

Security Theory

What is security theory? Currently there are 5 differing, but overlapping approaches:

1. National Security – a perspective on security issues that looks out from a nation’s capital. The primary concern is the survival and well-being of the state. The threat or use of military power is viewed as the principle instrument used to ensure its survival.

2. International Security – a perspective on security issues which recognizes that the security of one state is interconnected with that of others. It views the collective use of military power as an important instrument of policy.

3. Regional Security – takes the same perspective of international security, but focuses on other regions of the world, such as Latin America, Africa, or Asia.

4. Transstate Security – a new concept within security studies which asserts that, in the post-Cold War world, substate and transstate actors will constitute important sources of instability. These actors include ethnonational movements, religious extremists, criminal organizations, terrorists, and insurgents.

5. Global Security – as a conceptual category it seeks to broaden the security agenda beyond the military and politico-military matters to include human rights, environmental protection, economic prosperity, and social development. It often carries the normative objective of replacing coercion, conflict, and war with cooperation, bargaining, and peaceful change.