



## **Investigating Security Challenges in the Contemporary International System with Emphasis on Economic, Human Rights and Environmental Components**

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**Khademali Tahzibi<sup>1</sup>, Reza Simbar<sup>2\*</sup>, Garineh Keshishyan Siraki<sup>3</sup>, Hassan Khodaverdi<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Political Science & International Relations, Kish International Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kish Island, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Political Science & International Relations, University of Guilan, Rasht, Iran

<sup>3,4</sup>Department of Political Science & International Relations, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

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### **Abstract:**

The present study seeks to examine the security challenges in the contemporary international system with emphasis on the economic, human rights and environmental components. From this perspective, after expanding the conceptual space of the subject, it will examine security challenges. According to the thematic documents presented in this research, the research method is descriptive-analytical and the data collection method in this research is library; The findings of the study suggest that: First, security today is an approach that is not viewed solely from a political and military perspective; Rather, it encompasses intertwined components such as human rights, the global economy, and the environment. Second, the challenges of human rights such as: globalization and reduction of freedom, politicization of human rights, interpretation of human rights by vote and non-observance by governments, different interpretation and interpretation in accordance with the religious and legal system; Are among the most important human rights challenges. Third, overuse of renewable resources, pollution, and declining agricultural fertility, the impact of climate change, and global warming have challenged security; Finally, political instability and lack of economic development, economic inefficiency and food security can be considered a threat to international peace and security.

**Keywords:** Security Challenges, International System, Economic Components, Human Rights, Environment

## 1.Introduction

Security is one of the most basic concepts in the field of politics and international relations. Security is the fundamental need and the primary goal of every human being in society and states in the international arena; So that the most important duty and responsibility of the national government, which is the basis of its establishment, is to establish security. Because countries do not live in a vacuum and alone; Rather, they live in an international society composed of different countries with different interests and capabilities, over which no terrestrial authority has control and supervision. Conflicts of interest and differences in the level of power threaten the national values of different countries. This has made security a constant focus of governments and the international community. Governments in international security, therefore, have come to understand that a threat or danger can occur anywhere in the world; Inevitably, it affects the security of other governments. Therefore, the need for joint and global cooperation is inevitable; Because today, security is out of the military dimension and has a broad and intersubjective concept that was discussed in various dimensions and is also threatened. Today, we are talking about environmental threats, human rights and economic threats, underdevelopment and poverty. Therefore, what shows the necessity and importance of this article is that the weakening of the system of pluralism of values in the context of ethnic diversity at the global level, as well as increasing ambiguity, inconsistency and inconsistency on concepts such as peace, security, human rights and threats on the one hand; And the existence of different views on human rights issues and how to deal with crises such as the economy and the environment, on the other hand, is a serious obstacle to the establish-

ment of a global security system, and this in turn can have a negative impact on national interests. In this regard, addressing international security challenges based on the three components of economy, environment and human rights can be of great importance and necessity. The purpose of this article is to examine the security challenges in the international system from three perspectives: economic, human rights and environment. Therefore, this article raises the question: How do components such as the economy, human rights and the environment challenge security in the international system?

## Research background

Mahshid Mollashahi and Ruhollah Samareh (2017) in an article entitled: "Human Rights in Iran, bottlenecks and opportunities". In this article, the authors seek to examine freedom from a human rights perspective in general and the Iranian constitution in particular with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Bahmani Qajar (2007) in a dissertation entitled: "The right to liberty and personal security in the human rights system and the legal system of Iran." In this article, an attempt has been made to make a comparative study between the regulations regarding the deprivation of physical liberty of individuals in Iranian criminal law and international human rights standards. The present study consists of: introduction, three chapters and conclusion.

Amparo De San Jose Jill (1998) in her work "International Responsibility of Governments for Human Rights Violations"; It examines the responsibility of governments in international affairs and in the context of its content examines the responsibility of governments towards displacement. In its research, it points to the lack of strong docu-

ments and resources in the area of responsibility of governments.

Borhan Institute (2016) in a book entitled: "Human Rights Theoretical Paradox and Practical Contradictions"; Which is divided into three chapters with twelve articles. The author concludes that the main purpose of indigenous research on human rights should also be to clarify the philosophical differences between the Western and Islamic ideologies of human rights. That is something that governments, activists in various positions or UN documents have not paid attention to.

