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The importance of social security on the example of the analysis of selected strategic documents

Introduction

The emergence of non-military aspects of security research seems to be an increasingly common phenomenon at this stage. It should be remembered, however, that while the indication of strictly military security problems leaves no doubt, the scope of the so-called “soft” areas is more complicated.

In general, when attempting to define what security is, it is indicated that it is a state, process or field of political, social and economic life, and finally, since 2011, a dynamically developing scientific discipline and a willingly chosen field of study [Czupryński 2020: 106–108]. Since this text refers to strategic documents that are the result of political activity, it is worth noting that social security is also one of the important areas of policy, the so-called public policies, which aims to ensure the protection of life and health of citizens and is of interest to international organizations, as well as other actors and public institutions. Certainly, other typologies of security and its various definitions are still dominant in scientific approaches.

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The aim of the article is to discuss one of the important, non-military planes of perceiving security, which is social security within selected security strategies of the Republic of Poland. These are studies that are an important, even basic element of modern public management, taken over from the private sector, at the same time having their origins in the military. As part of the creation of the national or internal security system, many unwritten concepts were created, which over time took on a more professional character, especially after 1989. It was related to the reconstruction and strengthening of the Polish security system in the closer and further international environment. In the initial period of transformation, they were established successively by: *The Defense Doctrine of the Republic of Poland of 1990* and *Assumptions of the Polish Security Policy and the Security Policy and Defense Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 1992*. A few years later, the formula of strategic documents on the conceptual foundations of security changed. In 2000, the first in the history of Poland, the *Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, was published, and its sectoral development in matters of national defense was the *Strategy of Defense of the Republic of Poland*.

It should be remembered that this type of study has a very specific structure, above all, it is an action plan with a specific mission, partial goals, expected tasks and projects to be implemented within the assigned goals in a specific time horizon. The strategic study is usually accompanied by a work schedule and budget, as well as a procedure for initial, during and post-implementation evaluation. For the purposes of this text, it was decided to focus on four strategic documents, as the *WhiteBook on National Security of the Republic of Poland 2013*, *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2014*, *Strategy for the Development of the National Security System of the Republic of Poland 2022*, *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2020*.

Around understanding social security

On the website of the National Security Bureau, in the dictionary of key terms in the field of security, you can find out that security means:

the theory and practice of ensuring the possibility of survival (existence) and the pursuit of one's own interests by a given entity, in particular by taking advantage of opportunities (favorable circumstances), taking up challenges, reducing risks and counteracting (preventing and countering) all kinds of threats to the entity and its interests. Modern security is of an integrated (comprehensive, multidimensional) nature, in which – depending on the adopted criterion – various types, fields, sectors, departments and areas can be distinguished [(Mini) Słownik BBN... b.r.].

This approach shows that it is a certain type of action, a policy that is focused on the implementation of given interests, but also counteracting emerging difficult, conflict and crisis situations [Wojciechowski 2019: 23–25]. Thus, this definition is closer to the non-military aspects of distinguishing security. The examined issue of social security is listed together with economic and constitutes an important field of integrated national security of Poland together with other constitutional segments of security, i.e. defense

(national defence, military security) and protection (civil, non-military security). At the same time, within the framework of social and economic security or socio-economic security, as it is presented in two ways, it is written about social and economic support for security [Gryz 2017: 61].

Undoubtedly, social security is an important element of the national security system, and it is subordinate to national security, it is an open system, constructed on the basis of the exchange of information and activities with the environment and the spread of other subsystems within them, for example health, education and other entities operating within the superior system – national security [Wiśniewska-Paź 2019: 62].

Social security can be defined by the quality of the culture of a given society, the system of helping the poorest, or the system of division of labor. This way of understanding social security is indicated by Ryszard Jakubczak, Romuald Kalinowski and Krzysztof Loranty, who define it as:

such a quality of the society's culture and social structure and system of division of labor that enables citizens to achieve individual values and is manifested by individuals, natural and formal groups undertaking cooperative activities for the common good and the implementation of recognized cultural values using acceptable means, as well as maintaining and strengthening social ties, ensuring the formation of a community identity of the community covered by the political organization of the state [Jakubczak, Kalinowski, Loranty 2008: 57–61].

