DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.36719/2663-4619/76/107-112

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ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY PROBLEM IN SECURITY WORKS

Abstract

With the end of the cold war and the acceleration of globalization, there have been important changes in the field of security as well as in every field. With the loss of the dominant role of military security, new security areas have emerged. Environmental security, which has become an important issue since the second half of the XX century, has increased its importance as a result of developing industrialization.

In the study, the relationship between the environment and security was mentioned, and global warming, environmental threats and international regulations in this area were discussed within the scope of environmental security.

Key words: *environment, environmental safety, global warming*

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Təhlükəsizlik işlərində ekoloji təhlükəsizlik problem

Xülasə

Soyuq müharibənin başa çatması və qloballaşmanın sürətlənməsi ilə hər sahədə olduğu kimi, təhlükəsizlik sahəsində də mühüm dəyişikliklər baş vermişdir. Hərbi təhlükəsizliyin dominant rolunu itirməsi ilə yeni təhlükəsizlik zonaları yaranmışdır. XX əsrin ikinci yarısından etibarən mühüm məsələyə çevrilən ekoloji təhlükəsizlik sənayeləşmənin inkişafı nəticəsində əhəmiyyətini artırmışdır.

Tədqiqatda ətraf mühit və təhlükəsizlik arasındakı əlaqəyə toxunulmuş, ekoloji təhlükəsizlik çərçivəsində qlobal istiləşmə, ekoloji təhdidlər və bu sahədə beynəlxalq qaydalar müzakirə edilmişdir.

Açar sözlər: *ətraf mühit, ekoloji təhlükəsizlik, qlobal istiləşmə*

Introduction

The environment, which is an indispensable living space for all living things in nature, has become one of the important issues on the agenda since the 1970s and has been discussed in the context of security, especially with the globalization that made its impact felt rapidly after the Cold War. Of course, this does not mean that environmental safety has not been discussed before.

However, considering the fact that realism, and therefore military security, was at the forefront in the security-centered perspective of the Cold War, security took its place in the memories as one-dimensional and environmental security became one of the neglected issues.

With the end of the Cold War, in which the USA and the USSR formed two separate poles, the bipolar world order disappeared and therefore the importance attributed to military security decreased. With the increasing impact of globalization, the concept of security has expanded and deepened, and new security areas1 have emerged.

Environmental security, in parallel with the acceleration of industrialization, has become one of the most important of these security areas because of the increasing environmental problems and seriously threatening all living things, and has been put on the ground of discussion on various platforms.

In this article, the concepts of environment and ecology, the emergence of environmental movements and environmental security and environmental problems, which have increased in importance with the effect of the concept of globalization, are given, and conclusions and suggestions are given within the framework of international regulations on the subject.

Environmental Problems

When the main environmental problems are discussed, the most important problem is the pollution of the environment. For this reason, it would be appropriate to first explain what environmental pollution is.

In general, environmental pollution is "the disruption of environmental cycles through various human activities, and in this context, the deterioration of the balance of natural environmental systems by losing their ability to self-resolve the problems that arise".

Environmental pollution from another point of view; It can be defined as "a phenomenon that creates undesirable changes in the physical, chemical or biological properties of soil, water and air, caused by human activities, that disrupts the natural balance and creates negative effects on living and non-living things through physiological and psychological effects" [1, p. 66].

The balances in the relations between nature and human beings have begun to deteriorate against nature, and in parallel with the advancing technological speed, nature's possibilities of self-preservation and repetition have been taken away from the production, methods and mechanisms in the hands of human beings, and irreversible destruction has occurred in some parts of the world [2, p. 45].

According to the data announced by the World Bank in 2008, it has been reported that seasonal changes reduce the productivity of agricultural products and this rate will be more than 15 percent until 2080 and will seriously affect human health.

On the other hand, when environmental threats in the world and the main environmental problems that cause these threats are discussed, climate change, deforestation, nuclear wastes, desertification, pollution of the seas by direct draining or discharge, losses in genetic resources and biological diversity, floods, droughts, storms and stratospheric ozone decomposition.

