

## The Place of Social Security in The System of National Security

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DOI : <https://doi.org/10.61796/ejlhss.v2i3.1244>



### Sections Info

#### Article history:

Submitted: February 24, 2025

Final Revised: March 03, 2025

Accepted: March 07, 2025

Published: March 11, 2025

#### Keywords:

National security

Social security

Interest

Threat

Potential risk

Sociological research

Social structures

Empirical data

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study examines social security as an integral component of national security, analyzing the interconnections between individual, societal, and state interests in ensuring social stability. **Method:** The research employs a systematic approach, integrating sociological analysis to assess contemporary threats emerging within societal transformations. A qualitative methodology is used to evaluate policy frameworks and theoretical perspectives on social security. **Results:** The findings reveal that social security threats arise from economic instability, demographic shifts, and geopolitical tensions, necessitating comprehensive policy responses. The study identifies key vulnerabilities and proposes strategic measures to mitigate risks and enhance resilience. **Novelty:** Unlike previous studies that treat social security in isolation, this research provides a holistic perspective, positioning social security within the broader framework of national security. It highlights the evolving nature of threats in the modern socio-political landscape and underscores the need for adaptive strategies to safeguard social stability in dynamic environments.

## INTRODUCTION

When considering the social security system, given its complexity, it is advisable to identify and thoroughly examine its key elements. In this context, the concepts of interests and threats play a central role, serving as starting points in the study of social security [1].

### Literature Review

Before revealing the essence of the concept of "interests," it is necessary to first address the concepts of "needs" and "goods," as they are closely interconnected.

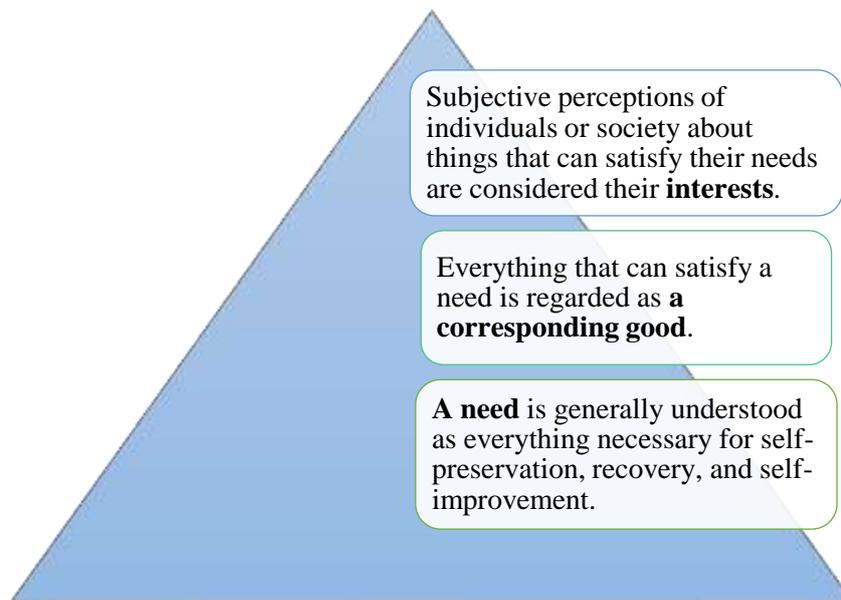
A need is generally understood as everything necessary for self-preservation, self-restoration, and self-improvement. A need simultaneously serves as both a goal and a means for the life activity of an individual, society, and the state. It is also a criterion for measuring the results of the production and distribution of material goods. Basic individual needs for food, clothing, and shelter are crucial for security, as their non-fulfillment can lead to the termination of life. Thus, the security of an individual, society, and the state is achieved through the satisfaction of needs for self-preservation, self-restoration, and self-development [2].

