

**مركز المنبر**  
للدراسات والتنمية المستدامة  
ALMANBAR CENTER FOR STUDIES  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## Security in contemporary political conflicts

Research and Translation Department



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Al-Manbar Center for Studies and Sustainable Development is an independent Center based in Baghdad. Our main vision is to provide a credible perspective on public and foreign policy issues that primarily concern Iraq and the broader Middle East region. We also address other relevant topics. Our Center is dedicated to conducting independent analysis and finding practical solutions to political, economic, social, and cultural issues.

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## Security in contemporary political conflicts

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Achieving security is at the forefront for decision-making officials and policymakers across many countries, as security is one of the main objectives of public policy and a foundation for the stability of societies and the achievement of wide-ranging development.

The relationship between security and politics is characterized by mutual interaction, with security often a natural consequence of the effectiveness of domestic and foreign policies.

For example, when a government adopts active economic policies and seeks social justice through a fair distribution of national wealth, it contributes to strengthening stability and societal security. At the same time, governments should adopt effective security and defense measures to protect the state and citizens from internal and external threats.

In 1994, the UNDP Human Development developed new dimensions of "human security" within the United Nations system through the New Dimensions of Human Security report. The report highlighted four characteristics of human security: universal, people-centered, interdependent and early prevention. The UN report also identified seven interrelated elements of security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, societal and political<sup>1</sup>. This interdependence also enhances the sense of security among national public opinion.

In this context, it should be noted that the sense of security in the current post-modern era goes far beyond the concept of physical security that prevailed in the pre-modern era. In today's world, most contemporary policies, tactics, tools and techniques are made and employed to produce and provide security, as it is a rare gem in public policy.

Strategic policymaking for all actors in the global system focuses on providing and strengthening security. The current regional and global order is also built on security capabilities.

In the turmoil of our modern world, the sense of security has become an expensive and rare commodity for the world's people. This has led actors in the global political system to focus on emotional approaches to security, including the predominance of a sense of security over physical security<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 1994 The UNDP Human Development Report New Dimensions of Human Security coined the term "human security" within the UN system. <https://www.un.org/humansecurity/human-security-milestones-and-history/>

<sup>2</sup> The Russian invasion of Ukraine started on February 24, 2022.

An example of this is Europe's feeling of insecurity after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Despite the relative peace and tranquillity that prevailed in the past few decades in Europe, which was of course marred by bloody ethnic and racist events such as the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a few decades before, World War II, Europe has a dark history of insecurity in the world.

Following World War II, security studies began to rise, gaining legitimacy from the war and the disasters it had caused civilians, which confirmed the importance of this field and the need for it not to be left solely in the hands of generals.

Initially, security studies focused on the dangers of nuclear weapons and issues of deterrence, armament and control, relying on multiple approaches and disciplines such as political theory, international law, and international institutions.

These studies faced major challenges, such as the difficulty of obtaining information that was treated as national secrets with close connections to ministries of defense, which also gave the information a military nature.

Among the most prominent thinkers and writers at this stage were Bill McSweeney, Herz, and others. It can also be said that this period witnessed significant development in the field of security studies, as it moved from the traditional view of security based on the state and military threats, to adopting broader concepts of security that include economic, social, and environmental aspects. Collective security and state cooperation have now become among the main pillars of security studies<sup>3</sup>.

Security studies in this period also focused on strengthening the role of international law and mechanisms for maintaining international peace and security, in line with efforts to build a global collective security system. This in turn was reflected in the research and analytical topics covered by security studies in that period<sup>4</sup>.

The globalization of insecurities can be seen as one of Europe's global capabilities in recent centuries, which is constantly under review and renewal. Now, two decades into the twenty-first century, we are witnessing the formation and emergence of a new wave of perceptions of insecurity and their spread in Europe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the West's inability to end this war or defeat Russia after more than two years, has led to the feeling among the European individual that their governments are incapable and unable to establish security in Europe. This sense of insecurity that has engulfed

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<sup>3</sup> مفهوم الدراسات الأمنية <https://political-encyclopedia.org/dictionary/%D9%85%D9%81%D9%87%D9%88%D9%85%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AA%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9>

<sup>4</sup> Collective Security System [https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/4-unrcca\\_handout\\_collective\\_security\\_system\\_eng\\_2020.pdf](https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/4-unrcca_handout_collective_security_system_eng_2020.pdf)

Europe, with the labels of the threat of world war, nuclear attack, etc., has created intense fear among the European public and plunged a stable Europe into insecurity.

Southwest Asia has seen conflicts and military confrontations spread across the region, including Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, which have also had a global impact. On October 7 last year, Hamas launched attacks inside Israel<sup>5</sup>, followed by Israel's war on Gaza, skirmishes between Iraqi armed groups and US forces<sup>6</sup>, and conflict between Hezbollah in Lebanon and Israel<sup>7</sup>. These repercussions eventually caused the reaction of the United States of America and some European countries<sup>8</sup>, including Britain, in the form of repeated missile attacks on Iraqi, Syrian and Yemeni territories, which led to the creation of a state of insecurity that has cast a shadow on the situation in the region through various means.

What is unfortunate in this regard is that creating insecurity among actors in international politics, especially among the great competitors in the current world order, has become more efficient and effective than creating and strengthening security in our chaotic world.

### **The attempt to drag Iraq into a regional vortex**

In the case of Iraq, it is possible to see efforts to create senses of insecurity amongst Iraqi citizens in conjunction with efforts to pull Iraq into the regional and global vortex, alongside portraying the country as a potential source of chaos and rebellion in the Middle East.

In light of this development, Iraqi policymakers should pay attention to producing and strengthening the sense of security, as well as take measures to maintain and stabilize this sense of security among citizens, so that the sense of insecurity in the political and social sphere in the country disappears and is properly controlled and managed.

To achieve this goal, it is essential that Iraq define its role through close monitoring of opportunities, through the creation of various forms of security and technological cooperation with its partners, as well as the adaptation of national strategies to international initiatives.

Through careful and targeted planning and employing Iraq's natural and human potential, this would lay the foundation for investing national wealth in the areas of sustainable development and enhancing Iraq's role and status at the regional and international levels.

<sup>5</sup> What is Hamas and why is it fighting with Israel in Gaza? <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67039975>

<sup>6</sup> Rocket attack from Iraq targets US base in Syria .<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/22/rocket-attack-from-iraq-targets-us-troops-military-bases-in-syria>

<sup>7</sup> Attacks between Israel, Lebanon's Hezbollah increase fears of uncontrollable escalation . [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/02/29/escalating-violence-between-israel-lebanon-s-hezbollah-increases-fears-of-uncontrollable-escalation\\_6573355\\_4.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/02/29/escalating-violence-between-israel-lebanon-s-hezbollah-increases-fears-of-uncontrollable-escalation_6573355_4.html)

<sup>8</sup> Tensions escalate as U.S. helicopters sink Houthi boats in Red Sea .<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/live-blog/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-gaza-houthis-hezbollah-rcna131737>

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