Kalateh Arabi (1397) in a book entitled: "Anarchy, the challenges of maintaining security in the post-crisis in the international system." The research in this book includes post-crisis issues such as increasing crime, security issues, establishing and building systems to solve such issues, justice and justice; On the other hand, two components of economics and gender in the form of human rights are discussed in this book, which are very important.

Alizadeh and Pishgahi-Far (2011) in an article entitled: "Environmental Security and the Evolution of the Concept of Security in the 21st Century". In this article, using the method of content analysis, while examining the concept of national security and environmental security, it examines the differences between the views on environmental security in the current era and the era of the bipolar system in the world.

What the novelty of this article shows are that global security issues, due to their complexity and interrelationships, cannot be analyzed solely on the basis of bilateral security-military relations; Multilateral cooperation between security, human rights, the economy and the environment is of strategic value and benefit if the bilateral relationship between security and military power has results and

tactical benefits. Therefore, understanding the relationship between security and indicators such as economics, human rights and the environment, and influencing each other can add to job innovation; This topic will be covered in this article.

### **Theoretical foundations of research**

In the present study, in order to investigate the security challenges in the contemporary international system with emphasis on economic, human rights and environmental components; An integrated approach including the theory of the Copenhagen school, constructivism and liberalism has been used. In the following, each of these theoretical approaches in relation to the research topic is discussed:

Copenhagen School: Multidimensional Security and Human Security

New theories in security studies such as the Copenhagen School, although they have made national security the center of gravity of their studies; However, they believe that if a government fails to provide life expectancy among its citizens, lacks efficiency in terms of social security and public safety, and fails to provide economic and environmental security, it lacks any national security. This Copenhagen school is closely related to the political-philosophical thinkers of Europe in the second half of the 20th century. (Lapaeva, 2014, pp. 23-89) From the perspective of this school, the end of the Cold War in 1991 caused a change in the type of security and definitions of it; Thus, security studies experienced significant changes and distance from traditional focus on threats, employment and management of military force and related issues. New topics, such as the precipitation of acid rainfall, the expansion of AIDS, International drug trafficking, depletion of the

planet's resources, ozone depletion, global warming, population explosion, the economic crises of the world and the deep gap between the wealthy and poor world, also entered the field of security studies. (Shultz, 1997, p. 43) Barry Buzan, one of the thinkers in this field, believes that in addition to the change in the security authority; In its multidimensional analysis, the influence of culture, geography, environment, civilization and religion, and most importantly, identity must be considered. In other words, the purpose of the reference is the identity of individuals in society. Given what has been said, the new analysis of security is not just an objective framework, but an intersubjective one. (Booth, 2005, pp. 260-261) The remarkable thing about the Copenhagen School is the concept of building security. Security is a process that leads to the importance and place of some issues in the context of security, while not previously in this area. Securing means putting an insecure issue in the security circuit. (Ebrahimi, 2007, pp. 446-449) For example, narcotics is a social problem that affects national and political security; This is because opposition groups use the political process that governs the production and trade of narcotics as a source of income to finance and purchase weapons, etc., in order to confront the ruling government. Proponents of this theory argue that the citizens of a country are not necessarily completely safe from threats because of the security of its borders. They believe that there are other threats that, even if the country's borders are secure, could put citizens at great risk. These threats include poverty, hunger, torture, restrictions on the basic rights of individuals by undemocratic governments, and chronic diseases.

### **Structuralism and security**

The first security work from a structural point of view focuses on the topic of "security communities". Adler, Katzenstein, and Bar-

nett are theorists in this particular field. Accordingly, these theorists have used the theoretical inferences of the constructivist perspective in security studies by continuing the views and theories of Karl Deutsch on the exchange-communication approach in convergence theories. It should be noted here that the issue of security communities is an important part of the issues related to regional order. Accordingly, these theorists address issues such as the impact of social processes and the international community on changing security policies, as well as defining the security interests of actors in response to cultural factors within a security community. (Abdullah Khan, 2004, pp. 191-200) Security studies conducted with a simplistic approach try to evaluate the processes of social and international transformation in relation to each other. (Shihan, 2009, pp. 221-241) Therefore, in this school, trying to bridge the gap between domestic and international systems is one of the major approaches of constructivists, and this has led them to link the internal and external security of actors to each other. The link between domestic and international security indicators indicates that countries in the process of achieving their strategic goals need to use software models and indicators. In this regard, the nature of threats has also changed. Based on new forms of threat, countries' strategies have been designed to deal with threats. Accordingly, constructivists see the source of security and insecurity in the way actors think about phenomena and issues, especially interests and threats. From a structural point of view, security is more than power, it is based on the mutual understanding of the players. (Eivazzadeh Ardabili, 2012, pp. 190-211)

