

## THE STATE AS THE KEY ACTOR IN NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

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### Abstract

The essence of the state's phenomenon lies in the fact that, due to historical experience and the specific conditions of modern political practice, the state is the most important factor in the consolidation (unification) of society.

To preserve the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of every country, as well as human rights, freedoms, and other important social understandings (relations), the state carries out operations aimed at ensuring national security, naturally taking into account both its own interests and those of society. The structure of ensuring the security of the Republic of Armenia is constantly and consistently being improved, based on the establishment and maintenance of the distinct status of state structures. As stages of these developments, one can distinguish the formation of the state system until 1995, the transformations of 1995–2005, the conceptual changes of 2005–2015 (2018), and the presence of entirely new governance structures from 2018 to the present.

**Keywords and phrases:** national security, subject, status, state, society, individual, policy, institution, strategy, concept, threat, challenge.

## ГОСУДАРСТВО КАК КЛЮЧЕВОЙ АКТОР В ПОЛИТИКЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

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### Аннотация

Сущность феномена государства заключается в том, что, благодаря историческому опыту и специфическим условиям современной политической практики, государство является важнейшим фактором консолидации (объединения) общества. Для сохранения независимости, суверенитета и территориальной целостности каждой страны, а также прав и свобод человека и других значимых социальных институтов (отношений), государство осуществляет деятельность, направленную на обеспечение национальной безопасности, естественно учитывая как свои собственные интересы, так и интересы общества. Структура обеспечения безопасности Республики Армения постоянно и последовательно совершенствуется, основываясь на установлении и поддержании особого статуса государственных институтов. В качестве этапов этих изменений можно выделить формирование государственной системы до 1995 года, преобразования 1995–2005 годов, концептуальные изменения 2005–2015 (2018) годов, а также появление совершенно новых управленческих структур с 2018 года по настоящее время.

**Ключевые слова и словосочетания:** национальная безопасность, субъект, статус, государство, общество, личность, политика, институт, стратегия, концепция, угроза, вызов.

# ՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ՝ ՈՐՊԵՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ԱՆՎՏԱՆԳՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՔԱՂԱՔԱԿԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՀԻՄՆԱԿԱՆ ԴԵՐԱԿԱՏԱՐ

## ԲԱԳՐԱՏ ԲԱԳՐԱՏՅԱՆ

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### Համառոտագիր

Պետության երևույթի էությունը կայանում է նրանում, որ, պատմական փորձի և ժամանակակից քաղաքական պրակտիկայի առանձնահատուկ պայմանների շնորհիվ, պետությունը հասարակության համախմբման (միավորման) ամենակարևոր գործոնն է:

Յուրաքանչյուր երկրի անկախությունը, ինքնիշխանությունը և տարածքային ամբողջականությունը, ինչպես նաև մարդու իրավունքները, ազատությունները և այլ կարևոր հասարակական հասկացություններ (հարաբերություններ) պահպանելու համար պետությունն իրականացնում է ազգային անվտանգության ապահովմանը միտված գործողություններ՝ բնականաբար հաշվի առնելով ինչպես սեփական, այնպես էլ հասարակության շահերը:

Հայաստանի Հանրապետության անվտանգության ապահովման կառուցվածքը մշտապես և հետևողականորեն կատարելագործվում է՝ հիմնվելով պետական կառույցների հատուկ կարգավիճակի ձևավորման և պահպանման վրա: Այս զարգացումների փուլերից կարելի է առանձնացնել պետական համակարգի ձևավորումը մինչև 1995 թվականը, 1995-2005 թվականների փոխակերպումները, 2005-2015 (2018) թվականների հայեցակարգային փոփոխությունները և 2018 թվականից առ այսօր ամբողջությամբ նոր կառավարման կառուցվածքների առկայությունը:

**Բանալի բառեր և բառակապակցություններ.** ազգային անվտանգություն, սուբյեկտ, կարգավիճակ, պետություն, հասարակություն, անհատ, քաղաքականություն, հաստատություն, ռազմավարություն, հայեցակարգ, սպառնալիք, մարտահրավեր:

### Introduction

Ensuring national security must be considered as a unified systemic process, the implementation of which should be based on the principle of contributing to the achievement of strategic security objectives. In general, national security can be characterized as a system of political, legal, economic, organizational, and other measures aimed at protecting the vital interests of the state, society, and individuals from all types of threats.

