Criminology

Subject:

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Paper :   **Internal Security Management**

Module : **Defining Internal Security**

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DESCRIPTION OF MODULE

Items	Description of Module
Subject Name	Criminology
Paper Name	Internal Security Management
Module Name/Title	Defining Internal Security
Module Id	
Objectives	Learning Outcome: 1. Comprehend the concept of internal security and how it varies from one country to the other. 2. Identify about its dictionary definition and how is it explained by international conventions. 3. Recognize various components of internal security. 4. Know about the internal security meaning and the situation in the international arena, especially

	in France, UK, and the United States of America.
Prerequisites	Rule of law, democracy, terrorism, international terrorist events
Key words	Insurgency, financial strain, cyber security, Patriot act

Defining Internal security

1 Introduction

An important component of governance is upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and security of its people. If a country fails in this endeavor, it loses its claim to be called a nation and becomes prone to disintegration and turmoil. There may be many reasons which could lead to such a situation including political unrest, economic instability, social breakdown, or violence along ethnic lines. Many times the forces leading these attempts are within a country, however, there may be external powers who intend to exploit the local turmoil and may foster violence or other forms of instability within the host country. All these form a part of the internal security situation of a country.

There are various elucidations of the concept of internal security and it may mean different things to different people. We shall look at various characterizations of internal security including dictionary definitions and those proposed by various international conventions. For instance, the *Committee on Centre–State Relations*, Government of India has defined internal security as:

"Security against threats faced by a country within its national borders, either caused by inner political turmoil, or provoked, prompted or proxied by an enemy country, perpetrated even by such groups that use a failed, failing or weak state, causing insurgency, terrorism or any other subversive acts that target innocent citizens, cause animosity between and amongst groups of citizens and communities intended to cause or causing violence, destroy or attempt to destroy public and private establishment".

Thus internal security refers to the ability of a state to secure to its citizens peaceful and harmonious existence and safety of their life and property. Threats to internal security are many and they are different at various times and in different countries. There is no unity regarding the dimensions of internal security as well. A number of components are included in it by most observers. We shall also look at these components of internal security.

2   Definitions of Internal security

The nature of internal security can be understood as a wide and comprehensive concept which involves multiple dimensions which have a direct impact on the lives, safety, and well-being of the citizens of a country. These dimensions may include large scale violence, terrorism, insurgency, financial strains and also natural and man-made disasters such as forest fires, earthquakes, floods and storms.

To manage the internal security of a State is the responsibility of that State, but it cannot be dealt with by that State acting alone. Many threats to security, such as cyber-security or cross border terrorism—are global in nature, or often involve other countries. These kinds of threats have to be dealt with in conjunction with concerned countries.

Sometimes other terms are used to refer to the concept of internal security, for instance, low intensity conflict, national security, or operations other than war. There seems to be no clear definition of internal security in the law books. Article 1(2) of Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions, uses the expression "situations of internal disturbances and tensions" but does not provide a clear definition. It states that the reference is to "riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence and other acts of a similar nature".

A variety of definitions provide an indication of the many usages of the term internal security. The concept still remains unclear, having originated from simpler definitions which initially stressed the freedom from military threat and political compulsion. However, later it seems to have included other forms of non-military security also such as environmental or financial situations.

Let us look at a dictionary definition. The Macmillan Dictionary (online version), defines internal security as "the protection or the safety of a country's secrets and its citizens" emphasizing the overall security of a nation and a nation state (Macmillan). The National Defence College of India defines national security while talking about the elements of national power. It states that "National security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might (Paleri, 2008).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the first session of the 1971 Conference of Government Experts in Genevahas talked about internal security. It says that internal disturbances are situations in which there is no international armed conflict, but there is an internal struggle, characterized by a certain importance or period and which has some element of violence. This condition can be created where there is a revolt against the state.It can also be created when there is a struggle between some organized groups and the authorities in power. In these situations, there may not be an open hostility but the state may have to array extensive police, or even armed forces to quell those disturbances.

Charles Maier, a history professor at Harvard University, defined national security by referring to the concept of national power: "National security... is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and wellbeing" (Romm, 1993).

Internal security therefore connotes a multitude of ideas and relates to the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its border.

3   Dimensions of Internal Security

In view of these definitions, it may be practicable to list the various dimensions of internal security as armed rebellions, political security, economic security, environmental security and cyber security. Let us look at these dimensions on by one.

