



BOOK REVIEW

Derek S. Reveron and Kathleen A. Mahoney-Norris, *Human and National Security: Understanding Transnational Challenges*, Second Edition, 2019, Routledge, 236 pages.

The book “**Human and National Security**” is a comprehensive account on the issues regarding humans and their security matters. The main focus of the book is to highlight the subnational and transnational forces of religious and ethnic conflicts faced by different states whether developed or underdeveloped. Also, the recent issue which is faced by the world is climate change including terrorism, poverty, cyber-attacks and pandemic as well. Moreover, this book also focuses on the United States and discuss how they are affecting its national security and the challenges that threaten the people who live there, the society they have and also the government officials as well. Interestingly the United States despite being the most powerful state having all the resources and capabilities facing the issues of human security and the challenges related to it. The authors explained the challenges of human security in detail and specifically within the context of the United States.

The first chapter deals with the concept of globalisation and explains how people have benefited from the phenomenon. It touches upon the two economic giants China and the USA competing with each other. Interestingly, in the last few decades the US has somewhat altered its foreign policy. Now they are more interested in liberalism rather than the concept of Thucydides. China always follows the open-door policy and wants to reach every market which can give benefits to the Chinese market. In recent era, when democratic values and notions of human rights got prominence due to the positive impacts of globalisation in different societies. Furthermore, states are avoiding conflicts and war addressing the issues like climate change, human trafficking, drug dealing and etc.

Interestingly, globalisation is pertinent for transnational challenges and human security issues for different states. Brexit has been one of the recent examples. The referendum of 2016 in UK clearly indicated the public opinion of the UK that they want to leave the European Union. Another important change was change in the presidency of the United States when President Donald Trump was elected and opposed the policy of the free trade and immigration but, surprisingly, he did not give had to the climate change. The most debated topic of the last two decades. According to Michael Mazarr, an analyst, the rise of populism in first world countries can create economic imbalance and also can create uneasiness with cultural and demographic changes.

The authors opined the threats and internal conflicts faced by the US due to Trump administration's strict policies towards Mexico. So, it is true that national security of any state cannot achieve without dealing with all these issues facing the world right now and that is why democratic states are more peaceful and pay more attention towards human security issues. According to Thomas Friedman, globalisation creates fear among people because their lives are controlled by invisible forces with all downsides of the globalisation which also leads towards the prosperity at the same time.

They also explained that the developments made in the history regarding human security and then followed by different eras in chapter two. The origin of the United Nations and its working through different agencies. The concept of globalisation has been serving both inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations with different ideas, new concepts and promoted the movements in the world for the betterment of society and its people. Furthermore, the US military force is working under the umbrella of UN peacekeeping missions and they have played an important role on human security particularly. Also, it created a positive image of the US and its military forces around the world because the UN peacekeeping mission always focuses on those areas or states which are vulnerable and having issues of human security.

The third chapter is focused on the security matters of an individual's identity and importance of one's life. The author also discussed how identity crises have become an important issue of recent times and most importantly, if people live in a country and not having basic necessities then anarchy in gulfed society. These security threats also happen to the people

when there is a conflict or war like situation. For that matter, liberal school of thought believe in ideal democracy and do not let their people down.

Chapter four deals with the threats or fears facing individuals in their lives because of authoritative governments or by ineffective and failed leaders to govern them. Moreover, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was the one who has defined the concept of human security for the very first time in 1994 and also presented the different areas related to it. The point of discussion of this chapter is human security and civic security altogether as both are interlinked. Also, drug trafficking is one of the major issues facing many states including the United States. Three major conventions regarding drug trafficking and its details are discussed in this chapter. Furthermore, Cannabis established the largest sector of the drug trade and how they are affecting the United States. In this context, in the year of 1969, the then President of the United States Richard Nixon declared a “war on drugs”. The Latin America Region especially is infamous for drugs trafficking and they threatened the stability and viability of many South American states as well. These groups involved in drug trafficking operating under the leadership of Pablo Escobar. These drug related activities are the major factor in creating conflicts among states and even increase their overall lethality. Unfortunately, these kinds of activities are present in almost all weak or small states of Central America and Caribbean and in Mexico specifically. Mexican drug trafficking is now a multiplier and the biggest wholesale dealer in the US market.

The next chapter focuses on economic security matters. It is one of the important issues to maintain for any state. If we go back into history, the UN charter mainly emphasized on maintaining peace and security among states but also urged the creation of stability and wellbeing of people living there to maintain or develop positive and friendly relations among them. The Marshall plan is one of the best examples we have for maintaining peace and stability for many states by providing them aid and assistance to make them economically strong. Those European states in the second world war benefited from the Marshall plan aid. Moreover, the establishment of UNDP and its major tasks include economic and social development of less or underdeveloped states. In addition to this, the specialized agencies have formed like the IMF, World Bank, ILO and WTO as well these institutions helped to create better economic conditions for all those states who suffered a lot. The economic security has a clear linkage with human

development but human security itself does not equate to human development.

According to UNDP experts; in defining security, it is important that human security is not equated with human development because they both are different. Actually, human development has a broader concept. Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize winning economist said, “development is like freedom”, meaning both that human beings require freedom to develop at the same time as development enables freedom. According to UNDP Human development report 2016, universalism is key to human development, and human development for everyone is attainable. In addition to this, the UN millennium development goals also played a significant role in advancing and addressing human security needs more specifically in the areas related to economic security. However, it has much more that needs to be done. The governmental and nongovernmental organizations are working under the umbrella of the United Nations.

The chapter six talks about environmental security matters. Both the authors have explained environmental security in a very detailed manner like how the environment is becoming a major threat in recent time for example, climate change. This term is threatening the whole world and just because of climate change or environmental issues people are migrating within their countries. According to the 2018 World Bank report, tens of millions of people will migrate within their countries by 2050 because of climate change. Environmental issues can create social and economic stress among people and also enhance conflicts, diseases and refugee crises and these all factors link with domestic, regional and ultimately international stability.

The authors also discussed the foundation of UNEP in 1972, before that UN sustainable goals also highlighted “climate action” as a specific goal, while many of the other goals relate to sustainable environmental policies. Although the US had established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970, two years before the establishment of UNEP. But unfortunately, the US has not taken the issue of climate change in recent times and is not working for it. The US also withdrew from the Paris agreement and it was shocking news for many states.

The next chapter deals about maritime security. The issues related to maritime security among powerful states and the influence they have. For

example, the issue of the South China Sea and the rivalry of the US and China especially over it. Moreover, maritime security is very important in recent times when the world is not unipolar or bipolar right now. Multipolarity is there and water access is always important for any state. So, the issues of maritime security have been discussed in this chapter in detail, the authors explained how the states can protect themselves when the matter of maritime security arises.

Concluding the book, the authors emphasize that human security is paramount and it should be the first priority for any state because a state progresses when the people are given a secure atmosphere. The States should also discuss the issues facing the world right now, most importantly, climate change, war like situations, human trafficking, drugs trafficking etc. These are the issues which are needed to be addressed at national and international level.

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