

The Security Sector: Organisation, roles and functions

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The Security Sector

What we mean by the security sector

Competition to provide security

The state monopoly of violence

What happens if this monopoly is lost

What do we mean by the Security sector?

A lot of confusion about what the security sector is

Some accidental and some deliberate

What we can define, we can try to control

Need for sensible definition

Definitions

Some would like to include:

- Parliament
- The media
- Civil Society
- Even militia groups and mercenaries.

Why is this?

It's important

Lots of money in grants and programmes.

Lots of political interest in the security sector.

Chance to influence the most sensitive areas of the state.

What Is The Security Sector?

Government consists of *sectors*
(health, education, transport)

The security sector is one such.

It obeys the same rules as the others.

Some distinctions

Organisations that *provide* security

Organisations that are *involved* with the security sector

Organisations that would like to *influence* the security sector.

My definition

“The security sector consists of all those institutions whose primary role is the provision of internal and external security, together with bodies responsible for their administration, tasking and control. In practice, this means the military, the police, the intelligence services, paramilitary forces and the government agencies responsible for them.”

Parliament

**Has a constitutional role to pass laws
and vote money.**

May also debate and question.

But involved in many sectors.

The Courts

**Constitutional or legislative role to
decide whether government
actions are legal.**

Does this for every sector.

A Security Community (To Be Involved)

President/prime minister's office

Foreign ministry

Military staffs

Civilian advisers

Interior ministry

Police

Economics/trade ministry

External Actors (To Be Consulted)

Parliament and local government

The media

Industrial interests

Civil society

Back to the security sector

From the point of security sector management, there's no point in including things you cannot control.

It's dangerous to mix constitutional functions

Two different levels

**The political leadership and their advisers
and experts.**

**The executive agencies who do the work:
military, police, intelligence etc.**

**Potential for overlap.
Need for coordination to
ensure parts work together.
Special case of the Justice
Sector.**

Competition to provide security

Security is a Public Good

But also a means of power and
legitimacy

Enforce or reject values and identity

So competition results

Relations Between Organisations

Can be:

From the top down

From the bottom up

Can be

Consensual

Adversarial

The State Monopoly of Violence

Trotsky said:

“Every state is founded upon force”

Max Weber agreed.

The State Monopoly of Violence

*Of course, force is certainly not the normal or the only means of the state ... but force is a means specific to the state. Today, the relation between the state and violence is an especially intimate one ... we have to say that the state is a community that (successfully) claims the **monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory**. (Emphasis in original).*

Max Weber 1920

Two things follow

First, the state has to be practically capable of ***establishing*** and ***maintaining*** a monopoly of violence.

Second, this monopoly has to be accepted as ***legitimate***.

And if this monopoly is lost?

Competition to provide security

**Often leads to clash of identities
and values**

Conflict results.

The End