

Implications of Globalization on National Security

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Abstract

Concept of National Security is associated with the history of the United States of America following the Second World War, with the US Congress passing the first National Security Constitution in 1947. It traditionally had to do with the protection of the state against external aggression through economic, military, political, and diplomatic means. Recently however, it has been broadened to include human security a people centered approach to security, linking development to security and broadening both the identification of possible threats and the actors responsible for producing and resolving insecurity. The national security issues most impacted upon by globalization are generally found to fall into three categories: the nature of security threats in a globalised world, the effects of the phenomenon of globalization on the pursuit of national security, and the erosion of the exclusivity of the state as a provider of national security.

Keyword:- National Security, Globalization, economic, military, Political.

Introduction

Globalization is generally understood as the intimate integration of the people and the countries across the continents results into facilitation of trade and investment, reduction in the cost of shipping and eventually breaking the artificial barriers for smooth and efficient flow of goods, knowledge, services and capital including the people across traditional nation state borders. The introduction of term globalization appeared on the international scene during 1980s, highlighting innovations, technological advancements which paved the way for speedy financial flows and transactions. Globalization manifests in extension beyond national borders of nation states.

Economic globalization has become one of the most important features of world economic activities since the end of the Cold War. It has not only produced a far-reaching impact on the political, economic and social aspects of the world, but is also confronting the world economic system with unprecedented challenges. With existing problems under the current economic order still outstanding, the economic order under globalization has presented new and tougher security problems to countries of the world, especially the developing countries. As globalization of the world's economy has increasingly become a new kind of economic colonialism by developed countries of the North upon developing countries

of the South, it is undoubtedly worthwhile for us to explore the impact of economic globalization on national security.

Implications toward National Security

This close integration of the countries in the world in the global system has wide implications or ramifications toward national security. As the "globalization" of the world created a new international law of intervention that stripped the nation-state from most of its sovereignty and made neutrality moot, political and economic integration tends to increase fragmentation and tension in the international system as neither geography nor national policy offer much protection.

Neo-Interventionism

The borderless world tends to increase the "internationalization" of a nation's domestic issues and thus precipitates the first security impact: Neo-interventionism which poses challenges to the United Nations (UN) principle of territorial integrity and sovereign equality. Globalization has led to an increase of foreign interferences or interventions in a nation's internal affairs, especially by the United States of America (USA) and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Economic Sabotage

The immoral character of the global economy has exposed national economies to the threat of economic sabotage. Globalization, aided and abetted by the removal of national controls over cross-border financial flows and the computer revolution, has resulted in short term capital entering and exiting markets at lightning speed. Because this capital is as massive as it is volatile, it is capable of wrecking havoc upon an economy which may not have the mechanisms to deal with it. Given the "messy, unreliable and destructive" international financial system, it tends to expose a nation's currency and economy to speculative attacks by currency traders. The Southeast Asia financial crisis and its contagious effects on the stock markets of Hong Kong, Wall Street, Japan and other parts of Northeast Asia, Europe and even Brazil is an illustration of the effect of global integration on financial decision-making and its multiple impacts. The dramatic outflow of capital from the region, triggered off to a large extent by currency speculation, has had a devastating impact upon Southeast Asian economies.

Economic Domination

Another impact and implication of economic and financial globalization is the dominance of those with capitals and the dual faces of North and South. The dominant forms of economic and financial globalization in the context of their concomitant processes

of liberalization and integration are clearly of benefit to those with considerable amounts of accumulated capital or trade in the marketplace. Those without one or both to sell or trade such as the poor and already marginalized in both industrialized and developing countries are clearly being further disempowered and peripheralised by such globalization processes. This impact has already resulted in the countries of the South losing control over their power to determine and shape the economic policies that are most conducive to their development. Crucial areas of economic policy-making that once were under the domain of national governments in the South have increasingly come under the control of foreign (Northern) governments or of international financial, trade and economic organizations controlled by Northern governments and acting in favor of trans-national companies and banks.

In the present era of free trade agreements, the process of the loss of such economic sovereignty is bound to accelerate unless the peoples and countries of the South realize this danger and organize themselves to fight for a fairer international economic order. This rising domination takes the form of global trade and investment. National policies relating to foreign investments have also now begun to come under the ambit of the WTO system.