3.1 Armed rebellions

Many countries have faced the threat of armed rebellions by sections of local populations. These are typically low intensity warfare and frequently the rebels use guerilla warfare tactics. For instance, in Columbia, The Revolutionary Armed Forces-Peoples' Army (FARC) have raised a sustained armed campaign against the government. The group has used terrorism and military tactics to fight Columbian security forces. Similarly, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMNL) in El Salvador, and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua followed the Maoist ideology and sought to fight the government forces with weapons. The Zapatista uprising in Mexico was also along similar lines.

3.2 Political security

The political aspect of security is an important part of internal security. Political security is closely connected to the ruling class whether it is a democracy or any other form of government. There may be large scale unrest if the policies of the ruling group are believed to be unfair or prejudicial. In this sense, political security is linked to the societal order. Various groups of political importance such as tribes, extreme left of right wing elements, some religious

organizations, or those allied with a particular race, caste or language within a country may try to threaten the political security. Besides the groups operating inside a country, there may be threats to internal security from other nation states or groups of nation states such as ASEAN, or NATO. The forces outside the country may pose a threat to the internal security by their actions. The state has to deal with each of them with an appropriate response which may range from negotiations, diplomacy or low intensity warfare.

Video link for NATO: https://youtu.be/4gCbS0FFqqQ

3.3 Economic security

The paradigm of economic security has changed over the years. While earlier the capture of nations by invaders would give them new resources and control over trade routes, today's economy is characterized more by interdependence of world economies.

Historically, conquest of nations has made conquerors rich through loot, access to new resources and enlarged trade by controlling a conquered nations' economy. Today's complex system of international trade ischaracterized by multi-national agreements and mutual inter-dependence. Economic security today forms an important part of national security. The creation and protection of jobs which provide sustenance to people and fuel to the nation's economic progress vehicle are vital to internal security. In this regard, the developing world is still struggling to provide basic services to its citizens. Third world countries are less secure due to lack of employment for their citizens. For instance, Brazil's economy suffered a major recession which was linked to political crisis in the first half of 2016.

3.4 Environmental security

Environmental security deals with environmental issues which affect the internal security of a country. There could be global environmental problems such as climate change, or deforestation.

Climate change and other environments may affect livelihoods of people. For instance, there was a dispute between Chile and Peru about their fish populations. Fisheries are an instance of a resource that cannot be confined within borders of one country. A conflict before the International Court of Justice between the two countries about maritime borders and their associated fisheries is a case related to environmental security.

Environmental or resource problems could also threaten a nation's security. Such disagreements could range from sharp tension or total conflict. For instance, disputes over water scarcity in the Middle East could be an example. Similarly, illegal immigration into the United States may be caused partly by the failure of agriculture in the neighbouring country of Mexico. The civil war and the consequent genocide in the African country Rwanda, triggered in part by the rise in population and decreasing availability of farmland, is an example of the extremity of consequencewhich is due to the issues of environmental security.

3.5 Cyber-security

Recently, cybersecurity began to be viewed as a pressing national security issue. Electronic information systems are vital for maintaining a national security of any state. Possible unauthorized access to the critical governmental infrastructures by state and non-state entities can create a serious threat and have a negative impact on political, economic and military security of a given nation.

The United States initiated the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI) in 2008. The effort was aimed atrecognizing existing and emerging cybersecurity threats and finding the weaknesses in the vast cyber network used by the country (Harrop & Matteson, 2015).President Obama issued a declaration that the "cyber threat is one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation" and that "America's economic prosperity in the 21st century will depend on cybersecurity.

Video on US cyber security concerns: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIIY9AQSqbY

4 International Perspective on Internal Security

Countries have varying perspectives on internal security. This is to be expected because each country has its own set of circumstances which are unique to its geo-political situation. We will examine the concerns of internal security for three countries in this regard- United States, United Kingdom, and France.

4.1 United States

The phrase "national security" is more frequently used in the US in place of internal security. This terminology has been used since as early as the Constitutional Convention. The Americans believed that civilian control of the military is required and consequently army was put subordinate to the civil government.

The government structure handling national security issues has continually evolved in the US. The present set up has its origins in July, 1947, when U.S. President Harry S. Truman enacted the National Security Act (NSA) of 1947. This Act created several institutions which were responsible for the administration of national security related issues. One of the most important once was the National Military Establishment (NME) which was later called the Department of Defense. The NSA also created the National Security Council whose foremostpurpose was to synchronize and bring together various state actors associated with national security. The Central Intelligence Agency also has its beginnings associated with this Act.

