Contemporary challenges to the protection of the country's sovereignty

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Abstract. In the present study, security is considered a category related to the protection of the national sovereignty and interests of the country. Today, we live in an international environment, and politics and security are closely intertwined. The law of international relations regulates relations between states and defines their rights and obligations in many areas, including trade, environmental protection, human rights, and peaceful coexistence. The principle of sovereignty is one of the most fundamental principles of international law. Therefore, each country is entitled to govern its territory and people without interference from other countries. The paper discusses how international law and sovereignty contribute to maintaining international order, security, and cooperation. International law not only provides a framework for resolving conflicts between states but also mechanisms for promoting international cooperation on a broad range of issues. It also provides a framework for the peaceful settlement of conflicts and protects vulnerable groups such as refugees and displaced persons. Are you aware of the contemporary challenges that threaten to protect our country's sovereignty? It's a crucial issue that needs our attention. Let's understand the challenges we face in protecting our nation's sovereignty.

Keywords: international environment, international law politics, security, sovereignty

I. INTRODUCTION

In the world, dynamic events and complex relationships dictate events. Inevitably, states and their politics, security, and the international environment become key elements in the formation of global stability and cooperation. Concepts such as sovereignty and international law play an important role in this context, defining the framework in which relations between states develop. "...commentary on security's changing nature in a world of COVID-19 often overlooks the reality that traditional hard security challenges requiring military power – and its lucid assessment – are unlikely to diminish, and may even be exacerbated [1].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The interrelationships between politics, security, the international environment, international law, and sovereignty are synthesized. Models are explored in which nation-states strike a balance between protecting their interests and inspiring solid cooperation for the common good of the world. The significance of the understanding that in the modern world borders and interdependencies merge into one inseparable reality is emphasized. The study is supplemented with two figures that illustrate the important analytical estimates.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Politics, as an ambiguous term, reflects the striving of states to achieve specific goals and manage internal and external relations. It interacts continuously with security as the main element for protecting national interests against internal and external threats. At the same time, the international environment serves as a platform on which states express their strategies, develop relationships, and seek common solutions to global security challenges. This represents a parallel to "...contemporary challenges and the corresponding response to achieve organizational effectiveness...[2]. This cooperation requires compliance with the principles of international law, which serves as a foundation for justice, peace, and cooperation between sovereign states. In this context, the notion of sovereignty emerges as a fundamental principle in political theory and practice. Sovereignty refers to the authority and control that a nation or state exercises over its territory, people, and resources. It encompasses the state's ability to make independent decisions and protect itself from external interference. Sovereignty is the inalienable basis of its independence and ability to formulate policy and ensure its security on a global scale.

In this complex context of politics, security, international environment, international law, and sovereignty, nation-states seek a balance that ensures not only the protection of their interests but also sustainable cooperation for the common good in a world where borders and interdependencies merge into one inseparable reality.

In turn, security is a category related to the state and is the subject of the present study. This category has the greatest scholarly achievements in the field of political science, given that the field of international relations has studied and gathered knowledge about relations between states. Following the theories developed by these sciences, the military security of the state is mainly due to the existence of the subject, the state, and the international environment that surrounds it. The state and the international security environment are closely related and interdependent. The state, as an actor on the international stage, interacts with other states, governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations in the international environment that determines security and its interests. When the state is in constant interaction with other states and actors in the international environment, which may pose a threat to its security, we call it external threats. The responsibility for overall coordination is critical to neutralizing the threat level is... [3]. In this regard, the effort of a state to use its foreign policy and diplomacy to focus relations with other states in a certain direction and to protect its interests is called international politics and diplomacy. This may include maintaining military alliances, signing security agreements, participating in international organizations, negotiating deals, etc. The state then obeys the rules and norms of international law that regulate the behaviour of states in the international environment. Governance and strategy imperatives are changing at a rapid pace. This gives rise to gaps in public international law in various areas. It fails to compensate for the development of state practice and the emergence of factors and technologies that were not anticipated by the existing law. Gaps or outdated provisions in many treaties and within international law are primarily where there are no agreed rules to govern state actions that in turn affect other states and their populations. Some of the areas where legal norms could be expanded or updated include: the use of force by states; operations against non-state actors; refugee protection, and cyber security. States address these gaps in different ways.

