The State and its Role for National Security

Dr. Abla XHAFERI

Department of applied social sciences,
Faculty of Law, Political Sciences and International Relations
European University of Tirana, Albania
ablaxhaferri@live.it

Abstract

In this article, the duties, responsibilities and role of the state for national security will be addressed. The purpose of this treatment is to highlight the state as a separate political organization, as well as the main role and obligation it has for national security. The state is distinguished from other political organizations in a society because it is sovereign and exercises absolute and unlimited power. State institutions are public and responsible for making and implementing collective decisions, they exist to fulfill the interests of all members of society. The state includes in its jurisdiction all those who live within its borders. State authority is often based on force. The state exercises power in a certain coherent territory, of unlimited size, but with the condition that it is independent. It has an essential role in national security, the protection of sovereignty and the well-being of its citizens. The state drafts policy and also approves laws that regulate national security issues, which include criminality, corruption, various disasters, climate change, etc. He is responsible for the creation and support of the institutions of this security; for the protection of energy systems, water and sewage systems, roads, bridges, railway lines, protection of communication and information systems; for crisis management, which may include wars, social unrest, natural disasters and epidemics; for identifying threats and risks to national security; for preserving the rights and freedoms of citizens and raising public awareness of the potential risk of security threats and ways to protect

themselves; for inclusion in alliances and cooperation with important international organizations, such as the United Nations, NATO, the European Union etc.

I. Introduction

The existence of the state is very important for society. The order produced by it is essential, because its absence would lead society to chaos, while the opposite would take its breath away.

The main purpose of the state is to serve its citizens and, if the state does not fulfill its obligations towards the citizens, it loses its legitimacy and even endangers its existence. Every state has an obligation to protect the life and integrity of its citizens. The emergence of international human rights law brought great changes in international developments. The state is obliged to ensure equal rights for all its citizens and, if it discriminates against a particular group, practices terror or genocide, it cannot expect obedience from the latter. *(Tomuschat, 1993)*

The term "state", (*"The full use of the term 'state' began in the 17th century, after the publication of Botero's Region di Stato in 1589..."*) *(Filo, 2000, p. 17)* used to mark the legal status of various social groups, over time, in the contemporary era, took on the meaning of public order, to mark the new form of organization of power that was emerging within a territory certain.

The state is understood in three different ways: from an idealist perspective, from a functionalist perspective and from an organizational perspective.

The idealist perspective emphasizes the importance of ideas, values and ideals in the formation and functioning of the state. According to this approach, the state is a social construct based on ethical and moral principles. Idealists believe that the state should promote justice, freedom and welfare of citizens. In this context, the state is not just a mechanism for maintaining order, but a tool for realizing the highest aspirations of society.

The state is seen as an instrument for the realization of justice and individual freedom. The ideal state, according to idealists, is one that promotes universal values and is oriented towards a higher goal, such as the development of citizenship and the achievement of social welfare. This perspective is particularly important in discussions on the legitimacy of state authority and its role in achieving a just society.

Idealism is often associated with philosophical thought, with figures such as Plato and Hegel which have contributed to the formation of this perspective. Hegel in his essay writes: "The bed of the river on which great thought flows, is

idealism" *(Hegel, 2005, p. 14)*. He emphasized the importance of institutions, such as the family, civil society and the state in the realization of freedom.

Hegel saw the state as an expression of freedom and ethics. According to him, individuals realize their freedom only through the community and institutions provided by the state. He understood history as a dialectical process, where every historical period contains within it tensions and contradictions that lead to development and progress. The state is a product of this process.

For Hegel, freedom is not simply the absence of obstacles, but an active process of involvement in social and political life. He saw the state as the guarantor of this kind of freedom. Hegel connected the concept of the state with ethics and spirituality. The state is an expression of the general will and a force that balances individual and collective interests.

Hegel believed that the state represents a high achievement of human civilization. He saw history as an evolutionary process, leading to the formation of advanced political and social institutions.

Hegel emphasized that individuals are related to each other and to the state in a reciprocal relationship. Individuals have duties towards the state, but the state also has responsibilities towards individuals, protecting them and providing opportunities for development. He argued that individual freedom must be integrated with collective freedom through the state. A good state is one that achieves this balance and provides an environment where individuals can develop.

Hegel emphasized that individuals realize their identity through the state. The state creates a context where individuals can find meaning and where they are recognized as part of a wider community. He appreciated that the identity of a state is closely related to its culture and history. For Hegel, the state was a living organism, where individuals are part of a larger structure. This means that individuals are responsible for their contribution to the well-being of the state, while the state is responsible for protecting the rights and freedom of individuals.

Hegel argued that the general will is a fundamental principle for the functioning of the state. The state must reflect the will of the citizens and ensure that general interests are in harmony with individual ones.