However, since it would be beyond the scope of the article to talk about all of these environmental problems, we believe that it would be important not to mention the global warming problem, which has become a global threat and has reached serious dimensions.

Climate Change and Global Warming

Population growth and industrialization accelerated by the globalization process has increased the effect of pollutants released into the atmosphere. Air pollution, which is defined as "the pollutants released into the atmosphere from a certain source, disrupting the natural composition of the air and transforming it into a structure that will harm living things and things", has two main global effects.

The first is "the warming of the world in the form of the "greenhouse effect" as a result of the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and the second is the "negative effect of ultraviolet rays on living things as a result of the thinning of the ozone layer" [3, p. 177].

Global warming is the excessive increase of gases in the atmosphere, which creates a greenhouse effect, as a result of human activities. Due to industrialization, rapid urbanization, rapid consumption and efforts to raise living standards have/caused an excessive increase in the amount of greenhouse gases. This increase brings along global warming and creates negative effects on all living things, especially human beings, especially since the second half of the 20th century.

The proportions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are normally less than 0.1%. However, this ratio is of great importance for the climate systems on earth to remain in balance. Because the general temperature average in the world is around 15, but without these gases, the world would be 33 colder than its current temperature and life would be negatively affected.

Therefore, it is important to keep greenhouse gases at this rate in terms of the balance of nature. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will lead to melting glaciers, extreme temperatures and major disasters. For the last 150 years, harmful gases and particles have been released into the atmosphere due to the rapid consumption of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas [4, p. 56].

As a result, there are serious increases in the amount of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide. Some of the changes observed in weather and climate parameters due to global climate change in recent years are as follows [12]:

- ✓ Increase in evaporation and precipitation

- ✓ Most of the rains are in the form of showers.
- ✓ Melting of the tundra. (North Pole Steppe)
- ✓ Whitening of corals.

The global average air temperature has increased by 0.3 - 0.6 degrees Celsius from the middle of the 19th century to the present day. According to studies, it is estimated that global warming will continue by more than 0.1 degrees Celsius in every 10 years in the next 40 years.

- ✓ Melting of glaciers.
- ✓ Shrinking sea glaciers and rising sea level.
- ✓ Increase in forest fires.
- ✓ Increased storm and flood damage

When we look at the world in general, the signs of global warming can be summarized as follows [12]:

- ✓ Reduction of glaciers and snow cover on the tops of high mountains.
- ✓ Rising sea level.
- ✓ The spread of tropical plants and fish that love hot air and water towards the poles. Increasing climate migrants and refugee problems.
- ✓ Reduction of delicate bird species sensitive to airborne pollutants.
- ✓ Faster growth of age rings in trees.
- ✓ The succession of the 1990s, which are considered to be the hottest years of the last 1400 years.

In the context of these listed changes, it is commented that climate change causes/will cause a serious decrease in the living standards of societies. First of all, since climate change will restrict access to water resources, especially in agricultural societies, it will cause significant damage and this deprivation will bring serious diseases.

Therefore, the limitation on livelihoods will become an important problem by becoming widespread in both developing and developed countries. Secondly, since it will prevent access to natural capital, it will directly increase absolute and relative poverty.

Regulations on climate change

Since the late 1970s, important steps have been taken to attract the attention of the world public about climate change, its possible effects and measures to be taken. The importance of the subject was brought to attention at the World Climate Conference, which was held for the first time in 1979 under the leadership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Afterwards, with the conferences held in Austria in 1985 and 1987 and in Toronto in 1988, it was emphasized that political steps should be taken towards the issue. At the Changing Atmosphere Toronto Conference held in 1988, it was decided that countries would reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 20% until 2005 and a framework climate agreement was signed on the subject [5, p. 199].

The framework agreement aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change was opened for signature under the name of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the United Nations Environment and Development Conference (Rio Earth Summit) held on 3-14 June 1992.

