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REVIEW PAPER

Economic Aspects of Public Administration and Local Government in the Context of Ensuring National Security

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ABSTRACT

The study attempts to comprehend today's trends in changing the focus of national security toward a deeper consideration of the role of local government in security processes, including economic aspects as core drivers. Geopolitics and geoeconomics implications are analyzed within the context of cities, and the challenge of the necessity and, at the same time threat of decentralization is emphasized. It is proposed to view today's national security as a multilayer system in which economic aspects represent an important landscape.

HIGHLIGHTS

• The article considers today's trends in changing the paradigm of national security and shifting more emphasis towards the local level, the influence of local government on the security landscape, in particular, within the effect of economic aspects.

Keywords: National security, Public Administration, Local government, Geopolitics, Geoeconomics

State management of national security today is the daily provision of the entire arsenal of political, diplomatic, ideological, and other means at the state's disposal for the constant development and improvement of the country's economy (the military economy as its component), increasing its technical and technological level and overall competitiveness, updating and increasing the knowledge intensity of manufactured products, developing human potential in educational processes and current consumption as forms of expanded reproduction of the country's population, the maximum possible consolidation of society and thereby increasing the political, economic, scientific, technical, social, spiritual, and military potential of the country.

Consequently, state management of ensuring national security in modern conditions is, in essence, the management of society as a whole. Non-military methods predominate in it. At the same time, the modern development of civil society is largely associated with determining the place and role of local governments and their relationship with the system of government bodies that ensure public safety.

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Decentralization is the most noticeable element when dealing with a national issue like homeland security (Arivazhagan *et al.* 2023; Avedyan *et al.* 2023). At the same time, there is a clear need to reconsider and investigate some specific aspects of the decentralization process, taking into consideration potential societal reactions to excessive politicization of local government.

Ukrainian researcher Sh. Faradjov notes that the main emphasis in today's conditions, which is clearly confirmed by examples of the practical implementation of national security policy at the territorial level of a separate community, should shift towards the search for an optimal model of interaction between state authorities and local self-government on the way to implementing national security policy with maximum effectiveness of mechanisms and tools for its implementation at the level of a specific region and territory (Faradjov, 2019).

Since September 11, 2001, homeland security has been viewed as something that happens despite the greatest efforts of the federal government to avoid it. Any effort to address preparations in the national capital region or any other metropolitan region must begin with a framework for determining if this perception of the role of local governments is accurate. In truth, this image is incorrect; local governments must do much more than prepare for the job of consequence management. They must also prioritize preventative activities (Fosher, 2020). To date, they have done much too little in this respect.

Meanwhile, today, issues such as dynamism, protecting the economy from internal and external threats, and determining confidence in the economy by identifying national and international political and economic risks are vital requirements of national security. In this context, for a new perspective on international relations, it would be advisable to analyze the elements, structure, and effects of economic security, which is an area of interdisciplinary interaction between the terminology of economics and security. In particular, it is worth noting the close intertwining of geopolitics and geoeconomics observed today (Babic *et al.* 2022; Subra, 2012).

The experience of European countries shows that a well-established mechanism of management and interaction between various levels of public authority, from state to municipal, allows for the stable and progressive development of public administration in the interests of every citizen and society as a whole. An effective management mechanism develops, as a rule, in states with a decentralized system of organizing public power and with developed local self-government, where each level of government is assigned appropriate powers and resources. As a result, local self-government plays an increasingly important role in solving the entire range of socioeconomic and political problems facing the central authorities, helping the state to respond to emerging problems and challenges more quickly.

H. Putro (2020) proposed the notion of "making a prosperous state through national security". The dynamics of such security concerns shift the idea of national security away from state-centered security and toward people-centered security. As a result, security becomes more comprehensive, and security management necessitates coordination across actors and security agencies (Clayton et al. 2023). In this context, national security is defined as a fundamental necessity to defend and safeguard a country's national interests by utilizing political, military, and economic power to cope with challenges both within and outside the country. This viewpoint supports the claim that national security in a democratic democracy often encompasses state security, community security, and human security (Sengoz, 2023).

