

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE OPERATION OF THE STATE SECURITY SYSTEMS IN POLAND

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Abstract: The undertaken research on the assessment of the operation of state security systems is an attempt to critically assess them from the point of view of a citizen. The aim of the work is to analyze the systemic approach to security in relation to its actual state. The work uses methods typical of social sciences, which include security sciences. To carry out the research, monographic methods, qualitative content analysis and comparative analysis were used. The work indicates that a number of security threats occurring in the country were analyzed. Among those causing the greatest problems, and at the same time neglected, are social threats related to demographic problems. Economic threats related to the current financial situation and threats resulting from poor protection of cyberspace. It was pointed out that, despite the existence of appropriate systems to counteract the threat, there is a lack of it. The repeatability of events constituting a threat and the lack of implementation of real actions that prevent threats were emphasized.

Key words: security, state, system, threats, Poland

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INTRODUCTION

The state security system is the subject of interest of many researchers (Stańczyk, 1996; 2011; Kitler, 2011; Kitler, 2020) both in general (Ciekanowski et al., 2016) and international (Czaputowicz, 1998; Bógdał-Brzezińska & Wendt, 2020a) as well as in its individual components (Sosnowski & Zamiar, 2001; Wiśniewski & Zalewski, 2004; Leszczyński, 2011; Kitler, 2019). It is regulated by a number of legal acts (Kopczewski, 2020), from ordinances of individual ministers, through resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, through strategies and laws, systematically amended, such as, for example (Act of October 12, 1990, 1990; Act of May 10, 2018, 2018; Strategy..., 2013; Regulation ..., 2004). The legal and organizational aspects of the

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introduction of states of emergency were examined (Brzeziński, 2007; Kitler et al., 2019), issues of the universal duty of defense (Tuz, 2019; Kamiński, 2019), personal data protection (Kitler et al., 2019), management and security structures (Spustek & Paluch, 2017), similar is the case of relatively poorly researched relations between geopolitical ideas and their shaping in the Internet space (Tyszkiewicz & Borowiec, 2020; Bógdał-Brzezińska & Wendt, 2021; 2022) which is especially current and visible during the current war between Russia and Ukraine). But also, in the case of the internal policy of each state and its institutions, especially democratic procedures, such as parliamentary elections (Wendt & Bógdał-Brzezińska, 2020; Borkowski et al., 2021).

However, with the formally existing systemic approach (Szynowski, 2019; Usewicz et al., 2021), despite the efforts of individual services, apart from good or very good performance at the local level (fire brigade, emergency services, rescue operations in the event of disasters in road, rail, or air traffic, etc.), at the meta level it shows an astonishing lack of effectiveness. This is probably the result of the weakness of the state and the extreme inefficiency of most governments after 1989. Of course, in this period there are many successes, which, as usual, have many fathers, while threats to the security of the state affecting hundreds of thousands of citizens happen very often and, despite the media publicity, they teach us nothing. And it's even worse because they don't teach anything to the ruling elites.

The aim of the work undertaken and the analysis of the systemic approach to security in relation to its actual state is a critical analysis of the actual security of Poland. The result of such an analysis is an indication of potential threats and an attempt to answer the question why we do not prevent threats. The aim of the work chosen in this way does not allow to indicate all the threats to the security of the state that we are currently facing. However, it allows you to show an example and groups of threats, or those that have become a reality from the category of potential threats. Just like the causes of these threats, often resulting from the thoughtless actions of the authorities/services that were supposed to prevent them.

MATERIAL, METHODS AND LIMITATION OF RESEARCH

The material for the analysis consists of existing and potential threats (Ciekanowski, 2010) to the broadly understood security of Poland. Reported by the media or indicated as potential by specialists.

In the research and case analysis, methods typical for security sciences were used (Mickiewicz, 2010). Virtually all methods used in the social sciences and humanities are applicable in the theory of security (Mróz-Jagiello & Wolanin, 2013; Czupryński et al., 2017). The monographic method was used to identify state structures and institutions (or lack thereof). It was also used to assess the effectiveness of the activities of structures (services) and to develop concepts, improvements and development forecasts. Qualitative content analysis was used to examine existing, but also omitted content to show significant or unsaid (disregarded) threats. The work also uses the method of comparative analysis, confronting the effects of response to events defined as threats.

