

Abstract

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Topic of the Thesis- Impact of Neoliberalism on Security of States: A Third World Perspective

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Neoliberalism over the last few decades has emerged as a powerful contemporary global force influencing the lives of billions, everywhere. It has successfully laid the foundation of a market-based ideology. Under this ideology, the market has become dominant in almost all spheres. Its impact can be seen in diverse areas such as the economy, society, polity, security, culture, environment and international relations. Over the past few decades, it has reached far and wide, influenced and deeply intermingled with critically important aspects of life where, its assessment becomes an essential part of an intellectual exercise.

The study consists of six chapters where, the main discussion is structured into four parts. The first chapter is an introduction which is a general discussion on the subject.

The second chapter discusses the changing connotation of security. Here, I have explored the theoretical concept and debates on security. It explains how security was dominated by the traditional militaristic notion. In the later phase, an argument developed that such a narrow definition of security could not accommodate the emerging new threats and challenges. Those arguments received considerable salience as they furthered the debate in widening the concept of security in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. The broader concept was not only considered a necessity but also crucial with the advent of the new challenges in particular, dealing with the non-military aspects of security. This was considered as a major fundamental shift in security studies, which further influenced the development of the concept of “human security”. These developments took place along with the emergence of globalisation and neoliberalism.

The Third chapter discusses the discourse on neoliberalism. Here, I have discussed the concept and debates on neoliberalism and how these ideas have been constructed in different periods and have been legitimised worldwide. It discusses the impact of neoliberalism on the

shrinking role of the state in welfare and security provisions and also connects with the issues of legitimacy. Neoliberalism has been promoted across the world as the proper approach to development favouring global economic integration based on the assumption that economic growth will be most rapid when the movement of goods, service and capital is unimpeded by government regulation. As an ideology, it can be traced back to the work of Adam Smith, popularised by a series of scholars such as Friedrich von Hayek during and Milton Friedman. This policy was adopted in the state's economic policies by political figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and Augusto Pinochet. Later, a more modified version of this ideology called the 'Third Way' approach was endorsed by Tony Blair and Bill Clinton's administrations. Also, this idea have been shared by multilateral institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and WTO which were reflected in their policies such as Structural Adjustment Programmes, different trade policies, to the issues of development and governance. This ideology provided a strong legitimisation for the private sector and Transnational Corporations. With globalisation, this ideology spread worldwide. The impact of neoliberalism on states was that it narrowed down its space and functions and thereby transformed its developmental agenda, welfare provisions, legitimacy and its monopoly of collective violence.

Chapter Four is on the State, Market and Security which explains how their role in security has converged. And with the advent of neoliberalism, how privatisation of security came into being. The increased role of the private security companies is seen in conflicts, peace-keeping, post-conflict reconstruction programmes and in some cases, even substituting state fighting forces. Further, it is well-established that the market plays a dominant role in the aftermath of neoliberal globalisation. One major area is its impact on the state and its security functions. This phenomenon shows how security has undergone a significant transformation and has changed the nature of warfare. Evidences suggest that heavy involvement of PSCs in the past conflicts seen in Sierra Leone, Angola, Bosnia and recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan leads to many human right violations. National and international regulatory policies dealing with PSCs are problematic. Also there is still lack of effectiveness in their implementation.

The fifth chapter is the Implication for Third World Security. Here, various issues confronting Third World states such as: primacy of internal issues, issue of development, inequality, poverty, issue of legitimacy, transnational organised crime, small arms, drug trafficking, human trafficking and money laundering are discussed.

The sixth chapter is Conclusion drawn from the preceding discussions with the assumption that neoliberalism is leading to a new conception of security as seen in its operation in the last two decades. For a majority of the Third World states, their engagement with neoliberal policy substituting the role of the state has become more harmful rather than providing solutions. For them, the state's central role is imperative in their march towards development, welfare programmes and overall security of the people and it is only through the state that they can consolidate their process of nation-building, economic development and ensure security. This is increasingly being undermined under neoliberalism.