Thus, globalization can only mean one thing to countries of the South: loss of nominal independence they have with nothing to compensate. Globalization would leave countries of the South totally exposed to economic exploitation and domination by countries of the North and unable to protect themselves. Globalization of the world economy has increasingly denies individual Third World countries the possibility of building a national economy. The 'internationalization' of economic policy transforms countries into open economic territories and national economies into "reserves" of cheap labor and natural resources.

Impact and implication of globalization is the threat of 'trade-related issues' in trade agreement. Northern governments plan to link trade (including trade measures and sanctions) to the environment and to labor standards in a manner that is likely to be inequitable and thus harmful to the South are already well advanced. There will also likely be attempts to link even more issues to trade measures possibly including 'trade-related women's rights', 'trade-related judicial systems'.

Control of Information

The homogenization of consumer culture in place of diversity is another of the major impacts of the globalization process. This is going to become more universal because of the development of Information Technology (IT). The unfortunate thing is that IT industry, and all that will be disseminated through it,

will again be dominated by the big players: the huge corporations owned by the developed countries. As national borders become more porous to information flows and information channels reaching citizens have multiplied into network structures less amenable to centralized control, new threats to national security appear, i.e. the hostile, politically motivated use of information and electronic means by the developed countries.

There are several implications for security related national ICT policies following the current nature of security threats pointed above. Key amongst them is Internet governance and e-government policies. Most developed, as well as some of the developing states, have e-government systems in which satellite and other forms of wireless communication systems are used. While enhancing communication and effectiveness, they also increase the vulnerability of these states to information warfare. The underlying concern with both globalization and national security is that of the safeguarding of interests, both human and national interests. Because ultimately national security is about the security of the individual citizen, the protection of the individual's interests by the state is as important as the protection of the interest of the state. In a globalised world, the capability with which states successfully navigate these webs of interests will determine the extent to which they are advantaged or disadvantaged by globalization. With the Internet not being constrained by territorial boundaries traditionally defining states and their sovereignty, the goal of developing agile security related ICT policies and their implementation must remain on the national security research agenda of all states.

The key challenge to national security now is how to monitor and implement the laws and regulations governing it when the advancement of IT such as the Internet and E-Mail will make it increasingly difficult to suppress or control news and information access and use. Another impact of globalization is the rise of trans-national crime as a serious threat to national security and stability. Globalization, the telecommunications revolution, the opening of international borders, and more, have all contributed to a 'business' environment that is just as helpful to the trans-national criminal as it is to the legal trans-national company or the legal entrepreneurial businessman. Growing interdependence between states, improved international transportation links, deregulation within states, and the explosion in information technology are the backbone of the distribution system that supports trans-national business operations. These distribution system move capital, product, people, currency and information across them at rates that exceed the ability of nation-state to either monitor or control them.

The term national security comprehensively covers all facets of external and internal

threats as well as all dimensions of human security. Globalization though has generally benefitted the world; however, its impact is not uniform. The degree and direction of impact is directly related to a nation state's capacity to cope with various security threats, risks and vulnerabilities. Therefore, a hybrid approach considering both traditional and liberal approaches to security will be best suitable option taking into account comprehensive national power of a country. In the contemporary times, the globalization is perceived as an unrelenting occurrence. However, its impetus can be impacted by multiple factors like determination, political will and accessibility of infrastructure to name a few. Indeed, the world is considered to be on constant road to peace and affluence albeit on a roller coaster ride due to changing often conflicting geo- strategic and geo- political national interests of major powers. That brittleness of almost a century ago still occurs as the world is transiting through the aftershocks of 9/11. These occurrences are recaps that are aimed at the interruption in the process of globalization would eventually manifest in slowing down of flow of capital, services, goods and the people which are certainly not encouraging for international economy and may result in adversarial consequences.

Conclusion

Present paper concluded that the spread of globalization far outpaces the ability of societies and their political systems to adjust to the changing global security situation. Until they do, national security will be fragile and vulnerable to backlash from all the "ism" of the post-Cold War world, especially neo- colonialism and neo-interventionism. The stakes are particularly high for countries of the South because globalization has increasingly become a specific economic strategy pursued by the countries of the North to re-exert their position and influence over the countries of the South.

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