

# Security Studies: Classic to Post-Modern Approaches

Arda ÖZKAN and Göktürk TÜYSÜZOĞLU (ed.)

Lanham, Maryland, Lexington Books, 2023, 464 pages, ISBN: 9781666920246

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What kinds of security threats do states currently face in international relations? What areas do security studies cover in the discipline? Contrary to the military security-oriented structure of the Cold War period, the new era requires a more inclusive and alternative approach to security studies due to the effects of globalization. Therefore, many areas that were seen as low politics issues in the early years of the discipline have begun to play an important role in shaping today's international system and the security perception of states. For someone seeking to answer the above questions, *Security Studies: Classic to Post-Modern Approaches*, edited by Arda Özkan and Göktürk Tüysüzoğlu, is a good starting point. Within the framework of its eighteen chapters, the book is an important reference that not only deals with the classical approaches of the discipline, such as military issues, but also explores post-modern approaches and contemporary topics, such as energy, environment, migration, and so on.

As revealed by its title, the book is built on the concept of security and offers an exceedingly broad security framework, as it covers a wide range of local and global domains. The author of the introduction, Burak Samih Gülboy, makes a historical analysis of the concept of security and, within the scope of this analysis, he examines the concept in a process dating back to the period of Ancient Greece, providing comprehensive information about the etymological origin of the concept of security. The first chapter by Poyraz Gürson and Can Telemeci then focuses on military security analysis, which is considered the principal area in security studies. The authors explain how the logic of war has transformed from the two world wars to the Cold War and to the present. They emphasize that although there is a hope that diplomatic actions can prevent war with the development of international law, today the phenomenon of war exists with all its reality and has migrated to another dimension with cyber threats. In the second part, which deals with political security, Tüysüzoğlu examines traditional security approaches within the framework of various theoretical assumptions and states that security tools have also undergone a transformation with globalization. In the third part of the book, Bezen Balamir Coşkun and Ahmet Uçağaç discuss societal security, underlining that the concept of security has been expanded from focusing on the state alone, thus ensuring that the roles of social groups and individuals are included in security analyses.

In the fourth part, Selim Kurt argues that economic security has been analyzed through three basic concepts of political economy – liberalism, mercantilism, and structuralism – and emphasizes that in the post-Cold War system, economic development rather than military power has become the priority of states, which makes them more cautious about risks and threats. Another area of security threats that emerged after the Cold War is the environment; therefore, in the fifth chapter, Arda Özkan and David Hunter argue that environmental problems deserve to be a part of security analyses because they have a wide impact network extending from the individual to the national and global levels and discuss the initiatives taken by international organizations and international law to maintain environmental security.

In the sixth chapter, which deals with energy security, Azime Telli examines the relationship between energy and geopolitics historically and argues that the tendency toward sustainable resources is likely to lead to possible changes in the energy map, weakening geopolitical rivalries and increasing cooperation. In the seventh chapter, Pelin Bolat and Gizem Kayışoğlu address cyber security, providing a general evaluation of the concept and global cyber security trends through the case of Turkey. In chapter eight, Senem Atvur and Asiye Gün Güneş Güral highlight the importance of urban security, calling it a multi-layered phenomenon and arguing that the increase in urban crime affects both states and society and has the potential to cause many new problems related to climate change or migration.

Levent Kırval and Sezer Ilgın examine maritime security in the ninth chapter, discussing the risks associated with and outlining the international regulations and rules regarding solution to global problems in the context of maritime security. Chapter ten discusses food security, with Funda Ersoy drawing attention to its position in international relations by associating the concept with climate change and the economy and claiming that food has recently started to be used as an important foreign policy tool. In the eleventh chapter on nuclear security, Funda Keskin Ata, after accentuating the danger posed by nuclear weapons to the international system, questions the possibility of an international system without them.

The twelfth chapter looks at space security, with Aybüke İnan Şimşek first discussing it in the context of the rivalry between the two superpowers of the Cold War period, the United States and Soviet Union, and then highlighting the international rules and regulations regarding the establishment of a space regime and how it contributes to space security. In chapter thirteen, Gizem Bilgin Aytaç points out that although gender studies are associated with low politics in the high politics/low politics dichotomy, she underlines the initiatives launched by international organizations to strengthen the representation of women and eliminate violence against women.

The focus of the fourteenth chapter is migration and security. Drawing attention to the danger of the armament of refugees for security, Sanem Özer dedicates a special place to critical theory in the relationship between migration and security and highlights the importance of international initiatives to prevent uncontrolled migration. In the fifteenth chapter, which deals with water security, Ahmet Conker argues that the recent literature on the concept of water, which is sometimes used as a tool in interstate conflicts, emphasizes cooperation rather than conflict. He also explains critical hydropolitics in relation to water security and examines the Middle East in this context.

In the sixteenth chapter on health security, Tolga Çıkrıkçı and Caspar van den Berg argue that although health issues are underestimated in the discipline's security literature, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed this established perception, showing how health security can be a primary security threat on a national and global scale. Governance and security encompass the seventeenth chapter, and after first reviewing the concept of governance, Leyla Tavacıoğlu, Neslihan Gökmen İnan, and Özge Eski evaluate the concept of international governance mostly within the context of the UN system. The eighteenth and final chapter is devoted to deterrence and security. After a general analysis of the concept of deterrence, Yeliz Yazan Koç draws attention to the security dilemma and the perception of insecurity among nuclear powers and the effects of this perception on deterrence. The book concludes with Tarık Oğuzlu stating that security, one of the basic concepts of the discipline of International Relations, has been defined in different ways at different times, and adding that today, low political issues are also included in security studies as alternative approaches.

One of the most successful aspects of the book is its emphasis on drawing a comprehensive conceptual framework for the relevant topic in each chapter. Likewise, the book presents valuable discussions of the initiatives taken by international law and international organizations to address the security problems. However, as an edited book, some findings stand out. The fact that parts of the book are handled by different authors has created repetition, especially in the explanation of the conceptual information and contents of international agreements.

Otherwise, the book is an excellent primer for students of International Relations and academics interested in security studies because it considers security studies from such a broad framework. As an edited book, it includes researchers from the fields of political science and International Relations and has an interdisciplinary nature in that it includes many academics from different fields like law, maritime studies, engineering, and fine arts. This interdisciplinary nature exposes different theoretical approaches to security studies and ensures that the book will make a significant contribution to the security literature.