

The Genesis of Security

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Abstract

In the 21st century, the concept of “security” predominantly revolves around global considerations. Mass media frequently discuss global threats to the planet, states, and societies, with individual security often taking a backseat. However, individuals are an integral part of society, and while living within the confines of a particular state, they possess the right to personal security encompassing their businesses, families, and homes. Contemporary notions of personal security are often constrained to the legal definitions of criminal offenses outlined in the state’s penal code. But is this perspective sufficient? Can the state genuinely assure the safety of each individual? Is it equipped to guarantee security within the intricate fabric of today’s global order, while respecting the tenets of personal freedom and limited intrusion into human life? This article offers a pragmatic exploration by the authors to address these inquiries.

Keywords

security, safety, global order, state, threats

Introduction

How does security manifest, and what prompts its relevance for an individual? At what juncture does this particular concept become pertinent to each person? Discerning these

aspects is undeniably pertinent, impacting every individual. We are exposed to dangers in our daily lives, originating from myriad sources: natural calamities, impaired driving, or even a sidelong glance from someone deprived of their drug dose. Virtually any aspect of the world around us can pose threats to an individual. This problematic reflects the general discourse of current interdisciplinary research (Boustras & Waring, 2020; see also He et al., 2012; Hudson & Fraley, 2018; Nordfjærn & Rundmo, 2018; Nunes-Vaz & Lord, 2014). Moreover, as digital technologies evolve, the number of risks associated with them is also increasing (Fielding, 2019; see also DeTardo-Bora & Bora, 2016; McBride, 2017; Scholz et al., 2020; Wojewidka, 2020).

Modern legal and philosophical doctrines assert the presence of the state as an institution for the cohesion of individuals, partly to ensure their safety. Governments often allocate substantial funds to defense budgets in the pursuit of "security." However, they tend to emphasize the security of the nation, society, or region, indirectly assuming that individual security is implicitly covered. Modern scholarship frequently delves into calculations and discussions of global threats, sometimes neglecting the individual, envisaging an automatic well-being for individuals when communal safety is assured. Nonetheless, the authors posit that this perspective deviates from reality. The jesting adage "Saving the drowning is the work of the drowning" holds true in this context as ever. The question arises: why does this discrepancy exist, and how can it be rectified? To grapple with this predicament, the authors have embarked on this study.

Methodology

This article employs primary methods of theoretical and conceptual analysis, focusing on the works of philosophers and sociologists. The primary methodology employed revolves around the philosophical framework of Jean Baudrillard (1993, 2016), facilitating a nuanced exploration of the concept of security in contemporary society. Jean Baudrillard, the last and most eminent mastermind of the twentieth century, emerges once in a hundred years, and today such novelty is witnessed even more rarely. His works continue to be eagerly sought after his death, perhaps even more so. However, people started paying meticulous attention when the things he had written about became our reality; it was no longer amusing.

Baudrillard considered different pressing phenomena and introduced many concepts to describe today's world of hyperreality—among them the screen, seduction, simulacra and simulations, and the silent majority. He employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches, showing a preference for qualitative methods. To gain an in-depth understanding of Baudrillard's thoughts and scholarly methodology, it is essential to transition from construction to theory. He utilized specific measurements and models that could be geometrically represented on a board, serving as instruments for researching and analyzing the current state of affairs in various media. A comprehensive exploration of Baudrillard's works involves engaging with his instruments—the research toolkit of both a sociologist and a philosopher. Each tool demands comprehension and reflection.

The approach used for this article enables the identification of historical and cultural contexts associated with the concept of security. Social comparativism methods are applied to explore trends in social, political, and technological realms that influence the understanding and implementation of the security concept. Particular emphasis is placed on shifts in information technology and their implications for security. Generalization methods and the establishment of a unified conceptual framework, along with metatheoretical modeling techniques, are employed to analyze the dynamics of security in the contemporary world.

This includes examining the role of technology and factors related to social change that have the potential to impact security both at the individual and societal levels.