Thus, the welfare state might be regarded as an expression of human needs for security, peace, and wealth in order to avoid unhappiness. The reason may be regarded as a motivator and aim for humans always to seek new ways to obtain wealth in their life. So, when these aspirations are guaranteed in a country's constitution, the state is obligated to fulfill them. In this setting, the state is developing as a welfare state.

In this environment, clearly, analyzing and investigating the economic aspects of public administration and local governments as components of a unified national security system becomes critical.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main component of the research methodology is the theory of scientific knowledge. When developing



the problem and theoretically substantiating the provisions and conclusions, various research methods were used in combination: analysis and synthesis, formal logical method, expert system modeling method, as well as concrete sociological and political science methods. The elements of World Affairs theory are employed.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Contemporary discourse gives security concepts flexibly and loosely, integrating features and views not present in traditional discourse. Caroline Thomas and Jessica Mathews, for example, view security as including more than just the militaryexternal nexus. According to Thomas and Mathews, security is not limited to the military dimension, as is commonly assumed in discussions about the concept of security but refers to all dimensions that determine the existence of the state (including efforts to strengthen internal security through national development, food availability, health facilities, money and trade, and the development of nuclear weapons) (Byrkovych et al. 2023). Thomas and Mathews may begin to admit the presence of non-military challenges, but they do not totally reject the tradition of viewing the state as the most essential institution. Their contribution is mostly in the area of security, which is no longer restricted to the military dimension. Terms that develop, such as environmental security, food security, energy security, and economic security, imply that a social and political institution may confront dangers in numerous areas of existence (Mathews, 2013).

According to Piotr Glowacki (2022), the first reason in favor of reflecting on the interconnectedness of security and the economy is the onset of a full-scale conflict in Ukraine in 2022. That event increased general awareness of the link between security and the economy. Western powers responded with sanctions aimed at Russia's economic system. On the other side, Moscow utilized energy blackmail to destabilize Western economies. Experts watched economic indicators on par with military actions, recognizing that they may give important information on trends and, perhaps, war resolutions.

According to Glowacki, tensions between the United States and the People's Republic of China are another situation that merits consideration in terms of the interconnectedness of security and the economy (Gaman *et al.* 2022; Bazaluk *et al.* 2023). The rising competition between those two nations is mostly economic; however, political dominance, including control over the international security architecture, is clearly at risk.

Both the Russian-Ukrainian war and the Chinese-American rivalry are certainly not precedential wars in terms of the economic component. The relationship between the economy and politics (including security) is everlasting (Deyneha *et al.* 2016; Gaievska *et al.* 2023). However, the serious conflicts that are taking place right now should serve as an impetus for the academic community to reflect on a more perfect conceptualization of the problem of interdependence between the economy and security, as well as a better understanding of specific risks that may infiltrate the sphere of security from the economic domain.

The economic aspects of Middle Eastern geopolitics are also of great importance for the national security issues of countries directly involved in geopolitical conflicts and stakeholder countries.

Direct foreign investment, while typically helpful to the economy, can pose considerable concerns due to the power that their owners may have via them (Gupta, M. et al. 2021). This is especially relevant to important industries linked with national security. What is crucial to note is that the threat is not limited to ownership tied to foreign powers but also to the scenario in which major firms possess a significant part of a specific industry. This concern also applies to cases of indirect threat, such as when a doubtful foreign player holds a facility in close proximity to important industries, infrastructure, or processe (Gavkalova et al. 2022; Gupta, S.K. et al. 2024). A precaution against such risk might be laws in many countries barring undue concentration of foreign ownership in specific areas of the domestic market, such as the media or energy markets.

Five Eyes alliance countries, in particular, are systematically overhauling the spectrum of sectors available to Chinese investment. A uniform evaluation mechanism for the Five Eyes allies would help to defend the interconnected telecommunications and high-tech industries (Haan, 2023). This was in response to the recent revelations of Chinese influence-peddling within

the Australian political system, which are only one illustration of China's rising influence and readiness to intervene in Western countries. According to Henry Jackson Society research, Chinese investment in national infrastructure is reaching critical levels, and Western states, particularly the five countries involved in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, are responding piecemeal, screening investments in different ways. Several occurrences in recent years have highlighted the need for better coordination among governments, particularly those that share information, and increased understanding of China's investment strategy in the West (Hemmings, 2017).

