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УГРОЗЫ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ И ПРОБЛЕМЫ, СТОЯЩИЕ ПЕРЕД ВЬЕТНАМОМ THREATS TO HUMAN SECURITY AND THE CHALLENGES FACING VIETNAM

Аннотация. Человеческая безопасность является важнейшим компонентом современного мышления в области безопасности, отражающим переход от национально-центричного к человеко-центричному подходу. В условиях глобализации, Четвертой промышленной революции и роста нетрадиционных вызовов безопасности угрозы человеческой безопасности становятся все более разнообразными, сложными и трансграничными. В данной статье анализируются теоретические основы, характеристики и основные угрозы человеческой безопасности в современном мире. Кроме того, в ней разъясняются проблемы, с которыми сталкивается Вьетнам в обеспечении человеческой безопасности. Результаты исследования способствуют углублению теоретического понимания и предоставлению научных аргументов для разработки политики по обеспечению человеческой безопасности в новом контексте

Abstract. Human security constitutes a significant aspect of contemporary security discourse, signifying the transition from a nation-centric to a people-centric paradigm of security. Within the framework of globalisation, the fourth industrial revolution, and the emergence of non-traditional security issues, threats to human security are becoming progressively diversified, intricate, and multinational. The paper analyses the theoretical foundation, characteristics, and contemporary dangers to human security, while also addressing the challenges faced by Vietnam in guaranteeing human security. Research findings enhance theoretical understanding and furnish scientific rationale for policymaking to guarantee human security in the contemporary setting

Ключевые слова: Человеческая безопасность, угрозы человеческой безопасности, нетрадиционная безопасность, обеспечение человеческой безопасности, Вьетнам

Keywords: Human security, threats to human security, non-traditional security, ensuring human security, Vietnam

1. Introduction

Subsequent to the Cold War, along with globalisation and significant advancements in science and technology, the global security landscape has experienced numerous fundamental transformations. Alongside conventional security threats, other non-traditional security issues, including climate change, epidemics, terrorism, cybercrime, economic crises, energy security, and water security, are escalating, directly impacting human life, health, rights, and developmental prospects.

In this environment, human security has emerged as a significant component of contemporary security discourse and is increasingly examined and included into security development and governance initiatives by numerous nations and international organisations. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the intricate, transnational, and extensive effects of threats to human security on the global economy, politics, society, and government.

The Party and State of Vietnam are increasingly prioritising human security within the comprehensive plan for national development and defence. The document of the 13th Party Congress for the first time underscored the necessity of “ensuring human security”; the orientation of the 14th



Party Congress further reinforced the perspective of human-centered development, associating human security with sustainable development and enhancing the capacity to address both traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the contemporary context [1].

Nonetheless, numerous divergent views exist regarding the perception of human security threats; certain aspects of the idea, characteristics, and manifestations of these hazards remain inadequately and inconsistently examined. The paper subsequently elucidates the awareness and attributes of threats to human security, while analysing the predominant hazards and challenges faced by Vietnam in safeguarding human security.

2. Theoretical Basis and Characteristics of Human Security Threats

Human security reflects a shift in security thinking from a traditional nation-centric approach to a people-centric approach. If in the past, security was mainly understood as protecting national sovereignty, territorial integrity and interests against the risks of war, conflict or external interference, now, security is approached in a more comprehensive direction, focusing on ensuring safety, stability and conditions of human development in all areas of social life [2, c.43].

This topic is thoroughly addressed in the 1994 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human security is defined as “the protection of individuals from persistent threats such as poverty, disease, and oppression, as well as safeguarding them from unusual and detrimental occurrences in everyday life”. The UNDP established seven core domains: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security [3]. This approach demonstrates that ensuring security extends beyond merely preventing war or violence; it also encompasses the establishment of conditions conducive to secure, stable, and holistic human development.