The most important limitations of the undertaken research include the problem of access to materials crucial for security and defining threats, which by nature belong to proprietary information resources. Attempts were made to solve this problem by using the available information from media materials, which,

although they do not inform about the details of the phenomenon but present its basic dimension.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The presented and analyzed threats have their spatial dimensions (Wendt, 2008), global, national, regional or local, but in each case, their victims, in the end, are individual, usually anonymous people. The scale of the threat to the state, to the lives of citizens, is tragically evidenced by the size of the so-called excess deaths, the number of which for the years 2020-2021 is estimated at about 140,000. In 2021, the most people died in Poland since World War II - over 506,000. That's about 40,000 more than in the equally tragic year 2020, when over 477,000 people left. Poles (68,000 more than in 2019). Part of this number (69,000) are deaths due to Covid-19, but the causes of death of Poles were definitely more. According to experts' estimates, almost 30 percent of them could have been avoided. Most of these are diagnosed and undiagnosed COVID-19 deaths. People died at home without receiving help, and before they died, they were not tested and appear in the statistics with the causes of death: respiratory failure or pneumonia. The second group of people are those who died of other diseases due to overburdening of health care. These are excess deaths that are being talked about more and more during the pandemic. What does it mean? In simple terms, it is the ratio of the number of deaths in a given year to the average number of deaths from the same period in previous years. Today, the time before the appearance of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is taken into account. For Eurostat, whose data we discuss in this article, the years 2016-2019 are such a reference point. What is most important in analyzing redundant data is the indicator used. Analysts do not provide specific numbers, because it would not make sense in the context of comparing individual countries. 90 thousand the number of excess deaths that we had, according to experts' estimates, last year in Poland may be a very large number in our country, but in countries with a much larger population (for example in China) not necessarily. Conversely, in a country with a smaller population, such a result may be even more alarming than in Poland. Therefore, the statistics always show the percentage average increase in deaths. The number of excess deaths is very important information not only for demographers and politicians, but above all, it proves the functioning of the health care system in the country. It is the answer to the question of whether the health service is adequately invested (in terms of personnel, equipment, technology, services) so that it is able to help all patients in need. It is not only about their treatment, but also about diagnostics and health prevention, allowing to reduce the risk of getting sick or exacerbating various diseases that can lead to death. If we look at the statistics of excess deaths in European countries from this angle, Poland is definitely not doing well in this care. According to Eurostat data, last year we were on the podium several times in the list of countries with the highest rate of excess deaths in relation to the period 2016-2019. Of course, the health care system is there, it works, it has an increased budget, but since 1989 it's just so inefficient. No reforms, or poorly implemented. Just like the pension system, just like the system that is supposed to stop or at least slow down the country's depopulation.

A separate aspect is the country's defense system. The condition and size of the Polish army, its equipment, budget spending, organization of the armed forces. In terms of the navy - the media report the fears of soldiers serving on the

only submarine - it does not come out, it does not submerge, because there is a real threat that it will not surface. In turn, according to the Global Firepower portal, in terms of the budget (2022), we are ranked 18th in the world (the lower the ratio, the better), but already in the category of national debt we are ranked 111th. Professional soldiers - 31, and artillery - 140. Despite a relatively large budget, procurement programs are not implemented, indeed not always agreed with specialists from the army. Problems, or rather scandals related to the purchase of parachutes, Grot carbines, French helicopters, or equipping the army with armored weapons of several different types and manufacturers, the inability to effectively protect the country by air or against missiles in every conflict with Russia put us in a difficult situation. And the new law (system!) on defense of the homeland (March 11, 2022) in the current demographic and economic situation of the country is rather a set of wishes than a systemic, feasible plan to strengthen the security of the state. The 300,000 army alone, without the obligation of universal mobilization, becomes a pipe dream. The Demographic Yearbook of Poland (2021) states that there are only 380,000 men in Poland in the age group of 18-19 (conscription age), which means that about half of them (180,000 out of two generations) should supply the Polish army so that there can be an increase from the current 120,000 to 300,000.

Another failed system is the dislocation system for migrants (Wendt et al, 2018) and refugees from Ukraine. In fact, almost all the direct assistance provided to them was organized by NGOs and local government institutions. Neither an education system for hundreds of thousands of children was created, they were simply included in Polish schools with the possibility of taking exams in accordance with the program in force in Poland! As reported by the media, various systems of financing the stay of refugees have been adopted, depending on the partner/institution/organisation dealing with refugees. No systemic program has been prepared, apart from the allocation of PSL numbers and the possibility of access to doctors or education. Poles and local governments were left without real support.