Meanwhile, any such policy implementation concerns, in particular, the scope of local governments. Local governments are the level of public authority that citizens trust to a greater extent than central authorities, thanks to the constant interaction of citizens and municipal authorities and the involvement of local authorities as the level of government closest to the population in solving pressing problems of the population of municipalities (Kalyayev et al. 2019; Isaieva et al. 2020). Taking into account the "remoteness" of the central level of government from the population and the specifics of the powers of the central authorities, which may not directly affect the lives of citizens (such as defense, industrial development, foreign policy, etc.), the level of involvement of citizens in governance, and consequently, their ability to influence decisions made by the state remains limited, and citizens' trust in the central authorities remains relatively low, which also contributes to the growth of "social dissatisfaction" in society (Khomiuk et al. 2020; Karpa et al. 2021). As a consequence, social dissatisfaction among citizens can cause social tension in society and an increase in protests, which leads to "rejection by citizens" of state policy, and this, in turn, negatively affects socio-political stability in the country.

Taking into account the complexity of existing social problems in the countries of the European Union, municipal authorities in France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, and Italy are today taking active steps to solve problems that are socially significant for the population, to relieve social tension in society, including through active involving citizens in the process of managing public affairs at the

local level (Mishchuk *et al.* 2020; Kulikov *et al.* 2022). To stimulate citizen participation in the process of making management decisions at the local level, various socio-political mechanisms are used. Economic "planes" are also actively used. The experience of EU countries shows that stimulating public participation in the management of public affairs helps to increase the efficiency and optimization of the management of public affairs, including the budgetary sphere, both at the local and central levels of government (Fosher, 2020; Skorupska, 2015). Thus, the role of local government becomes very significant inshaping the public landscape of the country.

RESULTS

Of significant importance in public management is the nature of the control influence exerted by the subject of management on the object of management. While state management carries out the tasks and goals set by the state, public administration is aimed at achieving a socially significant result. Thus, public administration arises as a result of a kind of social contract between the state and society when power is vested in the relevant bodies and officials (Klymenko et al. 2016; Kostiukevych et al. 2020). At the same time, the population of the country remains the main bearer of power. Therefore, public administration has a broader profile of management influence. Thus, the subjects of public administration are also local government bodies, public organizations, enterprises, and institutions of various forms of ownership. They may be delegated certain state and administrative powers, which are exercised in the interests of society.

Civil society is critical in the development and consolidation of functional democracies, which are built on the foundation of successful institutions that follow the rule of law, react to the demands of the community, and are responsible to that population and civilian authorities (Kubiniy *et al.* 2021; Kryshtanovych *et al.* 2022). As a national process, security sector reform (SSR) seeks to improve the efficacy, transparency, and integrity of military and security actors and institutions. In this environment, civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in allowing individuals (including men and women) to participate in the formation of public policy and offer monitoring. Representative



and trustworthy CSOs are vital to the democratic administration of the security sector and can, for example, influence by the following:

- Influencing policy formation to ensure it reflects the security concerns of women, men, girls, and boys in the country, particularly those living in isolated locations;
- Informing and educating the public on changes in the security context, the role of defense and security organizations, and the role of citizens in maintaining security for all;
- Promoting the establishment of peaceful and productive ties between security organizations and civilian populations; and
- Providing national institutions with knowledge on essential subjects such as budget analysis, gender analysis, respect for human rights, changing legislative frameworks, or combating corruption in the security sector, to name a few examples.

Above all, the active participation of dedicated, competent, and varied civil society members in public supervision of the security sector increases citizens' trust in the state's security procedures (Levytska *et al.* 2022; Kussainov *et al.* 2023). However, civil society actors are not always aware of their duties and obligations in the context of democratic security governance. They may lack the conceptual tools and practical abilities required to become active participants in this sector, or they may struggle to form constructive collaborations with state security agencies or other important players, as well as to establish successful entrance points. Their potential contribution is, therefore, unrealized.

