addition to the above, resulted from:

- the needs of people, societies, states and the whole world community for the preservation and development, as well as the various systems necessary for human survival,
- the global and complex nature of various threats with massive destructive potential,
- diversity of approaches to clarifying the nature and content of the concept of security, its factors, and the method of evaluation,
- different interpretation and use of terms in the field of security research,
- the fact that the basic laws, security categories as the subject of research have not been comprehensively defined so far,
- absence of generalization of previous experience from security practice.

In the context of these requirements, security theory should consist of a set of modern, interdisciplinary, scientifically sound opinions and knowledge, principles and rules related to the protection of vital interests of man, society, the state, humanity, as well as natural and technogenic systems necessary for human existence. Security theory can be considered a system composed of knowledge, concepts, thought constructs, statements because its elements (knowledge, concepts, constructs, research tools, etc.) are interconnected by logical links within the same subject of research (for more details see: [28], [29] a [30]).

The security theory can be classified as a theory whose objective is to explain the phenomena and processes related to security problems, while presenting them from a causal point of view as derivatives of developments, changes, and influences of security factors. The security theory can also be defined as a set of scientifically substantiated knowledge and claims about facts related to safety as a subject of research [2].

The following are considered to be security-related facts:

- events that already exist (have occurred and persist) or may occur in the relevant environment of the reference object,
- processes related to the change of security and the security situation of the reference object,
- phenomena, such as the sum of external variable, sensory-perceived properties, features of processes that take place in the security environment of the reference object,
- specific systems (social, natural, technical) that exist in the security environment of the reference object, are related to its security, or are created to ensure its security [25].

The main tasks of security theory include:

- revealing the patterns of change in the security of social, natural, and technical systems,

- qualitative and quantitative description of the mechanisms of interaction of these systems and equipment at different stages of the origin and development of dangerous situations and their consequences,
- creation of scientific bases for identification, diagnostics, monitoring, occurrence of dangerous phenomena, events and processes, their prediction, early warning, and prevention.

PARADIGM OF SECURITY THEORY

Addressing security issues is now part of management processes at all levels and in all areas of social life. The acceptance of security as an integral part of social life encounters problems that provoke a discussion about the theoretical and methodological aspects of understanding security. In today's society, security research is evolving in several ways and directions. Initially, it was only an examination of the phenomenon of security in the scope of Security Studies according to the state-centred paradigm, especially in the theory of international relations, later in other areas, usually associated with a wider range of security sectors (social, political, environmental, information, protection of persons and property, human security, etc.).

In each of the areas of security research, researchers developed their own categorical apparatus, their own axioms, their own research methodology. The situation in the scientific security community has reached a stage where there are many "paradigms" and representatives of individual directions conduct polemics and defend their positions against opponents, advocates of different understanding of security issues. For this reason, it is necessary to work towards a paradigm enabling the unification of the security community from the academic environment and from the wider security sector. It is a platform based on Kuhn's presentation of the paradigm and applied to the field of security research [22].

PARADIGM IN GENERAL

The term paradigm, used in the scientific community, has several meanings. In the theory of sciences, paradigms refer to fundamental ideas and theories that characterize scientific epochs and form their basis, or a certain system of accepted theories in a given field and at a given time. This term refers to a set of views, methods and procedures that are recognized by members of the scientific community. It is also understood as essential results of scientific research, which are used as models of problems and their solutions [22].

The Dictionary of the Slovak Language defines a paradigm as “*the sum of all understandings of a scientific discipline in a certain period of time*” [32]. According to Slovník cudzích slov, it is a “*set of assumptions on which the theory is respected, resp. a set of assumptions creating a framework for the existence of a certain phenomenon*“ [33]. The Cambridge Dictionary of English explains paradigm as “*a set of theories that explain the way a particular subject is understood at a particular time*” [34]. And Merriam-Webster's Glossary characterizes it as “*the philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific school or discipline in which theories, laws, and generalizations are formulated, as well as experiments performed to support them*” [35].

Paradigm in its metaphysical meaning expresses the basic view representing how a scientist sees the world. According to the way of looking at reality and seeing the world, it is possible to characterize a certain community of researchers. A paradigm refers to the way a scientist sees a problem; it is the body of knowledge about the object of research and the relevant scientific procedures that a scientist has acquired and applies in their scientific work.

Paradigm, as a model or an example of research in a particular scientific field, is also what unites members of a scientific community. Paradigm is also understood as a common view of a given scientific community on specific models and common values. These common assumptions are the basis of communication between scientists and provide relative unanimity in scientific considerations. Paradigm is also understood as a construct, as a set of knowledge and scientific procedures and tools, which the scientists have acquired and which they apply in scientific practice [2].

Following the above characteristics of the term paradigm, the following components of the paradigm can be mentioned:

- the scientist's view of the subject of the given science,
- interpretation of opinions on the subject of given science,
- terminology used, language of science,
- the methodology used in the given science,
- defined range of problems, questions of a given science,
- the scientific community, which deals with solving the problems of a given science [2].

