

Impacting health, the environment and global governance

The challenges of taking a security approach
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Hans Günter Brauch Environment and Security A Historic Link

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1. Research Question & Outline

- **Overview of environment and security linkages:**
 - **in history:** international relations & international law
 - **in recent** (inter)national policy efforts to address environmental security issues (scarcity, pollution, GEC)
- **Scientific analyses & discourses on linkages**
 - **Review:** 3 phases of environment-security debate
 - **Propose:** fourth phase of research, specifically for the environmental dimension of human security
- **Policy proposal for avoiding negative impacts**
 - **Old:** ENVSEC for SE Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia
 - **New:** MEDHUMENSEC for North Africa & Middle East

2. Environment: Object or Cause of Conflict?

war > environment

environment > crises/conflicts

Vietnam: Impact of Agent Orange



Climate Change Impacts: Hazards



Burning oil fields in Kuwait (1991)



Drought and Forest Fires



Oil spills at Lebanon Coast (2006)



-Flash Floods in Spain (2007)



3. Reconceptualization of Security & Analysis of E-S Linkages

Reconceptualization of Security since 1989: Response to contextual change: policy response & conceptual innovation

Copenhagen School: Buzan/Waever/de Wilde (1998, 2008/2009):

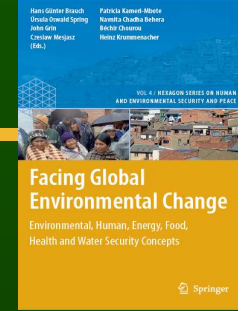
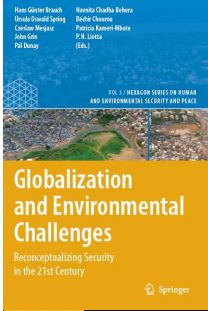
- **Securitization theory** of Ole Waever (1995)
- **Widening:** five dimensions or sectors: military, political, economic, societal and **environmental** (Krell 1979, Buzan 1983)
- **Deepening:** from state- to **people-centred perspectives**

Hexagon Book Series: *Security Handbook for the Anthropocene:* ca. 270 chapters by ca. 250 authors, 80+ countries (III, IV, V)

- **Global review** of scientific and political reconceptualization debate
- **Sectorialization** of soft security issues: water, food and health
- **Environmental dimension** of human security
- **Focus:** *Facing and coping* with security impacts of GEC issues

Soft security challenges: Environmental and health security (IV)

3.1. Widening, Deepening and Sectorialization of Security Concepts



Security dimension ⇒ ↓ Level of interaction	Military	Political	Economic	Environmental ↓	Societal
Human individual ⇒ Human security			Food security Health security	Cause & Victim	Food & Health security
Societal, community security				↓ ↑	
National security	During Cold War Shrinking (in USA since 2001)		Energy security	↓ ↑	Food & health security
International and Regional security			Water security	↓ ↑	Water security
Global and planetary security ⇒				GEC	

4. Environment: Object of Wars?

– Deliberate & Accidental Impacts of Wars on Environment

- 539 BC; Cyrus III (Persia): Diversion of Euphrates
- 431-404 BC. Destruction of Athenian crops by Sparta
- WWI: Devastation of agricultural and forest lands
- WWI: Firing of Romanian oil fields
- WWII: Scorched land tactics and salt-water inundation
- Korean War: bombing of dams in North Korea
- Vietnam: massive use of herbicides (Agent orange, white et al.)
- Gulf War: Burning of Kuwaiti oil fields by Iraq
- Balkans, Iraq (1991, 2003f.): Use of depleted uranium ammunitions

– Policy & Legal Efforts to Protect the Environment

- legal and moral condemnation: Hammurabi, Old Testament, Qur'an
- 4 legal pillars: arms control (ENMOD Convention, 1977), humanitarian law (Geneva Conv.), environmental law, human rights law

5. Environment: Cause of Conflict?

Brundtland Report (1987), Gorbachev (1987/1988)

Old Focus of Policy Debate & Scientific Discourse:

- **Environmental scarcity of water and food** creates multiple socio-economic & political impacts that may lead to internal crises & even violent conflicts: **malnutrition: health security challenges & risks**
- **Environmental degradation and pollution: of water and air: health security challenges & risks**