The indicated approach is very broad because it emphasizes that, apart from actions aimed at helping citizens, mobilizing, creating, encouraging to participate, organize and form social capital are important. In addition, ensuring social security is tantamount to activities focused on culture and the defense of common values. Thus, the proposed definition is close to the above-mentioned approach of the National Security Bureau.

Other researchers focus on the institutional dimension of social security and emphasize the system of international and national organizations that provide protection to citizens in terms of basic existential needs [Gierszewski 2013: 74]. An example may be the approach to social security proposed by Marek Leszczyński, who indicates that it is guaranteed:

all legal and organizational activities carried out by governmental (national and international), non-governmental entities and citizens themselves, which are aimed at ensuring a certain standard of living for individuals, families and social groups and preventing their marginalization and social exclusion. This is especially about providing assistance to people temporarily or permanently unable to work, who found themselves in a difficult life situation as a result of their own helplessness or fell victim to random events beyond their control, for example fire, flood or other natural disasters [Leszczyński 2009: 37, 2011: 57–59].

In the context of the above-mentioned approaches to social security, it can be said that it is certainly one of the non-military areas of security, often associated with

extensive activity of international organizations and the state to level differences, help people living on the verge of extreme poverty and fight against all threats, risks and social pathologies [Wojciechowski 2019: 22–23, por. Szreniawski 2014: 179–189; Jagusiak 2015: 20–27;]. In addition to this basic aspect, the area of understanding social security, which is equally important and developed in many studies, is identified with tasks related to the individual, society, community, building social and human capital and shaping development, in the latter area of definition concerns combating counteracting, but also forecasting threats related to social, economic and educational self-realization, institutional conditions and empowerment of citizens in the legal system [Marczuk 2012: 32; Skrabacz, Loranty 2015: 49, cyt. za: Majer, Urbanek 2016: 62–63].

The importance of strategic documents for social security – introductory remarks

When shaping a long-term policy aimed at achieving a goal or several priorities, strategic documents are most often helpful, which are created as a result of a complex planning process. Regardless of the nature of the creating entity, the strategy in terms of content is a set of development ideas that are long-term, multi-faceted, referring to the most important areas of development, so it will be crucial to identify the leading segments. In formal terms, the strategy is simply a planning document containing a time-dynamic analysis of the internal and external environment of a given entity (state, international organization, enterprise, association, movement, political party, local government unit). It is a set of goals that are to bring harmonious, uninhibited development, security, economic growth, improvement of social, cultural and ecological condition. However, the adopted priorities must be mutually synchronized and coordinated with each other and must be measurable, realistic to be achieved in a given period of time using the available material resources, legal, institutional and, of course, financial solutions [Sztando 2009: 212–213].

National security strategies play an important role in building social security on a national, regional and local scale. They are:

an element of the security policy – the process of managing (managing) security – and is a set of visions, goals and tasks, its signpost (...), a look into the future, naturally based on logical analyses, stating what is possible and reflecting the own imagination of those evaluating this future [Nowakowski et. al. 2014: 199].

Through this document, overarching goals and national interests are formulated, military, socio-economic, and, of course, demographic and cultural potential are defined, current barriers, threats, as well as the most important directions of activities, undertakings and main concepts for the implementation of the strategy are outlined.

Generally, the national security strategies created from the early 1990s were dominated by military and political themes, the declared mission, specific objectives and projects aimed at developing good-neighbourly external, global and regional relations. This was, of course, related to the challenges facing the rulers and the current

international situation. Poland embarked on the path of internal economic and social reforms. Many legal, institutional and economic changes met with great resistance and dissatisfaction, therefore constructing effective national security strategies adequate to the situation was a real challenge [Nowakowski et al. 2014: 245–262].

