

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Environmental security within the context of globalization.

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Relevance of the research issue: Today there is a growing interdependence among states, which cannot be regarded as independent, autonomous and impermeable entities, such as «billiard balls» moving in a table, bumping against each other—a Westphalian characteristic—but rather as interdependent and interconnected actors in the international system, forced to work together on the basis of collective efforts and energies, something illustrated by the cobweb model of world politics. Globalization, population growth, economic and social development, natural resource exploitation and scarcity, climate change and urbanization are external drivers in the world today. In the Anthropocene, an era marked by the central role played by humankind in geology and ecology, global sustainability appears as a civilizational imperative.

In this changing world, environmental issues are now framed in the security concept, because traditional notions of security, focused on military security, lack relevance in a world of transnational phenomena capable of affecting a wide variety of human referent objects. Environmental security extends the concept of security by considering risks posed by environmental change to the things that people value. Such risks include climate change, deforestation, soil erosion and desertification, loss of biodiversity, air, land and water pollution, ocean acidification, depletion of the ozone layer, disruption of the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, among others.

Environmental issues cut across a range of topics, namely security and economics, two areas of major importance to the state, and that is why they have come to play an important role in the international political agenda. Water wars, drug wars, diamond wars, oil wars—given the proliferation of resource wars in an era of scarcity—climate change, deforestation or pollution are now widely used expressions in international relations. The environment, in general, and natural resources, in particular, are deeply linked with security, which is one of the most controversial concepts of international politics.

The purpose of the work is to situate the place of international political aspects of environmental security in the system of contemporary international threats.

Research objectives:

- identify the interdependence of globalization and the evolution of the nature of environmental threats;
- systematize the main definitions and research approaches to the study of the category of environmental security;
- identify the political component of the major global environmental problems of our time;
- reveal the features of environmental policy of the world's leading state actors (the US, EU, China and Russia).

Scientific novelty:

- It has been proven that environmental security has not yet been established as an integral part of global security because of the contradiction between the objective processes of globalization and the dominance of the principles of national interest among international actors whose actions are still subject to the needs of their internal development;
- Differences in approaches to environmental safety of countries with developed, developing and transitional economies were identified by considering

the natural, scientific, social and political components of the global environmental security problem.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 100-reference bibliography (37 of which are in foreign languages) and the 3 Appendixes. The total volume is 104 pages.

Summary: Environmental protection, in other words, environmental security, covers food security, energy security, economic security and the access to fundamental natural resources, which leads us immediately to the concept of human security and reflects the fact that the environment is a multidimensional phenomenon. Human security suggests security should also focus on individuals and not only on state-centric threats and national defense, and on the analysis of processes susceptible to undermine security, such as poverty, malnutrition, health, human rights, justice and access to goods and services. Violence derived from environmental problems involves exploitation, discrimination, unequal social and economic structures, problems that create an atmosphere of political, cultural or religious violence.

So, the threats of resource scarcity, global financial instability, inequality within and between countries, and environmental degradation jeopardize global security, a fact which shows us that the business-as-usual will be impossible to maintain. Changes in socio-economic, demographic and technological dynamics have increased the demand for a wide range of goods and services, which require a large amount of natural resources. It seems fair to say that a new global order is emerging, one that is deeply associated with the environment. Huge variations in water and food availability and growing competition over short and longer time-period objectives, as well as local and regional goals associated with water management and food production and use, will characterize the new world order.

By this point of view, one can think of environmental insecurity as something associated with social injustice and inequality, which makes one think about the enhanced inequalities of globalization and, more specifically, of the

overall economic policy, something that reveals globalization is indeed a «double-edged sword». This is an example of how hybrid the international system of the twenty-first century is, since the globalization is responsible for a variety of problems and challenges. However, it can be seen as a tool to promote cooperation and solve a number of social problems (including environmental ones) around the world, hence prompting a concerted international system.