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*Reflections on the Economic Security of the State in the National
Security Strategies of the Republic of Poland*

Rozważania nad bezpieczeństwem ekonomicznym państwa w Strategiach Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to analyze the extent to which economic security has been included in the subsequent strategic documents on national security and to assess the directions and dynamics of the evolution of this approach over time. This study makes it possible to determine how changes in political, economic, and international conditions have influenced the redefinition of strategic priorities and the perception of the role of economic factors as an integral component of the comprehensive system of national security.

Keywords: national security, economic security, national security strategies

INTRODUCTION

In common understanding, security is perceived as a subjective sense of stability and the absence of threats in an individual's environment. In the subject literature, it is emphasized that security constitutes one of the fundamental human needs, conditioning the ability to function properly both on the individual and social levels. Thus, security is treated as a superior value determining the realization of other needs and life goals.

Since the early 1990s, an intensification of research on security has been observed, covering both theoretical approaches and practical mechanisms of shaping and maintaining security. These analyses focus on the impact of security on the func-

tioning of social, institutional, and state structures, taking into account the internal context as well as the dynamics of the international environment. The term “security” is polysemic. Its etymology derives from Latin, where the word originates from the combination of *sine* – “without” and *cura* – “worry, anxiety” [Czupryński 2015: 11]. Today, it refers to a state free from fear and threats posed by harmful factors. In theoretical terms, security is sometimes defined as synonymous with certainty and the absence of physical threats, or as the effective neutralization of such threats. According to other definitions, it constitutes a dynamic process based on relations between the subject and its environment, which enables the satisfaction of the need for security, autonomy of action, and the realization of the subject’s interests.

Ryszard Zięba points out that the broadest definition of security is presented in the UNESCO Dictionary of Social Sciences, according to which it is synonymous with certainty and the absence of physical threat or protection against such a threat [Zięba 2018: 17–18]. Marek Pietraś defines security as a dynamic process resulting from the interaction between the subject and its environment, in which the fundamental need for security plays a key role, enabling the realization of individual interests [Pietraś 2006: 323–326]. Stanisław Koziej also perceives security as a process, whose essence is the continuous provision of a sense of security that enables the survival, development, and free functioning of the subject in a favourable environment [Koziej 2011: 19–21]. Both scholars emphasize the processual character of security.

With the dissemination of the concept of securitization, security studies have significantly expanded and diversified, encompassing new research areas and analytical perspectives. In earlier conceptualizations, security was primarily associated with the military domain and understood through the prism of external threats and the defense potential of the state. This model, characteristic of the Cold War era, focused on power relations and political-military rivalry. The end of the bipolar confrontation and the transformations in the international environment, however, led to the expansion of the catalogue of threats and to the redefinition of the very notion of security. As a result, alongside military aspects, increasing importance began to be attributed to social, cultural, ecological, and economic security, as consistently emphasized in the literature [Pietraś 1994: 48–50].

Today, security is understood both as a state – an objective absence of threats – and as a process involving actions aimed at identifying, reducing, and neutralizing them. It is recognized as one of the basic human needs, conditioning survival, identity formation, and the ability to develop. It also denotes the protection of values essential to the individual or the collective, such as health, material resources, economic stability, and developmental opportunities.

In this context, economic security is defined as the state of an economic system that ensures its efficient, stable, and effective functioning based on the optimal use of internal resources and resilience to external pressures [Leszczyńska 2018: 289]. Stanisław Michałowski emphasizes that it is also a category related to the perception of threats, economic dependencies, and the influence of external factors on the country’s

development, its socio-political stability, and defense potential [Michałowski 1990: 8]. This means that economic security has both a structural (objective) dimension and a perception-based (subjective) one.

In the classical understanding of the functions of the state, two fundamental dimensions of security are distinguished: internal security, referring to constitutional stability, public order, and the proper functioning of institutions, and external security, defined as the absence of threats originating from the international environment. However, the contemporary security environment is characterized by high dynamics and unpredictability, which requires states to continuously adapt their security strategies to changing conditions [Koziej 2011: 18].

Security constitutes a fundamental category in the functioning of societies and individuals, while simultaneously being a dynamic process subject to continuous evolution depending on civilizational, political, technological, and cultural changes [Fehler 2002: 166–167]. In the subject literature, numerous definitions of security can be found, emphasizing different aspects of the concept – such as a state free from threats, the ability to manage risk, or a process ensuring stability. Nevertheless, all converge on the idea of maintaining continuity of functioning and protecting key values. The definitions cited above synthesize the essence of the issue by highlighting both the structural and processual dimensions of security, as well as its variability and dependency on the socio-political context.

Initially, security was perceived strictly in military terms, focusing on the protection of the territorial integrity of the state and counteracting external threats. In the second half of the 20th century, particularly after the end of the Cold War, this notion began to expand, recognizing its multidimensional character. This led to the introduction of the so-called object dimension of security, encompassing various spheres of state functioning, such as political, social, energy, and economic security. This approach made it possible to treat security as a system of interrelated elements [Pietraś 2006: 331].