Everything that can satisfy a need is considered a corresponding good. Values can be personal, group-based, or national. They not only serve as a means of meeting needs but also act as a standard for the use of common goods without violating the rights of others. Therefore, goods form not only the conditions for the activity of individuals but

also establish normative, rational boundaries for behavior and the functioning of society [3].

## RESEARCH METHOD

The subjective perceptions of individuals or society regarding the things that can satisfy their needs can be considered their interests. The subjectivity of interests is generally explained by their variability, their highly personal nature, and their attachment to a specific subject, as shown in figure 1. Interests always belong to someone and are beneficial only to specific individuals, society, or the state.

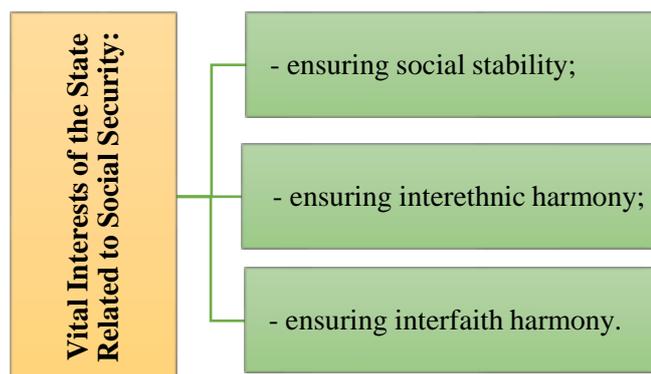


**Figure 1.** Concepts of interests, needs and goods

Based on this, the interests of individuals, society, and the state differ. Their most important needs are considered vital interests. For example, the vital interests of the state include: territorial integrity, birth rate levels, national self-identification of the people, economic and social well-being, mental and physical health of citizens, their rights, freedoms, and responsibilities, as well as the creation of decent living conditions for future generations [4].

In scientific sources devoted to social security, the level of social security for individuals, society, and the state is also reflected through the extent of coverage of their vital interests in this area, in particular:

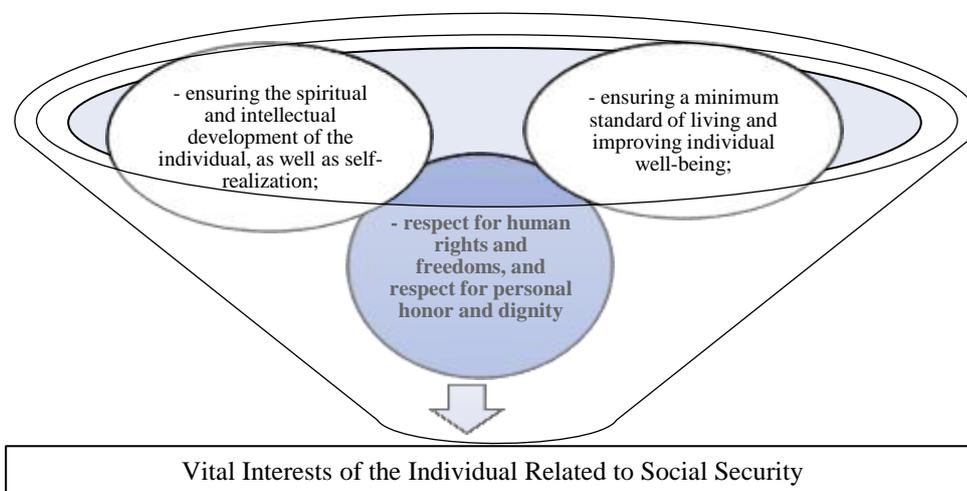
1. Vital interests related to ensuring the social security of the state include the following, see Figure 2:
  - a. Ensuring social, interethnic, and interfaith harmony;
  - b. Ensuring social stability.