Next, we will discuss international cooperation. Analyzes of the last five years indicate that, for various reasons, the alliance structures in the key strategic regions of the world – Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific region – are changing. The US is taking several steps to strengthen its presence there. At the end of 2017, the United States launched an idea to transform the American Pacific Command. Half a year later ...on May 30, 2018, the US Secretary of State for Defence announced the transformation of the US Pacific Command into the Indo-Pacific [4]. A few days later, during the conference in Singapore, the Minister of Defence of the United States, Lloyd Austin made further clarifications about the idea of the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing precisely the aspects of regional security. For the next three years, the US maintained that it did not plan to create an "Asian analogue of NATO" aimed at China. Their latest diplomatic moves suggest the opposite. In October 2021, a political and trade-economic association was established with the participation of Israel, India, the USA, and the UAE called I2U2. As a natural continuation of this process, in January 2022 the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the United States and Japan after negotiations, in the "2+2" format, emphasized that they "welcome the growing engagement with the issues of the Indo-Pacific region of the European partners and allies". In this context, the EU, NATO, and the tripartite quasi-alliance AUKUS created in 2021 are explicitly mentioned. Here we could conclude that the internal and external interests and relations of NATO and the EU outside Europe are growing. Two more facts that are eloquent enough. In early 2022, Saudi Arabia restored relations with Iran after signing an agreement. China was the mediator between the two countries. At the same time, Russian capital moves freely between India and the UAE. Certainly, the US wants to impose sanctions on Abu Dhabi, but that would jeopardize the future of I2U2. The strategic goal of the US in creating the association is to cooperate with the Middle East, South Asia, and the Americas so that they can advance their economic technology and diplomacy. At the same time, the

political relations between Japan and India in the modern era are not to be underestimated, and they date back more than 70 years. Economic and diplomatic ties between the two sovereign nations strengthened significantly in 2000 after the signing of the "Japan-India Global Partnership". The deteriorating security environment in the Indo-Pacific region has also reinforced the need for increased interoperability between NATO and Japan. At the same time, through the long-standing alliance with the US and increased cooperation with European countries, a closer integration is achieved between the national defence industrial bases, which are organized both according to the doctrinal basis and operational policies.

In continuation of the analysed geostrategic processes, we can point out as indicative of the relations of the EU and the decisions of the European Council from October 2023 regarding Israel and the development of the situation in the Middle East, both in the region and beyond. ...The European Council again condemns Hamas in the strongest possible terms for its brutal and unabashed terrorist attacks in Israel [5]. International institutions are raising doubts about their inability to adapt to the intensifying competition between the great powers. At the same time, rising and resurgent powers around the world are racing to assert the strategic self-determination of their regions.

It is also important to consider the global aspects of the security environment [6]. They cover a wide range of challenges and threats that affect international security. All these factors are common to different countries and can have a significant impact on international relations and stability. Military security is inextricably linked to the existence of the armed forces. These are the main elements belonging to a category of neorealist theories of international politics concerned with the possibilities of survival and growth of states. As a result of the efforts that countries make to ensure the security of their military forces, it is obvious that the existence of security problems will significantly affect the security of the country's military forces in terms of their ability to maintain security for their military forces. In practice, countries create increased uncertainty among themselves, as each country interprets its actions as defensive and those of the others as potentially threatening, regardless of the reasons for an action. The sources of military threats must be considered within the framework of the characteristics of the international environment, in which military power is among the main ones for states and international politics.

This is because a military instrument can be used to physically destroy elements of another country as well as use effective and efficient force to destroy elements of another country. It is well known that this power is a very effective method of influencing the policies of other countries; it also poses a threat to their security as a result of its very existence. This threat is exacerbated by the existence of states whose international relations are based on dishonesty. Currently, the development of military technology is leading to rapid changes in relations between countries. This will inevitably lead to ...the development of information technology and its ever-wider implementation and use in all spheres of security and defence increases the degree of threats from illegal actions...[7]. In other words, the effect of the developing military strategies and the development of information and communication technologies will intensify the effect of the changing nature of conflicts. This presents the prospect of rogue states defeating other states unfairly but successfully. A country that realizes this fact, when forming alliances and signing arms control agreements, shows caution and actively tries to ensure its security. It is clear to all of us that military power, by its very existence, poses a threat to the security of other countries. This is a circumstance that many authors of official international documents overlook.