### **Theory of Liberalism and Security**

The school of liberalism, unlike the realists, does not see war as an undeniable fact of the evolu-

tion of the international system. Although liberals acknowledge the chaotic nature of the world system and see the international system as lacking central authority like the domestic system, they have focused on freedom. They believe that one day the world has sacrificed its freedom for security, so insecurity must now be accepted in order to gain freedom. In sum, in the dictionary of liberalism, rights as the crystallization of freedom are inherent in the human individual, and it is the individual himself who is both the source of his rights and the end of all political and social institutions. Individual freedom encompasses three complementary principles: individual autonomy, security, and property. Liberals see the state as an actor in international politics, but not only as a major player, but also believe that in addition to governments, transnational actors such as international organizations, multinational corporations, international associations, and international regimes should be treated as such. Liberals emphasize the importance of economic, technological, and environmental issues rather than the military. They see the existence of separate regimes, the tightening of legal and physical boundaries, the strengthening of nationalism and the existence of undemocratic regimes as disruptors of peace and security, and the emergence of war and a role in international relations. (Attarzadeh, 2000, pp. 132-151) Liberals believe that the transfer, change and transformation of governments is a precondition for rewriting the concept of security. In this process, attention to human rights, cultural identities, and economic and ecological life are key priorities, but security needs to create a platform for international public participation to free it from the monopoly of security professionals and government policymakers. In other words, efforts should be made to eradicate the mentality that governments are the only providers of security. Contrary to the realist approach, security and order in the liberal view do not result from a balance of power, but

from the interactions that exist between different units of government, compromise between laws, common norms, international regimes and institutional regulations. In order to encourage cooperation through international disarmament institutions and international law, liberals emphasize the strengthening of multilateralism and a system based on collective cooperation instead of establishing bilateral alliances and establishing a so-called balanced balance. (Vosoughi & Sheikhou, 2013, p. 113)

### **Summarize and apply the theoretical framework**

Today, as in the past, security is not just about military and hardware threats; Rather, the emergence of new threats such as organized crime, terrorist groups, drug production and trafficking, and pervasive and epidemic natural diseases in the form of environmental crises in recent decades requires a new approach to the concept of security. Because the destruction of the environment and the lack of attention to human rights and economic problems are undoubtedly global issues that need to be highlighted by cooperation and the common human interest; And governments have no choice but to cede part of their sovereignty and authority to international laws and requirements to deal effectively with the environmental, human and economic problems that threaten human society as a whole. In other words, achieving comprehensive security requires the collective cooperation of governments.

### **Security and the impact of the three components of the economy, human rights and the environment on it**

Security is an issue that is associated with individual and social life and is one of his basic needs. Life expectancy, progress and advancement are possible in many areas, in-

cluding cultural and economic progress and access to industry and technology in the light of security. In other words, if the security factor in a country is high, individuals and tribes living in it live together in peace and intimacy, comfort and tranquility and work for the development of their country individually and in groups. (Kamrul Ahsan, 2016, pp. 1-5) But with the complexity of international relations and the emergence of new non-state actors, security today has gained a wide range and considerable diversity and is constantly expanding and expanding; And it is strongly influenced by variables such as economics, human rights and the environment.

One of the concepts that strongly affects security and is affected from it is the economy. Therefore, it can be said that in the age of globalization, economy and security are necessary and necessary for each other. From the realist point of view, there is a direct link between economic power and the stability and security of countries. According to historical experience, instability in both politics and economics can be considered a threat to international peace and security. An example of the negative impact of economic instability on international peace and security can be traced back to the 1930s. The economic crisis of this decade increased unemployment in Germany, which helped seize power by fascist groups in Germany, resulting in World War II and the deaths of millions. These events prompted policymakers and decision-makers in different countries to prevent the recurrence of these crises by creating national and international institutions. (Zukrowska, 272) Because in the absence of security conditions, one cannot wait for the economic institution or the so-called economic development to bear fruit; A developed society could not tolerate insecurity and instability

and believed that development would strengthen the security foundations of society. But the concept of security cannot be reduced to the economic level alone, and issues such as the relationship between the environment and human rights and security cannot be ignored. Therefore, in examining the relationship between security and the environment, it can be said that after the end of the Cold War, the relationship between environmental changes, pressures and erosion, and the issue of security came to the attention of many experts in this field. More precisely, experts in this field point to three consequences of environmental change:

First, political instability: Lack of resources affects the national economy and reduces government revenue, which can reduce the government's ability and capacity to solve problems and thus reduce its legitimacy. This could lead to internal uprisings, which, like the Syrian crisis, may have regional and international dimensions.