**Figure 2.** Vital interests of the state related to social security

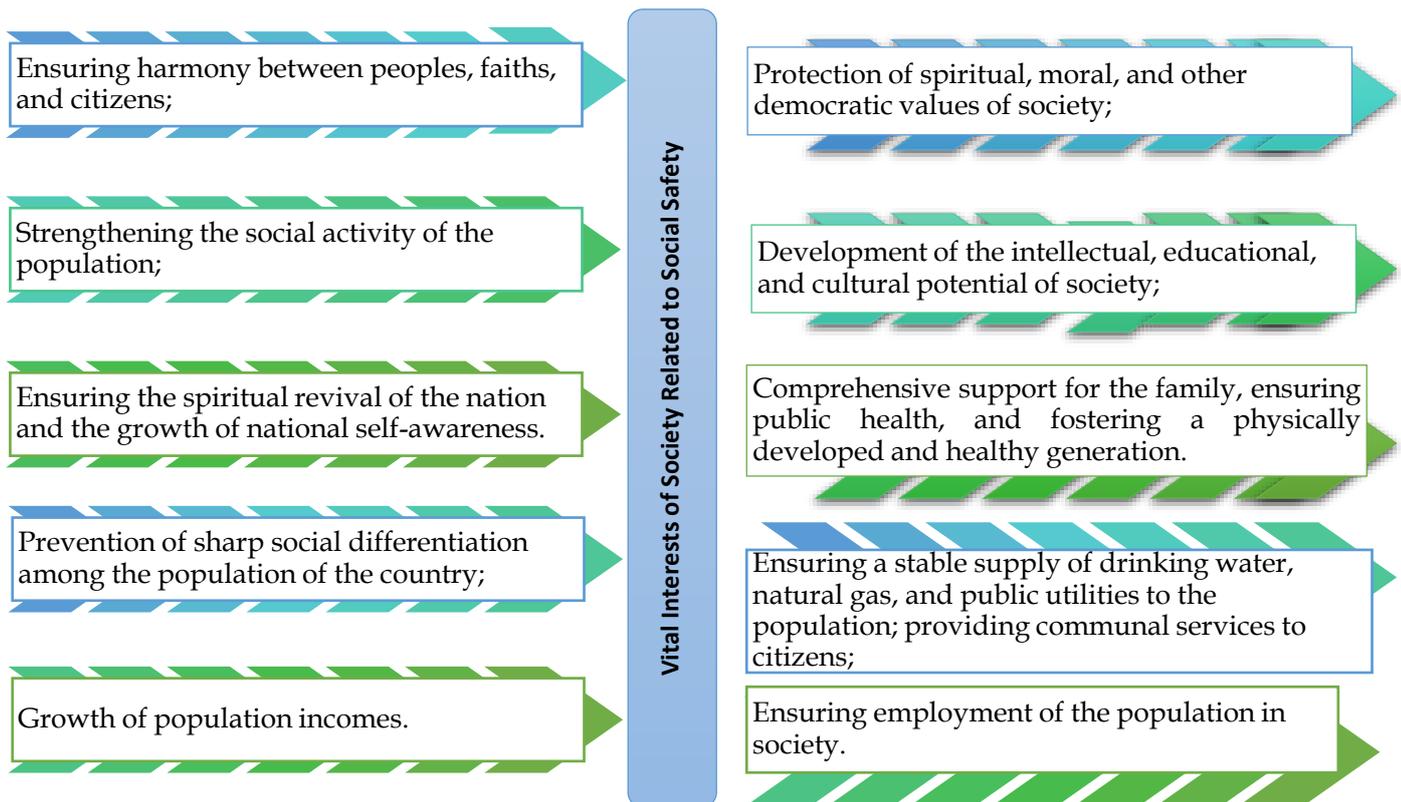
2. Vital interests of society related to ensuring social security include the following, see Figure 3:
  - a. Ensuring interethnic, interfaith, and civil harmony;
  - b. Increasing the social activity of the population;
  - c. Ensuring the spiritual revival of the nation and the growth of national self-awareness;
  - d. Protecting the spiritual, moral, and other democratic values of society;
  - e. Developing the intellectual, educational, and cultural potential of society;

Comprehensive support for the family as the foundation of society, ensuring public health, and fostering a physically developed and healthy generation.
3. Vital Interests of the Individual Related to Ensuring Social Security (Figure 4):
  - a. Respect for human rights and freedoms, and respect for personal honor and dignity;
  - b. Ensuring the spiritual and intellectual development of the individual, as well as self-realization;
  - c. Ensuring a minimum standard of living and improving individual well-being.