On this basis, the concept of economic security developed, defined as the ability of the state to ensure stable conditions for economic development, maintain the continuity of institutional functioning, and preserve decision-making sovereignty in the field of the economy. It includes the protection of key resources and resilience to threats such as financial crises, market instability, or economic pressure from other actors. Consequently, economic security constitutes an integral element of national security and a condition for political stability and the realization of the state's strategic development goals [Książkowski 2011: 27–35].

The aim of this article is to analyze the extent to which economic security has been included in the subsequent strategic documents on national security and to assess the directions and dynamics of the evolution of this approach over time. This study makes it possible to determine how changes in political, economic, and international conditions have influenced the redefinition of strategic priorities and the perception of the role of economic factors as an integral component of the comprehensive system of national security.

The subject of the research comprised official strategic documents in the field of state security, in particular the National Security Strategies of the Republic of Poland from the years 1990–2020. The primary research method was the analysis of strategic documents. Within this framework, special attention was devoted to the economic security component, treated as an element of the broader national security system.

The analysis covered both direct provisions referring to this dimension and indirect references appearing in the diagnosis of the security environment as well as in sections concerning economic development, public finances, and energy security. Additionally, the desk research method was employed as a supplementary approach, involving a review and analysis of selected academic publications, monographs, and specialist articles addressing economic security and national security strategies.

Following the analysis of each document, morphological tables were developed, in which – according to uniform research criteria (economic security objectives, challenges and threats, instruments for achieving objectives) – the manner in which economic security was addressed in individual strategies was compiled. The application of this technique made it possible to compare the documents and to identify both continuity and changes in the state’s approach to economic security.

STRATEGY AS AN ANALYTICAL CATEGORY

The concept of “strategy” is commonly understood as a plan or a sequence of actions leading to the achievement of a specific objective. Its origins lie in the Greek language – the term *strategos* referred to a supreme commander, while strategy meant the method of commanding troops and issuing orders during combat [Kopaliński 2004: 540].

The evolution of the understanding of strategy proceeded from a narrow, military perspective to a broad, multidimensional analytical category appropriate for the functioning of the modern state. Initially, strategy was closely linked to the command of armed forces and decision-making on the battlefield. Over time – especially since the modern era and the Napoleonic Wars – its meaning expanded to include not only the planning of military operations but also the use of the entire state’s potential, including economic, logistical, and organizational resources.

With the development of political thought and the social sciences, strategy came to be perceived as a long-term process oriented toward counteracting threats and ensuring the stability and security of the state. It encompasses both responses to existing threats and preventive actions aimed at avoiding their emergence. Thus, strategy became linked to the protection of fundamental state institutions, the political system, and decision-making processes [Zalewski 2013: 46].

The contemporary understanding of strategy emphasizes its long-term and general character. Strategy describes the current internal and external conditions of the state, forecasts possible directions of change within a specified time horizon,

and sets the framework for action at the tactical and operational levels. It does not constitute a set of detailed tools; rather, it establishes the main directions and principles of conduct, enabling the state to prevent crises and to respond adequately to extraordinary situations. In this way, strategy performs a stabilizing function by limiting the ad hoc influence of current political interests on the long-term security objectives of the state [Sobera 2015: 183].

The relationship between security and strategies is fundamental and systemic in nature. Strategies – whether state, military, or organizational – are constructed in order to ensure optimal conditions for functioning through the identification, analysis, and control of potential threats. Security plays the role of a strategic objective here, while at the same time serving as a criterion for assessing the effectiveness of undertaken actions. This means that the process of formulating strategy is based on anticipating changes in the environment, managing risk, and implementing preventive and protective mechanisms. As a result, an effective strategy strengthens system resilience and stabilizes its development, whereas its absence or improper design leads to increased vulnerability to threats and a reduced level of security.

According to Jarosław Solarz, the national security strategy is a superior state document that organizes activities in the field of security and translates key norms of domestic and international law into a coherent practical concept. It defines the manner of identifying threats and challenges arising from the dynamic changes in the security environment, and sets the framework for protecting national interests and strengthening state resilience. This document formulates the fundamental objectives, priorities, and instruments for shaping and maintaining security, creating conditions for the stable life and development of citizens [Solarz 2025: 12].

Over the past thirty years, many strategic documents concerning national security have been developed in Poland, reflecting both the dynamic changes in political conditions and the evolving understanding of the concept of security itself. Of key importance for the analysis of the place of economic security in these documents is the beginning of the 1990s, when, under conditions of deep systemic transformation and a change in the state's geopolitical position, the process of redefining Poland's strategic sovereignty began. This period necessitated the development of new conceptual foundations in the field of defense and security, also taking into account factors of an economic nature.

DEFENSIVE DOCTRINE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (1990)

One of the first documents of a strategic nature was the Defence Doctrine of the Republic of Poland, adopted by the National Defence Committee on 21 February 1990 on the basis of the Act of 21 November 1967 on the universal obligation to defend the Polish People's Republic. The Doctrine, as an annex to the resolution, was a short document constituting a transitional solution between the existing concept

of security from the period of membership in the Warsaw Pact and the new security system being shaped in post-Cold War realities. The character of the doctrine resulted from the fact that it was developed at a time of dynamic geopolitical changes that had not yet been fully recognized – including the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact – which rendered some of its assumptions outdated already at the moment of implementation [Koziej 2012: 19–23].