The unique role of the state as the main actor in the political system of society in the process of ensuring security is defined by its dual nature. On one hand, the state acts as the determinant of security policy and is endowed with broader capabilities. On the other hand, it is itself directly subjected to the most significant impacts of threats and challenges, making it an object of security. This dual nature becomes even more pronounced in conditions where traditional security threats are joined by qualitatively new threats and challenges, thereby involving new actors in security policy.

### Theoretical-methodological bases

The dual role of the state in ensuring national security has been noted in the works of ancient thinkers such as Herodotus, Plato, and Aristotle. These works not only contain valuable data about the political and state systems of society but also reveal the essence of the state's fundamental institutional functions, including in the field of security. They also define the criteria for the formation of the "state structure" intended for these functions [5].

For example, according to Plato, "the guardians must be chosen from among those who have made serving the state's interests the purpose of their entire lives and who will never act contrary to them. They will protect the state from external enemies and, within the state, will protect friendly citizens so that they do not develop a desire to commit evil acts."

According to Aristotle, "first, there must be food, then crafts, and third, weapons." This shows that ancient Roman thinkers paid special attention to internal and external political issues that must be addressed by specialized subjects, such as the guardians, who possess specific qualities

and personal dignity, through the corresponding functions of protecting the state and its citizens. Here, the concept of security as a state of protection is directly dependent on the form of the state system.

The further development of the state's role in ensuring security is reflected in the works of the 17th-century English philosopher and political thinker Thomas Hobbes. In his work *Leviathan* or *The Matter, Form, and Power of a Commonwealth Ecclesiastical and Civil*, Hobbes emphasized that the primary goal of the state is to ensure security, which must be guaranteed exclusively by positive law, not by natural laws. In other words, the focus is on the fact that security cannot be achieved solely through the goodwill of citizens.

The state must be the guarantor of security, capable of enforcing legal norms to ensure their implementation. As Hobbes stated, "without the sword, covenants are but words, and of no strength to secure a man at all" [1, 11].

Baruch Spinoza, in turn, emphasized that the ultimate goal of the state is not to keep people in fear by subjecting them to the authority of others, but rather to free everyone from fear so that they may live in security as much as possible, for no one remains under the power of fear for long. Moreover, the thinker also saw a close connection between ensuring security and the activities of governing bodies: "for the security of the state, it does not matter what motives guide people, as long as they are guided by the right approach. Since freedom or firmness of spirit is the moral quality of individuals, the moral quality of the state is security.

During the Renaissance of the so-called "third estate" (the bourgeoisie), the view was established that the primary goal of the state is to guarantee the general welfare and security. In this context, the views of the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau on the role of the state in security matters cannot be overlooked. According to Rousseau, security is the most important concern of the state, and therefore, one of the most important criteria for the legitimacy of state authorities.

Thus, throughout the political history of human civilization, an ideology has formed that security is a complex socio-political phenomenon. It constitutes not only the primary goal and main function of the state but also a specific state of social relations that is directly linked to the vector of development and the very condition of existence of society and the state [3, 10].

Almost all the main components of the modern interpretation of security have been identified: internal and external threats, the role of the state as the main subject of security, and the distinct responsibility for ensuring the security of society and citizens.