Furthermore, it is important to note that security refers to the most dangerous consequences of determination/fear. An attack on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of a country by the military can pose a serious threat. As a result of the potential

risks associated with military conflict, it is vital that a nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity are protected. In general, governments are wary of taking excessive risks as the loss of sovereignty and territorial integrity can have serious and long-term consequences. Diplomacy, negotiation, and peaceful dispute resolution are often emphasized to prevent military conflict and protect sovereignty. Preserving sovereignty and territorial integrity requires building and maintaining stable relations with other countries as well as supporting rules and norms in the international community. When Israelis and Palestinians, Russians and Ukrainians, Kurds and Turks compete for the favour of global public opinion, they all use the same arguments about human rights, state sovereignty, and international law [8]. This is, in effect, playing on people's fears. Here is what Karl Marx said about fear: "Cruelty is characteristic of laws dictated by fear because fear can only be energized by being cruel."
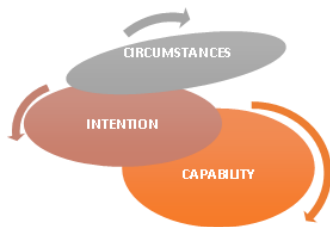

Fig. 1. Potentially dangerous conditions for a country to start a military conflict

The **first factor** of potentially dangerous conditions for the state is **"capability"** (Fig. 1). It refers to the physical ability to wage a large-scale military conflict. We cannot as a feature of this factor that every sovereign state, except perhaps the smallest ones, has the ability to conduct a military conflict on a large scale. While maintaining the balance of power, the action of the "capability" factor need not cause serious harm to another state. However, most countries have to consider the possibility of direct threats coming from their neighbors. Also, a state with relatively long maritime borders must take into account the fact that a state that is not an immediate neighbour may also pose a threat to its territory. The situation is further complicated by the possibility of airstrikes, which can be carried out even by not-so-nearby countries.

The **second factor** of potentially dangerous conditions for the state is **"intention"** (Fig. 1). It refers to the degree of determination of the need for a country to initiate a military conflict or war. It is necessary to consider the question of defence and especially its definition. Some researchers see it as the protection of territory and sovereignty, and others, in a broader sense, as the protection of national interests.

An example of the protection of the country can be found in the Bulgarian Constitution, which states that: Article 9 (1)...The armed forces guarantee the sovereignty, security, and independence of the country and protect its territorial integrity. (2)…The activities of the armed forces shall be regulated by law [9].

An example of a narrow interpretation of the protection can be found in the Polish constitution, which states that: 1. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland serve to protect the independence of the state and the indivisibility of its territory and guarantee the security and inviolability of its borders [10].

This essentially means that the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Poland will preserve the independence and integrity of their territory and guarantee the security and integrity of their borders. In contrast to the cited constitutions, the constitution of the Czech Republic states that:

Article 39...(3) Adoption of a resolution on the declaration of war and adoption of a resolution on consent to the deployment of the armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the Czech Republic or to the residence of the armed forces of other countries on the territory of the Czech Republic, as well as of the adoption of a resolution on the participation of the Czech Republic in the defense systems of an international organization of which the Czech Republic is a member, with the consent of an absolute majority of all deputies and an absolute majority of all senators [11].

Here, as can be clearly seen, there is no express text regulating the activities of the armed forces in defence of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but the declaration of war is regulated.

The third country subject to our research is Germany and its Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany. It states:

Article 87a ...(2) With the exception of defence, the armed forces may be used only insofar as authorization is expressly stated in this Basic Law [12].

In contrast to the other two constitutions in the FRG, the functions of the armed forces are expanded, with them having responsibilities for internal order and security in support of other bodies to guarantee the country's sovereignty.

If we look at the **"intention"** factor in our south-eastern neighbour the Republic of Turkey, we will see that in their supreme document – the constitution of the Republic of Turkey, it is written:

Article 92 – The power to authorize the declaration of a state of war in considered legal cases and except when required by international treaties to which Turkey is a party to the treaty or by the rules of international law to send Turkish armed forces to foreign countries and to allow foreign armed forces to be stationed in Turkey is a decision of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. If the country is subjected to sudden armed aggression while the Turkish Grand National Assembly is adjourned or interrupted, and thus it becomes imperative to decide immediately whether to use the armed forces, the President of the Republic may decide to use the Turkish armed forces [13].