In structural terms, the analyzed document was divided into nine chapters. In its substantive layer, the document focused primarily on military issues, defining basic national interests such as the preservation of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity [Uchwała Komitetu Obrony Kraju z dnia 21 lutego 1990 r. w sprawie doktryny obronnej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 1990: 82–83]. From the perspective of economic security, the doctrine referred to it in a limited and instrumental manner – treating the economy as the backing of the state’s defensive power. Economic potential was therefore perceived as a factor determining mobilization capabilities, armament, and the size of the armed forces. In other words, economic security did not yet function as a separate dimension of national security but was understood as an element supporting military capabilities [*ibid.*: 84].

Such an approach resulted from the doctrine’s prevailing perception of threats, which was still rooted in the logic of bipolar confrontation between politico-military blocs. Conventional conflict was regarded as the main threat to the survival of the state, while economic or systemic challenges were treated as secondary issues. Consequently, economic security had not yet been conceptualized as an independent analytical category; this began to change only in subsequent years, along with increasing globalization, economic transformation, and Poland’s integration into international structures [Konias 2011: 65–66].

The Defence Doctrine of 1990 thus constituted a transitional document – combining elements inherited from the period of the Warsaw Pact with newly emerging security concepts. Its significance lay primarily in opening the process of reinterpreting national security, which in the following decades led to the separation and systematic strengthening of the category of economic security as an integral part of state security.

Table 1. The treatment of economic security issues in the Defence Doctrine of the Republic of Poland of 1990

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Ensuring such functioning of the economy that enables the fulfillment of defense tasks, maintaining production and mobilization capabilities, securing strategic reserves, and increasing the country’s resilience under conditions of threat and war.
Challenges and threats	External military threats resulting from the instability of the international security environment; the risk of an armed conflict affecting the economy’s ability to support the state’s defense.
Instruments and directions of state action	Implementation of the state’s defense policy, including subordinating the functioning of the economy to defense needs; maintaining the system of economic mobilization; planning and organizing the material and production base to meet the needs of the armed forces and state security.

Source: Uchwała Komitetu Obrony Kraju z dnia 21 lutego 1990 r. w sprawie doktryny obronnej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.

ASSUMPTIONS OF POLISH SECURITY POLICY AND THE SECURITY POLICY AND DEFENCE STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (1992)

The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the collapse of the Soviet Union opened a new stage for Poland in shaping national security, based on the necessity of independently formulating strategic assumptions. This transformation was a complex process, as for decades decisions concerning defense had not been made autonomously but within allied structures subordinated to Soviet dominance. As a consequence, the state lacked developed experience and institutional mechanisms for creating its own security policy.

In this process, a key role was played by the document Assumptions of Polish Security Policy and the Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland, announced on 2 November 1992. It constituted the first comprehensive study of a normative and strategic nature in the conditions of systemic transformation, presenting in an integrated manner the new determinants, capabilities, and threats resulting from geopolitical transformations taking place in Europe.

Unlike the defence doctrine of 1990, the 1992 strategy was based on a much broader, multi-dimensional understanding of security, encompassing components such as political, military, social, ecological, ethnic, and economic security. Structurally, the document was divided into two parts. The first was entitled "Assumptions of Polish Security Policy", while the second was "Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland".

The first part of the document defined the basic principles of the Polish state's policy in the field of internal and external security. This section was divided into six short subsections: basic assumptions, integration with Western Europe, the international security system, new regional cooperation, defence, and internal security. Issues indirectly related to economic and financial security were indicated in this brief document as many as four times, across three of the six chapters.

The fundamental strategic objective of economic security was recognized as Poland's permanent anchoring in the Western economic and political order. Integration with Western Europe was perceived as an indispensable condition for overcoming civilizational backwardness, ensuring long-term growth, and achieving the status of a full-fledged partner among developed states. Participation in Western economic structures was simultaneously treated as the foundation of stable independence and genuine economic sovereignty of the state [*Założenia Polskiej Polityki Bezpieczeństwa oraz Polityka bezpieczeństwa i strategia obronna Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* 1992: 4].

At the same time, it was indicated that the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented model, despite its necessity, involved periodic economic and social risks. The costs of systemic transformation, restructuring, and privatization processes constituted a significant burden for both the state and society, increasing short-term vulnerability to internal destabilization. Consequently, the effective implementation of economic and administrative reforms was recognized as one of the

key conditions for Poland's lasting economic security. The document pointed to significant social and structural threats resulting from socio-economic transformation. Unemployment, social frustration, emigration, and the growth of social pathologies were considered to weaken social cohesion and increase the state's susceptibility to external pressure. An additional factor worsening economic security was identified as the growing costs of environmental degradation, which affect living conditions and prospects for economic development [*ibid.*: 5–6].

Despite its synthetic character, the first part of the strategy indicates that economic and financial security constitute a system of interrelated elements, including: the strategic choice of integration with the West, the state's capacity to carry out economic reforms, social stability, and resilience to external threats. Weakening in any of these areas would lead to threats to sovereignty and to the security of the state as a whole.