In the book "The geopolitics of cities: Old Challenges, New Issues," edited by Renato Balbim (2016), it is emphasized that many prepositions advocate for a paradigm shift in how urban development is financed, produced, and governed in order to account for the unequal distribution of wealth, resources, and opportunities. One planned adjustment is the government's commitment to redistribution, deconcentration, and re-democratization activities in housing, real estate, basic services, public spaces, and governance (Maksymenko *et al.* 2020; Novak *et al.* 2022). Commitments to an urban paradigm shift should result in the realization of the right to the city

for all, which includes the right of all inhabitants, present and future, temporary and permanent, to use, occupy, produce, govern, and enjoy peaceful, just, inclusive, and sustainable cities, villages, and settlements, as a common good necessary for a full and decent life. It would necessitate a transition from a techno-economic perspective to a people-centered and rights-based one (Litvinova et al. 2020; Panasiuk, I. et al. 2020). This would entail giving power and resources to local governments, claiming and preserving territorial spaces for underrepresented groups and excluded communities, recognizing informal settlements and labor, enforcing the social function of land, combating real estate speculation, and ensuring progressive taxation on property. The question then arises as to whether it is viable to persuade governments to enact such changes in environments of privatization, reduced social service provision, neoliberal governance, and market-driven governance.

Today's experts, for example, highlight that planning infrastructure investment to reverse patterns of urban unsustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) requires tackling the political and institutional elements that contribute to public resource misallocation (Zilinska et al. 2022; Yermachenko et al. 2023). To overcome this challenge, governments should consider at least four aspects. The first requirement is to comprehend the function of investment in the region, prevent bias in infrastructure plans caused by increased investment volume, and design a complete plan that includes other growth drivers (Farajov, 2019). The second requirement is to put in place policies to stimulate private engagement in order to make better use of public resources rather than anticipating governmental expenditure to escape budgetary restraint. The third criterion is to identify the urban infrastructure gap and, more significantly, the sort of infrastructure deficit that cities suffer. The fourth requirement is to plan public investment by guiding private investment, as well as strengthening the technical independence of planning units to limit political influence in the planning process (Colibasanu, 2021).

The local level is the most vulnerable to such phenomena as "magic weapon," and manifestations of this strategy' might go unnoticed at the national level (Brady, 2018; Morgan, 2019).

Australia and New Zealand, in particular, have become inundated with the CCP's increased political influence efforts, the majority of which take place within local (regional and even municipal) economic space.

Municipal governments in the EU and OECD nations play a significant role in public spending and revenue. Decentralization in expenditure outnumbers decentralization in revenues. Municipal governments account for 19% of overall public expenditure yet generate 13% of public revenue. Fig. 1 illustrates the municipal share of general government expenditure in a sample of EU and OECD nations from 2011 to 2017.

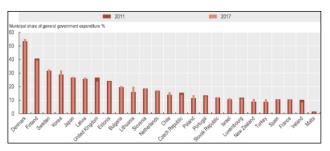


Fig. 1: Municipal share of general government expenditure in a sample of EU and OECD countries within 2011-2017 (OECD Library, 2020)

Fig. 2 show the structure of municipal spending in the above-mentioned group of countries. As it is evident from the figure, in particular, defense spending and economic affairs occupy not the last places, which indicates the evident effect of local level effects in national geopolitics and geoeconomics.

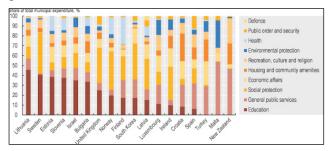


Fig. 2: The structure of municipal spending by COFOG expenditure groups in countries, 2017 (OECD Library, 2020)