The main purpose of the Convention is to “stop the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent the dangerous effects of human beings on the climate system”.

On 11 December 1997, the Kyoto Protocol, which includes binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, was signed in Kyoto, Japan, in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [11].

It is stated that Annex-1 5 countries included in this protocol will reduce their carbon dioxide emissions resulting from human activities between 2008 and 2012 to at least 5% below the level in 1990, and that these parties will have made demonstrable progress in realizing their commitments in the protocol until 2005. The Kyoto Protocol actually entered into force on February 16, 2005 [11].

International Regulations on Environmental Safety

The ecological crisis, which started to gain importance since the end of the 1960s, has begun to be expressed in both scientific and political studies. It gained a political content in the 1970s and became a point of interest for academic studies in the 1980s.

The first comprehensive step towards the environment in the international arena was taken by the UN. The United Nations Environment Conference, held in Stockholm on 5 June 1972, was the first major international conference on the environment. 113 countries, including Turkey, attended the conference and human-environment relations, negative effects of human activities on the environment, economic development problems of countries and living conditions were among the topics discussed at the conference [1, p. 67].

Before the UN Stockholm Conference, some specialized institutions were directly or indirectly concerned with the environment. UNESCO, FAO, WHO are some of these specialized organizations. For example, UNESCO started a special research program called Man and Biosphere in 1970, and prepared two international treaties on the protection of wetlands and the protection of cultural and natural world assets in 1972.

In the 1980s, the UN Organization established the World Commission on Environment and Development in order to draw attention to the increasing conflict between the environment and economic development on the international platform, and appointed Gro Harlem Brundtland as its chairman. The Commission completed its work in 1987 with a report called "Our Common Future" [2, p. 145 - 148].

The report, which is also named after the chairman of the commission, mainly mentions the incompatibility that exists between the environment and development, and criticizes keeping environmental values in the background for the sake of development.

On 14-16 May 1990, the UN and the European Economic Commission held a conference on "Action for a Common Future" in Bergen, a city of Norway, and the "Bergen Ministerial Statement on Sustainable and Balanced Development" was published [8, p. 118]. Other important global steps taken in the field of environmental security during the Cold War:

The Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Transport and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes in 1989. To mark the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, the UN has prepared a new World Environment Conference [11].

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio on 3-14 June 1992 and it was aimed to determine the policies for the future by making a general evaluation of the last 20 years. As a result of the conference work, 5 basic documents emerged: Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Forest Principles, Climate Change Convention, Biological Diversity Convention. In the Rio Declaration, among them, "A higher quality of life for all people should be determined." 27 principles, including the article, were adopted [12].

The topics opened for discussion at the Rio Conference and the action plan were presented as "Agenda 21". It is an action plan that defines the activities that governments, international organizations and UN agencies should do since the 1990s.

The curriculum, which draws attention to the inequalities existing internationally and within nations, hunger, disease and ignorance, and the deterioration of the balance in the ecosystem, proposes the concept of "global partnership" for a safer future as a solution.

The 23rd Conference of the Parties, which has been held regularly since 1995 by the contracting states within the scope of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held in Bonn, Germany, between 6-17 November 2017 [4, p. 77].

Although the conference where the Paris Agreement articles were discussed was held in the shadow of US President Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement in June, the decisions taken on global warming have been an important step for a livable world.

Featured Detections Regarding Environmental Safety

A few specific features of environmental security, which has been discussed since the 1970s, and the precautions that can be taken can be summarized as follows: and inanimate objects as well.

While traditional security threats are aimed at states and alliances, environmental security threats are global. Therefore, environmental measures must be taken through alliances and worldwide.

Environmental issues go through a long "incubation" period before they become a threat to human health, and if necessary measures are not taken urgently, they may cause irreversible damage to future generations [9, p. 90].

Environmental problems and security problems are inherently inseparable and feed off of each other. Since the 1980s, it has been talked about what can be done, it has been written that it is a "new" subject, but this situation is now left behind.