The second part of the strategy, entitled "Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland", is somewhat more extensive. It is divided into seven chapters: introduction, conditions and threats, external aspects of security policy, economic and defence aspects, assumptions of the defence strategy, the defence system, and conclusion. First and foremost, it is emphasized already in the introduction that this document develops and specifies the principles outlined in the first part. It presents intentions and directions of action aimed at strengthening Poland's sovereignty and security, while fostering the country's civilizational development and its position in Europe.

Issues of economic security in the section Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland occupy an important place, even though they were not directly distinguished as a separate chapter. Analysis of the document's content indicates that economic security is treated as a fundamental component of national security, closely linked both to state defence and to internal stability as well as the capacity to independently shape foreign policy. The strategy clearly emphasizes that the permanence of an independent and democratic state depends on the effectiveness of market reforms and economic development, which constitute a prerequisite for independence from external political and economic pressure. In this sense, economic security was incorporated into the category of *raison d'état* of the young, transforming Republic [*ibid.*: 3].

One of the key strands of economic security, strongly emphasized also in this part of the document, is the pursuit of membership in the European Communities. The document unambiguously indicates that integration with Western Europe constitutes the best safeguard of Poland's political and economic interests. Membership is perceived not only as a political goal, but above all as an instrument of long-term economic stabilization and state modernization. The strategy stresses the necessity of adapting Polish legal, economic, technical, and ecological standards to European norms, treating this process as a condition for reducing development gaps *vis-à-vis* Western states. At the same time, it is noted that integration is a long-term process and will only be possible after overcoming the economic crisis and stabilizing the foundations of the market economy [*ibid.*: 7].

In the 1992 document, economic security was also linked to the issue of international peace. It was indicated that partnership-based economic relations at the international level, together with a well-functioning market economy within the state, belong to the key factors of political stabilization that reduce the risk of armed conflict. The strategy clearly opposes the use of economic advantage by certain states to impose their will on others, as well as the application of discriminatory economic restrictions. This approach reflects a broad, non-military understanding of security, characteristic of states seeking a stable place in the post-Cold War international order [*ibid.*: 10].

An important element of the strategy is the diagnosis of internal economic threats resulting from radical systemic transformations. It is indicated that the social costs of transformation – particularly recession, unemployment, and a decline in living standards – may lead to the weakening of the state and increase its vulnerability to internal destabilization and external interference. The document draws attention to the risk of growing social frustration, mass emigration, and an increase in crime and other social pathologies. These phenomena are perceived as real threats to national security. In response, the strategy postulates the maximum acceleration of reform processes and the shortening of the transition period, recognizing prolonged economic instability as a factor escalating social tensions [*ibid.*: 8].

The economy was defined as the material foundation of national security, responsible for maintaining and training the armed forces in peacetime, preparing the mobilization base, and ensuring conditions for the population's survival in extreme situations. The strategy also emphasizes the universal nature of security costs, indicating that the obligation to bear them rests not only with state authorities but also with citizens and economic entities. At the same time, the use of extraordinary financial instruments, such as national loans or off-budget funds, is permitted. A significant role in ensuring economic security was assigned to the domestic defence industry, which was recognized as the basic source of equipment for the armed forces. The state declares the protection of selected defence industry enterprises and support for their competitiveness, including in foreign markets.

Moreover, the strategy underscores the importance of transport and energy infrastructure, reserves of raw materials and strategic materials, and the rational distribution of these resources across the territory of the country. The necessity of diversifying energy resource supplies was also highlighted, which already at the beginning of the 1990s was recognized as a condition for increasing the state's economic resilience.

From 1992 onward, Poland's strategic objective became integration with NATO structures, which required the gradual adaptation of national security concepts to the standards binding within the Alliance [Koziej 1998]. Consequently, work began on new strategies intended to harmonize Poland's security policy with allied doctrines. This resulted in the later adoption of two documents: the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland and the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland, which defined, *inter alia*, the pursuit of creating stable conditions for socio-economic

development, protecting national heritage, and strengthening the welfare of society [Koziej 2008: 4–5].

Table 2. The treatment of economic security issues in the Assumptions of Polish Security Policy and the Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 1992

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Creating an efficiently functioning market economy as the foundation of state security; economic integration with Western Europe (the European Communities) as protection of economic interests; ensuring the material foundations of state defence; diversification of energy resource supplies and securing strategic reserves.
Challenges and threats	The crisis of systemic transformation (recession, unemployment, social costs of reforms); the risk of internal destabilization, social frustration, and emigration; dependence on a single direction of raw material and energy supplies; weakening of defence potential under conditions of an inefficient economy; the possibility of economic pressure exerted by stronger states.
Instruments and directions of state action	Acceleration of economic reforms and shortening of the transformation period; widespread privatization and changes in the economic management system; development of the domestic defence industry under state protection; investments in transport, energy, and communication infrastructure; building and rational distribution of reserves of raw materials and food; economic and defence cooperation with NATO states and Western Europe.

Source: *Założenia Polskiej Polityki Bezpieczeństwa oraz Polityka bezpieczeństwa i strategia obronna Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 1992.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (2003)

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, announced on 8 September 2003 by President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, constituted an important stage in the development of Polish strategic thought under conditions of a forming new international order. The document was prepared in the direct context of global changes in the security sphere, resulting primarily from the terrorist attacks on the United States of 11 September 2001 and the dynamic increase in the importance of non-state actors as sources of threats. In terms of security doctrine, this meant a departure from the traditionally military, state-centric perception of threats in favour of a multidimensional approach encompassing issues of conflict asymmetry, international terrorism, and infrastructural destabilization. Structurally, the document is divided into five chapters: introduction; new challenges; general assumptions; tasks of state services; and the economic foundations of state security.

