



## Beata Molo

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# Evolving Human Security Challenges. Introduction

The concept of *human security* has become the next stage in the evolution of the concept of expanded recognition of security. Admittedly, human security refers to an expanded idea of security, which, in contrast to traditional security conceptualisations, does not focus merely on the protection of the state, but rather on the protection of an individual and his/her human dignity.

The term *human security* was disseminated by the United Nations Development Report (UNDP) of 1994. The document attempts to interpret the conceptual security of the individual and the relationship between sustainable human development and security.<sup>1</sup> Apparently, the best way to solve the problem of global threat is to awaken in each person a sense of freedom from scarcity and freedom from fear. The concept of *human security* can be broken down into seven areas or types of security relevant from the perspective of the human being: economic, food, health, ecological, physical, social and political security. The last decades have been characterized not only by the rapid pace of social transformation, but also by the diversity of phenomena, as well as the evolution of challenges and threats to broadly understood human security.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 1994*, [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/255/hdr\\_1994\\_en\\_complete\\_nostats.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/255/hdr_1994_en_complete_nostats.pdf) [accessed: 25.03.2020].

The “Articles and Materials” section opens with a paper by Katarzyna Dośpiał-Borysiak (*Climate Security in the Light of the Realist Paradigm in the Theory of International Relations*), which deals with the application of the realistic paradigm of international relations in research on climate security. Isabela de Andrade Gama, in her study *Human Security: Designed Cynicism, or a Poorly Implemented Idea?*, critically addresses the concept of human security, and its application, based on several documents issued by the UN. The relationship between public diplomacy and human security in the field of foreign policy has been scrutinised by Karina Paulina Marczuk in her study entitled *Human Security and Public Diplomacy*. The case studies of Japanese and Canadian policies were used to explore the usefulness of public diplomacy for the promotion of human security internationally. The paper by Jan Kowalczyk (*Broad Approach to Human Security in the Visegrad Group Countries*) looks at the approach of the Visegrad Group countries – Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary – to a wide range of human security issues. The analysis rests on documents that concern social and economic rights of citizens, the internal security system, and the implementation of the concept of sustainable development. An analysis of air quality in Europe and the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on human health has been conducted in the paper by Anna Bałamut titled *The Impact of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Human Health Across Europe*, whereas Anna Sakson-Boulet, in her study *Ambient Air Pollution as a Human Security Challenge in Poland*, has focused on identifying the scale of outdoor air pollution in Poland and assessing the menaces it poses to human security. Low quality air is one of the most important environmental perils for Polish citizens, and the measures taken to reduce the levels of air pollution and their negative impact on human health are not sufficient. Anna Diawoł-Sitko, in turn, has devoted her text on *Scarcity of Food: a Factor Destabilizing Security in the MENA Region* to the influence of food security on political stability in the MENA region at the state, regional and individual levels. Its goal is to assess the effectiveness of governments in the region in terms of food safety risk management strategies and interregional cooperation. This part of the volume ends with a paper by Adrian Siadkowski – *Syrian Immigrants: a Subject that Requires Protection, a Threat, or an Object of International Politics?*, in which immigration is discussed in the context of pursuing national and international interests, chiefly on the example of Turkey and Poland.

In the article featured in the “From History” section, Anna Kargol and Waldemar Gniadek (*The Royal Art of Free Masonry in Poland and in Germany in the First Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Relations, Differences, Similarities*) discuss the state of research on German freemasonry in Poland, and the mutual relations between the Polish and German lodges in the first half of the twentieth century.

The “Varia” section contains a synthetic approach to the issues of resettlement, expulsions, exile and migration to Germany after the end of World War II, featuring the text by Ragnar Leunig entitled *Deutschland als Wanderungs- und Einwanderungsland seit 1945*. An integral part of this volume is also the “Forum” section, which presents papers published in the *WeltTrends* monthly: Ralf Havertz’s *Entmilitarisierung der Politik in Südkorea?*, Norman Paech’s *Zur deutschen Beteiligung*

*am Krieg in Syrien*, and Petra Erler's *Jenseits von Öffentlichkeit. Die geheimen Forschungen zu Chemiewaffen*.

The volume closes with the "Reviews" section, including Anna Balamut's critique of the publication edited by Minori Takahashi, entitled *The Influence of Sub-state Actors on National Security. Using Military Bases to Forge Autonomy*, published in 2019 by Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

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