Second, economic problems and lack of food security: It is another consequence of climate change and environmental change. This problem mostly threatens their national security in countries that are economically dependent on the agricultural sector. Some experts point to this type of economic problem to explain the causes of the Rwandan civil war and the emergence of the Arab Spring. Finally, studies on the consequences of climate change point to large population displacements as a result of environmental change; Which can lead to the spread of conflict and violence for a variety of reasons - such as conflict between immigrants and the indigenous population of the area. (Rita, 2008, pp. 4-5)

Third, the relationship between the environment and security: Related to environmental conflicts. For example, the lack of natural resources can be cited as one of the causes of military conflict between different countries and groups. Reduced forest cover, water pollution and climate change are some of the things that can contribute to the spread of conflict in different areas. Many experts believe that one of the causes of the conflict and civil war in Syria has been the occurrence of long-term drought and thus reduced access to natural resources; But this link between security and the economy and the environment is doubly important when we consider the human rights debate. Because human rights are closely linked to the economy, security and the environment. Therefore, today we are witnessing the formation of environmental security, which is very important and without it, a clear vision for comprehensive security cannot be imagined.

Therefore, human rights are another component that strongly affects the issue of comprehensive security, and in this regard, it must be said that the relationship between security and human rights is very important. If we consider human rights as human security, this connection is strengthened. Individual, international and national development requires comprehensive support for human security. Development requires respect for human rights and respect for human rights prevents conflicts, especially military conflicts. Peacebuilding processes must be based on the foundations of human rights, and peacebuilding processes must pay special attention to human rights. Observance of human rights can contribute to the promotion of international peace and security, and if these communities and peoples are deprived of human rights, the ground for internal riots and their spread to other countries will be provided,

and thus international peace and security will be endangered. (Talaei, 2013, p. 88)

Human security has become a global issue that has come to the fore in new security issues. This shows that security, force and power are closely related. On the contrary, some believe that this approach could lead to the proliferation of military interventions under the pretext of protecting human rights, which adds to the complexity of the relationship between comprehensive security and human rights; Which in turn can reduce human security and human rights violations during military operations in various countries. (Oberleitner, 2002, p. 13) Therefore, the connection between human rights and the maintenance of international peace and security is clear. Peacekeeping operations, the establishment of mechanisms for the protection of the rights of children and women, abolishing the immunity of the perpetrators of war crimes and holding special courts and the holding of meetings and talks with human rights institutions are among the important actions of the UN Security Council to respect human rights and prevent international peace and security from being compromised. Therefore, in this regard, it can be said that human rights, like other components, including the economy and the environment, have a very close relationship with security, which both affects and is affected by it. Therefore, what can be concluded from the study of the above issues is that the relationship between the four concepts of security, economy, environment and human rights indicates that these concepts are presented together and suggest significant overlaps and similarities between them. Including that comprehensive security relies on common pillars of human rights, economics and the environment with different emphases. In a way, security in the past was more in the sense of protecting a

country from foreign invasion or civil strife; But today, the concept also includes job security, income security, cultural and social security, judicial security, health security, environmental security, safety from crime and the like in the form of human rights.

### Research Findings

#### A. Economic challenges of security at the international level

1) Political instability and lack of economic development: Economic development and security have been one of the main concerns of many developing countries, as they have sought national unity or nation-building. Most of these countries are artificially created by the decision of the colonial powers and their borders have nothing or nothing to do with their multi-ethnic populations. As a result, each of these countries, after gaining independence, inevitably had to try to create a kind of internal political and social harmony, in other words, a nation. Creating lasting political and social harmony between different races with conflicting demands is a very difficult task. Lack of this agreement endangers the internal security and political life of the country, the regional composition of countries (especially when borders divide a nation), and even international security (given the possibility of foreign intervention in conflicts).

Thus, political instability deprives the economy of the possibility of investing, and by reducing and eliminating these investments, production of goods is reduced; And it causes exports to decrease and countries to suffer from trade balance deficit, and therefore disrupts the state of international trade

balance (Darini and Pourmoghadam, 2016, p. 106).