In substantive terms, the strategy treats economic security as one of the key non-military pillars of state security, closely linked to political stability, international credibility, and the ability to fulfill allied commitments. Nevertheless, it is still not defined explicitly as “economic security”, but rather as the “economic foundations of state security”. The document reflects the dominant early 21st-century conviction that sustained economic growth and stable public finances constitute a *sine qua non* condition for an effective security policy.

The central element of economic security in the Strategy is public finance. The document emphasizes the necessity of ensuring a stable and sufficient level of expen-

ditures on national security while maintaining a balanced budget and keeping public debt within the limits of financial security norms. It highlights the role of fiscal discipline, transparency of the public finance system, and counteracting financial crime, including money laundering and terrorist financing, as factors strengthening state resilience to economic crises [*Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* 2003: 13].

Another key area is stable economic and technological development, treated both as a source of overall state security and as the foundation of its defense potential. The Strategy points to the importance of trade in goods and technologies of strategic significance and the development of the defense industry, which is recognized as an integral part of the national security system. A special role is assigned to domestic production capacities, technology transfer, offset programs, and links between the defense industry and the scientific and research base.

An important dimension of economic security is energy security. The Strategy identifies structural import dependence as a strategic threat and postulates the diversification of sources and directions of supply of crude oil and natural gas. It also points to the importance of energy infrastructure, the level of strategic reserves, and the compatibility of energy policy with the requirements arising from membership in the EU and NATO [*ibid.*: 14].

Another pillar is economic and transport infrastructure, the condition of which determines both internal security and the defense capabilities of the state. The Strategy emphasizes the need to modernize transport networks, develop logistics, border infrastructure (especially on the eastern border of the EU), and ICT systems. This infrastructure is perceived as essential for ensuring the continuity of economic functioning and resilience to crisis threats [*ibid.*: 15].

The economic dimension of security is complemented by civic education and human capital, recognized as long-term factors of state stability. The Strategy stresses the importance of education, specialized competencies, and social cohesion for economic resilience and the state's ability to adapt under conditions of global change [*ibid.*: 16].

In conclusion, the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2003 presents economic security as a multidimensional category encompassing public finances, economic development, energy, infrastructure, the defense industry, and systemic stability under conditions of globalization. The document fits into the broader understanding of security characteristic of the period of Poland's accession to the European Union and constitutes an early example of treating the economy as a key component of national security.

Table 3. The treatment of economic security issues in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2003

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Maintaining stable public finances, sustainable economic growth, and technological development; ensuring energy security; strengthening the domestic defence industry; modernization of economic infrastructure as the foundation of state resilience.
Challenges and threats	Financial and fiscal instability; financial crime (money laundering, terrorist financing); dependence on imported energy resources; threats arising from the globalization of financial markets and capital flows; risks of disruptions to the functioning of critical infrastructure and developmental weaknesses of the defence industry.
Instruments and directions of state action	Public finance discipline and debt control; stable expenditure on defence and security; diversification of sources and directions of energy supply; development and restructuring of the defence industry; modernization of transport, energy, and ICT infrastructure; regulation of the financial market and international cooperation (EU, NATO).

Source: *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 2003.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (2007)

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2007 significantly expands and deepens the economic dimension of state security, treating it as an autonomous and multidimensional component of national security rather than merely a support base for the defense sphere. For the first time in a strategic document, the analytical category of “economic security” was explicitly introduced into its structure, which demonstrates a qualitative change in the approach to security issues. Economic security is unequivocally linked to state sovereignty, internal stability, and the capacity to exert active and effective influence in the international environment [*Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* 2007: 2].

Among the key challenges and threats to economic security, the strategy identifies demographic changes, the need to complete the transformation of the legal system, infrastructural deficiencies, the structural dependence of the Polish economy on energy imports from a single direction, risks stemming from the globalization of financial and economic markets, as well as the development of organized transnational crime [*ibid.*: 8–9].

Energy security is particularly strongly emphasized and recognized as a key component of economic security. The strategy identifies structural dependence on energy resource imports from a single direction as one of the main external threats. The response to this challenge is to include diversification of sources and directions of supply, the development of transmission and storage infrastructure, the construction of an LNG terminal, participation in transit projects, and increasing storage capacities for crude oil and natural gas. The document also envisages the development of renewable energy sources, nuclear power, and the implementation of energy-efficient technologies as elements strengthening the state’s long-term energy security [*ibid.*: 17].

An important pillar of economic security is the stability of public finances. The strategy emphasizes the need to maintain budgetary balance, control domestic and

foreign debt, and ensure stable international payment flows. Attention is drawn to the importance of uninterrupted inflows of foreign investment, an efficient and secure banking system, and Poland's active participation in international financial institutions as conditions for the economy's resilience to external shocks.

