

Introduction to Security and Development

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Development of concepts of security

Security and Development

The new Human Security debate

About me....

More than thirty years in the UK government service, travelling around the world

Parallel academic career for many years, as author and lecturer, especially in Africa

Took early retirement in 2008

Very fuzzy concepts

Security Development

**The essential issue is,
who has the power to
say what security and
development mean?**

**Governments and
organisations define
these terms in pursuit
of their own interests.
Naturally.**

**What we define, we can
aspire to control.**

So the history of the definition of “security,” for example, is partly the history of a struggle for control of the subject.

Types of security

**Basic needs – food, warmth,
shelter**

Protection against natural threats

Individual security

Collective security

Defining security

"those means, active and passive, which serve to protect and preserve an environment that allows for the conduct of activities within the organisation or society without disruption". (Post and Kingsbury 1991)

"the absence of threats or a low probability of damage to acquired values" (Wolfers, 1990)

**But the real issue is the
ability of groups,
organisations and
governments to enforce
their definitions, by political
or financial power**

Development of Security

Village/family/clan

Hereditary ruler

Political/economic elite

Ruling group

Revolutionary or liberation movement

The State as Security Provider

**From hereditary ruler through
oligarchy to society as a whole.**

But in practice never neutral.

**Security means different things to
different people.**

Useful ideas on security

**State-making and
organised crime - Tilly
(1985)**

**State consolidation –
Herbst (2000)**

**Which brings us neatly to
the question of the
relationship between
security and development.**

Three Questions

What do we think is the relationship between security and development?

What is the historical experience?

What should we do?

First

**How do we define
development?**

It's changed over time

**We used to talk about
economic development**

**Now we talk more about
human development**

Human Development

“... is about putting people at the centre of development. It is about people realizing their potential, increasing their choices and enjoying the freedom to lead lives they value.” – UNDP 2010

So this is the
objective

But how do you
actually do it ?

Does development
make people
happier?



This is development

Singapore in 1960



Singapore today



Important distinctions

Economic growth \neq development

Development \neq happiness

The uses of history

The relationship between development and security remains complex and controversial.

There's no agreement on what the terms mean.

Perhaps we should look at history.

A simple historical model

A secure environment promotes economic activity

Economic activity increases revenue

Revenue is spent on infrastructure

Infrastructure promotes development

Security leads to growth

For example:

The Tudor Kings achieved "*a royal monopoly of violence both public and private ... which profoundly altered not only the nature of politics but also the quality of daily life.*"

– Stone (1965)

Conflict, security and development

***Domestic* conflict slows development**

***Foreign* conflict may not**

**Domestic conflict may be unavoidable
for social and political change**

Conflict and insecurity are different

Development doesn't always produce security



And never has done



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Democracy, security and development

Nice if they went together

No particular evidence that they do

**Usual order is security →
development → democracy**

Development creates a middle class

No development without security ✓

No security without development ✕

What's the political significance of this issue?

Human Security

Human Security

**Here's one definition, which is
full of ambiguities, special
pleading and intellectual
dishonesty**

We'll highlight a few points

Human security in its **broadest** sense embraces far more than the **absence of violent conflict**. It encompasses **human rights, good governance, access to education and health care**, and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to **fulfil his or her own potential**...Freedom from **want**, freedom from **fear** and the freedom of the **future generations** to inherit a healthy natural environment – these are the interrelated building blocks of **human, and therefore national security** (CHS 2003)

And this leaves out ... what, exactly? Everything is therefore human security

“Once anything that generates anxiety or threatens quality of life becomes [...] labelled as a security problem, the field loses all focus...” Sir Lawrence Friedman

**A concept which includes
everything arguably
includes nothing
How would you go about
implementing it?**

“ The traditional goal of ‘national security’ has been the defence of the state from external threats. The focus of human security, by contrast, is the protection of individuals.” *Human Security Report, 2005*

It was never as simple as that

But secure states do not automatically mean secure peoples... Indeed, during the last 100 years far more people have been killed by their own governments than by foreign armies.

Human Security Report, 2005

Really?

**So is human security about
education, the environment
or protecting people from
their own governments?
Or all at once? And how?**

Some consequences

Humanitarian intervention

Responsibility to Protect

Failed and fragile states

**The issues raised by the
Human Security debate are
certainly important.
But they are not new
They are just being
relabelled**

**In the end, we are seeing a
political struggle for control
of the definition of security**

The End