Therefore, it can be said that security and political stability is one of the most important components of economic development. Without security, there is no development, and without development, there is no strong country with sound foundations (Al-Zamili, 2017, pp. 2-8). Economic security is determined by various areas of economic activity and social life; Their interaction and interaction together contribute to balanced development and form an economic security system. Ensuring security in various fields of activity is achieved not only by special measures, but also by attracting economic resources. (Nikolaevna, 2017, p. 56)

2) Economic inefficiency: The inherent difficulty of nation-building is often exacerbated by a lack of economic development. One of the problems of underdeveloped or underdeveloped countries in the process of nation-building is that, on the one hand, without a relatively efficient economy, it is difficult to create a domestic political consensus and an all-encompassing foundation; On the other hand, without internal consensus and institutional structures, it is difficult to achieve a relatively efficient economy. In general, the lack of economic development causes the problems of these countries to endanger their security and global security in three ways. 1- Lack of economic development severely limits the resources available to control and meet conflicting demands. 2- Lack of economic development limits the ability of governments to exert influence in the international system. 3- Lack of economic development causes the



country to be vulnerable to foreign forces; And these forces, knowingly or unknowingly, can exacerbate any country's internal divisions and jeopardize international security. (Trife, 2004, p. 273)

- 3) Food safety: By choosing the difference between public access to food in a country and how food is distributed in a particular region, food security is recognized as the right of people to "physical and economic access to basic food." This implicitly combines two distinct factors: (1) unequal distribution of food and (2) lack of purchasing power. "Malnutrition" and "low birth weight" have been used as observable indicators to quantify the vulnerability of individuals to inadequate access to food; Instead, it linked "access to food" on the one hand, and "access to assets, employment and income security" on the other. Thus, food security is measured, at least in part, by the level of economic security. One of the most important elements that has a great impact on the methodology of forming the economic security system is the nature of threats; Its actions mean deprivation of access to all kinds of resources, disorder of economic activity that is associated with the collapse of the country's economic system and the loss of the government's ability to manage the economy. The consequence of potential damage may be processes related to the influence of external and internal factors, during which economic actors may suffer losses from intentional or spontaneous actions.

## **Environmental challenges of security**

### **1) Environmental pollution**

Artificial pollution is caused by man-made and man-made products, which include air, water, environmental pollution, noise pollution, and visual pollution. Environmental change in the world is simply inevitable, because change occurs naturally and the result of human activities is the production of waste energy, some of which is pollution, which leads to environmental change. Some of the issues of global environmental change resulting from human activities can be summarized in the following sentences. (Khaledi, 2001, p. 281)

- Climate change due to human actions that transmit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and sulfur oxides and their consequences to the environment.
- Emission of nitrogen oxides and development of photochemical cases and tropospheric ozone.
- Carbon emission and alteration and degradation of the stratospheric ozone layer and the effects of ultra-violet radiation.
- Global results on the distribution and use of hazardous chemicals, including pesticides.
- Accumulation of waste, sewage and waste from industrial and agricultural activities.
- Urban, chemical, toxic and radioactive waste.

Today's world in the general sense, with the focus on the capitalist system and advanced industrialized countries in a special sense as the center of science and technology production, has figured out the development of technology in a way that leaves no control and attracts human beings; And this submis-

sive man has to adapt himself to the kinds of technologies offered by what people today consider to be a threat to humanity. (Pahlan, 2002, p. 72)

## 2) Technology crisis

Today, human life is threatened by the growing trend of environmental degradation. Air pollution, water pollution, vegetation destruction, desertification, ozone depletion, extinction of some species of animals and other environmental problems that threaten the life of this planet have caused concern to mankind. These issues and problems are caused by a disease in the soul and psyche of modern man. (Mohammadzadeh and Rezaeirad, 2018, p. 732)

Therefore, regarding the role of technology in the environment, it can be said that one of the crises today, which is mostly due to the development of technology and industrial and agricultural developments, is environmental pollution. Environmental pollution comes from various sources and is divided into two parts: first, pollution that is of natural origin and second, abnormal pollution that is directly caused by human intervention. By definition, pollution is the direct or indirect supply of particles, vibrations, heat or sound to air, water or soil that is harmful to humans or the quality of the environment. Pollution also causes the release of pollutants into the atmosphere, the discharge of pollutants into the water and the disposal of solid waste into the environment; All of these cases are the result of human activities and actions and lead to damage to material reserves or disruption of welfare facilities and the environment in general. (Tahmourian, 2007, p. 211)

Among the important pollutants that cause degradation and reduction of environmental quality are the following: Industrial pollution is the main source of pollution caused by ar-

tificial activities. Among the thermal power plant industries, chemical plants, cement factories, paper mills, textiles, tanners, etc. are the main sources of air pollution. Most different industrial forms have an effect on the environment and its instability. Effects at different stages in the life cycle of each product vary depending on the raw materials used up to the final stages of product consumption for wastewater, reconstruction and reuse. Industrial events and war damage to industrial power plants can also be dangerous to the natural environment.