The above-mentioned researcher Balbim (2016) analyzes the strengthening of network cooperation between cities, inaugurating new forms of diplomacy in the second half of the twentieth century. The major goal is to shed light on diplomatic connections between cities that have existed since the early twentieth century and have acquired significance in the last twenty years. Since 1980, nation-state neoliberal policies have increased direct action by cities, social movements, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in quest of local answers to global city problems. Furthermore, in recent years, special investment funds have seen an increase in the participation of a diverse range of financial capital as a crucial role in determining the future of cities that align with global ambitions (Oliinyk et al. 2021; Panasiuk O. et al. 2021). This is due to direct investments or through banks and international organizations, global agreements, and aims that follow investment principles, with a focus on developing nations. The worldwide presence of a new zone of tensions and enterprises is confirmed. Geopolitics is maintained alive by clashes between institutions of various scales: global organizations, national states, and local authorities, whether or not represented in transnational networks.

DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic stability provides a solid foundation for the state and society to function according to predictable norms. This increases trust in the socio-political system and legitimizes attempts to preserve security. Economic stability also creates the groundwork for overall economic progress. This, in turn, provides a foundation for implementing a successful security policy. Pursuing such policy at the highest levels of government necessitates financial resources, the quantity of which is determined by economic development (Troschinsky et al. 2020; Vorobei et al. 2021). This is the underlying general link between the economy and security. Socioeconomic stability serves as a foundation for combating internal security concerns such as crime, which thrives in impoverished and unstable living situations.

So in the document *Uma Política de Desenvolvimento* Econômico para o Nordeste ("An Economic Development Policy for the Northeast"), published in 1959, Furtado (2009, pp. 83-130) observes that the wide disparities in income rates between the Northeast and the Mid-southern parts of Brazil, as well as the slower growth rate of the northeastern economy, would tend to create two antagonistic systems in the country, jeopardizing national integration. The inadequacies of state-adopted



macroeconomic and industrial policies would have exacerbated the situation since the industrialized Mid-southern region was unfairly rewarded.

Breslin and Nesadurai (2022) explore the relationship between economic statecraft and geoeconomics. The writers underline the importance of Economic Statecraft (ES) and geoeconomics in the equation. While both have very lengthy histories, they have also evolved and emerged (relatively) lately in their current forms as (relatively) significant means of understanding the procedures and purposes of state economic policy. Fundamentally, ES is a fairly simple notion that may be defined as the use of economic methods to achieve foreign policy outcomes consistent with a country's strategic goals. Baldwin (1985) popularized it nearly four decades ago in a book that examined the efficiency of economic tools via historical case studies dating back to the Peloponnesian War (Omarov et al. 2022). These instances demonstrated, he contended, that economic tactics had been far more effective in persuading people to change and do things they would not have done otherwise, a very simple and fundamental definition of power than prevalent political language at the time implied.

Michael Gentile (2019) focuses his study on the local government level of national security within a geopolitical context. He highlights the importance of shifting the perspective of the "divided city". The fundamental distinctions between the "classic" split city and the geographical fault-line city are related to the nature and genesis of the conflict. Conflict in split cities is mostly local and tied to issues of social and geographic fairness, discrimination, security, and political representation, making it relatively predictable (Ortina et al. 2023). In geopolitical fault-line cities, on the other hand, the major disagreements are over geopolitical alignment, foreign policy, and the general nature of government; such disagreements are mostly scripted elsewhere, adding a significant level of unpredictability.

The literature on split cities focuses on two primary discourses that emerged concurrently during the last few decades. The first, which highlights the growing socioeconomic disparities that characterize major cities under advanced capitalism, is primarily focused on the escalation of ethnic and socioeconomic residential segregation patterns, notably in global and international cities (Shahzad, 2022). Thus, economic aspects of local administration become one of the most important variables in preserving national security.

When organizing national security activities, the principle of consistency must be observed (Odierno & O'Hanlon, 2017). At the same time, the highest hierarchical element of the system for ensuring public safety, namely, national/federal government bodies, should primarily have control and regulatory functions, while the main link in the system, responsible for the direct development and implementation of measures to ensure public safety, should be local authorities self-governance (Zhu *et al.* 2020).

