Human Rights and Human Security : Conceptual Clarifications

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Human Security : Itinerary

- No consensus on the concept and definition of human security
- that the discourse and concept of human security was first introduced by UNDP in its Human Development Report issued in 1994
- In 1999, the Human Security Network was established
- In 2003, the Commission on Human Security published the report entitled "Human Security Now : Protecting and Empowering People"

Human Security : Itinerary

- International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) established by the Canadian Government in September 2000 and co-chaired by Gareth Evans (Australia) and Mohamed Sanoun (Algeria).
- December 2001. The report entitled "The Responsibility to Protect" was published.
- the Commission on Human Security was set up in 2000 under the co-chairpersonship of Sadako Okata and Amartya Sen
- the report entitled Human Security Now was published in 2003

Traditional (national)security

National security is a corporate term covering both national defense and foreign relations. It refers to the protection of a nation from attack or other danger by holding adequate armed forces and guarding state secrets. The term national security encompasses within it economic security, monetary security, energy security, environmental security, military security, political security and security of energy and natural resources. Specifically, national security means a circumstance that exists as a result of a military or defense advantage over any foreign nation or group of nations, or a friendly foreign relations position, or a defense position capable of successfully protesting hostile or destructive action.

Human security-Definition?

UNDP defines human security as "a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silence. Human security is not a concern with weapons – it is a concern with human life and dignity."

Human security-key components

The broad definition is reflected in two concepts of freedom : freedom from fear and freedom from want .

UNDP lists seven categories of threats to human security : economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security

Human security

- Human Security Now emphasizes on the notions of

-freedoms from fear

-from want, and

-articulating the notion of protection and people's empowerment as well as freedom of people to live in dignity.

- It stresses the importance of good governance, human rights, and rule of law

Human security

- Human security focuses on "people" in four aspects namely
- its concern is individual and community rather than state;
- as pointed out earlier "menaces to people's security include threats and conditions that have not been always classified as threats to state security";
- the range of actors expands beyond the state alone;
- achieving human security includes not just protecting people but also empowering people to fend for themselves

Human security-Japan approach

Human security focuses on four priority issues;

- poverty reduction;

- sustainable growth;

- addressing global issues;
- and peace building

Human security-Canada-R2P

- UN Secretary General Kofi Annan(1999)
  " …if humanitarian intervention is, indeed, an unacceptable assault on sovereignty, how should we respond to a Rwanda, to a Srebrenica-to gross and systematic violations of human rights that affect every precepts of our common humanity"

R2P

- The report of ICISS - shifting the paradigm from humanitarian intervention to responsibility to protect and to re-interpreting the concept of state sovereignty in the situation in which human rights and human security is seriously at stake
- Sovereignty is responsibility. Responsibility has dual notions

-external which is to respect sovereignty of other state

-internal which is respecting the dignity and basic rights of all people within a state.

R2P

- The concept of R2P embraces three specific responsibilities, responsibility to prevent, responsibility to react, and responsibility to rebuild.

- Both responsibilities to prevent and to react, as specified in the report, do not rule out the use of force nor international involvement. "… the conflict prevention is not merely a national or local affairs.

- international action must go beyond prevention to reaction, and especially when that reaction necessarily involves **coercive measures, and ultimately the use of armed force**

- The report provides the criteria for intervention by the use of force which is based on just cause, right intention, last resort, proportional means, and, reasonable prospects for success

Human security-Concepts

- Three schools of thoughts of human security.
- The first refers to studies that seek to widen the scope of security beyond military security, to includes among others, political, economics, and ecological concerns". The main trust of this school is to challenge the dominant neo-realist thought that highlights the anarchic international system in which states compete for survival to assure their security.
- The second school "argues against the widening of the security concept and for maintaining the status quo which is to bringing security back within realist and neo-realist school.
- The third school belongs to those analysts who not only widen the scope of security concerns beyond the state and military threats, but also seek in the process to achieve the goal of human emancipation".
  Mely Caballero-Anthony, Revisioning Human Security in Southeast Asia, in Asian Perspective, Vol 28, No.3, 2004, (155-189), p.156.

Human Rights in ASEAN: A Misperception.

- Tommy Koh '[there was no] issue that took up more of our time, [no issue] as controversial and which divided the ASEAN family so deeply as human rights.'

- Three principles of ASEAN
- respect for the independence
- sovereignty equality
- territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN member state

- Three working principles
- non-interference in their national affairs
- and respect for the right of every member state to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion
- Cooperation not confrontation

ASEAN perceptions of human rights

1. ASEAN governments perceive that human rights are not universal- there are differences between international human rights standards and practices in the region. For ASEAN, human rights are shaped by each society's specific history, traditions, cultures and religions. All these elements form the basis for social values

2. one category of rights is prioritized over another. Some ASEAN governments are not comfortable with the concept of the indivisibility of human rights. Many prefer advocating for economic, social and cultural rights rather than political and civil rights.

ASEAN perceptions of human rights

3. Most ASEAN countries are more concern with order and discipline, and more concern with duties than with rights. A citizen has responsibilities towards his or her society. Duties or responsibilities to the state and to other citizens come before the need to respect individual human rights.

4. non-intervention and freedom "from external interference in any form or manifestation in order to preserve their national identities.

ASEANization of Human Security

- COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY". "In building a cohesive, peaceful and resilient political security community, ASEAN subscribes to the principle of comprehensive security, which goes beyond the requirements of traditional security but also takes into account non-traditional aspects vital to regional and national resilience, such as economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions of development. ASEAN is also committed to conflict prevention/confidence building measures, preventive diplomacy, and post conflict peace building"

ASEANization of Human Security

Alfred Gerstl

- comprehensive and human security is seen primarily through "an established frame of reference"neorealist state-centrism and regime legitimacy, enshrined in the ASEAN Way with its emphasis on sovereignty, noninterference, and consensual decision-making in the context of political stability
- ASEAN emphasize the non-political dimensions of human security, e.g. socioeconomic and human development
- The comprehensive security is a state-centric, top down rather than an individual security, bottom up approach

Human security-human rights-Missing links

"the human security approach becomes incompatible with regional security when it challenges certain patterns of resource allocation that favour military security and obsession with defending national frontiers. It becomes objectionable when it threatens power structures that entrench the dominance of a few. Human security is incompatible with regional security when the concerns and priorities of regional civil society are not shared by the political and bureaucratic elites. They are incompatible when regional alliance building of the civil society is threatening the narrow and self-serving interpretation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states. Incompatibility arises when greed, corruption and the threat or use of force characterize national and regional governance"

Cases

- Sombat Somphone
- Rohingyas