

**Badji Mokhtar University Annaba**

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**Level : M1**

**Mediterranea Studies**

**Text:**

### **Security in International Relations**

Security has long been a central concept in the field of international relations. Traditionally, security was associated with the protection of the state from external military threats. This **realist** perspective emphasizes power, military capabilities, and the role of state sovereignty. The Cold War era exemplified this approach, with superpowers focused on deterrence and strategic alliances to preserve national security.

However, contemporary approaches to security have broadened the concept. **Critical security studies** argue that threats are not always military and that security should also include economic stability, environmental protection, and human rights. For example, climate change, cyberattacks, pandemics, and transnational terrorism are now seen as major security challenges.

In addition, the **concept of human security** has emerged, focusing on the protection of individuals rather than just states. This shift reflects growing awareness that insecurity often comes from within states rather than from external actors.

Overall, the evolving understanding of security in international relations reflects the complexity of global politics in the 21st century. It challenges policymakers

and scholars to adopt multidimensional strategies that go beyond traditional military concerns.

### Comprehension Questions:

1. How was security traditionally defined in international relations?
2. What role did the Cold War play in shaping traditional security perspectives?
3. What are some examples of non-military security threats mentioned in the text?
4. How does the concept of human security differ from traditional state-centered security?
5. Why has the understanding of security become more complex in recent decades?

### Discussion/Essay Questions:

1. Do you think the traditional realist view of security is still relevant today? Why or why not?
2. How should international institutions adapt to address emerging non-traditional security threats?
3. In what ways does the concept of human security reshape the responsibilities of governments?
4. Can military power alone ensure a state's security in the modern world? Discuss with examples.
5. How do environmental issues like climate change affect global security dynamics?

## Grammar Questions

1. Identify the tense used in the sentence: *"Security has long been a central concept in the field of international relations."*
2. Find a passive voice sentence in the text and rewrite it in active voice.
3. What is the subject and verb in the sentence: *"This shift reflects growing awareness that insecurity often comes from within states rather than from external actors."*
4. Identify and correct the grammatical error (if any) in this sentence: *"Security were associated with military threats."*
5. Change the sentence *"Critical security studies argue that threats are not always military"* into the past tense.

## Vocabulary: Synonyms and Opposites

### Synonyms – Find a word in the text that means:

1. Protection =
2. Important =
3. Challenge =
4. Increase in understanding =
5. Keep or maintain =

### Opposites – What is the opposite of the following words (from the text)?

1. External →
2. Traditional →
3. Stability →
4. Broadened →

## 5. Security →

### Summarizing Questions

1. Summarize the text in one or two sentences.
2. What is the main idea of the text?
3. List the main types of security discussed in the text.
4. What are the key differences between traditional and contemporary approaches to security?
5. How has the definition of security evolved over time?

### Paraphrasing Questions

1. Paraphrase the sentence: *"Traditionally, security was associated with the protection of the state from external military threats."*
2. Rewrite this in your own words: *"This realist perspective emphasizes power, military capabilities, and the role of state sovereignty."*
3. Paraphrase: *"In addition, the concept of human security has emerged, focusing on the protection of individuals rather than just states."*
4. Rewrite using simpler language: *"The evolving understanding of security in international relations reflects the complexity of global politics in the 21st century."*
5. Paraphrase: *"It challenges policymakers and scholars to adopt multidimensional strategies that go beyond traditional military concerns."*