Hegel emphasized the importance of various institutions, such as courts and administration, which are necessary for the functioning of the state. He believed that these institutions are the places where individual and collective freedom can be harmonized. The state, according to him, is a means to realize a moral and ethical order in society.

The only shortcoming in Hegel's interpretation is that "he shows an uncritical respect for the state and, identifying the state in ethical terms, Hegel fails to distinguish between institutions that are part of the state and those that are outside the state" *(Heywood, 2002, p. 108)*.

The functionalist perspective focuses on the role and functions that the state performs in society. According to this perspective, the state exists to fulfill the needs of society, such as ensuring order, protection, managing resources and providing public services. Functionalists believe that each institution in society has a specific function that contributes to social stability and cohesion. The state, in this context, is seen as an entity that organizes and coordinates activities to ensure the well-being of citizens.

Functionalism, represented by thinkers such as Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons, sees the state as a system that must maintain social balance and stability. The state performs several key functions, such as: maintaining law and public order; guaranteeing national security through the armed forces; providing public services (education, health, infrastructure, etc.) and ensuring economic stability and development. This approach emphasizes that if one of these functions fails, it can lead to social and political disorder.

The weakness of the functionalist approach of the state is that it tends to connect every institution that maintains order (family, mass media, church and trade unions) with the state. For this reason, the organizational understanding of the state will be embraced, except in cases where a different or opposite position will be clearly stated.

The organizational perspective focuses on the structures and processes that make up the state as an organization. This approach examines how state institutions are organized, how they function and how they interact with each other. It emphasizes the importance of management, public administration and relations within institutions. The state, from this point of view, is an organizational complex that requires efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling its tasks.

This perspective analyzes the structures and processes within state institutions. It focuses on the management and organization of institutions to achieve certain goals.; in the relations between institutions, in the interaction of agencies and departments to ensure efficient governance; in organizational reform, in changes to the state structure to improve efficiency and accountability.

This approach is particularly important in the context of public administration and policy management, where increasing transparency and accountability is essential for building citizen trust. "The virtue of this approach is that it makes it easier to distinguish between the state and civil society" (*Ibid, p. 108*)

Each one of these perspectives has important impacts on the formation of public policies and governance strategies. Idealism can drive movements for social reform and ethical progress, functionalism can help develop policies that improve stability and security, while the organizational perspective can contribute to increasing efficiency and improving services to citizes.

II. The role of the state for national security

The state's role for national security is essential to the protection of sovereignty and the well-being of its citizens. The concept of national security was modernized in the 17th century during the Thirty Years' War in Europe and the Civil War in England *(Holmes, 2015, p. 17)* This concept includes a wide range of measures and actions aimed at protecting against internal and external threats, as well as maintaining political, economic and social stability. Protecting the nation and its people from attacks and other external threats through maintaining the armed forces and protecting state secrets is its top priority *(Ibid, p. 23)*. The obligations and responsibilities of the state in this field are numerous.

Countries with developed democracies and consolidated national security strategy have an action plan on challenges, risks and priorities for the future *(Krasniqi, 2014)*. This strategy requires a broad conception of what constitutes national security, the pursuit of policies and the building of flexible institutions that serve administrations of different time periods and a comprehensive range of national actions *(The White House, 2010, p. 51)*. In its entirety, it includes criminality, corruption, various disasters, sensitivity (*"Climate sensitivity and estimates of its uncertainty are key inputs in the economic models that drive cost-benefit analyses and estimates of the social cost of carbon."*) *(Curry, 2014)* and climate changes, minimizing the possible impacts of these changes, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, balancing the need for security with the preservation of personal freedom. Through a strategic planning and decision-making process, this strategy aims to guide the country in fulfilling its national security priorities *(Republika e Shqipërisë, Strategjia e sigurisë kombëtare 2014)*. The state draws up the national security policy, which aims to identify the threats and risks that may come to a country, especially those related to the protection of the population, the integrity of the territory and the stability of the state's institutions, also defining the countermeasures that should be take public authorities (*Politika e sigurisë kombëtare)* The state also adopts laws that regulate national security issues. These laws serve the protection of state secrets, cyber security, border protection and measures to prevent criminal and terrorist activities, etc.

The state is responsible for establishing and supporting national security institutions such as the army, police, intelligence services and other defense agencies, which ensure the maintenance of peace and order. These institutions are engaged to prevent and manage various threats that may arise from criminal groups, terrorist organizations, or threats from other states.

The protection of critical infrastructure, such as: improvement of energy systems, water supply and sewerage systems, roads, bridges, railway lines, efforts

to stop the destruction of ecosystems, protection of communication systems and natural resources are the responsibility of the state. These resources may be exposed to threats, such as cyber attacks, natural disasters, or sabotage.