The document also extensively addresses the role of the defense industrial potential as an integral element of economic security. It underlines the necessity of restructuring and consolidating the sector, increasing its competitiveness, participation in European and NATO research and development programs, and close linkage with the domestic scientific and technological base. At the same time, the importance of arms exports, technology transfer, and offset mechanisms for the state's economic and technological development is highlighted.

Another pillar of economic security is the development and protection of critical infrastructure, in particular transport, energy, and ICT infrastructure. The strategy assumes the need to modernize transport and logistics networks, integrate national infrastructure with European systems, and increase the resilience of communication systems to failures, cyberattacks, and crisis-related disruptions. Infrastructure is perceived as a prerequisite for the continuity of state and economic functioning in threat situations [*ibid.*: 18].

A new and clearly articulated theme of the 2007 Strategy is the importance of economic diplomacy. The document emphasizes the need to actively promote Polish economic interests abroad, support domestic economic actors, and use instruments of foreign policy to strengthen the state's economic position. The economic dimension of foreign policy is explicitly linked to national security [*ibid.*: 23].

The Strategy is further distinguished by far-reaching sectoral operationalization of economic security. It encompasses not only macroeconomic issues but also specific sectoral policies strengthening the state's resilience to internal and external threats. Particular importance is assigned to the maritime economy, in which shipping and seaports are treated as key links in transport and logistics chains and as instruments for integrating Poland into the European and global economic system. Strengthening the competitiveness of the merchant fleet, modernizing port infrastructure, and improving safety in ports and at sea are perceived as factors conducive to the stability of foreign trade [*ibid.*: 30].

Issues related to the budget and public finances are also further developed, emphasizing the need to reform public finance management, increase transparency in expenditure, implement multiannual budget planning, and improve the absorption of European Union funds. Significant emphasis is placed on the security of the domestic banking system and on combating financial crime, including money laundering and terrorist financing.

Another element of economic security is transport, understood as strategic infrastructure of both economic and defense significance. The expansion and integration of transport systems – road, rail, air, and inland waterways – are intended to ensure the continuity of goods flows, population mobility, and crisis response capacity,

including support for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland and cooperation with allied forces.

An important complement to this concept is construction, spatial planning, and housing policy. The strategy links internal state security with the quality of housing resources, prevention of construction disasters, and improvement of buildings' energy efficiency – particularly through thermomodernization measures – which combine energy security with social security [*ibid.*: 31–34].

Table 4. The treatment of economic security issues in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2007

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Ensuring durable foundations for economic development as the basis of national security; strengthening the economy's resilience to external shocks; maintaining the stability of public finances; ensuring energy security; development and protection of critical infrastructure; enhancing economic competitiveness and the state's capacity to pursue its economic interests in the international environment.
Challenges and threats	Adverse demographic changes; incomplete transformation of the legal system and limited protection of property rights; infrastructural deficiencies; structural dependence on energy resource imports from a single direction; susceptibility to global financial and economic crises; organized transnational crime, including financial crime; threats to the continuity of the functioning of critical infrastructure.
Instruments and directions of state action	Diversification of energy supplies and development of energy infrastructure; stabilization of public finances and reform of budget management; modernization and integration of transport, energy, and ICT infrastructure; development of the industrial defence potential and cooperation within NATO and the EU.

Source: *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 2007.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (2014)

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 5 November 2014, approved by President Bronisław Komorowski, constituted a document reflecting a mature stage in the development of Polish security policy, based on more than twenty-five years of transformational experience and the state's active participation in Euro-Atlantic structures. The approach to security adopted in the 2014 Strategy focused on its systemic, multidimensional, and network-based character, emphasizing the interdependencies between political, military, economic, social, informational, and energy security. The structure of the document consists of an introduction; four chapters (I – Poland as a subject of security; II – The security environment of Poland; III – The concept of strategic actions. Operational strategy; IV – The concept of strategic preparations. Preparatory strategy); and a conclusion [*Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* 2014: 5–7].

Among the objectives of economic security, only the following may be identified: ensuring the sustainable and balanced development of the state's social and economic potential; ensuring safe conditions for the development of human and social capital; and ensuring energy and food security [*ibid.*: 11–12]. On the basis of the document,

it can be indicated that Poland possesses significant potential in the dimension of economic security, resulting from:

- a) a steadily developing national economy, based on continuous GDP growth, increasing competitiveness, and rising exports and investment activity of enterprises;
- b) a developed social potential and human capital, supported by the education system and improving quality of life of citizens, which fosters economic growth;
- c) an expanded and modernized energy system, oriented toward diversification of supply sources and directions and limiting raw-material dependence;
- d) a developing transport infrastructure, including road, rail, maritime, air, and inland transport, which strengthens the country's territorial cohesion and its links with the global economy [*ibid.*: 14–15].

The determinants of Poland's economic security in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2014 encompass a wide spectrum of challenges and threats of a global, regional, and domestic nature, which significantly affect the stability and durability of the state's development.

At the international level, key threats include international terrorism and organized crime, including cybercrime, as well as growing demand for energy, food, and drinking water, which under conditions of limited resource availability may lead to economic and political tensions [*ibid.*: 17–19].

At the regional level, the strategy points to a continuing downward trend in defense expenditures of NATO and European Union member states, which may negatively affect the operational capabilities of these organizations and indirectly influence the stability of the economic and security environment [*ibid.*: 20–23].