**Figure 3.** Vital interests of the individual related to social security

In turn, the material and spiritual needs of individuals, society, and the state shape social interests, as shown in figure 4. These include ensuring qualified medical care, creating a well-developed education system, ensuring population employment, strengthening the social protection system within the country's social policy, creating decent conditions for societal development, and ensuring the sustainable development of the state [5]. Combining these concepts, it should be noted that interests in the field of social security are primarily closely related to ensuring the independence of the social sphere, achieving its stability and resilience, and creating conditions for its future development [6].



**Figure 4.** Vital interests of society related to social security

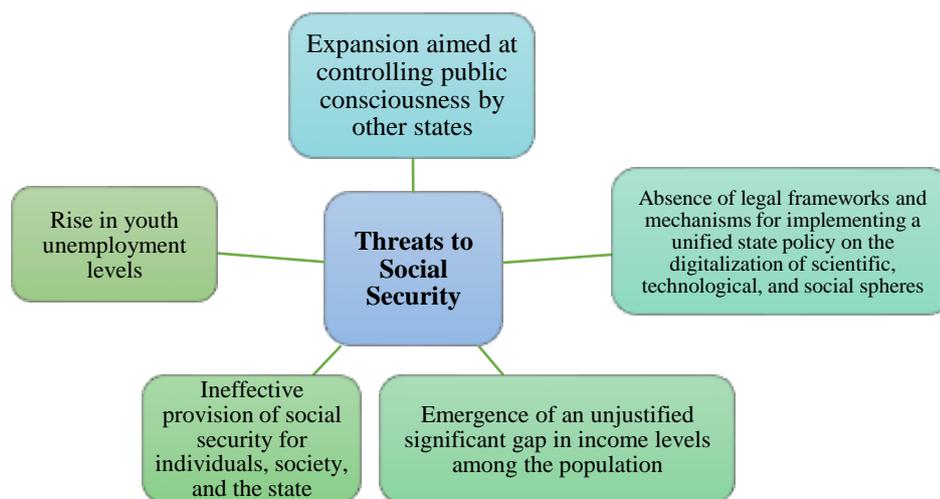
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Results*

When analyzing this concept, it is first necessary to define what constitutes a threat, as well as to determine the conditions and factors (a combination of factors and conditions) that make the system vulnerable to threats. Naturally, the first step is to understand what needs protection, and then to identify which vulnerabilities hinder effective protection. Failure to distinguish between these concepts may lead to the erroneous identification of vulnerability as a threat.

Differentiating these categories, as well as interpreting social security through the concept of stability, makes it easier to understand the nature of a threat. Factors that undermine social stability are internal and external shocks, see figure 5. This, in turn, allows for a clearer definition of internal and external threats. At the same time, a question

arises: should a threat in the context of social security be viewed as a threat to the stability of the social system, or as a threat to national security of a social nature? [7] These groups of threats intersect but do not always coincide. On the one hand, threats to the social system may not pose a danger to national security (e.g., minor disruptions in the education sector may negatively impact the social sphere but do not lower the level of national security) [8]. On the other hand, certain situations may have critical consequences for national security without affecting the social system (e.g., an increase in passenger transportation on a single railway line may be socially welcomed, but a reduction in freight (transit) transportation on the same line could present an economic threat) [9].