## 3) Crisis of reduction and degradation of habitats and natural landscapes

Development of human activities to the natural environment, created through urbanization, recreation and entertainment, industrialization and agriculture; And increases the uniformity of natural landscapes and consequently reduces, disappears and decomposes and fragmentation of natural landscapes and habitats. Reducing the size of habitats reduces the genetic diversity of the species. Smaller habitats can only accommodate smaller populations, which leads to the denaturation of gene capacity. Reducing the genetic resources of a species reduces the flexibility and evolution adaptable to changing situations. These conditions under such degenerative changes in habitats often occur as a result of their natural living organisms causing them to escape their endangered habitats in a natural way. Their escape routes involve migrating to other habitats that are adapted to change or genetically exchanging with populations in the surrounding habitats. (Taati et al., 2013, pp. 3-4)

## 4) Immigration crisis

Migration is a term used for a variety of population movements between territories that

lead to permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. (Zarghani and Mousavi, 2012, p. 8) People leave their area when the destruction of the environment endangers people's lives or seriously damages their quality of life. These environmental refugees may relocate within their own country or leave the country altogether. The resettlement of these refugees in new areas puts intense pressure on the country (especially if it is accompanied by violence) by intensifying local competition for natural resources that could provoke a reaction from indigenous peoples; On the other hand, it can provoke conflict between governments.

Judy Jacobsen points to three types of environmental migration:

- A. Those who migrate temporarily due to a local event such as an avalanche or an earthquake.
- B) Those who migrate due to disruption of their livelihood or serious endangerment of their health due to environmental degradation.
- C) And those who migrate due to the expansion of the desert due to land erosion or due to the updating of other permanent and intolerable changes in their natural habitat. (Trife, 2004, p. 244)

Developing countries are usually more vulnerable to the social effects of environmental degradation. These countries lack the necessary material, financial and technical resources to manage environmental issues, and their political and social institutions often prevent concerted action against these issues and their effects. Many developing countries are facing increasing land shortages, resulting in declining agricultural production, economic decline, and population migration. (Triumph, 2004, p. 245)

### **5) Climate change crisis**

Climate change is any clear change in the expected patterns of climate change that occurs over a long period of time in a particular region or for the entire global climate. (Farajzadeh and Elahi, 2020, p. 52) Climate change disrupts not only our natural habitats but also our arrangements and increases the likelihood of violent conflict. It seems that there is still a debate on our issue between international environmental officials and environmental movements; it has not been resolved; Because it is on the agenda as a threat and it continues. Transformation is one of the characteristics and perhaps the most stable principle of climate. Within these transformations, there are also fluctuations and fluctuations. Today, the phenomenon of climate change and global warming has attracted the minds of all thinkers and researchers. The following factors have caused many economic and social problems around the world; Increasing the length of the growing season, increasing the temperature and melting of the Arctic ice and rising water levels, decreasing successive and severe rains and droughts, increasing the occurrence of floods, heat waves and decreasing cold waves as signs of climate change. (Dehghani, 2018, pp. 80-90)

Climate change is affecting all countries now, but the worst is yet to come. IPCC forecasts for future climate change are a cause for concern: All available scenarios indicate that global warming will continue to increase until the end of the 21st century. (Safonov, 2019, pp. 8-12)

### **6) Security, environment and the impact of environmental changes on security**

One of the concepts that is strongly related to comprehensive security and there is a kind of interrelationship between them is the environment. In this regard, it can be argued that

after the end of the Cold War, the relationship between change, pressure and environmental erosion and the issue of security has been considered by many experts in this field. The idea of environmental security has historically been related to the conflicts that result from environmental erosion in one of these areas; Excessive use of renewable resources, pollution and reduced fertility of agricultural lands. Today, environmental concerns have become a serious security issue in international relations and have raised significant concerns for governments. As the environmental problems caused by climate change become more serious, this can be considered as an influential variable in domestic or international conflicts. Climate change disrupts not only natural habitats but also the social order of communities; And increase the likelihood of violent conflict, jeopardizing international peace and security, and undermining environmental justice. (Mahutova K., Barich, 2005, pp. 4-8)

