

DOI 10.20544/HORIZONS.A.27.4.20.P11

UDC 355.45.02(497.11)''2009/2019''

355.45:355.43(497.7)''2009/2019''

NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA¹

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Abstract

Within the framework of this paper, the author determines the national security of the Republic of Serbia through the analysis of the Strategy of National Security of Serbia from 2009 and 2019. In the introductory part of the paper, the author defines the terms "security policy" and "strategy". Furthermore the author determines the national security policy in Serbia according to the strategy from 2009 and 2019 and provides an analysis of the according to the strategy from 2009 and 2019 and provides an analysis of the environment of the Republic of Serbia, identifies challenges, risks and dangers to security, identifies national interests, sets goals, basic principle and policy elements of national security. In preparing the content of the paper, the author will use the method for content analysis and the historical method. The content will be based on an analysis of foreign literature and the use of electronic content.

The subject of research in this paper is the national security of the Republic of Serbia in modern global conditions.

The purpose of this study paper is the importance of national security and global security in the scientific literature.

¹ professional paper

Keywords: the policy of national security, the strategy, security interests and goals

INTRODUCTION

In the scientific literature, there are different definitions of the terms "security policy". Every policy, as well as security policy, is an "art of governance". Security policy is the managerial and concrete activity of political entities, aimed at achieving the highest level of national security.² Security policy is a set of rules according to which security is distinguished from insecurity. In a broader sense, it is made up of several national policies; foreign, defense, economic, social, environmental, health energy, education and other policies through which the so-called special state strategy. Security policy creates a national security strategy. At the same time, it is product as well as a means of its realization.

In modern conditions, politics is defined as the skill, ability to measure the relationship between assets and the objectives of a political problem or some other issue in the field of government, political parties, NGOs or citizens. Security policy appears as domestic and foreign policy and it should contribute to the realization of the internal stability of the country by gaining insight into the factors (phenomena) that are important for its strengthening and development, as well as the factors (phenomena) that bring or can later lead to a threat to national security.

The term strategy (Greek - stratós, stratiia – army and again, ago - running; strategos – military leaders).³ It consists of practical action based on the general program viewing for the directions of development and the survival of the state through which the highest goods, values, interests and goals are determined. The external-state relations and the internal-state relations, the manner of building political, economic and military power and the direction of the national

² Listed according to: Mijalković, S., *National security*, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 261.

³ Listed according to: Mijalković, S., *National security*, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 259.

resources in those relations are taken into account.⁴ It is about general and integral programmatic viewing for the purpose of achieving, preserving, protecting and successfully developing vital national and state values and interests by engaging the overall mental, spiritual and material potentials of the state, by achieving defined goals in peacetime and extraordinary circumstances. It is a set of statements in the form of rules, principles and norms used in the adoption of long-term management actions in order to develop and protect the state and the community. Practically, it is a general idea for the real and/or virtual direction of the power of the state in order to achieve protection and achieve the highest national and state interests.⁵ Strategy of National Security is a system of complementary norms in the field of state strategies that directly refer to the security system and the realization of specific security functions of the state in the political, economic, legal, technological, educational, informational, military, religious and other areas of state life.⁶ It is a comprehensive and relatively permanent program, the realization of which should achieve the internal and external security in the country in conditions of peace and war by effectively counteracting security challenges, risks and threats.⁷

The Strategy of National Security is a basic and public document that defines the term security of the state and treats: national interests, security goals, security risks and threats, the possible response of the state to those risks and threats, security policy, as well as the structure of the national security system.⁸ The

⁴ Kovač, M., *Strategijska i doktrinarna dokumenta nacionalne bezbednosti – Teorijske osnove*, Svet knjige, Beograd, 2003, str. 82.

⁵ Kovač, M., *Strategijska i doktrinarna dokumenta nacionalne bezbednosti – Teorijske osnove*, Svet knjige, Beograd, 2003, str. 82.

⁶ Mijalković, S., *National security*, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 261.