Despite the variety of methodologies, human security studies consistently emphasise several fundamental principles: individuals are the primary focus of security; the objective of security is to safeguard human lives, legitimate rights, interests, and conditions for development; threats arise not only from warfare and conflict but also from economic, social, environmental, epidemic, technological, and other non-traditional security challenges. Consequently, safeguarding human security is intrinsically connected to sustainable development and the protection of human rights.

In Vietnam, ensuring human security is increasingly concerned by the Party and State in the overall strategy of national development and national defense. The document of the 13th Party Congress for the first time emphasized the requirement of “ensuring human security”; the orientation of the 14th Party Congress continued to affirm the view of human-centered development, linking human security with sustainable development and improving the capacity to respond to traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the new context. In the seminar “New perceptions and new thinking on national security”, General, Prof. Dr. To Lam affirmed: “Human security is a state where people can live stably and safely, without being threatened by the risks of abuse”. This concept clearly reflects the comprehensiveness, humanity and is suitable with the current practical conditions of Vietnam [4, c.10].

The aforementioned approaches elucidate that human security constitutes a condition wherein individuals are assured of the safety of their lives, health, and lawful rights and interests, while residing in a stable, secure, and fully developed environment among hazards posed by nature, society, and the international milieu. Threats to human security are factors, phenomena, or processes that can adversely affect, injure, or infringe upon human safety, stability, and developmental conditions.

Threats are now interconnected and spread systematically among many areas of social life. A risk that arises in one area can quickly spread to other areas, creating a chain effect with a far-reaching range of impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic is typical of a health crisis that has led to economic decline, supply chain disruptions, rising unemployment, and social inequality. This shows that today's threats are no longer isolated, but increasingly systemic and interdependent across security domains. For Vietnam, this characteristic poses the need to improve the capacity of integrated governance, inter-sectoral coordination and proactively control non-traditional security risks early and remotely.



Moreover, risks are progressively international and cross-border. Within the framework of globalisation and profound international integration, numerous concerns, including climate change, infectious disease outbreaks, cybercrime, international terrorism, energy security, and water security, are poised to proliferate swiftly and impact multiple countries and regions concurrently. This indicates that the distinction between national security and international security is becoming increasingly ambiguous, reflecting the rising interdependence among nations in safeguarding human security [5, c.189]. Vietnam must aggressively engage in international collaboration and enhance its coordination and adaptability to transnational security threats amid deepening integration.

In addition, current threats are dynamic, difficult to predict and directly affect human development. Under the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the rapid development of artificial intelligence, big data, cyberspace and biotechnology is giving rise to new risks with increasingly sophisticated, complex and more difficult to control modes of expression. Unlike traditional security threats that mainly threaten national sovereignty or political stability, these threats directly affect the lives, health, human rights, living conditions and development opportunities of individuals and communities. Without effective identification and control, they not only affect the quality of life but also increase social inequalities, reduce social trust and hinder sustainable development goals. For Vietnam, that requires improving its capacity for strategic forecasting, risk management, and building society's adaptability to emerging security risks.

3. Current Primary Threats to Human Security and Challenges for Vietnam

In the context of globalization and the rise of non-traditional security challenges, threats to human security are increasingly diverse, complex and have a far-reaching impact on social life. For Vietnam, that poses many new requirements in ensuring human security associated with sustainable development and maintaining social stability.

Climate change and environmental degradation are emerging as significant risks to human security in contemporary society. Rising sea levels, extreme natural disasters, drought, saltwater intrusion, environmental pollution, and depletion of natural resources directly impact human lives, health, livelihoods, and developmental situations. Climate change not only inflicts economic and infrastructural damage but also heightens the danger of food hunger, water scarcity, environmental displacement, and social instability. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report indicates that Southeast Asia is significantly impacted by global climate change, with Vietnam identified as particularly susceptible to sea level rise and extreme weather events [6]. The World Bank predicts that a 1-meter rise in sea level might inundate around 40% of the Mekong Delta region [7]. This indicates that climate change is not merely an environmental concern but also a direct threat to sustainable development, economic security, social stability, and the quality of life for individuals in Vietnam, necessitating enhancements in risk management capabilities, proactive adaptation, and the fortification of environmental security within the national development strategy.