Thus, environmental and security studies address issues such as the impact of climate change and global warming on the spread of conflict in different countries. "Environmental Conflict Theory" focuses on the role of natural resource scarcity as an independent variable in the spread of military and violent conflicts. The study of environmental conflicts includes the study of the threats and dangers posed by civil wars over natural resources. Their main argument is that climate change increases the scarcity of natural resources; And societies that fail to meet this challenge effectively (low-income, resource-dependent countries with weak political institutions) will face the spread of violence. More precisely, experts in this field point to three consequences of environmental change.

A) Political instability: Lack of resources affects the national economy and reduces

government revenue; This can reduce the government's ability to solve problems and thus reduce its legitimacy. This could lead to internal uprisings and uprisings, which, like the Syrian crisis, may take on regional and international dimensions.

B) Economic problems and lack of food security: It is another consequence of climate change and the environment. This problem mostly threatens their national security in countries that are economically dependent on the agricultural sector. Some experts point to this type of economic problem to explain the causes of the Rwandan civil war and the emergence of the Arab Spring.

C) Finally, studies on the consequences of climate change: They point to large population displacements as a result of environmental changes that can lead to the spread of conflict and violence for a variety of reasons - such as conflict between migrants and the region's indigenous population.

Environmental security is the state of human-environmental dynamics, which includes the reconstruction of environmental damage caused by military action, the improvement of scarce resources, the depletion of resources, and biological threats that can lead to instability and social conflict. Environmental security is the protection of natural environments to meet the needs of society so that its reserves are not damaged.

### **C. Humanitarian legal challenges**

#### **1) Globalization and the decline of freedom as a human rights challenge**

Earlier this year, the Freedom House (NGO) published the global status of freedom in its annual report entitled "Leaderless Struggle for Democracy." The report shows that freedom has declined globally over the past 14 years. Thirty-four countries, including the United States, most European countries,

South Africa and Brazil, are among those affected by the decline, along with regular suspects Russia, Turkey and China; Who have experienced the deterioration of the situation of political and civil liberties. While the decline in individual rankings in this classification is worrying, the more worrying issue is the decline of liberal democracies' support for international norms and measures to defend human rights and democracy worldwide. The emergence of a declining commitment of nationalist populist governments and countries to multilateralism has led to the collapse and destruction of the institutions and norms that have defined and defended human rights since World War II. Although the point is to hope that polls suggest that protection and protection of human rights have increased; According to a valuation report by the Pew Research Institute on Global Values in 2020; According to a survey conducted from May 13 to October 19, 2019, an average of 55% of the population surveyed in 34 countries support the view that; "Organizations responsible and active in the field of human rights must act freely in their countries." Among the fourteen European countries, support for human rights organizations was 59%, compared with 91% and 93% in the United States and Canada, respectively. Support for human rights organizations has been largely coherent across Europe, ranging from a maximum of 75% in Greece to a minimum of 63% in Hungary and 57% in Poland. In relation to recent cases, most citizens were pro-democracy, even if the governments in their countries had illiberal democracies. (Sabatini, 2020, pp. 3-9)

In contrast, support for human rights groups in Russia and some Asian democracies was much lower. In six countries in the region (Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Indonesia, and India), an aver-

age of 47% of citizens believed that defending the activities of human rights groups was also important. Lack of support for human rights groups exists not only in countries seeking democracy, such as the Philippines and India (where 56% and 35% of citizens, respectively, supported human rights organizations); It also exists in countries with more liberal democracies such as Australia (54%), Japan (47%), and South Korea (46%). What is less striking and interesting is the very low level of support in Russia, where only 31% of citizens in their country supported human rights organizations, with the lowest turnout in a poll of 34 countries. (Sabatini, 2020, pp. 3-9)

## **2) Different interpretations of human rights in accordance with religious and legal systems as a challenge**

Many conventions on human rights have been ratified and many governments have acceded to them, but some governments claim that these conventions are based on Western culture and religion, regardless of the culture or religion of many countries. By arguing for cultural relativity, these governments make several arguments that, given their cultural differences with the West, they can enforce some of these rules and not implement others that are inconsistent with their country's culture. Because some of these concepts may be different depending on the customs and habits of each region, the culture of each nation and the deep-rooted religious concepts and principles of nations. Although some representatives of countries claiming cultural relativity have participated in the process of drafting conventions, their participation has not been serious and effective, and sometimes they have not been able to intervene at all. (Amin Al-Ruaya, 2013: 63-64) Kofi Annan delivered a speech on the occa-

sion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran, on December 10, 1997; While affirming the principles of universal human rights, he pointed to cultural barriers to the implementation of those rights. "Only if human rights are applied equally can it be considered a universally accepted right," he said. These rights cannot be exercised selectively or partially ... ". (Amin al-Ruaya, 2013, pp. 63-64)