⁷ Kovač, M., *Strategijska i doktrinarna dokumenta nacionalne bezbednosti – Teorijske osnove*, Svet knjige, Beograd, 2003, str. 72.

⁸ Mijalković, S., Keserović, D., (2010). *Basics of security*, Faculty of security and protection, Banja Luka, p. 165.

strategy also determines the components of national security. There are various didactic-pedagogical and theoretical reasons in the structuring and display of national security as a complex phenomenon composed of several components. National security is considered to be generally compromised when any of its components are compromised. Endangering one component jeopardizes other component of national security. For example, by endangering the economic, the social components of national security are also endangered.⁹

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA – POLICY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

There are two approaches to determining the policy of national security in the Republic of Serbia.¹⁰ The first approach to the policy of national security (Strategy 2009) starts from its general goal and is completed with goals and objectives in complementary policies: foreign, domestic, defense policy, economic policy, policy in other areas of social life. The second approach to the policy of national security (Strategy 2019) is very similar to the approaches of many countries around the world. This approach, starting from national values, determines the national interests and activates those interests for the purposes and determines the activities, mechanisms and instruments for the realization of those goals.

According to the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia since 2009, in the Republic of Serbia, the policy of national security is determined as part of the overall state policy and is implemented through a harmonized program of measures and activities that the state undertakes in order to achieve the goals of the national security policy. With its realization the assumptions for political, economic, social, cultural and general social development of the Republic of Serbia are realized.¹¹ Furthermore, the goals of the policy of

⁹ Mijalković, S., *National security*, Criminal-Police Academy, Belgrade, Tsar Dusan 196 (Zemun), 2011, p. 165.

¹⁰ <https://odbranaibezbednost.rs/2020/04/08/politika-i-strategija-nacionalne-bezbednosti/>

¹¹ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, April 2009, Chapter IV. See: www.srbija.gov.rs accessed on 12.06.2020

national security are: improving the security of citizens, society and the state, strengthening national security institutions, preventive action to eliminate risks and dangers in order to achieve protection of national interests. Elements of the policy of national security of the Republic of Serbia are defined as: foreign policy, economic policy, defense policy and internal security policy, policy of protection of human and minority rights, social policy and policies in other areas of social life.¹²

According to the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia from 2019, the policy of national security is part of the overall state policy and is a set of views, principles and commitments that guide the decision-making and activities of the Republic of Serbia to protect and pursue national interests.¹³

The policy of national security is based on an application of a comprehensive approach creates the basis for a unified, harmonized and comprehensive response of the Republic of Serbia to security challenges, risks and threats. The implementation of the policy of national security, in addition to the protection and realization of national interests, creates preconditions for political, economic, social, cultural and overall social development of the Republic of Serbia. The basic views, principles and commitments for the policy of national security i.e. the measures implemented by the policy of national security are grouped according to the national interests i.e. the objectives of the Republic of Serbia to which they refer directly.

STRATEGY OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FROM 2009

When defining the term national security strategy, there are basically two approaches. According to the first approach or western model, the term is defined in lexicons and dictionaries and not in the document itself. The second

¹² The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, April 2009, Chapter IV, p. 4. See: www.srbija.gov.rs accessed on 12.06.2020

¹³ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia 94 / 2019-13. See more: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20-%20Lat..pdf accessed on 15.06.2020

approach is used by former socialist countries (Russia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, etc.) where this term is defined in the documents itself.¹⁴ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia is a strategic and public document that establishes the foundations of security policy for the protection of the national interests of the Republic of Serbia and which presents to the domestic and international public the basic strategic commitments of the Republic of Serbia in the field of security. The main point of view of the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia is: Respect for human rights, economic prosperity, social stability, the development of democracy and the rule of law, pro-European foreign policy and the promotion of relations and cooperation with the most influential entities in the international community.¹⁵