The known problems and threats of the last ten years, which continue to this day, are financial problems caused by the weakness of state structures and systems (Stańczyk, 2020). What, apart from the indolence of the authorities, more specifically the financial supervision over the banking system, explains the financial threat to thousands of people who took out loans in francs despite the obvious exchange rate risk, or the case of the "Amber Gold" financial pyramid. Currently, the threat to the safety of many families is rising inflation, the effect of the activities of the National Bank of Poland and its head, or the next wave of Covid-19 cases, which has been growing since June 2022. As a result of the war in Ukraine (which lasted from February 2022), but also before the Russian aggression, the threat of increasing energy poverty areas and the real threat of a lack of supplies of energy resources have increased. Which is the result of over 30 years of indolence and ineffective state energy policy. At the state level, the huge public finance debt is a threat effectively concealed by the authorities. An additional problem is the payment of pensions by ZUS, the result of an incorrect policy and poorly conducted pension reform. Another meta-threat on a national scale includes the issue of black-out, power grids, despite high profits, are not modernized, and electricity supplies in the summer (air conditioning) or winter (heating) periods are additionally overloaded. Despite the knowledge, research and publications, we do not conduct any effective pro-natal policy, the latest

(preliminary) census data in Poland already indicate a decrease in the number of inhabitants, and forecasts by 2080 estimate a decrease in the population by 7 million, to the level of about 30 million.

Social security (Leszczyński, 2011; Gierszewski, 2018) and a systemic threat, according to the literature, is a matter of the operation of services, schemes, procedures, legal system, organization and management. So what if, despite the implementation of good systems protecting against data theft, the Polish army managed to publish over 1.7 million detailed data on the entire resources of the Polish army. What about the design, implementation and system operation, because in everyday life we do not follow basic procedures. Polish military aviators have learned nothing from the air disaster in Miroslawiec (2008), the crew and sixteen officers, pilots, returning from the 50th Aviation Safety Conference of the Armed Forces, died. Similarly, the increase in the number of covid-19 cases after arriving in the country for the holidays of thousands of compatriots from the British Isles did not teach anything. During the period in line with the virus replication cycle, two weeks later we had a high wave of covid cases and deaths.

Another issue related to social security is demographic security (Łakomy, 2016; 2017; Lewicka, 2016, Sofer, 2008). Covering the issues of the decreasing natural increase rate and the increasing number of deaths, including excess deaths. The increasing mortality, which results in a decrease in the population and an increase in the population of seniors (Bógdał-Brzezińska, 2020d) may pose a threat, in the case of small countries, even to their existence (Wendt, 2021).

Another of the analyzed threats is the issue of cyber security. The importance of the problem is perhaps best demonstrated on the one hand by the wiretapping scandal at the Sowa & Przyjaciele restaurant, in which numerous conversations of ministers from governments created by PO were recorded, including the bizarre one by the minister of internal affairs, as well as millions of data systematically published on portals linked to Russia, which are according to the publishers, copies of thousands of e-mails sent by numerous high-ranking officials of the current government along with the prime minister and his head of cabinet. What is again bizarre, the highest officials of the Polish state do not use secured e-mail systems secured by special state services (, but they choose commercial mail providers to communicate about even the most important matters of the state. And so, in principle, similar examples could be multiplied indefinitely in the field of energy security, health, demography, army, border protection or Polish defense.

CONCLUSION

This, of course, does not change the importance and role of the state security system. It only leads to the conclusion that despite its existence, it simply does not work properly. Among those causing the greatest problems, and at the same time neglected, are social threats related to demographic problems. Economic threats related to the current financial situation and threats resulting from poor protection of cyberspace. It was pointed out that, despite the existence of appropriate systems to counteract the threat, there is a lack of it. The repeatability of events constituting a threat and the lack of implementation of real actions that prevent threats were emphasized.

Probably best sums up the current situation and the state and operation of the state's security systems in the words of politicians who describe Poland as a state made of plywood and cardboard. It is a pity that the effort put into the education of thousands of young people in the fields of national security or state and a number of decent, substantive studies, from the subject of energy security through border security or state defense, have such a small impact on the reality that surrounds us.

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