### **3) The spread of sexual injustice as one of the challenges of human rights**

Another very important challenge of human rights is gender inequality or injustice, which is one of the clarifying issues in the rights of the new generation. In a survey of 34 countries, 74% of respondents agreed that gender equality is very important in their country. This number includes 91% and 95% of Americans and Canadians, respectively, with an average of 85% in the fourteen European countries mentioned above. In terms of support for human rights organizations, Russia ranks 34th in the survey, with only 54% of Russians advocating for equal rights. While most democracies in developed countries favor public opinion of human rights and the institutions that uphold it, increasing support for populist nationalist movements can change that. In Europe, supporters of populist nationalist parties in Sweden, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands are less supportive of international human rights than their opponents. According to data from the Pew poll, there is a stark contrast between the views of nationalist movements and the views of nationalist opponents on the issue of human rights. 55% of those with a negative view of the French Nationalist Party were in favor of religious freedom, while only 41%

of those with a positive attitude towards the party were in favor of tolerance of religious freedom. A similar definition applies in Britain, where there is a 16-point difference between UKIP or UKIP supporters, 63% of whom are in favor of religious freedom; And there are opponents of the Yukip party, which is 79% in favor of religious freedom. (Sabatini, 2020, pp. 3-9)

### **4) The politicization of human rights**

Ensuring respect for the inherent human rights and, on the other hand, the need for the survival of the state in the general sense and for its proper functioning are the goals pursued within the framework of sovereignty. Human rights give priority to humanity in order to preserve the inherent human dignity, and the government, as the defender of social rights and the guardian of the state's permanence, in many cases sees the need to restrict the exercise of human rights. Efforts to strike a balance between the implementation of human rights and the protection of national political components have been the source of many intense political tensions within governments and the issue of time becomes more sensitive; Defenders of human rights in the international community accuse governments of using elements of national politics, including national security and public order, to violate inherent human rights.

In addition to the above, the sovereignty and practical independence of states are concepts that, by definition, provide them with complete domination in the internal and external dimensions. International relations also revolve around politics and from this perspective, based on the principle of sovereignty and legitimacy of power-based actions, each country seeks opportunities to exploit and gain more benefits. The legal order that emerges from this perspective is distinct from

national legal systems due to the lack of "centralized superior power." In the absence of superior international power, the theory of "realism" is considered the most important theory in international relations. There is a fundamental difference between foreign and domestic policy, according to the theory that the state is the main actor; Power is in the hands of states, and in the event of international disputes, the states involved have sovereignty that has a monopoly of power, and other moral and human values are not the basis for evaluation. (Falk, 1991, pp. 6-7)

### **Conclusion**

The new definition of security reflects the evolution of its concept and the breadth of its components and challenges; It can be said that without economic development and growth, reducing poverty, increasing production, increasing wealth, increasing and advancing technology, expanding and increasing international trade competition, one cannot speak of security for a government. Because the relationship between security and a category such as economics is so close and important that we cannot talk about security without considering the economy; In addition, it can be considered in the discussion of security and environment that today most of the challenges in the field of security are in

cluded in the field of environment; Issues such as global warming, population growth, industrial pollution, soil erosion, involuntary migration, water scarcity; All of these pose a fundamental challenge to international security, so a proper understanding of security without regard to environmental indicators cannot be successful. In addition to the economy and the environment today, human rights and their challenges greatly affect and affect both security. Human rights challenges such as the politicization of human rights, the misinterpretation of human rights, non-observance by governments, different interpretations in accordance with the religious and legal system, etc. have created many challenges in the field of international security; Therefore, in concluding this chapter, it can be said that the concept of security is broad and evolving and is interpreted in various fields. Without considering the economy, environment and human rights, a bright future for international security cannot be imagined. Environmental issues are now widely accepted around the world as key human rights concepts by an increasingly globalizing community. The solidarity between the advancement of knowledge and technology and human rights has been part of the agenda of various United Nations agencies for decades.

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