The modern understanding of security is characterized by the increasing emphasis on the interdependence of "nature-society-individual." Due to technological progress, external and internal security have become increasingly interdependent. The connections between different spheres of security, their mutual influence, and their impact on the security of individuals and society have begun to lose their distinct nature. To determine the state of protection of the vital interests of individuals, society, and the state from external and internal threats of various origins, it is necessary to use a system of principles and methods of study that will allow for the scientific formulation of the objective aspects of the phenomenon of security, considering it as the unified security of individuals, society, and the state in various spheres of life [9].

National security policy, as a rule, is reflected in targeted, systematic programs developed by the state to ensure the security of individuals, society, and the state in specific spheres of life [4].

In the context of individual security, the primary focus is to protect the vital interests of individuals, allowing them the full utilization of their physical and mental abilities not only for their own benefit, but also for the society and the state. In guaranteeing individual security the states, must provide an appropriate legislative system, emphasizing the rights and freedom of individuals and citizens enshrined in the constitution, as well as their legitimate interests.

The security of society implies conditions necessary to make civil society's oversight of state activities more effective, ensuring a non-state (public) share in security provision, developed public institutions, advanced forms of public consciousness that allow the realization of the rights and freedom of all population groups, and counterattack processes aimed at social division.

The country's independence, sovereignty and territorial immunity, are guaranteed under the

conditions of state security, as well as the protection of the state and socio-economic structure, the fundamental principles of state activity, and the rights and freedoms of citizens enshrined in the constitution (basic law). To prevent the negative impact of external and internal factors on state security, it is essential to be guided by modern principles of law in relations with any state and domestic institutions, and to demand that others also adhere to these norms. Here, it is worth mentioning the reality that the choice of governance model in a state is an important political issue, as evidenced in all post-Soviet countries after the collapse of the USSR. This choice also influences the processes of shaping external and internal security policies [7].

The subject-object structure of national security is primarily expressed in the fact that the subject and object mutually condition each other and, in many cases, may even coincide. The differences between them are somewhat conditional, defined by corresponding functions, and arise in the context of relations related to ensuring national security [2].

The state and society, as subjects of power and politics, are interconnected. In the structure of power, the role of each subject is perceived through a complex combination of interests, which means that each subject (especially the state) is both independent and dependent. The state, society, and the individual, as the main structural elements of security, condition the other components of the system, particularly the object, and are sensitive to any changes in this interconnectedness. This is also supported by the fact that the subjects of the security system are able to influence the orientation of the general security policy toward the object, and vice versa, the objects of security can fundamentally change the composition and functions of the subjects of the security system [6].

Thus, the national security system can be characterized as an integral structure in which each part serves the whole, and the whole, in turn, rules each element.

In general, the object of the security system is everything that needs to be secured.

Theoretically, the objects of the security system can be classified as follows: those related to the individual (their rights, freedoms, and health), those related to society (its material and spiritual values), and those related to the state (the constitutional order, sovereignty, and territorial integrity). Thus, the object-oriented structure of the national security system includes the entirety of external and internal threats directed against the values represented by the above mentioned subject classification.

The legal subjectivity of national security actors pertains to both national and international spheres. Thus, the subjects of international law are bearers of corresponding rights and obligations in the field of security, derived from the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and international treaties. In this regard, primary and secondary subjects are distinguished. The primary subjects of international law and security are states, which are full bearers of rights and obligations. At the same time, it is accepted that the secondary subjects of international security (international organizations, groups of states) are endowed with limited legal capacity compared to primary subjects. Nevertheless, international law grants the highest authority in the field of international security to a secondary subject, namely the United Nations, represented by its Security Council (Chapters 6 and 7 of the UN Charter)

In the field of national security, the situation is different. The primary and initial subject, as a rule, is the state, which grants rights and obligations to its structures—authority bodies, legal and physical entities [8, 12].

Therefore, in the national (domestic) security system, the state has significant influence over other security subjects as well. By utilizing these, as well as relying on the legal system, material, and force resources, the state fully employs all its capabilities to protect the main objects of national security. Here, all structures related to the three branches of power (legislative, executive, and judicial) are applicable.