**Figure 5.** Threats to social security

- THREATS TO SOCIAL SECURITY IN MODERN SOCIETIES:**
1. Increasing social differentiation and widening gap between poor and wealthy segments of the population;
  2. Growing social and economic disparities between the capital and regions, especially between central and remote areas;
  3. High financial costs of obtaining university education that do not correspond to the income levels of the population;
  4. Mismatch between the needs and interests of the younger generation and older people (social classification of generations X-Y-Z);
  5. Unresolved issues related to wage payments, pensions, and social benefits to the population;
  6. Ineffectiveness of adopted decisions;
  7. Low-quality education and healthcare services, along with the spread of corruption in these areas;
  8. Increase in poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and exceeding acceptable limits of migration mobility;
  9. Stability of the shadow economy as a means of securing income for the population during reforms;
  10. Declining public health due to urbanization processes, social and economic stratification, environmental degradation, and instability of family values;
  11. Risk of losing social prospects, especially among the youth;
  12. Mismatch between social infrastructure and the needs of the population, as well as modern standards;
  13. Strengthening of bureaucratic mechanisms that do not align with modern management methods, along with the growth of localism, clan-based relationships, personal connections, and favoritism.

**Figure 6.** Modern transformation of threats to social security

### Discussion

Discussions about recognizing this group of factors as threats, their consolidation, or the identification of those that equally affect both sides have not yet led to a final decision in professional circles. However, the experience of structures engaged in practical activities in the field of social security indicates the necessity of studying all factors that hinder the realization of interests in this area. That is, those that create threats to ensuring the independence and stability of the social system, as well as to creating conditions for its further development.

Threats can arise both as a result of conscious or unconscious actions of individuals, government authorities, administrative bodies, and other segments of the social sphere, as well as due to natural processes. The sources of threats can emerge from both the internal and external environments of the social system due to the negative development of economic, social, political, and other processes [10].

In the context of the transformation processes in modern society, threats to social security are taking on new forms, see Figure 6 [11].

The essence of the concept of "threat" is further explained in detail. To do this, it is necessary to reveal the content of the objects to which the threat is directed. It is precisely these objects of threat that are considered the objects of social security.

Threats to social security concern both the objects of the social sphere, see Figure 7 and objects related to other areas, in particular, the military, economic, political, informational, environmental, and other fields [12].



Figure 7. Objects of social security

There are two approaches to defining the objects of social security. The first approach suggests that the object of social security should be the social system functioning within the entities of political decision-making. In the second approach, the main structural elements of

the social sphere (education, healthcare, religion, interethnic relations, demography, migration, etc.) are considered as objects of social security

From a practical point of view, it is advisable to integrate both approaches by including all spheres (subsystems) of the social system as objects of social security. Based on the analysis of the above-mentioned elements of social security, the social sphere of national security as a system can be interpreted as follows, see Figure 8.

The subject of social security covers the following aspects:

1. Main characteristics of social security spheres;
2. Negative trends and threats in key areas of social security;
3. Causes, sources, nature, and intensity of the impact of threatening factors;
4. Possible consequences of these factors' impact on social security;
5. Measures to reduce or eliminate the negative impact of these factors.

In some countries, due to the relevance of threats, certain areas of social security have become independent elements of national security. For example, in Russia and a number of European Union countries, demography is considered an independent type of security [13].

In global practice, the following four institutional forms of the social security system are common [14], [15]:

1. State social assistance to disabled people, temporarily unemployed, or low-income segments of the population. The financial sources of this social protection system are formed from the funds of the central (republican), regional (oblast), and local (city/district) budgets received through the general tax system. The peculiarity of this system is that the state provides the minimum income necessary for life to socially vulnerable groups of the population: disabled people, pensioners, and citizens who do not have social insurance;
2. The system of compulsory social insurance against loss of working capacity (illness, accident, old age) and unemployment. Financing is carried out through insurance contributions paid by employers and employees (in some cases - by the state) based on mandatory social insurance criteria. The peculiarity of the social insurance system is as follows: the amount of payments depends on the amount of insurance contributions, and payments are made from the total fund of funds formed from all insured persons;
3. Voluntary individual (or collective) insurance of employees against various unfavorable situations. The financial sources of this system are formed from the insurance contributions of employees (sometimes - organizations) within the framework of insurance mechanisms. The peculiarity of this system lies in the existence of an insurance contract and the personal responsibility of citizens;
4. Corporate systems of social protection of employees organized by employers (enterprises, institutions, organizations). This system includes payment for medical and healthcare services, housing, transport, education, and cultural services, as well as corporate pension payments. The financial sources of this

system are formed from the funds of the enterprise.