Ukrainian local government reform, which began in 2014, has become one of the most important post-Maidan transformation projects. This fundamental restructuring of Ukraine's political power and public finances is often referred to simply as "decentralization". The unpretentious name, the partially technical nature of the reform, as well as the provincial nature of the transformations, have led to the fact that this fundamental redistribution of the Ukrainian state often remains out of sight of many foreign journalists and analysts (Lola et al. 2022; Shavarskyi et al. 2023). Small communities are united into larger, sustainable, and self-sufficient self-government units. Regional and district bodies, whose employees are appointed by Kiev, are deprived of their previous prerogatives in favor of elected local territorial and city councils. Budgetary and legal powers are transferred from the national and regional to the municipal and local levels. Responsibilities in such sectors as school education and utility services are transferred to the united territorial communities (Shamne et al. 2019). Economic activity and interregional rivalry among local communities are facilitated. Cities, towns, and villages can more easily cooperate, but also compete with each other for investment, tourists, projects, personnel, and grants.

The reform's planners argued that such decentralization increased efficiency and sustainability. However, already the first days of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation showed that everything is not so simple.

Zhang and Wen (2022), on the other hand, argue that "city-regional development is a key lens to understand the interplay between geoeconomics and geopolitics (re)shaping multiscale geographic processes". The authors expand their theory by emphasizing the state-finance-infrastructure nexus that underpins current city-regional growth. They contend that deconstructing this link is critical for understanding how the co-constitution of crisisdriven state restructurings and state-mediated spatial processes emerges as a response to urgent crises arising from the existing situation. Within this conjuncture, the financial sector and the city region are the primary targets of governmental regulation for dealing with multidimensional and multi-scale crises. This claim is supported by tracking how and why the Chinese central government reformed local funding policies in the mid-2010s, resulting in the fast transition of Chengdu from a less-developed city in Western China to an emergent gateway city on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The material approach to understanding geostrategy shifts the focus away from the broad-level abstraction of external geopolitical/geoeconomic goals and toward (1) the material processes by which the geostrategy unfolds through internal institutional restructurings and territorial reorganization and (2) how BRIrelated infrastructure projects are implemented to address social, political, and economic needs at the (sub)national level.

Thus, public administration at the national level and local government appear as 'links of one chain': the provisions of national security are 'designed' at the level of public administration, while the local government ensures their implementation. At the same time, cities and regional communities can themselves become a threat to national security, with economic aspects as key drivers of disturbance.

CONCLUSION

As the research shows, public administration and local government represent a single system in the context of ensuring national security. At the same time, a local level can itself become a threat to national security, bringing entropy into the system of national security.

In today's globe, two factors dominate urbanization and globalization. The first occurs gradually, but when evaluated across a generation, the effects are massive. In the mid-twentieth century, there were around 2.5 billion people on the planet, with one-third living in metropolitan areas. Today, there are 7.4 billion people, with 54 percent of that substantially higher number residing in or around cities. According to the United Nations, there will be at least nine billion people on Earth by 2050, with two-thirds of them living in metropolitan areas. Several dozen megacities, each with ten million or more people, will be spread over the globe, from the Americas and Africa to South Asia and East Asia. These cities are connected in ways that were previously unimaginable. With these twin megatrends, many people will experience muchincreased prosperity. However, there are significant drawbacks, which have national security concerns. With these twin megatrends, many people will experience much-increased prosperity. However, the drawbacks are tremendous, with national security ramifications that extend far beyond the threat presented by ISIS and al-Qaida. While the globe becomes statistically safer for the average individual from generation to generation, the nature of crime evolves and internationalizes. To be sure, Sicilian or Irish family syndicates, as well as drug cartels that span South America's Andes and the Caribbean to the streets of American cities, have existed for a long time. However, in today's world, transnational criminal networks' tendrils spread deeper and broader, capitalizing from social media and other speedy modes of communication and transportation to generate money and settle their scores. Second, these cities are linked in unprecedented ways. Global supply chains, cheaper transcontinental travel, light-speed communication networks, and global diasporas will make it much

These concerns should be taken into account by any country when designing, modifying, and implementing national security strategies, and the vision of national security should become much more multilayer and deeper systemic.

easier for these cities to engage with one another.

The forces are too tremendous to overcome.

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