The Concept of Regional Security Complex

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Abstract

Regional Security Complex is an effective way to address security challenges that transcend national borders and affect the entire region. This is achieved through cooperation and coordination within the framework of the Regional Security Complex, countries can share information and expertise, and enhance their ability to address security threats more effectively. It is one of the solutions that includes many productive options, directly or indirectly, that can facilitate the process of understanding and cooperation between countries of geographical proximity and regional character. Also, there are many advantages and aspects of the regional security component, including the ability of the state to obtain supplies from its neighboring countries in managing the security process for its borders, and therefore the capabilities that this country possesses are employed to reach the security goal better than being alone. Through Regional Security Complex, countries provide themselves with the opportunity to cooperate and exchange information, expertise and resources, which contributes to enhancing the ability to address security challenges more effectively. This approach contributes to building bridges of understanding and trust between the participating countries, and strengthens security partnerships in the region.

Keywords: *Security, Region, Regional Security Complex.*

Introduction

Regional Security Complex is a concept that refers to security cooperation and coordination between a country or a group of countries within a regional framework with the aim of enhancing security and stability in the region. The Regional Security Complex aims to address common security challenges faced by states in the region, such as terrorist threats, organized crime, border disputes, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration.

Forms of regional security cooperation include the exchange of information and security intelligence, cooperation in the field of training security forces, coordination in the field of law enforcement, cooperation in the field of border security, and joint action in the field of combating terrorism and organized crime. The Regional Security Complex depends on mutual trust and cooperation between the participating countries, and may also include the signing of security agreements and treaties that enhance cooperation and define joint procedures and mechanisms.

The Regional Security Complex is an effective way to address security challenges that transcend

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national borders and affect the entire region. By cooperating and coordinating within the framework of the Regional Security Complex, countries can share information and expertise, and enhance their ability to respond to security threats more effectively.

First: Origin and Definition

The study of security societies by the sociologist and politician (Karl Deutch) centered mainly on the two ideas of regional security and security interdependence was considered the actual pillar adopted by the American historian (Barry Gordon Buzan) and the thinker (Waeve Ole) in their crystallization of the concept of the regional security complex in their book "The People, the State, and Fear : The problem of national security in international relations, to develop it later in their joint book: "Regions and Powers, the structure of international security to the theory of the regional security complex in 2003, which was adopted by the Copenhagen School and became part of the collective methodological approach in it. It was a reference from it to the beginning of the shift in the content of concepts the traditional issue of security in the analysis of international relations; to move from the national level to the regional level.

Considering the regional level as a basic unit of analysis through which security issues emerge is called the security complex or the security complex. Here, states define their security relations from regional rather than global perspectives, while dealing with global issues or effective external parties and the various forces affecting the security complex.

In their subsequent book, "Regions and Power: The Structure of International Security," they added, through the idea of the security complex, the regional level of security as an analytical level for a new era in international relations, and as a prominent tool for studying international politics, especially since the end of the Cold War. The main idea of this book is that local powers have More room for maneuver due to the end of bipolarity and the lack of competition between the transcendental powers and they argue that the United States of America is the only transcendental power and other great powers (China, the European Union, Japan, and Russia) are not willing to interfere in security affairs outside their territories and this is given their capabilities It is not enough to participate militarily and engage in strategic competition in important regions of the world. Therefore, it has no alternative but to let the local powers deal with military and strategic issues within their own regions.

The regional security complex is determined by a very high level of security interdependence (interdependence) between the units that make up the complex. This security interdependence includes the various processes of building security, whether it is related to securing or de-security of threats or methods of dealing with them. The prevailing trend in studying the dynamics of security vehicles focuses on threats because most of these threats are often able to move easily over short distances, and the state of security is often associated with geographical proximity. Buzan also tried to develop a classification of states that includes postmodern states, modern states, and pre-modern states. As postmodern countries are usually the capitalist core countries whose

societies experienced a qualitative leap in technological development, communication tools, integration and integration. As for the countries of modernity, they are those countries that came very close to the heart countries, as industrialization and social and systemic modernization tend to achieve security at home and abroad. As for countries pre-modern countries are those countries that suffer from a state of underdevelopment in all sectors and are located on the margins of global economic development. However, the common characteristic that unites the three categories is that they are all national states and central actors in international relations, which means that Buzan did not liberate himself from the new realism, but rather his ideas can be considered as one of the developed versions of it.

That is, a group of countries whose basic security concerns are linked with each other, as their national security conditions cannot be viewed in isolation from each other. There are several definitions presented by Barry Buzan with his colleague Wal Weaver. He defined the Regional Security Complex in defining the strategic content of the concept as "a group of countries whose primary security interests are linked to each other in a reasonable way apart from the other."

As for the other definition, it dates back to 1998. Barry Buzan and Ol Weaver emphasize in their theory the elimination of focus on the political / military aspect and the centrality of the state, as the characteristics of the state, according to the realistic proposal, are no longer the same. regional security and then produce different security dynamics. It is "a group of units between which major operations are safe or unsafe, or both, as they are very interconnected, as security problems cannot be analyzed reasonably apart from one another."