Results

In his book “Symbolic Exchange and Death,” Jean Baudrillard (1993) expounds upon the notion of security as a form of societal control and a means of exerting influence over life and its continuation. He remarks,

Security is another form of social control, in the form of life blackmailed with the afterlife. It is universally present for us today, and ‘security forces’ range from life assurance and social security to the car seatbelt by way of the state security police force. ‘Belt up’ says an advertising slogan for seatbelts. Of course, security, like ecology, is an industrial business extending its cover up to the level of the species: a convertibility of accident, disease and pollution into capitalist surplus profit is operative everywhere. (p. 177)

He further asserts, “Security is the industrial prolongation of death, just as ecology is the industrial prolongation of pollution.”

The concept of safety is proffered to us, its meanings curated through the “highlighting” of potential hazards. However, this highlighting is often directed by manufacturers and industries, catering to people’s willingness to invest in protective measures. Such tactics absolve us of the responsibility to contemplate safety, as we have already been presented with predetermined answers to questions about the structure of the world. Yet, danger often emerges unexpectedly, defying the preconceived notions. The paramount inquiry into security today centers around the question: what is transpiring? This marks the starting point, but by the time it is posed, events are already in motion. Ideally, the question that should have been raised earlier is: what could potentially happen? This query stems from another contemplation: why has the need arisen to pose this question, or any question at all?

In the post-Soviet realm, the query “what is happening?” began to resonate among individuals immediately following the disintegration of the USSR in the 1990s. Prior to this juncture, the task of grappling with this inquiry was largely within the purview of specialized agencies and services. The advent of the “wild capitalism” era within the post-Soviet space granted individuals newfound freedom, yet concurrently introduced the necessity to self-reflect and ask such questions. For the average person today, security is encapsulated in a series of inquiries, reflecting the complexity and urgency of our modern existence.

When delving into the concept of the “genesis of security,” we enter a realm of shifting concerns. Different eras have been marked by distinct prevailing issues, each possessing unique characteristics. For instance, the financial query of “Who?” emerges as a potent force. People seek to unravel the orchestrator behind events, grappling with a question that can profoundly affect their sanity. This question, “Who?” springs forth from the very essence of security. In the past, when something occurred, attribution was clear. However, contemporary technological advancements, particularly the global web, permit perpetrators to remain anonymous. In the aftermath of incidents, individuals yearn to uncover the identity behind the occurrence. They seek to ascertain accountability, responsibility, and culpability.

Today’s dynamic revolves around events unfolding and subsequent inquiries into “Who?” This epitomizes the present state of the genesis of security. Several factors underlie this circumstance:

1. Formation of a Misconception: In the twentieth century, an “Amalgam” was established across the European Union for its inhabitants, fostering widespread belief and utilization (Maltsev, 2018). This Amalgam can be distilled into the equation: citizens

pay taxes, authorities are obligated to safeguard them. Legally, this formulation is accurate, yet in practicality, it is untenable. For this concept to hold true, there would need to be three times as many law enforcement officers as citizens, considering the necessity for constant protection (with shifts every three days, weekends, etc.). This ratio is unattainable, leading to the realization that no entity was ever genuinely committed to fulfilling these obligations. The role of the police is to uphold the law, not to shield individuals. Law enforcement responds after an incident, investigating crimes. Protection of the individual rests largely upon their own shoulders.

2. Dependence on Law Enforcement: Many still harbor the belief that aligning with law enforcement will assure their personal and business security. However, malevolent intentions can strike unexpectedly, evading both individuals and law enforcement. The assailant's blow may be swift and discrete, leaving the victim unaware of the perpetrator's identity. Consequently, there may be no time to summon "protectors," and even if attempted, their response time remains uncertain.
3. There is no term "security" in reality, there is a term "guarding"... Guarding team consists of individuals who adhere to strict structures and operate within legal frameworks. They are responsible for safeguarding individuals (bodyguards) or protecting enterprise assets (alarm systems, remote monitoring, security personnel). The purview of this guarding firms is confined by the law, which does not encompass provisions for broader aspects like ensuring the security of the business community. Consequently, guarding teams constitutes just a segment, an element of the larger concept of security. For instance, the Russian Federation's law of March 5, 1992, No. 2446-I, defined security as the state of safeguarding vital interests of individuals, society, and the state from both internal and external threats. Vital interests encompass a spectrum of needs whose fulfillment guarantees the sustenance and progressive advancement of the individual, society, and the state (*On Security*, 1992).