Part of the role of the state is the development of a foreign policy that ensures the protection of national interests in the international arena. This aspect includes establishing security alliances with NATO and cooperation with other states to manage potential threats and promote regional and global stability.

The state has an important role in managing security crises, which can include wars, social unrest, natural disasters, and epidemics. This includes creating emergency plans, resources for rescue and renewal after a crisis, using new technologies for monitoring and predicting natural disasters, protecting the environment and natural resources, managing climate migration, creating safe zones , the training of security forces and emergency services, the creation of specialized units for emergencies, as well as the coordination of actions between various state institutions and international organizations, engagement in global initiatives, etc. In some cases, governments and their leaders are faced with events that require a new strategy, such as the case of the COVID-19 epidemic, for which the appropriate experience was also lacking (*Lembovska, Neçev, & Ruf, 2020, p. 13*)

The threats to a state and a nation are many. For this fact, the importance of the strategic concept of the hierarchy of threats has not been properly understood *(Murati, 2016)*. Security as a concept, phenomenon and situation with social risk, which is currently defined and evaluated in the narrow sense, referring to criminality, (especially the violent one); needs to be expanded and standardized institutionally at the national level *(Yzehiraj, 2023)*.

The current tense situation in Europe and beyond, especially after the Russian aggression in Ukraine and the violent annexation of Crimea, the Russian military intervention in the civil war in Syria, and the conflict in the Middle East has created a conceptual and political confusion about the nature, importance and the series of threats facing NATO, the EU and the West, but also the individual member countries of these organizations. Intelligence services are charged with gathering and analyzing information related to threats to national security. This information may include potential activities of terrorist groups, international espionage, or activities of organized criminal groups. Intelligence is vital to preventing threats and ensuring a rapid response in case of emergencies.

An important aspect of national security is the preservation of the rights and freedoms of citizens. The state has the duty to balance security measures with the preservation of the fundamental rights of individuals. This balancing is necessary to prevent abuses and to maintain citizens' trust in security institutions. The state also has a role in raising public awareness of the potential risk of security threats and ways to protect yourself. This may include educational campaigns, training and information on personal safety, information protection and emergency response.

In an increasingly globalized world, national security is closely linked to international security. Therefore, the state has an important role in cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations, NATO and the European Union (EU), to address threats that cross the borders of a state and that require a collective response.

The state has an important role in identifying and managing risks that may threaten national security. This process involves an in-depth analysis of potential threats and the development of strategies to prevent them. For example, preventing radicalization and violent extremism is an important aspect of security policies, which requires community involvement and the use of social intelligence to prevent terrorist acts. Likewise, risk management includes monitoring the possibility of violations of order and security by internal and external actors. For this purpose, the state uses mechanisms such as risk analytics, possible crisis scenarios and programs to increase preparedness in case of emergencies. This also includes planning to manage the consequences of potential crises, such as the economic, social and psychological consequences of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

National security is not an issue that can be handled by a single state alone. International cooperation is necessary to address threats that cross national borders. The state should engage with international organizations such as NATO, the EU and the UN to create security networks and enable collective response to common threats.

Strategic alliances can include information sharing, joint operations, and the development of policies and agreements that address global threats such as international terrorism, organized crime, and cyberwarfare. States also assist each other in matters of cyber security and preventing attacks that could damage critical infrastructure. For example, many states have reached agreements on the sharing of intelligence information about terrorist groups and opportunities to prevent violent acts, which require international cooperation in the areas of law enforcement, border security and the fight against terrorist financing.

One of the greatest national security challenges in the modern era is the cyber threat. Digital technology and networks have radically changed the nature of threats to national security. Cyber-attacks can damage critical infrastructure, can damage the economy, breach citizens' personal data, and cause great social chaos.

The state has the responsibility to develop advanced cyber security strategies, which include protecting information systems, identifying potential attacks and developing measures to respond to them in real time. In this context, international cooperation to create a safe environment for using the Internet is also important. This also includes the help and support of the private sector, which has a large part of the critical infrastructure.

Intelligence services are important for identifying potential threats to national security. They collect information from various sources, including activities

of terrorist groups, foreign espionage activities, and suspicious movements of individuals or groups that may be linked to organized crime. Intelligence is essential for information management and threat prevention. For this reason, the state must invest in the training of intelligence officers and in the development of advanced data collection methods, as well as in maintaining secrecy and protecting against the possibility of exploiting sensitive information by foreign actors.

An important part of national security is the engagement of citizens in maintaining security. Active community participation in helping to identify suspicious activities, cooperation with authorities and support for security policies are important to ensure that citizens have an active role in protecting the state.

This may include awareness campaigns to educate citizens about potential threats, as well as teach them how to respond in emergency situations. In addition, the state can develop platforms for the notification and reporting of suspicious activities, which can contribute to the prevention of potential threats.

