

CONDITIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Outline of the problem – Part I

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Abstract - In order to maintain Poland's sovereignty and independence, an appropriate national and internal security policy should be pursued. The conditions for this safety include, inter alia, historical, geopolitical, political and military conditions. The analysis of historical conditions clearly shows the errors of Polish internal and external policy as the main cause of the state's weakness. Contrary to common opinion, the geopolitical location does not play such a significant role in the security of a given country. It is important, but a politically and economically strong country is able to deal with any opponent. In political conditions, attention should be paid to the need for a strong and competent authority. The expansion and modernization of the military potential is one of the pillars of national security. Knowledge and analysis of the conditions of national security will allow for effective protection of Poland against external and internal threats.

Index Terms — national security, historical, geopolitical, political and military conditions

I. INTRODUCTION

The subject of research is the determinants of national security. The aim is to show what threats result from geopolitical, political and military factors and what are the remedial measures. In the historical context, the aim is to show the mistakes made so far in the history of Poland, which led to the weakening of the country's security. In discussing the conditions of national security, both historical and contemporary factors should be taken into account. Their analysis allows for the drawing of appropriate conclusions regarding the security of the state. These conditions are usually interrelated, e.g. in historical matters one has to take into account political, military, economic and geographical factors. As a research method, a critical analysis of source materials and bibliographic material was used. The research is complementary, combining issues in the field of history, politics, geopolitics, geography, economics and economy. The main hypothesis is that only an economically and militarily

strong state with competent political authorities is able to achieve the desired state of national security. Geopolitical conditions are important, but, contrary to the previous opinions, they are not the most important. Knowing and properly analysing the history will help avoid past mistakes.

II. HISTORICAL CONDITIONS

Historical conditions determine the security of many countries. Their influence on culture, politics, national security organization and military doctrine is very clear. According to Zbigniew Brzeziński, it is from historical experience that the most important conclusions and demands for creating Poland's national security in the 21st century arise (Brzeziński, 1989, 49).

Wars have shaped human history from the very beginning. In fact, the history of mankind is the history of wars. Thanks to them, some countries suffered losses or even ceased to exist, while others increased their territories, importance and power. Unfortunately, much is said about commanders and armies, and very rarely about the misery and tragedy of rank-and-file soldiers and civilians. In order not to lead to future conflicts, however, it is necessary to take care of the national security of the state and pay special attention to its conditions.

Throughout the history of Poland, national security matters constituted the main problem of its existence. From the dawn of its statehood until the middle of the 20th century, Poland waged wars as an aggressor or repelled attacks. The geopolitical position of our country is not good, however, the most important factors determining the past victories and defeats were the way of governing the country, the size and quality of the armed forces, and the economic and economic base. There is no need to look for any disasters due to our location on the map of Europe, because a wisely and well-ruled country, with a strong army and economy, does not have to fear any external threat. Historical conditions show very clearly that only a strong central authority and the position and authority of the ruler guaranteed the independence and power of the country. Only



some Pastors and Jagiellons were able to effectively lead Poland (Marczak et al., 2013, 17). The elected rulers, with the exception of Stefan Batory, even if they were skilled tactics like Jan III Sobieski, did not manage the country very well. When the royal power was centralized in Europe from the 16th to 17th century, the opposite begins in Poland. The power of ineffective rulers is weakening, the wilfulness of the magnates and nobility is developing, the lack of leadership authorities (Marczak et al. 2013, 19-20). The invaders' armies did not pose a threat to Poland, but the ineffective parliaments and the slow disintegration of the governance system. The attacks on Poland (and later the partitions) resulted in an increase in the strength of our neighbours and the collapse of our country at the same time. With a strong royal power, a properly developing parliament (sejm), a strong limitation of the power of the magnates and nobility, there would be no defeats in the 17th century and partitions in the 18th century.