The regional security complex also defines "a group of units that carry out operations (adding or removing) the security character of security issues through an interrelated extension, since their security forms cannot be analyzed or resolved separately from each other."

The main factor in defining the security complex is usually the presence of a high level of threat / fear that is felt mutually between the two basic states or more. Therefore, the processes of adding / de-security are active through the node (perception and misperception) centered between the units forming the regional security complex in the neighborhood. The geographical coupled with the stereotypical and objective communicative ontology of the formal and informal actors constitutes the center of analysis in the theoretical system of Bozan on the one hand, with the continuous inclusion of the growing dynamics from the inside out between the actors forming the security complex and the impact of the special interventions that affect and change the geometry and nature of the complex on the other hand.

The concept of force in the components of regional security came in an inconsistent or specific manner in a strictly defined content for all parties. States that enjoy national cohesion and cohesion among most social components usually identify threats in the external environment and are more sensitive to issues of national sovereignty, while weak states or Which suffers from sharp national divisions or internal conflicts that constitute a space for the competition of the various external

powers and their neighbors in particular and are less attached to sovereignty and more vulnerable to danger by external threats. In general, their security environment is more fragile and less stable, and then the security dynamics will vary from one region to another based on the nature and characteristics of the existing environment, and deeper than that, the nature of society, whether or not it is modernized, and whether or not it is sociologically cohesive.

The importance of the security complex theory lies in the fact that it deals with security threats accurately in a specific region, which facilitates understanding of all the variables of the security phenomenon in its regional environment. Lack and Morgan said that the post-Cold War world gave more importance to the regional level in analyzing and understanding the forms of conflict and cooperation in various regions of the world.

There are two types of regional security compounds, "normative" and "central", as the chaotic structure represents a distinctive feature in the standard compound, meaning that this type of compound may have one or more regional powers, and thus unipolar or multipolar.

However, what makes these unipolar compounds different from those in the central complex is that the dynamics of the region's security are formed through the interaction between the regional powers and not only through one force among them, as in the central complex. Regional powers, on the basis of friendship or enmity, set conditions for other members of the Regional Security Complex as well as for intervention by world powers.

The theory of the regional security complex is based on a number of foundations and theoretical principles, as follows:

1- Regional security vehicles are the main component of international security.

2- Geographical Factor is one of the most important factors forming the security component.

3- Threats move easier and faster at the regional level, and Walt considers that the geographical factor is an effective factor in security.

4- Increased levels of mutual security dependence between the parties of the regional region, and this is due to historical, cultural and geographical factors.

5- It is not possible to make the idea of a security compound universal, and this is because vehicles are more vulnerable to penetration.

There are variables to embody the regional security complex, namely:

- **Borders**: what distinguishes the regional security complex from its neighbors.

- **Chaotic Structure**: the regional security complex must consist of two or more autonomous units.

- **Polarity**: which gives the force distribution between the units.

- **Social Structure**: It is the one that shows patterns of friendship and enmity between units.

Second: the variables of the Regional Security Complex theory

1- Enmity and friendship

Usually, the factors controlling the dynamics of interaction in regional security vehicles are specific to the historical relations of enmity / friendship and the geographical cohesion that creates a state of security interdependence, whether towards stability or instability. Regional security relations are often affected by great suspicion by historical enmity or friendship, as well as security competition or cooperation. Among the regional parties, the total patterns of regional security interactions constitute the content of the regional security complex as a theoretical framework for analyzing contemporary international security relations.

These interactions include a mixture of the influence of the chaotic structure of the international system and the balance of power and the influence of the geographical convergence of the international parties, which helps to revive and nurture the mutual influence of the various security aspects from one environment to another, whether in its stable or turbulent form.

The security analysis of the pattern of enmity/friendship relations begins at the regional level, then its impact is traced and extended globally and locally. Assuming that the regional level of the pattern of the enmity/friendship relationship sorts out the strategic options and defines the content of the security objectives of each party, and then dumps them on the local and international levels.

What is more, this level of security interaction is not only important for the regional powers involved in the security complex, but also for the external superpowers, but its continuation does not depend on the latter.

Considering that the feasibility of the "enmity/friendship" variable in the regional analysis of security issues lies in the fact that it continues to determine regional security outcomes even if some of the superpowers that were catalysts in moving regional security dynamics have disappeared from the international system. The Arab-Israeli enmity continued in the post-Cold War phase after the collapse of the Soviet Union from the international system, as well as the Indian-Pakistani enmity and the enmity between North and South Korea. And still the historical relations between China and Taiwan (enmity) that control the regional security dynamics in the Yellow Sea in East Asia in addition to other security patterns.

2-Adjacency

The other independent variable that affects regional security dynamics is the principle of "adjacency", which works to produce cross-border security dynamics, assuming that geographical convergence means, in its strategic essence, convergence in the mutual influence of the concept of securitization that includes military, political, sociological and environmental components. It is an expanded agenda or reflects the concept of security in its new understood form.