The primary subjects of security encompass: the individual, their rights, and freedoms; society, its tangible and intangible assets; the state, its constitutional framework, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Although this law became obsolete, the new legislations that succeeded it refrained from furnishing similar definitions. The Law of Ukraine "On National Security" categorizes public security and order as the defense of the essential interests, rights, and freedoms of both society and the individual. This mandate is designated as a priority task for security forces, state bodies, local self-governance entities, their officials, and the public (*On the National Security of Ukraine*, 2018). These entities collectively engage in coordinated efforts to realize and shield national interests against various threats .

Drawing insights from these instances, it is evident that the state predominantly prioritizes its own security over that of individual citizens. Examining the extensive bibliography in A.I. Doronin's book "Business Intelligence," with 222 cited sources of books alone, not to mention articles and publications, underscores the significant volume of material published between 1990 and 2000 (Doronin, 2009). Notably, the primary objective of information gathering is often to mount attacks, thereby creating danger. Industrial espionage as a method to establish and enhance businesses remains a widely practiced endeavor. However, a key distinction exists between planned and spontaneous dangers. Business operations inherently harbor dangers due to the competitive landscape they exist within. This sphere of activity encompasses both legitimate and illegitimate competition, spawning an array of potential hazards. The quest to undermine competitors is a common thread within this environment. Starting from 2004, this sector witnessed the infiltration of electronic means, spanning forums, social networks, media, and blogs. Novel strategies emerged to attain market dominance, ranging from direct actions like computer hacking to manipulating public perceptions of businesses by discrediting them in the marketplace.

This progression has led to the establishment of a multi-tiered security structure, from which diverse threats emanate. A case in point is A. Derevitsky's work "Commercial Intelligence," detailing 94 distinct methods of influencing individuals (Derevitsky, 2008). As emphasized earlier, contemporary security revolves around questions.

There is a formula: questions breed theories, and theories either answer questions or they do not. Consequently, a necessity emerges, and that necessity pertains to skill acquisition. Skill becomes necessary only when a question arises. With a question, a goal emerges — to learn a skill, whether it is self-defense, working with information, or something else. However, the need for skill manifests when the question already confronts an individual. This scenario necessitates skills to be acquired after the fact, as opposed to arising as inherent needs. To effect a more desirable state, skills should emerge prior to any occurrence, becoming ingrained needs for skills. In this manner, theorizing occurs before events unfold. This process constitutes the mechanism for forming experiences, with individuals effectively conducting experiments on themselves.

This model does not pertain solely to security but extends across all facets of human existence. It functions as a framework for shaping human experiences, often arising from challenging mistakes. Its endpoint remains uncertain, resembling a life-threatening lottery. It is an experience anchored in fate, a result of experiments conducted on oneself. To avoid this self-experimentation, the model necessitates alteration. For a person's questioning to transpire "before" events, prediction is essential; individuals must anticipate potential scenarios. This marks a shift towards predictive logic, where threats are foreseen.