A minimal but significant difference with other constitutions is noticeable here. The decision to declare war is within the competence of the Grand National Assembly or the Grand National Turkish Assembly of Turkeye with one significant exception that does not exist in the other cited documents. The president of the republic can unilaterally decide on the use of the Turkish armed forces under the conditions specified in the quoted article of the constitution.

Alternatively, many countries that have national interests beyond their borders assign their armed forces to protect those interests wherever they are located and based on their government's requirements. Likely, the use of armed forces is primarily driven by the need to support a state's national interests rather than its sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is important to note that, given that states use the term "security" to denote the preservation of what they consider to be their vital interests, it has a defensive connotation only in the sense that any nation is prepared to use force, to protect those interests. A country's activities on the international stage can be considered defensive or international depending on the definition of the concept of balance of power. However, the actions have a defensive nature *ipso facto* – they are aimed at protecting its vital interests.

In light of these considerations and the analysis made, it is now possible to determine the fundamental nature of military security. There is no doubt that this is a category that should be

directly related to the concept of security. Based on a predetermined understanding of state security, we must recognize that military security is a state that is transitory in time. At the same time, it specifies the ability of the state to satisfy the needs of people to exist and develop, regardless of the presence of real or potential military risks and threats. Similarly, the concept of balance of power encompasses the awareness of the situation in question as well as all activities aimed at achieving the desired level of security.

Particularly characteristic of the second potentially dangerous condition for the state is the **"intention"** factor, which also contains three main components of security. They are:

1. variable condition over time;
2. awareness of changing conditions of security over time;
3. activity aimed at achieving the desired condition level.

The specified elements defining potentially dangerous security conditions (1-3) are presented in Fig.2:
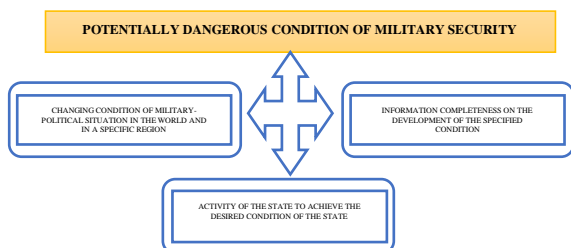

Fig. 1 Content of a potentially dangerous condition of the military security component

The first component, the **changing condition of the military-political situation** related to military security refers to the impact of various interested countries as well as environmental factors that affect the military sphere. In turn, this affects the state's ability to meet the social needs associated with their existence and development. Therefore, military security exists during the successive actions of the states (conditions) resulting from the activity of the subject of security. This is independent of changes in the activity of the object's environment.

The second component is **awareness of the changing condition of security** over time. The fact that military security conditions are changing and that these changes depend on many factors shows that security is also a process. This means that it is necessary to carry out the activity leading to the desired effect. This effect is also the result of factors other than one's own activity. Military security actors seek to minimize the effects of factors other than their own activities. They usually actively seek to shape as much of their environment as possible. Therefore, we can assume that the main part of the military security of the state is a function of its activity.

The third component **activities aimed at achieving the desired condition**. Due to the described characteristics of the international environment as well as the ambition of states to secure their own interests, each state strives for a high level of military security. Therefore, continuous activity of the relevant authorities to maintain military security is necessary to maintain the desired level of security.

This raises the question of a model of the national security system that maintains the level of military security. The importance of this issue stems from the fact that the structure of such a model and its implementation have a direct impact on the level of military security. If the general model aims to achieve a better condition of military security, we get the following:

1. activities to achieve and maintain situational awareness;

2. standards for neutralizing military threats, especially military attacks.

Security within the national critical infrastructure system is interpreted as a dynamic balance between potential threats and measures for protection against them [14]. While looking for the elements of a national security system model, we should note that most models contain a **module for control, an activity module, and an operational module**. Their existence depends on basic assumptions of praxeology or management theory.

The first essential element of an existing national security system to maintain the desired level of military security is to have a management module. It is a system component that aims to manage, coordinate, and control certain functionalities and/or processes. Activities aimed at preventing military threats must be integrated into the other activities of the state. They should also remain within applicable national and international law and disclose their effectiveness as well as many other characteristics. This activity usually takes place under various constraints, the most important one today being the *level of public support*.

