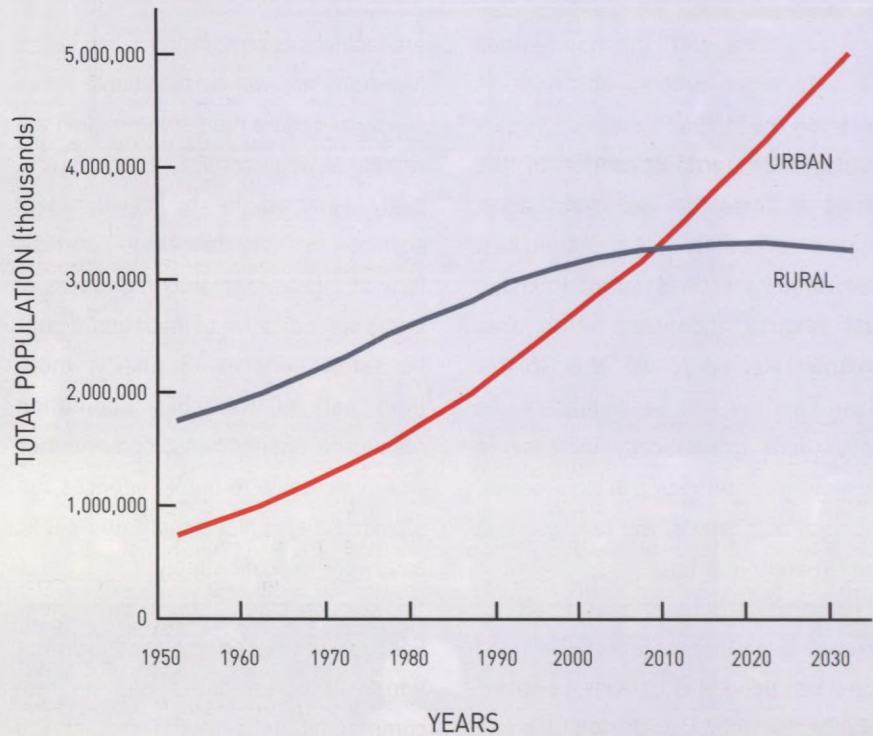on the foundation of people who are secure.[12]

The term itself has been associated with efforts to reduce people's vulnerability to a broad array of risks ranging from attacks on civilian populations in civil wars through to people's social-psychological well-being. Whatever the breadth of the definition, one thing is clear: any conception of human security must address the question of safety from physical violence for people and their communities.

One fundamental objective in the pursuit of human security is *reducing the human costs of war*. This is achieved by creating and strengthening international humanitarian standards, enforcing the rule of law, promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts where they exist, and preventing their re-emergence. Since the end of the Cold War, human security has been shaped less by wars *between* states and more by armed conflict within states. With 90 percent of conflicts now taking place *within* states, people are now much more likely to be killed or injured as a result of the failure of a state to maintain the rule of law within its own territory than its inability to defend its borders from attacks by other states.

A closer look at the violent threats faced by people living in major cities and slums suggests a need to focus on reducing the risk of

## FIGURE 1.1 World population growth 1950-2020



SOURCE: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2001 Revision*

## FIGURE 1.2 The declining time needed for one billion additional urban dwellers

| World's total urban population | Years taken |
|---|---|
| 0 to 1 billion urban dwellers | ~10,000  (c.8,000 B.C.–1960) |
| 1 to 2 billion urban dwellers | 25 (1960–1985) |
| 2 to 3 billion urban dwellers | 17 (1985–2002) |
| 3 to 4 billion urban dwellers | 15 (2002–2017) |

SOURCE: David Satterthwaite (2005)