The history of European countries clearly shows that those countries in which the economy developed gradually grew in strength and became powers. Medieval Hanseatic League and Flemish cities were economic powers as early as in the 12-14th centuries and successfully fought against monarchies. The power of the 17th century Holland (the Netherlands) and later England was created by the economy. It is thanks to her and the proper governments that these countries on the international arena to this day. The economy of modern Europe is mainly the development of cities, trade and the development of manufactories (later industry). Agriculture was profitable, but it did not decide about the development of economy. In Poland, noble ruled led to the fall of cities, stagnation in trade, and a lack of industrial development. The focus was on low-profit agriculture, which was becoming more and more backward over the decades. The collapse of the economy is the collapse of the state. There is no money for the maintenance and development of the army, economic growth, wealth and development of cities. Society becomes impoverished and polarized. National and internal security is at high risk. In Polish historical conditions, our location between the East and the West continues to be in the foreground. Between the threat from Germany (formerly Prussia) and Russia (previously also from Turkey and Tatar tribes). But when Poland was strong, there were no such threats. In the 16th century, the problem of East and West did not exist. A century later, it led to the beginning of the fall of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In the 16th century, Poland is the strongest in this part of Europe and can dictate conditions to its neighbours (e.g. Erasmus of Rotterdam: Palacz, 1988, 102). But as the decades pass, the system of governance weakens and the economy does not grow. Our neighbours strengthen the apparatus of power and develop the economy. In the 18th century, they will become the powers of this part of Europe and will take over dying (at their own request) Poland without any problems (Moltke H. v. 1996, 12). In the twentieth century, the two world wars and the communist regime did not create right models and cadres for an efficient apparatus of state power. Also the economy, first destroyed in both wars and then developed according to communist patterns, could not be strong and modern. On the threshold of the 21st

century, the political scene in Poland is dominated by endless political struggles, and the economy is completely below the level of developed countries. Meanwhile, our neighbours from the east and west are political, economic and military powers. Moreover, they are important trading partners for each other. We don't have strong governments, we don't have a strong economy, the economic situation is bad. We are unable to draw any logical conclusions from our historical conditions regarding from our historical conditions regarding national security. It is not the Germans, the Russia and the geopolitical location that are the reasons for Poland's weak position. 30 years after regaining full independence, as the member of the EU and NATO, we are still weak. As history has shown, the neighbours are just waiting for it.

Taking into account the historical conditions, the purpose of securing national security should be:

- Establish a stable, socially authoritative and highly competent system of government
- Develop the national economy at a level equal to that of the most developed countries
- Draw the right conclusions from past historical experiences
- Strengthen and develop armed forces (operational, special and territorial defence forces) to conduct all kinds of combat operations individually and as parts of an alliance
- The state should support non-governmental paramilitary organizations: scouting, "Strzelec", shooting and hunting associations, Volunteer Fire Brigades, military reconstructions group, etc. (Marczak et al. 2013, 24)
- Expand the Territorial Defence Forces, the second, next to operational troops, component of the defence system of the democratic state's military.

III. GEOPOLITICAL CONDITIONS

Only depending on the strength and importance of Poland, the geopolitical position of our country can be treated as a blessing or a curse. It all depends on the strength of the state and the leadership abilities of its decision-makers. History has clearly shown that, being strong, Poland was the guarantor of geopolitical stabilization in Central and Eastern Europe. In times of weakness, this part of the continent was geopolitically unstable.

Geopolitical security also includes geographic and political conditions (Dzieciński, 2011, 9-12). It is also the extent of the territory, the degree of territorial compactness, as well as the horizontal and vertical shape of the territory (Jean, 2003, 146).

Geographical conditions include the geographical location and the geographic and natural environment. The nature and course of borders depend on geography and politics. Poland is located in a latitudinally oriented belt of European lowlands, its only natural borders are the mountain ranges of the Sudetes and Carpathians in the south and Baltic Sea in the north. It is worth

that Germany has similar layout, for which the geographical location has never been a problem. On the contrary, it facilitated attacks on neighbouring countries. The claim that Poland is disadvantaged cannot be regarded as valid. This is only the international position of Poland and its state of power may be unfavourable. The only real threat to Poland and rest of Europe was the Mongol invasion of 1241, from which no one was able to defend themselves. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Poland is powerful, its borders are not threatened, it undertakes an expansionist policy to the east. The fall of the royal power, the inability to rule, the lawlessness of the magnates and nobility, the stagnation and decline of cities and the economy cause the importance of the Poland to decline. In the 17th century, Chmielnicki's approach to Zamość, attacks by Swedes, Hungarians, Turks and Tatars are not the result of our geographic location but a sign of the state's weakness. One hundred years earlier, powerful Poland was able to reply any attack. From the 17th century on, it was only worse. At present, the only chance for Poland's place in this part of Europe is participation in NATO and continuous improvement of economic-military potential. Proper country governance and an appropriate foreign policy are no less important. Partnership in NATO and the EU with proper relations with Russia (Germany and France are among Russia's most important economic partners) will make Poland a geopolitical pillar in Central Europe. In geopolitical conditions, the location of Poland on the Eastern border of the EU forces our authorities to seal the borders in order to prevent smuggling of people and goods or other illegal activities of criminal group. At the same time, it is taking care of the safety of the citizens of the entire Community. As for our neighbours, on the one hand, they are partners with NATO and the EU (which does not mean that we must trust them completely), on the other hand, they are Russia, with pursues an imperialist policy and supports Belarus, and struggles with Ukraine. The latter countries pose a potential threat to Poland. At present, the greatest geopolitical threat is the close political and economic ties between Belarus and Russia. Being a country that is strong internally and pursuing and appropriate foreign policy, however, we will not have to fear anything.