A significant structural determinant of economic and financial security remains population aging, which may lead to increased pressure on public finances and a limitation of economic growth potential. The strategy also emphasizes threats in the area of energy security, including the concentration of supply from a single direction, vulnerability to price fluctuations, and the need to modernize infrastructure and diversify energy production sources.

At the domestic level, the document points, inter alia, to a deteriorating demographic situation, growing social stratification, corruption, and the importance of maintaining a secure and stable financial system. Insufficient competitiveness of the Polish economy on international markets also remains a challenge. The strategy further stresses the role of industry as a key factor of development, drawing attention to the threat posed by the decapitalization of national assets, particularly critical infrastructure [*ibid.*: 24–26].

In the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, special attention is devoted to the concept of strategic actions – the operational strategy – in the area of broadly understood state security and defense policy. In this context, economic aspects are also taken into account and are related to state protective measures aimed

at preventing and countering challenges and threats, inter alia by limiting corruption and corruption-prone phenomena [*ibid.*: 27, 37]. A significant role within strategic actions is assigned to economic activities in the sphere of security, the principal objective of which is to protect entities and material resources constituting the economic potential of national security against threats occurring in peacetime, crisis, and war, as well as to support the functioning of the operational subsystems of the national security system.

In this area, the following were deemed particularly important: strengthening the financial security of the state, increasing energy security, maintaining and developing strategic reserves, strengthening food security, protecting the natural environment, ensuring the security of key spatial structures of the national economy, as well as developing scientific research and research-and-development activities for the purposes of security and defense [*ibid.*: 40–42].

The Strategy introduced the concept of strategic preparations in the form of a preparatory strategy. The fundamental assumption of preparatory actions was the proper integration, within the national security system, of its military and non-military, internal and external components. These actions were to focus on the implementation of three preparatory priorities: appropriate integration of the national security management subsystem; professionalization of the operational subsystems (defensive and protective); and the universality of preparations of the support subsystems (social and economic) [*ibid.*: 43].

Within the support subsystems, it was indicated that the objective of preparations – among others of the economic subsystems of national security – is the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programs to ensure the safe functioning of the state's economic entities during times of threat and war, as well as the execution of tasks related to economic support for the operational subsystems of the national security system. The economic subsystem consisted of financial security institutions, energy security entities, the system of strategic reserves, food security entities, environmental protection entities, and scientific institutions [*ibid.*: 54–56].

In contrast to the strategies of 2003 and 2007, the 2014 document presented a more coherent and systemic approach, in which economic security ceased to be merely an element supporting defense activities and was recognized as a full-fledged, strategic pillar of national security, co-determining state sovereignty and its capacity to respond to threats in a dynamically changing international environment.

Table 5. The treatment of economic security issues in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2014

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Ensuring the durable and sustainable development of the state's social and economic potential; creating secure conditions for the development of human and social capital; ensuring energy and food security as the foundations of state stability.
Challenges and threats	Global: international terrorism, organized crime (including cybercrime), growing demand for energy, food, and water. Regional: decline in defense expenditures of NATO and EU states and its indirect impact on economic stability. Domestic: adverse demographic processes, population aging, social stratification, corruption, limited competitiveness of the economy, threats to the stability of the financial system, decapitalization of critical infrastructure, and energy dependence.
Instruments and directions of state action	Strengthening the state's financial security; diversification and modernization of the energy system; maintaining and developing strategic reserves; strengthening food security; protection of the natural environment; protection of key spatial structures of the economy; development of scientific research and R&D activities for security; implementation of a preparatory strategy based on the integration of management subsystems, professionalization of operational subsystems, and the universality of preparations of support subsystems, including economic ones.

Source: *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 2014.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND (2020)

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, approved on 12 May 2020 by President Andrzej Duda, constitutes a document responding to the changing security conditions in Poland's international environment, particularly in the context of intensifying geopolitical tensions in Europe and the global consequences of dynamic great-power rivalry. This strategy replaced the previous version from 2014; however, its character and structure fundamentally distinguish it from earlier strategic documents. The structure of the document consists of eight parts, as follows: introduction; the security environment; values, national interests, and strategic objectives in the field of national security; Pillar I – Security of the state and citizens; Pillar II – Poland in the international security system; Pillar III – Identity and cultural heritage; Pillar IV – Social and economic development. Environmental protection; conclusion. Economic security was directly included in the fourth pillar [*Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* 2020: 4].

Already in the introduction, it is evident that the document defines a comprehensive vision of shaping the national security of the Republic of Poland in all its dimensions, taking into account both the subjective and objective aspects. The context of economic security was incorporated at an early stage of the document through a diagnosis of the conditions of Poland's security environment at the international level. Among the identified challenges and threats, issues of a raw-material and energy nature, market and capital-related problems, demographic and environmental challenges were distinguished, as well as related threats to food security and the availability of high-quality drinking water [*ibid.*: 8–9].