We can emphasize that the basis of any reasonable activity is awareness of the situation in which the object is located. This awareness is essential to making sound decisions about taking action. Therefore, this awareness shapes the decisions that are made. These decisions are directly imposed on the management of the subject's activities. When military security is the focus, an important part of this awareness is knowledge of military risks and threats, particularly the military capabilities and intentions of the adversary or adversaries. It is worth noting that the efficiency of the system depends on its components and the processes taking place in it as well as on the interaction and influence of the environment [15].

The **third factor** of potentially dangerous conditions is **"circumstances"** (Fig. 1). This is how F.H. Hartmann defines circumstances: "This knowledge is the result of considerable effort undertaken by the state to reveal an aspect which its opponent is diligently trying to conceal, i.e. the capabilities and intentions of its armed forces. Without this knowledge, the state is unable to properly assess military threats and thus choose appropriate countermeasures. Therefore, it must be assumed that one of the main elements of the activity model system necessary to maintain the desired level of military security is its information module [16].

During a war, the strategy defines the main goal and objectives, the plans and methods for achieving it.

The strategy gives a meaningful character to the goals and means and defines the possibilities, potentially dangerous circumstances, and chances of victory. An important place is occupied by the so-called "geographic zones", which have a strong influence on the strategy, geopolitical and geostrategic factors.

Conditions such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and the proliferation of nuclear or biological weapons are examples of conditions that can be dangerous (threats) to state security. In addition to government organisations, non-governmental organisations can also produce them. There is also the possibility of violating international agreements and disputes with other countries, which can lead to potentially dangerous situations (threats) for the country's security. A state's behaviour and outcomes are influenced by the international environment, whereby the actions of actors in that environment can be indirectly influenced by states. This means that the military actions of one country can pose a potential danger to another country and can negatively affect a number of aspects of that nation. This example provides a simplified model of how military security can be maintained by following the most important elements of the model.

The strategic approach to problem-solving is ultimately pragmatic. There is nothing more important than strategy if one is to succeed in what one is trying to achieve. Strategists ask the same important question as those who deal with other aspects of

politics: Will the idea work under the circumstances in which it will be implemented?

This leads to another significant factor, namely an activity module used to address military threats. The presence of a management module and a situational information acquisition module allows for the acquisition of reliable data on military threats and the environmental situation, which supports making informed decisions about the necessary actions during a crisis. However, it is essential to have an executive module that enables the implementation of planned actions and countering military threats.

The executive sphere in the proposed model reflects the **operational module**. The module is a form of activity aimed at countering detected military threats. Such activity is determined by the individual strategy of the given subject and by the military operations conducted by external authorities. Therefore, military security is a dynamic process through which constant changes take place. These changes depend on the state's defence activity and changes in the environment.

It is necessary to note that participants in international relations, both governmental and non-governmental (non-state) organisations to some extent depend on the surrounding environment. This environment affects their behaviour and performance, whereby a state can indirectly influence the actions taken by actors in an international environment. Therefore, military activity can directly deal with various aspects of another state (or non-state entity) or its surroundings. The proposal contains a simplified model of action carried out to maintain the desired level of military security, covering its most important elements. While as a delivery module, of course, it is not unique enough to be included right now. The derived modules are the main activities of the model and in practice should be supplemented by service and support elements. However, the aim here is to extract the most important elements of military security activity.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we can note that the current challenges to the protection of a country's sovereignty and politics are closely related to the issues of the international security environment. States seek not only to ensure their internal stability but also to assert their security in a global context. In this process, the international security environment plays a key role, and the relationships between different states are formed under the influence of political and economic factors.

Security is considered a category related to the protection of national sovereignty and interests of the country. International law regulates relations between states and defines their rights and obligations in many areas. It also contributes to the maintenance of international order, security, and cooperation by providing a framework for peaceful conflict resolution and protecting vulnerable groups. Politics is the endeavor of states to achieve specific goals and manage internal and external relations. It is in constant interaction with security as the main element for the protection of national interests against internal and external threats. Sovereignty refers to a nation's ability to make independent decisions and protect itself from outside interference. This is the irrevocable basis of its independence.

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