

CONCEPT AND TRADITIONAL NOTIONS OF SECURITY

1. Meaning and Nature of Security

- Security, at its most basic level, implies **freedom from threats** affecting human existence and the life of a country.
- Not every threat qualifies as a security threat; only those that **endanger core values beyond repair** are treated as security concerns.
- Security remains a **slippery and context-dependent idea**, varying across societies, historical periods, and political perspectives.
- Debate arises regarding:
 - **Whose core values** are to be protected—state or individuals.
 - **Intensity of threat** necessary to classify an issue as security.
- Excessively broad definitions would **paralyse governance** by turning all dangers into security issues.

2. Two Broad Conceptions of Security

- Security thinking is divided into:
 - **Traditional** (state-centric, military-focused)
 - **Non-traditional** (human-centric, multidimensional)
- This distinction reflects changing **global realities and experiences of different societies**.

3. Traditional Security: External Dimension

(a) Military Threat as Primary Danger

- Greatest threat arises from **other states capable of military attack**, endangering:
 - Sovereignty
 - Independence
 - Territorial integrity
 - Lives of citizens
- War rarely affects only soldiers; **civilians often become targets**.

(b) State Responses to War Threat

Governments possess **three strategic choices**:

1. **Surrender**
 2. **Deterrence** — raising costs of war to unacceptable levels
 3. **Defence** — defeating the attacker after war begins
- Security policy thus focuses on **preventing war and limiting its consequences**.

(c) Balance of Power

- States monitor **relative power of neighbours and rivals**.
- Maintaining favourable balance involves:
 - Military build-up
 - Economic strength
 - Technological capability
- Power asymmetry signals **potential future aggression**.

(d) Alliances

- Alliances are **coalitions of states for deterrence or defence**.
- Based on **national interest**, hence **changeable**.
- Example: U.S. support to Afghan militants in the 1980s followed by conflict after the **September 11 attacks**.

(e) Absence of World Government

- International politics lacks a **central authority controlling violence**.
- Even the **United Nations** depends on member consent.
- Therefore, **self-help remains central to state security**.

INTERNAL SECURITY, COOPERATION, AND NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY

4. Traditional Security: Internal Dimension

- Security also requires **internal peace and order**.
- After World War II, powerful states faced **few internal threats**, shifting focus outward.
- Cold War rivalry produced:
 - External military tensions
 - Proxy wars in the **Third World**

- Newly independent states faced **dual threats**:
 - External wars with neighbours
 - Internal conflicts and separatist movements
- Internal wars now constitute **over 95% of armed conflicts**, with a dramatic rise in civil wars after 1945.

- **Freedom from fear**
- **Freedom from want.**

5. Traditional Security and Limited Cooperation

(a) Norms Governing War

- War justified mainly for:
 - **Self-defence**
 - **Preventing genocide**
- Ethical limits:
 - Protect non-combatants
 - Avoid excessive violence
 - Use force only as **last resort**.

(b) Disarmament, Arms Control, Confidence Building

- **Disarmament**: elimination of specific weapons (Biological & Chemical Weapons Conventions).
- **Arms control**: regulation rather than elimination (ABM, SALT, START, NPT).
- **Confidence-building measures**: transparency about military plans to prevent **misperception and accidental war**.
- Traditional security ultimately relies on **military force as both threat and protection**.

6. Non-Traditional Security: Expanding the Referent

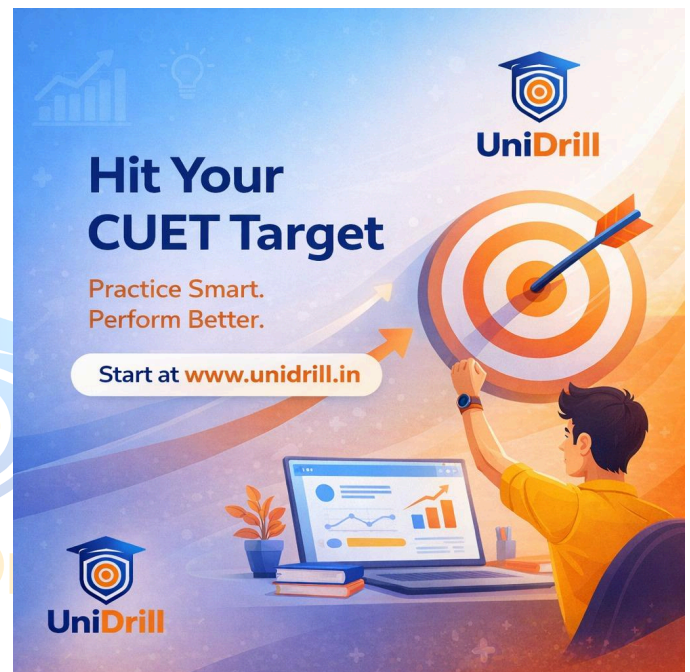
- Moves beyond **state-centric military focus**.
- Asks: **Security for whom?**
 - Individuals
 - Communities
 - Humanity as a whole
- Known as **human security** or **global security**.
- Secure states do **not automatically ensure secure people**.
- Over the last century, **governments have killed more people than foreign armies**.

(a) Narrow vs Broad Human Security

- **Narrow**: protection from violence.
- **Broad**: includes hunger, disease, disasters, poverty, and dignity.
- Expressed as:

(b) Global Security Logic

- Threats like:
 - Climate change
 - Terrorism
 - Epidemics
- Cannot be solved by **any single country**.
- Require **international cooperation**.



NEW THREATS, COOPERATIVE SECURITY, AND INDIA'S STRATEGY

7. Major Non-Traditional Threats

(a) Terrorism

- **Deliberate political violence against civilians.**
- International in scope; intensified attention after **11 September 2001**.

(b) Human Rights Violations

- Three categories:
 - Political rights
 - Economic & social rights
 - Rights of minorities and colonised peoples
- Debate over **international intervention vs state sovereignty**.

(c) Global Poverty and Inequality

- Population growth concentrated in **poorer countries**.
- Reinforces **North–South divide** and internal disparities.
- Closely linked with **conflict and instability**, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

(d) Migration, Refugees, and Internal Displacement

- Wars and disasters create **mass displacement**.
- Distinction between:
 - Migrants
 - Refugees
 - Internally displaced persons.

(e) Health Epidemics

- HIV-AIDS, SARS, bird flu, and emerging diseases show **global interdependence**.
- Spread intensified by **travel, trade, and migration**.

8. Cooperative Security

- Non-traditional threats require **cooperation rather than military confrontation**.
- Actors involved:
 - States
 - International organisations (UN, WHO, World Bank, IMF)
 - NGOs and civil society
 - Corporations and global personalities
- Force may be used **collectively as last resort**, especially against:
 - Genocide
 - Terrorism

9. India's Security Strategy

(a) Military Preparedness

- Wars with **Pakistan and China**; nuclear tests justified as security measures.

(b) Strengthening International Norms

- Support for:
 - Decolonisation
 - Disarmament
 - Non-alignment

- UN peacekeeping
- Kyoto Protocol

(c) Internal Security through Democracy

- Managing separatism via:
 - Federalism
 - Political participation
 - Democratic grievance redressal

(d) Economic Development and Social Justice

- Reducing **poverty and inequality** is seen as essential to security.
- Democracy links **human development with national stability**.