The concept of social security is widely used in international legal documents, therefore it is interpreted differently in legal, social, and political spheres. In turn, the social security system performs a number of important functions [4]. These include the following:

The preventive function of social security includes organizational, technical, and medical measures that contribute to the protection of citizens' health and the preservation of their work capacity.

The economic function is aimed at providing financial support to citizens in case of temporary or complete loss of health and working capacity, as well as covering the costs associated with treatment and disability.

The rehabilitation (rehabilitation) function is the implementation of medical, professional, and social rehabilitation measures aimed at restoring health and working capacity, as well as adapting socially vulnerable segments of the population to market economy conditions. Institutional function is expressed in ensuring the stable functioning of institutions and mechanisms for social protection of the population. There are other classifications of social security functions that simplify understanding the functional characteristics of this system. For example, S. Yakimchuk identifies three main functions of social security:

*The compensatory function* involves covering the costs of restoring work capacity and treatment.

*The protective function* guarantees material assistance sufficient to meet the basic life needs of a person.

*The function of maintaining balance* is aimed at equal protection of the interests of employees, employers, and the state.

The strategic goals of social policy are as follows [2]:

1. Improving the material well-being and living standards of citizens;
2. Ensuring employment of the population, especially young people, improving the quality of personnel and their competitiveness;
3. Guaranteeing the constitutional rights of citizens in the spheres of labor, free choice of profession, social protection, education, healthcare, culture, and housing;
4. Improvement of the demographic situation, reduction of maternal and child mortality.
5. Modernization of social infrastructure.

Thus, social security is a complex, multifaceted, comprehensive, and systemic concept that can be interpreted in both broad and narrow senses.

In the narrow sense, it is directly related to the concept of "social welfare" and denotes the state's function of providing material support to socially vulnerable segments of society. In the broad sense, social security is considered an integral element of national security, representing a complex system of external and internal relationships between individuals, society, and the state, comprising the following elements [5]:

1. Social self-sufficiency of the state;
2. Stability of the social protection system;
3. The ability of the social protection system to self-govern, develop, and improve;
4. Standard and quality of life;
5. Unemployment rate;
6. Stability of the minimum wage and its alignment with the subsistence minimum;
7. Protection from crime, ensuring public order;
8. Social partnership;
9. Level of social welfare and social insurance;
10. Level of development of the social sphere and others.

The interests of the structural elements of the social system are the object of ensuring social security.

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding :** This study emphasizes the critical role of identifying interests and threats in ensuring social security, demonstrating that effective mechanisms for threat detection, monitoring, and management are essential for maintaining national stability. Social security threats, stemming from economic, demographic, and geopolitical factors, impede the sustainable development of social relations. **Implication :** The findings suggest that policymakers must adopt a multidimensional approach to social security, integrating sociological insights with national security strategies to enhance resilience and societal well-being. Strengthening institutional frameworks and promoting proactive governance are crucial for mitigating risks. **Limitation :** The study primarily focuses on theoretical and policy-oriented aspects of social security, lacking empirical data to validate specific risk management strategies. Additionally, regional variations in social security challenges are not comprehensively addressed. **Future Research :** Further studies should incorporate empirical case studies to assess the effectiveness of existing social security policies and explore innovative governance models. Comparative analyses across different national contexts would provide deeper insights into best practices for integrating social security into broader national security frameworks.

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