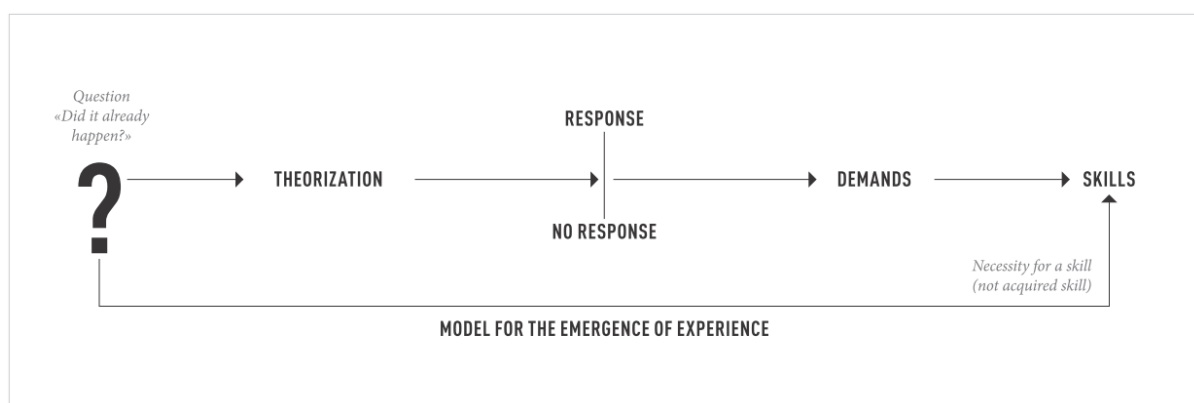


Figure 1. Model for the Emergence of Experience

Formerly, the security domain employed a threat scale, now supplanted by the "villains" scale. This scale of "villains" enables prediction. By gauging the time it takes for a "villain" to approach, individuals discern their time frame for acquiring essential skills. They understand the necessary skills to resist these "villains" (Maltsev, 2020).

Discussion

Contemporary tendencies lean towards neglecting skill development, vividly portrayed by terrorist attacks in Europe (Bouchard, 2018; Estrada & Koutrouas, 2016). It is pertinent to reflect on the remarks made by Joseph Linder, the President of the International Counterterrorism Training Association, in the preface of Jean Baudrillard's book "The Spirit of Terrorism." Linder asserts that terrorism has coexisted with civilization throughout its history and will only vanish when life itself ceases to exist on our planet. He highlights the human tendency to develop diverse theories to suit various time periods. In the swift current of 21st-century information dissemination, novel theories are essential for comprehension and application.

The evolving political landscape, political system cynicism, and geopolitical strategies contribute to a harsher environment. This cruelty transforms with technological advancements, particularly in the domain of "information poisoning." Linder places special emphasis on the fact that a majority of individuals remain unaware of the myriad psychological techniques they encounter daily, inadvertently becoming participants in aggressive processes that are, in reality, inconsequential to them (Baudrillard, 2016).

The current state of affairs is exemplified by the lack of organizations ensuring the safety of departing aircraft from airfields. This instance highlights a lack of accountability or industry. It is a realm where actions are bound by law, but beyond that, there is a sense of "every man for himself". The motto "Saving the drowning is a matter of the drowning themselves" encapsulates the security paradigm.

While the police are intended to prevent crime, the complexities of modern society make it improbable. Full police control often contradicts human rights doctrines, rendering a true prevention strategy difficult to implement. As such, the concept of individuals having to save themselves remains the norm.

The legal concept of "necessary defense" exists in many countries to guide individuals in the event of physical harm, yet there is a lack of clear regulations for cases involving business sabotage, unfair competition, or industrial espionage. Some argue for self-organization as a solution, circumventing the need for state intervention. However, state limitations on self-defense, such as gun ownership, remain substantial hurdles.

If "villains" exist in a city, they are likely to target businesses sooner or later, often hired to undermine competition. The modern world, especially in business, is rife with dangers. Every employee can potentially be a saboteur (Harris & Ogbonna, 2012). Small irregularities can accumulate, resulting in major problems analogous to airplane crashes. Investigating plane crashes often reveals a chain of minor violations culminating in disastrous consequences.

Conclusions

The modern world order and the simulation of social norms can create a deceptive sense of safety, leading individuals to believe in automatic protection. However, historical shifts, changing social norms, and the increasing complexity of electronic devices often reshape dangers into new forms or amplify existing ones. This highlights the importance of individuals acquiring the skills needed to ensure their own safety, as the current state doctrine may not be able to fully provide it.

By deriving a formula for shaping human experience and working with it, individuals can proactively identify potential dangers and take necessary precautions for their protection. This includes acquiring the essential skills needed to navigate through various risks and challenges that may arise. In a world where dangers are constantly evolving, self-awareness and preparedness become crucial for maintaining personal safety and security.

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