Epidemics and health crises continue to pose a serious threat to human security. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the far-reaching impact of health risks on public health, economic growth, social stability, and national governance. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVID-19 pandemic has caused millions of deaths globally and created a serious health crisis unprecedented in recent decades. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) rates this as one of the most severe global economic recessions since the Great Depression of 1929. In addition to emerging infectious diseases, many issues such as population ageing, mental health, antibiotic resistance, imbalances in access to health services and risks from biotechnology are also posing major challenges to human security. For Vietnam, this requires improving preventive health capacity, the ability to respond to health crises and ensure social security in the context of epidemic risks that are increasingly difficult to forecast and capable of spreading rapidly.

The robust advancement of the digital realm and the digital transformation process are engendering novel threats to human security. Cybercrime, sophisticated frauds, personal data breaches, cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, and the dissemination of misinformation are becoming increasingly complex. INTERPOL reports that cybercrime has become one of the most



rapidly expanding categories of crime globally, driven by the growth of the digital economy and worldwide connection [8]. The National Cyber Security Association in Vietnam reported a rise in online frauds and cyberattacks, employing increasingly sophisticated tactics that result in significant harm to property and personal data. These risks jeopardise individual privacy, property, and mental well-being, while also potentially inducing societal instability, diminishing social trust, and endangering national security. The advancement of artificial intelligence and digital technology is heightening the risk of information manipulation, cyber warfare, and unconventional cyber attacks [9, c.20]. This necessitates an immediate imperative for Vietnam to enhance cybersecurity, safeguard personal data, and augment the efficacy of preventing and combatting high-tech crimes.

The risks from socio-economic instability continue to directly affect human security in many countries. Economic crises, inflation, unemployment, wealth differentiation, social inequalities and shocks from global markets can increase poverty, crime, social conflicts and reduce people's confidence in state management institutions. In the context of globalization, economic fluctuations in a region can quickly spread and affect people's lives in many different countries. According to the World Bank, Vietnam is one of the most open economies in the world, thus being significantly affected by global market and supply chain fluctuations. This shows that international economic fluctuations can directly affect employment, income, social security and social stability in the country, thereby affecting the country's sustainable development goals. Therefore, Vietnam needs to closely combine economic development with social protection, improve the resilience of the economy and narrow the development gap between social groups.

Conflict, terrorism, and extremism continue to pose significant dangers to global human security. Ethnic and religious conflicts, local wars, international terrorism, and violent extremism result in significant loss of life and property, as well as humanitarian crises, forced migration, and enduring social instability. In the context of the robust advancement of the internet and social networks, radical beliefs, hatred, and incitement to violence are predisposed to proliferate more rapidly, with a broader reach and increased difficulty in regulation. The United Nations asserts that terrorism and violent extremism remain significant security threats for numerous nations, particularly amid escalating geopolitical disputes and regional instability. Vietnam must enhance measures to prevent and resist actions that exploit cyberspace to disseminate extremism, encourage violence, and undermine the State, so destabilising security and order.

4. Conclusion

Human security is an important approach to modern security thinking, reflecting the shift from a traditional national security-centric approach to a people-centric approach. In the context of globalization and the rise of non-traditional security challenges, threats to human security are increasingly diverse, complex and transnational and directly impact people's lives, rights and development conditions. These risks do not exist individually, but there is a linkage and interaction between many fields of economy, society, environment, health, science – technology and security and order, posing a requirement to approach human security in the overall, interdisciplinary direction and associated with sustainable development.

For Vietnam, ensuring human security is both a requirement of sustainable development and a strategic task in national defense in the new situation. Therefore, it is necessary to proactively identify, forecast and effectively respond to threats to human security, contributing to maintaining social stability and sustainable national development

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