

national security takes account of a wide set of national interests, and embodies the idea of economic security and economic interests. A broad concept of national security encompasses the idea of well-being, and suggests that factors which may have a negative effect on the well-being of a country's citizens may legitimately be considered national security issues.⁷

By broadening the concept of national security, all environmental as well as economic and social factors may be brought within its purview. All aspects of human and economic development, including the domestic distribution of income, for example, would fall within the larger national security envelope. From an analytical perspective, such a conceptualization of national security in respect of environmental considerations is not always useful as it can increase the scope of the issue to unmanageable proportions.⁸ In the extreme, the environment-national security nexus could be conceptualized as including almost all human activities.

A narrower understanding of national security, and a more traditional or conventional application of the concept, has required the use, or at least the potential use, of violent measures. The focus of national security has been on interstate activity and violence, but also to a lesser extent on intrastate threats and criminal

⁷A broad definition of national security is analogous to what the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has termed "human security." "Human security" is most easily understood by identifying its component parts. These may be placed under several main categories: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. These components are interrelated, and threats to human security are manifest in threats to the component parts. Two key features of the concept are that territorial security is accompanied by the notion of a people's security, and security through armaments and military power is accompanied by security through human development. In this concept, security for a nation state - its national security - is dependent upon the common well-being of all countries. Security for a country and its people extends beyond its borders, and it is not necessarily a zero-sum game with a higher level in one country eroding or threatening the security of another. Moreover, the impact of a country's economic activities on its citizens is a part of national security.

⁸Such issues are not, however, being ignored. In June 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), i.e., the "Earth Summit", attempted to address a wide range of environmental issues. A full understanding of environment-national security linkages, with national security being defined essentially as human security, would require another "Earth Summit" with an analysis of the environment with respect to all the component parts of human security, such as environment-food security, environment-health security and environment-political security. To an extent, work on some of these various elements is being conducted in various organizations of the United Nations, such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Development Program (UNDP).