In fact, the organizational and structural composition of the national security system is usually discussed in two aspects:

**Broad:** As the entirety of all structures participating in the process of ensuring national security.

**Narrow:** When referring specifically to the relevant bodies of the executive branch.

The subjects included in the security system can be classified into two subgroups:

- Subjects that directly participate in the implementation of this function and are the main implementers of state policy.
- Subjects that participate indirectly in the implementation of this function, and their influence on the process is of a supportive nature.

In order to properly implement the necessary functions for ensuring security, the state, as the central institution of the political system, forms an appropriate institutional system with clear directions and functions. Hence, its individual components must have a sufficient level of humane, administrative, financial, and ideological potential.

The systemic processes of establishing the security of each country are carried out within the framework of specific historical conditions and are determined particularly by the social, economic, organizational and scientific-technical characteristics of the life of the state and society, including:

- Social situation and social characteristics: The reflection of security in the programs of political parties, the alignment of public interests and demands in the socio-psychological views of the population.
- Economic characteristics: Natural and human resources, economic development, the standard of living of the population, domestic and foreign trade, finances, the state of the national economy and its sectors.
- Organizational characteristics: The formation and operational indicators of power structures, which determine the level of state governance.
- Scientific-technical characteristics: The country's scientific potential, the pace and scale of the spread of scientific and technological revolutions, the quantity and quality of discoveries, etc. Among the conditions influencing the state of national security, the following stand out:
- Civil aspect: The state of citizens' health and the provision of social security.
- Social aspect: The state of protecting the moral and cultural values of society.
- Political aspect: The state of international relations, mutually beneficial cooperation, interethnic relations, and social stability.
- Economic aspect: The state of the economy, the financial system, natural and raw material resources.
- Defense aspect: The preparedness of the population, economy, armed forces, and other troops for modern wars and military conflicts.
- Technogenic aspect: The state of main productive assets, labor discipline, early warning systems, and means of preventing emergencies.
- Environmental aspect: The state of the environment and its protection.
- Informational aspect: The possibility of freedom and accessibility of information, etc.

### **Results**

The differentiation of the links in the management of the national security system and its provision process allows for the distinction of the political-legal status of each of these structures, their model "internal" structures, and their interaction, especially in the issues of evaluating and controlling the system's activities. It is also important to emphasize that the structural system of national security includes not only the entirety of the above-mentioned structures but also the relations related to the organization of the system's activities.

Within the framework of its foreign and domestic policies, Armenia considers the protection of its national security as a prerequisite for building a democratic, legal state, implementing socio-economic reforms, engaging in equal international relations, establishing mutual cooperation and friendly principles, and consistently organizing a comprehensive international security system. The security policy of the Republic of Armenia is guided by a number of fundamental documents, among which the 2020 National Security Strategy, the 2007 National Security Strategy, and the Military Doctrine are the basic ones [13, 14].

It was noted that the full provision of national security can only be achieved through the targeted and unified activities of all state bodies and institutions. In this field, the state collaborates with other subjects of domestic and foreign policy, striving to ensure a comprehensive security environment. In this regard, the state bodies of the executive branch of security, including the

forces and means of ensuring security, constitute Armenia's national security system. The 2020 National Security Strategy also specifically emphasizes the priority of "forming an effective defense- security system capable of countering military-political threats."

### Conclusion

Summarizing all this, the main goal of the state's role and policy in the field of national security can be considered the creation of the most favorable internal and external conditions to improve the quality of life of the country's citizens, ensure stable democratic development, and protect the interests of individuals, society, and the state from social conflicts, natural disasters, and long-term ecological threats.

The most important guarantee for ensuring national security is the strengthening of statehood, which is considered the foundation for any other activity aimed at ensuring the security of all subjects of political activity. This is explained by the fact that, among all types of governance, state governance occupies a special place, which is determined by the distinct status of its subject—the state [15, 16].

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