Security or insecurity is linked to geographical convergence on the one hand, because the latter produces different security patterns (balance, security competition, self-help, arms race), and thus the presence of a group of geographically close parties forms the concept of the region, which in turn forms the regional security complex, which is characterized by the existence of Security relations are more intense than those between geographically distant countries. Because of the geographical, cultural and political differences, there are many regions and therefore we have regional security components and not a single security component in the international system.

3- Security Interdependence

The other independent variable in the analysis of the regional security complex theory of international security relations is security interdependence, which is also influenced by the principle of borderline or geographical convergence on the one hand, and the existence of strong political units that form the heart of the regional security complex on the other hand. Assuming that these units have great capabilities that can direct them towards mobilizing and activating regional security interactions. Although the great powers often work to transcend regional borders (China, for example) in order to increase their global influence or because of the growing needs that the regional region does not absorb. However, most of the parties to the regional complex remain constrained by regional borders and link their security to their close neighbors, and find themselves closed to the obligations and dynamics of regional security. Because of its limited military and political capabilities, it will therefore strengthen the regional security system rather than bypass it. The great powers (on which the neo-realists focused their analysis) tend to abandon regional constraints while the minor powers tend to strengthen them, but what is important methodologically for the theory of the regional security complex is that the number of great powers is few in the world while the minor powers They constitute the vast majority in the international system, and as long as this is the case, the regional analysis of security relations is the most important in interpreting and understanding the pattern of contemporary international politics.

4-Penetration

Another independent variable in the analysis of the regional security complex theory of international security relations is the concept of "Penetration". This concept contains theoretical implications in different directions, as it includes the meaning of the superpowers penetrating regional security vehicles in order to support their regional allies and protect their interests; By establishing security arrangements in partnership with the regional powers within the regional security complex. However, the penetration process does not occur except with motives emanating from within the region and not from outside it, by means of one or more regional parties creating opportunities or demands for the intervention of the external superpowers, represented by threatening the balance of power, controlling certain interests, increasing influence at the expense of others, or a growing motive Hegemony of a certain party to control the region as a whole or attempt to control the vital sites of the global economic system. All of these interactions serve as

vital catalysts for the behavior of external superpowers to intervene in regional security vehicles, as is the case with the United States in the Korean Peninsula, Europe and other regions of the world.

5-The Principle of Strength

The other variable in the analysis of the regional security complex theory of security issues is "strength", as a basic factor that produces security interactions in a frequent and intense manner, and is perhaps the most influential variable in regional security dynamics. When the concept of force interacts across the regional level, it will produce the characteristic of the balance of power that constitutes the regional security system, and the parties interact based on the obligations of this system. The security patterns of power appear in the form of fears that move the behavior of regional actors in different directions. Such fears will escalate strictly whenever the struggle for supremacy in possession of power intensifies. As a result of the tragic expectations about the results of the acquisition of elements of power by a certain party at the expense of others. Such fears could be associated with threats to regional stability that control the security outcomes of the security complex. The Regional Security Complex is a state of security interaction or security arrangement for a group of countries within one geographical area. They have links in the strategic depth of each of them. However, this complex can be formed temporarily around a specific crisis and then it fades, meaning that in some cases it cannot last and it has to be addressed. For different aspects and is not limited to the military aspect.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the Regional Security Complex is an important and effective tool for enhancing security and stability in the region. This concept brings together states in a regional framework to address common security challenges that affect the entire region. By cooperating and coordinating with each other, participating countries can address border threats, organized crime, terrorism, and other security challenges more effectively.

Regional security cooperation is based on mutual trust between states and the recognition that sustainable security of states requires joint coordination and cooperation. By exchanging information and benefiting from security expertise, countries can enhance their ability to better meet challenges and achieve the objectives of the Regional Security Complex.

Through the Regional Security Complex, countries provide themselves with the opportunity to cooperate and exchange information, expertise and resources, which contributes to enhancing the ability to address security challenges more effectively. This approach contributes to building bridges of understanding and trust between the participating countries, and strengthens security partnerships in the region.

Some examples of successful regional security vehicles:

- **European Union**: The European Union is a successful model of a regional security complex.

After the bloody wars in Europe in the twentieth century, the European Union turned into a project of peace and stability. Economic and political integration contributed to enhancing security and stability and preventing conflicts between member states.

- **Gulf Cooperation Council**: It is considered a successful security complex in the Arab Gulf region. The council consists of six countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The Council aims to enhance economic and security cooperation among member states and protect the region from regional threats.

- **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**: Although not fully realized, the FTAA is another example of a regional security complex that aims to enhance economic and security cooperation among the member states of the American region.

- **The Pacific Economic Area (APEC)**: is another regional security complex that aims to enhance trade and economic cooperation among participating economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

These are examples of some successful regional security vehicles, which reflect effective cooperation between countries in different regions to achieve common security and stability.

Over time, the Regional Security Complex has proven effective in dealing with common security challenges that transcend national borders. This concept helps build a solid framework for regional security and stability, which benefits all participating countries and contributes to improving the quality of life of the peoples of the region. As regional security cooperation represents a fundamental pillar for achieving security and peace in the world, as it works to enhance understanding and cooperation between countries and peoples to face common security challenges in an integrated and coordinated manner.

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