The economic and financial component is elaborated in detail in the fourth pillar of the strategy. In strengthening economic and financial security, the legislator considered it necessary to: (a) enhance resilience to international financial crises through stable public finances and balanced economic growth; (b) act toward further changes in the structure of public expenditure in order to increase funds for pro-development activities; (c) continue efforts to narrow the development gap *vis-à-vis* more advanced economies, while maintaining the capacity for flexible response to external and internal challenges; (d) ensure an efficient system of money circulation during disruptions in the functioning of the banking system; (e) strengthen the capacities and competences of supervision in combating threats related to destabilization of financial markets, speculative attacks on the Polish currency, or capital outflows; and (f) reinforce supervisory instruments over financial markets, including expanding and intensifying cooperation between supervisory institutions and law-enforcement authorities [*ibid.*: 33].

In addition to economic security, energy security was also distinguished as a separate dimension. Measures aimed at strengthening this area include: (a) expansion and modernization of generation capacities as well as electricity transmission and distribution networks to ensure continuity of supply, including prevention of unexpected disruptions; (b) diversification and increase of sources of crude oil and natural gas supplies; (c) increasing the throughput, operational safety, and reach of oil and fuel pipelines, as well as the capacity of fuel bases and oil storage facilities; (d) continuation of diplomatic, legal, and administrative efforts to counteract the construction of transmission infrastructure deepening Central Europe's dependence on gas supplies from the Russian Federation, and strengthening the region's resilience to the use of energy resource supplies as an instrument of political pressure [*ibid.*: 34].

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2020 presents a significant strengthening of the role of economic security compared to earlier documents, in particular the 2014 strategy. Economic security was unequivocally recognized as one of the key pillars of national security, co-determining state sovereignty, crisis resilience, and the capacity to pursue an independent security policy.

Table 6. The treatment of economic security issues in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2020

Criterion	Description
Objectives of economic security	Strengthening the state's economic and financial security, including increasing resilience to international financial crises; maintaining stable public finances alongside balanced economic growth; changing the structure of public expenditure in favour of pro-development measures; reducing the development gap <i>vis-à-vis</i> more advanced economies while preserving the capacity for flexible response to external and internal challenges.
Challenges and threats	Changing security conditions in the international environment, including intensifying geopolitical tensions and great-power rivalry; problems of a raw-material and energy-related, market and capital, demographic, and environmental nature; threats to food security and limited availability of high-quality drinking water.

Criterion	Description
Instruments and directions of state action	In the economic and financial sphere: strengthening resilience to international financial crises through stable public finances and balanced growth; changing the structure of public expenditure toward pro-development measures; actions aimed at reducing the development gap; ensuring an efficient system of money circulation in the event of disruptions to the banking system; strengthening the capacities and competences of supervision over financial markets and supervisory instruments, including cooperation between supervisory institutions and law-enforcement authorities.

Source: *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 2020.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of successive National Security Strategies of the Republic of Poland reveals a clear and consistent evolution in the importance attributed to economic security within the state security system. In the early years of the political transformation, economic security was primarily perceived as a component subordinate to military security, intended to provide the material and financial foundations necessary for the functioning of defense capabilities. Over time, however, its status gradually increased, leading to its recognition as an autonomous and integral pillar of national security, determining not only internal stability but also the international standing of the state.

The examined strategic documents demonstrate a growing awareness of the impact of economic factors on the state's decision-making sovereignty, its capacity to respond to crises, and its resilience to political and economic pressure from external actors. Although individual strategies did not introduce revolutionary conceptual changes, their content reflects the progressive broadening and deepening of the notion of economic security: from the stability of public finances and the development of the defense industry, through energy diversification and the protection of critical infrastructure, to the issues of food security, technological security, and systemic resilience to global disruptions.

In this context, it is particularly significant that the domain of economic security has remained characterized by a high degree of cross-party continuity. Regardless of political changes, strategic assumptions consistently emphasize the need to strengthen financial stability, expand national industrial capabilities, and reduce external – particularly unilateral – dependencies in the field of energy supply.

In conclusion, economic security should be regarded as a *sine qua non* condition for lasting national security. It determines the state's ability to function effectively, pursue developmental objectives, and safeguard its strategic interests on the international stage. In light of intensifying geopolitical tensions, ongoing transformations in global supply chains, and the accelerating energy transition, the importance of economic security is likely to continue growing, serving both as a foundation of state stability and as a measure of its actual agency in the international system.

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ROZWAŻANIA NAD BEZPIECZEŃSTWEM EKONOMICZNYM PAŃSTWA W STRATEGIACH
BEZPIECZEŃSTWA NARODOWEGO RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Streszczenie: Celem niniejszego artykułu jest dokonanie analizy stopnia i sposobu uwzględnienia bezpieczeństwa ekonomicznego w kolejnych dokumentach strategicznych dotyczących bezpieczeństwa narodowego, a także identyfikacja kierunków oraz dynamiki ewolucji tego ujęcia w perspektywie czasowej. Przeprowadzona analiza umożliwia określenie, w jaki sposób zmiany uwarunkowań politycznych, gospodarczych i międzynarodowych wpływały na redefinicję priorytetów strategicznych państwa oraz na kształtowanie postrzegania czynników ekonomicznych jako integralnych elementów kompleksowego systemu bezpieczeństwa narodowego w dokumentach strategicznych.

Słowa kluczowe: bezpieczeństwo narodowe, bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne, strategie bezpieczeństwa narodowego

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