Social security in the analysis of selected strategic documents

Starting with an in-depth analysis of social security in selected national security strategies of the Republic of Poland, it should be noted that all documents relate this dimension of security to the social and economic subsystem, thus the analyzed areas are treated jointly.¹ Thus, the *White Book on National Security of the Republic of Poland 2013* indicates that the social potential of security is conditioned by national identity and cultural heritage. In addition, the development of this area of security is a derivative of social guarantees, demography, intellectual, scientific and technological progress. The content of social security also includes other elements, as education, training and research and development in the field of security, and finally health care, social capital and the media. Then, the authors of the White Paper deepen the analysis of this potential through the prism of legal, institutional impact and the role played by these sectors [*Biała Księga bezpieczeństwa...2013: 73–88*]. However, the key national interests and strategic goals in the field of security related to the social subsystem are interesting, which are: protection of social potential entities against the destructive impact of external and internal threats during peace, crisis and war; information, educational, cultural and scientific and technical support activities of the operational elements of the national security system, improvement of the rules, procedures and the ability of the entities of the social potential of the state to cooperate with the services responsible for their protection and defense in times of peace, crisis and war; and the development of binding strategies, plans and programs for the preparation (maintenance and improvement) of the capabilities of social entities state to function in times of threat (crisis) and war, including the implementation of tasks to support the operational elements of the national security system [*Biała Księga bezpieczeństwa...2013: 105*]. In general, the *White Book* is a comprehensive document that thoroughly analyzes the non-military areas of security, and with regard to the social subsystem, legal and institutional aspects.

In the next strategic study –*Strategy for the Development of the National Security System of the Republic of Poland 2022*, the document was linked to the socio-economic policy of the country. The fourth objective, as well as the integration of public policy and security policy, are of great importance for the implementation of public security [Strategia rozwoju systemu... 2022:7]. As part of this priority, emphasis is placed on regional development, spatial planning and development, infrastructure development and environmental protection. In addition to these soft determinants of social security, *Strategy 2022* also includes measures to counteract unemployment, education and

¹ It is worth noting that, in particular, the recent National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2020 defines both subsystems much more broadly, including energy, environmental and new technologies issues in the social and economic dimensions.

higher education, as well as protection of national heritage and expansion of infrastructure culture, as well as strengthening the potential of non-governmental organizations [Strategia rozwoju systemu... 2022: 25–30]. Then, under the fourth objective, the main activities were defined, which relate in particular to strengthening the cooperation of the Polish Armed Forces with institutions responsible for social security, protection of national heritage and developing contacts with non-governmental organizations for greater involvement of the non-governmental sector in activities undertaken by public administration bodies with the scope of national security. Other, above-mentioned determinants of social security, are also aimed at improving the national security system, but with an emphasis on the Polish Armed Forces [Strategia rozwoju systemu 2022: 75–81].

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2014 is a relatively more modest study, considering the number of pages (57). The social subsystems that are most important for the analyzes made in this text have been separated from the economic dimension and are defined through the prism of „human capital, which is a factor determining the growth of the national economy, the efficiency of the state, the activity of civil society and the general improvement of the quality of life of citizens” [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014: 14]. The social potential understood in this way is complemented by the system of public education, higher education, emphasis on the development of the information society, improvement of mobility and support for institutions of social capital and education for safety [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014: 14]. In addition, the further part of the document indicates social activities in the sphere of security, the purpose of which is to „create safe conditions for a decent life for citizens and the spiritual and material development of the nation” [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014: 38]. Social security understood in this way combines economic, material and intangible, intellectual and spiritual aspects. The main social undertakings include: protection and strengthening of national identity, education for security, activities of the media for security, counteracting threats to demographic security and ensuring social security. In addition, within the above-mentioned areas, the authors of the *Strategy 2014* postulate detailed actions, the final effect of which is to prepare social subsystems for „effective functioning in the event of a threat and war, improving the rules, procedures, capabilities and implementation of tasks of social support of operational subsystems” [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014: 52]. Specific actions include: historical policy, including an increase in expenditure on the protection of cultural assets and national heritage, professional development of soldiers, officers, civilian personnel of the army and services, reform of military education by transforming one public university into one educating in the field of integrated national security, and activities in the field of giving the public media a clear mission in the field of shaping security and counteracting unfavorable demographic trends through family policy and a coherent migration policy. In the area of combating unemployment, *Strategy 2014* assumes the creation of a complete system of benefits and social benefits [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014: 52–54].