In the context of geopolitical security, Poland's membership in international organizations (EU, Wyszegrad Group, Weimar Triangle, NATO, OSCE, CEFTA, Council of the Baltic States, UN) is a platform for comprehensive political and economic cooperation in accordance with the signed commitments. At the same time, it requires taking care of the interests of organizations of which Poland is a member (financial and legal consequences). The peaceful coexistence of EU and NATO member states is essential.

The issue of geopolitical security of the state becomes of particular importance in these case of recognizing real threats. Their identification is important and creates the need for constant updating of knowledge in this area (Keplin, Kupiński, 2019, 37).

IV. POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political conditions imply the abilities and possibilities of Poland and its state institutions to independently resolve the dilemmas of the state system and independently conduct external and internal policy. They guarantee the means to maintain Poland's constitutionally legitimate political system, ensuring its existence and constructive policy. In political conditions, political sovereignty in international relations and the political stability of the society are important.

Political conditions have an impact on maintaining the constant readiness of state structures to take up challenges, taking advantage of opportunities and reducing risk in the political aspect. It is also based on the ability of these structures to eliminate political threats (zpe.gov.pl/a/uwarunkowania-bezpieczenstwa-panstwa...). It is a state of certainty of survival, sovereign functioning and development of the political system, resulting from the lack of political threats or the ability to protect against them (Chojnowski, 2012, 108).

Political conditions guarantee the stability of the constitutional order and the political and social situation in a given country. Their task is to protect democratic values and the institutions of democracy.

Political conditions determine:

- Ensuring the independence and sovereignty of Poland, its integrity and inviolability of borders
- Ensuring the correct implementation of legal decisions of state bodies and local government bodies (Wasiuta, 2018, 133)
- Ensuring the protection and defence of all Polish citizens at home and abroad
- Fulfilment of obligations resulting from participation in NATO and EU
- Creating conditions for increasing the state's defence capability and ensuring readiness to implement defence in the national and allied systems
- Avoiding political extremism
- Promoting civil reconciliation and social stability
- Building a credible system of constitutional principles
- Preventing and combating violations of law and order
- Creating the conditions necessary for an effective fight against corruption and crime

Threats to political security:

- Weakness of the rule of law and civil society structures
- The inability of state institutions to maintain the stability of the constitutional order and to protect citizens from discrimination and intimidation
- Failure to respect human rights and freedoms
- Terrorist activity
- All kinds of extremisms and fundamentalisms (e.g. ideological and religious)
- No international cooperation (zpe.gov.pl/a/uwarunkowania-bezpieczenstwa-

panstwa).

Threats to political security may arise as a result of planned and organized manipulation of ideological and organizational concepts. The goal is to overthrow legal power and establish, by undemocratic methods, a power that can take action that is contrary to the Polish *raison d'état*.

V. MILITARY CONDITIONS

The military threat to national security includes the use or threat of use of military force by subjects of international law (states). In addition, these may include terrorist attacks and the ability of non-state structures to use armed violence to achieve their own goals. It is therefore a real possibility of using armed violence. The military threat is treated as the most serious threat to state security and is generally understood as a potential or existing danger of using armed violence, directly or indirectly, against national values and interests (bn.gov.pl).

The military conditions of state security include:

- An efficiently functioning state security system
- Clearly defined strategic goals
- Top-level professional armed forces
- High level of technological advancement of the armed forces
- Participation in international alliances, primarily military
- High military awareness and strategic culture of the society (zpe.gov.pl)

These conditions affect the state's ability to eliminate military threats, the essence of which is the use or threat of force against a given state by other entities. These include direct and indirect manifestations of the use (or threats to use) if the armed forces, for example:

- Demonstration of strength
- Military blackmail
- Provocation and military diversion
- Border incident
- An armed border clash
- Armed assault by informal groups
- Any form of armed conflict

The discussed conditions are influenced by social and territorial conflicts, development disproportions (lack or excess of raw materials, willingness to implement one's own economic policy), politics and its implementation, and military potential.

VI. SUMMARY

For Poland in the 21st century, national security is the overriding, existential need and national value, as well as the priority goal of the Polish state's activity to ensure the survival of national heritage and values and to create favourable conditions for the development of the present and future generations of Poles and European community (Jakubczak, Marczak, 2011, 5–6). Historical, geopolitical, political and military conditions of security indicate the directions and needs

of developing Poland's defence potential, economic and industrial development, and strong governments. Only a Poland that is a strong and pursues a consistent domestic and foreign policy will count on the international arena.

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