After that, introducing a "new idea" will create unnecessary discussions. Instead, providing effective solutions will be important in terms of the seriousness of the issue.

The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Wangari Maathai9 in 2004 and Al Gore in 200710 demonstrates the importance of environmental security in the international arena [12].

The vast majority of threats to the environment originate from humans. In this sense, the increasing awareness level of the members of the society towards protecting the environment will play an important role in terms of the effectiveness of the policies created.

Developed countries transfer their polluting industries to developing countries in order to protect their countries due to their increasing industries. Developing countries need to oppose this "pollution import" [3, p. 198].

The addition of environmental security problems along with the increasing population and decreasing resources creates a fragile structure and the third world countries are most affected by this situation [11].

If the situation continues in the same way for these economically collapsed countries, unavoidable problems will arise in a very short time. For this reason, environmental measures should be evaluated on a global scale against the occupation of the resources and values of local communities by cultural imperialists and necessary measures should be taken accordingly.

Environmental security is an area that is advocated by more non-governmental organizations compared to other security areas, and the best example that can be given in this regard is "Greenpeace" [10, p. 55].

Environmental security perceptions vary according to the geographical, economic and social conditions of the countries, and this security is of particular concern to countries that are more open to environmental impacts.

For example, the fact that the waters will rise as a result of global warming seriously threatens countries such as England and Indonesia. Likewise, drought caused by global warming will have dangerous consequences for countries whose economy is based on agriculture.

Today, developed and developing countries have conflicting energy targets. Developing countries need more energy in parallel with the increasing industrial speed, while developing countries are looking for new energy ways to reach the levels of developed countries and rapidly industrializing [7].

This situation carries the risk of adding new problems to the existing global environmental problems. For this reason, both developed and developing countries should reduce their use of fossil fuels and turn to renewable energy sources in order not to create global environmental problems.

In addition, while using existing energy resources, more careful steps should be taken by considering future generations. In this sense, the increase in concerns about the future and the awareness of carrying a certain responsibility for future generations within the framework of nature-human relations will ensure that the steps taken are more efficient.

Conclusion

The end of the Cold War and parallel to this, the increasing effect of the globalization process all over the world has led to the questioning of the existing order and has led to significant changes in the field of security as in every field.

The military security and state-centered perspective advocated by realism, which is a popular trend in the bipolar world, has lost its prevalence with the disintegration of the poles, and the dominant role of

military security has decreased, and new security areas have emerged that did not occupy the agenda much in the past, but started to make their presence felt under the influence of the globalization process.

One of the most important of these security areas is undoubtedly environmental security. Environmental safety, which can be defined as an environment without environmental threats and dangers in the most general way, is an indispensable security area for all living life, especially for human beings. Because without a livable environment, all targeted plans and other important security areas become meaningless.

The linear relationship established between the environment and security increases the risk of environmental insecurity due to the increase in environmental problems.

Unfortunately, human beings play the most important role in increasing this risk of insecurity. Because the only living thing that acts contrary to the general working order of nature, human beings do their best not to leave a livable environment to future generations. In a world where unlimited demands are tried to be met with limited resources, environmental destruction also destroys the available resources.

Although it has been a subject that has attracted attention in the academic and political field since the 1970s, the increasing industrialization ambition, especially in developed countries, prevents the desired steps to be taken on environmental security.

Environmental security, which international organizations and various non-governmental organizations want to draw attention to with some reports and research, cannot be solved without the personal efforts of individuals and the general policies of states on the subject. But here, too, the importance of international cooperation emerges once again. Because the individual steps taken so far have not been able to provide adequate solutions for environmental insecurity.

It will be an important milestone in ensuring environmental security that the dominant powers that direct the international system meet on a common ground regarding environmental security, develop a policy based on mutual trust, allocate the necessary funds for the policies put forward, and share the steps taken on the subject with the world public in a transparent manner.

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Rəyçi: h.f. d. B.Hacıyev

Göndərilib: 17.02.2022 Qəbul edilib: 12.03.2022