On May 12, 2020, the *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2020* was approved. It replaces the previous document, which was in force from 2014. Already at the beginning, the key national interests and goals were formulated, among which one can find activities that are part of the content of social security, and it is about striving for social and economic development and protection of the natural environment. Thus, many initiatives, instruments aimed at social protection and strictly pro-social activities will go hand in hand with economic and ecological security. The key areas of social security under the proposed *Strategy 2020* are family and migration policies. Both areas are the most important sectors of interest for the current establishment. And so, with regard to family policy, the general intention is to improve the conditions for family protection and development, increase the level of health security, focus on improving the demographic situation, including birth rate, improve medical services, undertake initiatives in the field of prevention and health education, early diagnosis and rehabilitation, building the ability to counteract epidemiological threats, as well as shaping the policy for the development of physical culture [Strategia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2020: 31–36]. The above-mentioned actions show a close relationship between social security and health security, which was not so visible before, only the *White Book* formulated goals that were part of improving the health and life of citizens. Another element is the emphasis on migration policy, as it is assumed that this component, an area under *Strategy 2020*, will be coordinated with social, economic and security policy, it is about creating a long-term, well-thought-out policy, the general goal of which will be to properly design the labor market, integrate immigrants with Polish society, ensuring social cohesion and counteracting threats to public order and security. Beside to family and migration policy, it is worth noting that in the analyzed fourth pillar entitled *Social and economic development. Environmental protection*, together with the social security subsystem, also includes the economic, energy and environmental sectors. The whole is complemented by the policy of innovation, the development of activities for scientific and technological progress.

Summary

In Poland, security policy is implemented by appropriate public authorities, services, inspections and guards, as well as local government units and non-governmental organizations. When writing about social security, the last two groups of entities are especially important. In addition to the organizational and institutional dimension of security policy, an equally important aspect that determines the main areas, content and activities of this policy is the security strategy. It is a document, a study in which the decision-maker includes an action plan in a given field for a specified period of time, at the same time analyzing the current international and internal situation, possessed strengths and weaknesses, and also tries to set the main directions of action. In the article, it was decided to analyze security strategies in terms of one important area of security, which is social security.

The presented documents show the connection of the social subsystem with the economic and ecological dimension of national security. Another remark concerns the

main instruments aimed at ensuring social security. An often suggested element is the improvement of the quality of education, human and social capital, care for the media, including their informational role, promotion of safety and education of the society. The priority in pro-social activities is the fight against unemployment, development and continuous adaptation of the system of assistance for citizens, including the payment of social benefits, care for the elderly and the disabled. In two strategic studies (with a perspective until 2022 and in the *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland from 2014*), a lot of space is also devoted to the support and promotion of the activities of non-governmental organizations. They are a complement to the social security system. In addition to combining the social and economic subsystem, one can also notice the linking of security policy with social and economic policy, treating security as one of the so-called public policies. Moreover, all strategic studies call for support for cultural institutions and protection of national heritage. Thus, the social, economic, ecological and cultural components are treated together in the national security system.

Another conclusion that emerges from the analysis of the presented strategic documents is related to the differences. And so, in the *White Book* and other studies from 2014, the traditional, general treatment of social security dominates, similar goals and projects that fit into the analyzed security segment are mentioned. For example, the social potential includes human and social capital, while the main demands are actions aimed at improving education, protecting the national heritage, cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the social assistance system. On the other hand, *Strategy 2020* definitely defines two main social security policies, i.e. family policy and migration policy. In addition, social potential is considered in connection with environmental protection, economic condition, energy security and scientific, innovative and technological progress. Thus, the thematic content refers to social security in its broadest sense, including objectives that fall within the social, community and development dimensions.

The characterized strategic documents refer to the conceptual category of social security in a differentiated way. Certainly, the analyzed sector is an important area of the national security of the Republic of Poland, which determines activities in the field of social, economic and investment policy of the state. Undoubtedly, the definitional aspects are understood differently, in some studies the main emphasis is placed on the issues of social security, directions of development of an efficient system of assistance for the unemployed or solving the issues of the disabled, in other national security strategies the ways of counteracting community threats are more emphasized.

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The importance of social security on the example of the analysis of selected strategic documents

Abstract

The aim of the article is to show the importance of social security, in particular the way it is perceived and what role it plays in strategic documents in the field of national security of the Republic of Poland. At the same time, it was decided to focus on four strategic studies and indicate the main similarities and differences. In general, the importance of social security can be seen in all documents, it is present, but the components and main projects, directions of support are different. The social model dominates, focusing on social security, although other aspects are also present, i.e. community and development. In addition, the analyzed, non-military field of social security is most often recognized with economic potential, and, as can be seen in the latest *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland* from 2020, it is treated together with other, non-military fields of security.

Key words: security, social security, strategy