The paradigm in its most general concept fulfils three basic functions:

- a) indicative (defines the subject of research),
- b) methodological (determines the rules and procedures for solving problems),
- c) normative (forms stable solutions) [22].

THE PARADIGM OF SECURITY SCIENCE

The subject of individual scientific disciplines are various sections of reality (physical, biological, social, mental, etc.). Scientific disciplines also differ in the level of generality and abstraction (philosophy, mineralogy) or the time which the discipline deals with. For example, history or archaeology focuses on the past and prognostication on the future [36].

Security science is a complex science that arises at the interface of natural, social, and technical sciences, it is a science that examines the laws and mechanisms of ensuring the security and protection of man, social groups, states, and the environment [6]. It is also a science that deals with the threats and risks to the existence of an entity (man, group, organization, mankind, system, etc.), its structure (system) and the fulfilment of its functions. It develops a general theory of security, analytically searches for risks, and develops concepts that eliminate or reduce security risks for the entity [36].

Security science, as follows from the above, is not an autonomous science, but it is a science that is open to the environment in which it is located, which it affects and by which it is affected. It deals mainly with human activities and the consequences of such activities on humanity and the environment [6].

From the perspective of security science, security analysis is approached as a dynamic, complex, multifactor phenomenon with a horizontal and vertical structure. From the point of view of a comprehensive approach, security is considered as a whole, the final value of which is not only the sum of the values of its individual factors but arises as a result of their relationship [6]. In security science, each security factor, each of its dimensions, is analysed as a sum of interacting sub-factors and sub-dimensions that are characterized by common relationships of conditioning, interaction, and causality [22].

The security of people, social groups, states (reference objects) will always be the result of the interaction of internal and external security threats and their protective (defensive) possibilities, which are classified by vulnerability and resilience. The essence of the security science paradigm is the recognition of security (Security - S) as a category, causally secondary, which results from the action of primary causes causing the emergence / disappearance of threats (T) or reduction / increase of vulnerability (V), resistibility (Re) and Recoverability (Rc) of the reference object at a given time (t). The symbolic expression of this paradigm is in the following form:

$$S(t) = f\{T(t), V(t), Re(t), Rc(t)\}$$

where:

$S(t)$ is the security value of the reference object at time t ,

$T(t)$ is the intensity (magnitude) of the threat at time t ,

$V(t)$ is vulnerability of the reference object at time t ,

$Re(t)$ is the degree of resistance of the reference object at time t ,

$Rc(t)$ is the recoverability capability of the reference object at time t [37].

Based on the paradigm presented above, it is possible to analyse the security of any reference object (entity) using a model based on a causal mechanism, in which:

- real threats represent an independent variable, cause a change in the state or situation of the reference object,
- the security of the reference object is a dependent variable,
- the vulnerability, resistibility and recoverability of a reference object are mediating variables (conditions) that affect the sensitivity of the object to the threats posed [37].

CONCLUSION

Based on the above information, it can be concluded that the issue of research and security is challenging and places high demands on the education and training of those professionally involved in it, whether in research or practice. Creating a comprehensive and effective security system, guaranteeing security and protection for the reference object (entity) requires a multidisciplinary approach, the use of knowledge from various scientific disciplines. The acquisition of the necessary competencies to ensure the need for security can be ensured only in the process of education by mastering the necessary theory. In our case, it is the scientific security theory and its paradigm.

Scientific theory, as indicated in the previous text, represents the most complex and developed form of scientific knowledge, while its other forms (laws, classifications, typologies, etc.) can prevent the emergence of own theory and form the basis for its formation. It can be said that they quite often coexist with theory, interact, and co-operate with it in the system of science and at the same time enter the theory as its elements (theoretical laws, classifications and typologies based on theory, etc.). Theory itself, as a universal form of intellectual cognition of the world, is applied in interaction with other forms of perceiving the reality. At the same time, every scientific theory is always in some way connected to certain philosophical and

ideological attitudes, while its development is both stimulated by these attitudes and helps to strengthen their authority and influence in the system of scientific theories.

It can be concluded that scientific theory is a set of scientific knowledge, claims about this knowledge arranged in such a way that allows their use in explaining and predicting phenomena and events that have a decisive influence on developments in the realm of reality. In terms of the object of our interest, the reality is security.

Security, as well as the problem of ensuring the security of reference objects (entities) at various levels, has a multidisciplinary character; therefore, there is a need for its multidisciplinary research using methodological procedures and theoretical knowledge of many other sciences: political science, philosophy, psychology, sociology, history, economics, law, military, natural and technical sciences. Following the previous conclusions, security theory can be defined as “*a system of scientific knowledge, laws, principles and research methods, terms and definitions in the field of safety, enabling quantitative and qualitative analysis of safety factors, determination and determination of indicators and criteria for assessing the safety of reference objects and predicting development of security situation*” [22].

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