Another important aspect is the creation of a security culture where all agencies of the state, including those dealing with defence, intelligence, cyber security and civil defence, work together in a coordinated manner. This requires the development of clear protocols for cooperation, information sharing and response to threats that may be presented from different areas.

Conclusions

From the above description, we come to the conclusion that not every organism or political organization is called a state. The state stands above all institutions, organizations, associations or other social groups of a society. Its institutions are public and have the main goal of fulfilling the interests of citizens and ensuring the implementation of laws, often relying on force. State decisions are binding on all members of society. He exercises his activity within a certain territory, which is stable and controlled by him. In this territory there is a permanent population, whose number is not determined by international laws. The ruling power in this territory and over this population is the government, which can and must make decisions, issue orders and ensure their implementation even through physical coercion. The political power provided through the state is not an end in itself, but the means to implement a certain policy. The state in its real sense, as a political organization that exercises state obligation, has as its essential element power, which is exercised by law, which is inseparable from it. The state has the capacity to enter into relations with other states. A sovereign state is able to establish legal relations with other entities as it sees fit.

The role of the state in ensuring national security is multidimensional and requires constant coordination between domestic institutions and international

partners. This is an ongoing responsibility that includes protecting national interests, preventing threats and managing crises that may endanger the stability and prosperity of the state.

National security is one of the most important functions of the state and its role is always changing due to new technological developments, global challenges and new threats. To ensure the protection of the nation and its citizens, the state must develop and continuously update policies, strategies and mechanisms to manage threats and maintain peace, stability and order.

The role of the state for national insurance requires a continuous commitment to long-term planning, preparation of resources and assistance to the population. The state must play an active role and ensure that its policies and measures support survival and sustainable development in the face of these global challenges.

In a world facing increasingly rapid climate change and an ever-increasing frequency of natural disasters, the role of the state for national insurance is increasingly important. National security is no longer just a military issue, but has expanded to include environmental and climate challenges that require close coordination between public policies, security sectors and international cooperation.

To help address these challenges, the state must commit to improving its capacities for crisis management, invest in sustainable infrastructure, and support international cooperation and the creation of common policies to face climate threats. Only through a strong and coordinated commitment can a sustainable and secure future be ensured for generations to come.

References

Curry, J. (2014, October 9). *The global warming statistical meltdown*. The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved November 3, 2024, from http://online.wsj.com/articles/judith-curry-the-global-warming-statistical-meltdown-1412901060

Filo, Ll. (2000). *Historia e sistemeve të qeverisjes*. Shblu.

Hegel, G. W. F. (2005). *Fenomenologjia e shpirtit*. Shtëpia Botuese IDEART.

Heywood, A. (2002). *Politika*. Shtëpia Botuese DUDAJ.

Holmes, K. R. (2015). *What is national security?* The Heritage Foundation. Retrieved November 3, 2024, from https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/2015IndexOfUSMilitaryStrength_What%20Is%20National%20Security.pdf

Krasniqi, A. (2014, August 22). *(Pa)siguritë e strategjisë së sigurisë*. ShtetiWeb. Retrieved October 12, 2024, from https://shtetiweb.org/2014/08/22/pasigurite-e-strategjise-se-sigurise/

Lembovska, M., Neçev, Z., & Ruf, Xh. (2020, September). *Menaxhimi i krizës si përgjigje ndaj shpërthimit të COVID-19 në Republikën e Maqedonisë së Veriut*. National Democratic Institute (NDI). Retrieved October 12, 2024, from https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/WEB(ALB)Crisis%20Management%20%20Assessment%20(1).pdf

Murati, Sh. (2016, May 2). *Hierarkia e kërcënimeve*. BallkanWeb. Retrieved October 12, 2024, from https://shtetiweb.org/2016/05/02/hierarkia-e-kercenimeve/

ShtetiWeb. (n.d.). *Politika e sigurisë kombëtare*. Retrieved October 13, 2024, from https://shtetiweb.org/politika-e-sigurise-kombetare/

Republika e Shqipërisë. (2014, June). *Strategjia e sigurisë kombëtare*. Retrieved November 2, 2024, from https://shtetiweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/tekstiStrategjiseSigurimit.pdf

Tomuschat, C. (1993). *Modern law of self-determination*. Martinus Nijhoff.

The White House. (2010, May). *National security strategy*. Retrieved November 3, 2024, from https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf

Yzehiraj, B. (2023, July 7). *Siguria publike kërkon politika gjithpërfshirëse. Sot Newspaper*. Retrieved October 12, 2024, from https://sot.com.al/opinion-editorial/siguria-publike-kerkon-politika-gjitheperfshirese-i598757/