The commitments made in the Strategy express the readiness of the Republic of Serbia within the United Nations, European and other international organizations and regional structures to contribute to the construction and promotion of its own, regional and global security. This strategy provides an analysis of the environment of the Republic of Serbia, identifies challenges, risks and dangers to security, identifies national interests, sets goals, basic principles and elements of national security policy and defines the structure, principles for functioning and responsibilities within the system for security. The first chapter of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2019 is entitled "Security environment" and includes the following parts: "global environment"; "Regional environment", "The security of the Republic of Serbia".¹⁶ The second chapter of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia is entitled "Challenges, Risks and Security Appointments". The third chapter of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia is entitled "National interests in the field of security". This chapter defines the interests of the Republic of Serbia as an expression of the vital values and needs of citizens, people and states and they arise from the highest values established by the

¹⁴ <https://odbranaibezbednost.rs/2020/04/08/politika-i-strategija-nacionalne-bezbednosti/>

¹⁵ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, April 2009.
See: www.srbija.gov.rs

¹⁶ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, 2009, p. 1,2 3.

Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. Furthermore, the national values that are protected through the realization of national interests are defined and include: independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, freedom, equality, peace building and preservation, the rule of law, democracy, social justice, human rights and freedoms, national, racial and religious equality and gender equality, property inviolability and environmental protection.

National interests cover all areas of social life and are in line with the universal values and aspirations of democratic societies in the modern world. The protection of national interests is the general purpose and meaning of the existence and functioning of the national security system. The Republic of Serbia is committed to the preservation and development of the international law and political and state equality. As a responsible member of the International Community, the Republic of Serbia respects international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and its commitments and advocates for a peaceful settlement of disputes between nations and states. For the Republic of Serbia, the promotion of cultural, economic and other forms of cooperation with its citizens living abroad is also of interest and supports the preservation of their national and cultural identity. The fourth chapter of the Strategy is entitled "national policy of security". This chapter contains the following sections: "Fundamentals of National Security Policy Determination"; "National Security Policy Objectives" and "Basic Principles of National Policy of security".

The fifth chapter of the Strategy is entitled "National Security System", where the national security system is defined as a normative, structural and functionally regulated unit with elements whose activity is the protection of the national interests of the Republic of Serbia. Parts of this chapter are: "The structure of the national security system"; "National Security System Management"; "The National Security Council"; "Principles of the functioning of the national security system".

The Conclusion of the Strategy of National security stipulates that the Strategy is an expression of agreement of relevant political factors, state institutions, civil society organizations and citizens in determining the general approach and manner of exercising protection of national interests in accordance with current and estimated challenges, risks and security threats.

STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FROM 2019

The introductory part of the Strategy of National security of the Republic of Serbia from 2019 defines the National Security of the Republic of Serbia as an objective state of protection of its national values and interests from all forms of threats and subjective sense of security of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia.¹⁷ The first part of this Strategy is dedicated to "the Strategic Environment" – It is determined that the political, economic, cultural and security relations in the world take place in a global multilateral environment in which the balance of power and complex interdependence of states is increasingly manifested. The modern conceptual definition of global security opens the possibility for resolving conflicts situations in a peaceful way and perspective for the development of a policy of cooperation and understanding on a global and regional level. Due to the changing geostrategic circumstances and the growing influence of global trends on the security of individual countries, the security policy of the Republic of Serbia is based on an integral and multilateral approach to security issues which confirms the concept of security cooperation. For the further development of democracy, stability and prosperity in the region, it is important for the Republic of Serbia to improve relations with the United States, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, as well as other traditional partners and important factors of the international community. The next part of the Strategy of National security of the Republic of Serbia is entitled "Challenges, Risks and Security Threats". Risks and threats to the country's security include armed aggression, separatist aspiration, armed insurgency, terrorism, weapons destruction, illegal migration, problems with the country's economic and demographic development, technical and technological disasters, organized crime.