The next pattern shift in administration happened after September, 2011, when the first major terrorist strike happened in the US. The Patriot Act was passed. There emerged in the USanargument about the restriction of individual rights and freedoms on one hand and the fight for national security on the other. For instance, new laws proposed that the police did not require any warrant to search or conduct surveillance.There was substantial easing of warrant requirements for various purposes including intelligence surveillance. This was looked upon by many individuals as an interference in the private space of people. Processes were filed in various courts and ultimately this question was considered by the Supreme Court of USA. The

Court, in a significant judgment in August 2008, ruled that the new provisions were in congruence with the constitution and their validity was upheld. Specifically, the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review (FISCR) consideration of this question strengthened the constitutional validity of warrantless national-security surveillance (Kerr, 2014).

The United States uses numerousways and methods to attain the objectives of national security. One of these is the use of diplomacy to achieve friendly relations with its friends. The US also creates pressure groups using which it can isolate its enemy countries.The US has implemented several plans which relate to executing civil defense and measures for emergency preparedness. Infrastructure has been created which deals with any kind of emergency, like electricity failure, earthquakes, tsunamis or hurricanes.There is also a highly developed system of intelligence services which can deal with threats and espionage.

4.2 UK

The mechanism for handling internal security in the UK consists of four branches; international counter-terrorism, National Security Advice Centre (counter proliferation and counter espionage), Irish and domestic counter-terrorism and technical and surveillance operations.

The Security Service handles all these dimensions and is controlled by the Home Secretary within who is part of the British Cabinet. The service is led by a Director General who belongs to the British Civil Service. The Director General is supported by an internal security organisation, secretariat, legal advisory branch and information services branch. The British

system provides for legislative as well as judicial oversight in the operations of the internal security apparatus. The legislative oversight is provided by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Members of Parliament, who are directly appointed by the Prime Minister. Judicial oversight of the service's conduct is provided by a body specially constituted for the purpose by the name of Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998, and various other items of legislation provide a comprehensive framework for the operation of the service. Adequate safeguards are provided in the operations part. For instance, information held by the service is exempted from revelation under section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A significant effort of the British government's internal security administration was directed at controlling the problems relating to Northern Ireland and its constitutional status. The United Kingdom consists of four provinces or regions, namely England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Unionist and mostly Protestant majority want to remain with the United Kingdom. However, nationalist the minority group consisting of Catholics wants to become part of the Republic of Ireland. The Irish Republican Army engaged in an armed struggle against the British for a long time to gain independence for Northern Ireland. Measures were taken against members of IRA such as the introduction of internment without trial in 1971. The IRA publicly announced an end to its armed campaign in July 2005 and asked its members to give up arms and pursue political programs (Trumbore, 2016).

Video on Northern Ireland conflict: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kR11vn41XU

4.3 France

France faces a number of internal security threats. One of the causes of these threats is the divide between immigrants and nonimmigrants. Immigrants as a community were found to be more economically disadvantaged as compared to the non-immigrants. A report by National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), the French national statistical agency, conducted a study in which it was found that in the unemployment rate for immigrants in France was 17.3%, whereas for non-immigrants it was 9.7% in 2013. Thus the immigrants face uncertainty and some of them have taken to arms. Some of the terrorist activities in France have been linked to these circumstances prevailing in FranceMattelart & Hargreaves (2014).

France has set up the **General Directorate for Internal Security** (French: *Direction générale de la sécurité intérieure*, **DGSI**) which is the country's intelligence agency. DGSI performs many functions including counter-espionage, counter-terrorism, countering cybercrime and surveillance of potentially threatening groups, organizations, and social phenomena. The DGSI also gathers information about subversive activities and coordinates efforts to tackle them with help of various state organs.

France also takes part in the European security initiatives and coordinates efforts with its neighbours (Kaunert, 2011). For instance, in August 2016, France and Germany announced a Franco German initiative under which three priority areas were identified. The first was to strengthen the controls at international borders. This would include giving equipment, technology and training to border guards. The second was to share important information between the two countries more effectively. A new project was emphasized which would allow criminal records to be automatically transmitted between police forces of six member states of Europe – Finland, Spain, Hungary, Ireland, France and Germany. This would be extended to other countries in Europe.The third effort was identified to tackle the issue of encryption. This is considered important because information networks of terrorist and subversive groups often use encrypted information and it is not easy to decode the messages. France would collaborate with Germany and other partners to make use of latest technology to disrupt these networks.

5   Summary

In this module we first looked at the definitions of internal security. Most definitions emphasized internal disturbances and large scale violence by sections of local populations as features of internal security problems. However, threats to internal security may also emerge from across the borders. Internal security has many dimensions includingarmed rebellions, political security, economic security, environmental security and cyber security. Various countries of the world not only use other terms for internal security like national security but also have various meanings attached to the term. We then had a look at the internal security situations in the United states of America, United Kingdom and France. These countries have different administrative structure and have unique threats to their own internal security scenarios.

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