The third part of this Strategy is entitled "National Interests". The national interests for Serbia is the realization of internal stability and security, which

¹⁷ The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia 94 / 2019-13. See more: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20-%20Lat..pdf accessed on 15.06.2020

provides protection of the state, community, citizens and property from threats, which leads to improving the quality of life of citizens. The strategic goal for the Republic of Serbia is to become a member of the European Union, which is one of the most important global actors. Fourth part of this strategy is entitled "Policy of national security". The policy of national security includes several components. One of those components is "Preserving Sovereignty, Independence and Territorial Integrity". The preservation of the internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and the security of its citizens is also determined as a component of the national security policy. The rule of law and the further development of democracy and democratic institutions is one of the basic preconditions for maintaining internal stability and security in the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. The next component of Serbia's policy of national security is to preserve the existence and protection of the Serbian people wherever they live, as well as of national minorities and their cultural, religious and historical identity and this is in the national interests of the Republic of Serbia.¹⁸ It is clear that the national unity and development of cultural, religious and historical identity is of great importance for the preservation of the Serbian people and national minorities. In order to achieve global, European and regional stability, the Republic of Serbia is cooperating with NATO through the Partnership for Peace program, implementing military neutrality which implies the absence of membership in the military-political alliance. The Republic of Serbia does not intend to become a member of NATO or any other military-political alliance. However, Serbia wants to promote mutual trust and common goals with all partners in the world. In its foreign policy orientation, Serbia will strive to bring its policies closer to proclaiming the goals and principles set out in the European Union's Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, such as: responsibility in foreign policy, integrated approach to conflict, responsible regional action, a policy of co-operation, co-operation with other international partners, coordinated fight against terrorism, co-operation in the areas of cyber security and energy security and conflict prevention. The fifth part of this strategy is entitled "Structure of the System of National Security". The sixth part is entitled "Implementation of the National Security Strategy", the seventh part is a Conclusion and in the final part it is determined that on the day of

¹⁸ See more about this: The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia 94 / 2019-13, p. 12.

publication of this strategy in the Official Gazette the Strategy of National Security of Serbia No. 88/09 ceases to be valid.

CONCLUSION

The Strategy of National security of the Republic of Serbia since 2009 has been adopted as an expression of consent of relevant political factors, state institutions, civil society organizations and citizens in determining the general approach and manner of exercising protection of national interests in accordance with current and assessed security challenges, risks and threats. This strategy is based on modern theoretical knowledge in the field of security, national experiences and security needs of society, as well as the experiences of other countries in creating a national security system and addressing security risks and threats. This strategy is a document that provides the basis for regulating and exercising the security function of the state through activities at all levels of society and it is the starting point for the development of a Foreign Policy Strategy, Social Development Strategy, Defense Strategy, Internal Security Strategy, social Development Strategy and Strategy in other areas of social life, as well as for normative regulation of activities within the system of national security. However, dynamic changes have taken place in international relations which indicate that in addition to the existing ones, new challenges, risks and security threats will appear which need to be addressed in a timely manner. Therefore, there is a need to adopt a new The Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia in 2019. In the final part of this strategy, it is determined that on the day of publication of this strategy in the Official Gazette, The Strategy of National Security of Serbia No. 88/09 ceases to be valid. This strategy outlines the basic attitudes, obligation and measures that the Republic of Serbia will take to protect and realize national interests and preserve basic national values. The situation in the strategic environment is a quick adjustment to the new changes, preventive and proactive action, as well as a comprehensive response of the state and society. In order to preserve national values and to protect and realize national interests, this strategy has established a national security policy that is implemented by undertaking a comprehensive and harmonized package of measures in various areas of social life. The National Security Policy creates preconditions for the political, economic, social, cultural and overall social development of the Republic of Serbia.

The Strategy of National Security of Serbia is implemented by citizens, state bodies, state administration bodies, bodies of autonomous provinces, bodies of local self-government units, companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs in accordance with established rights and obligations and prescribed competencies. They all take the necessary measures to ensure its compliance with the status and assessments of the strategic environment.

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