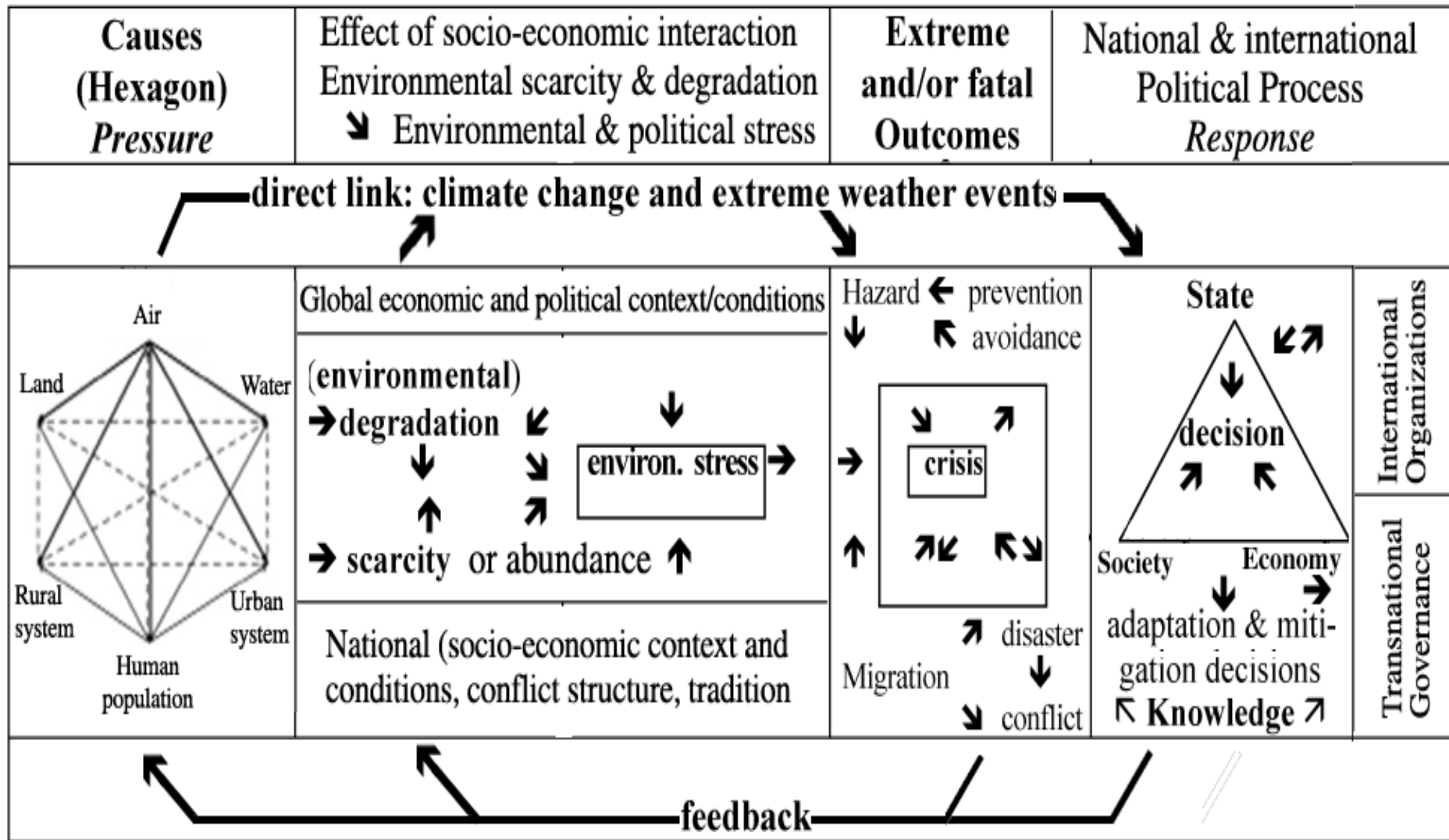
New Focus: Global Environmental & Climate Change:
new era of earth history (Anthropocene): since 2000

- **PEISOR Model** for the analysis: of environmental impacts on society and manifold security linkages

5.1. PEISOR Model: Global Change, Impacts and Policy Response

- **Other Models: Environment – Response**
 - OECD: Pressure – State of the Environment – Response - Model
 - UN-CSD (Committee for Sustainable Development)
 - EEA (European Environment Agency)
- **PEISOR model distinguishes 5 stages:**
 - **P: Pressure:** Causes of GEC: Survival hexagon
 - **E: Effect:** environmental scarcity, degradation & stress
 - **I: Impact:** Extreme or fatal outcome: hazards
 - **SO: Societal Outcomes:** disaster, migration, crisis, conflict
 - **R: Response** by state, society, the economic sector and by using *traditional* and *modern scientific* knowledge to enhance coping capacity and resilience

5.2. PEISOR Model: Global Change, Environmental Stress, Impacts & Extreme Societal Outcomes



6. Three Phases of Debate since 1989

- **First Phase: Policy agenda setting for US National Security (1989-1993)**
 - ❖ Impacts of wars on environment (**Westing**), since 2001: **UNEP-PCAU** (now:
 - ❖ debate on environmental security as a **national security issue** (Ullman, 1983; Mathews, 1989, N. Myers, 1989)
- **Second Phase: Empirical case studies: Toronto and Swiss case study projects (1994-2000)**
 - Canadian (**Homer-Dixon**) & Swiss (**ENCOP, Bächler**):
 - case studies on env. scarcity, degradation as causes of environmental stress & conflicts and env. cooperation
- **Third Phase: Theoretical and empirical diversity without integration (2000-):**
 - ❖ methodological diversity (e.g. GECHS, state failure project, Swiss NSCCR: mitigating syndroms of global change, PRIO: civil war research; World Bank: Collier: greed vs. scarcity
 - ❖ Many directions but hardly any synthesis of research.

6.1. Dalby/Brauch/Oswald Assessment: „Lessons Learned and Yet to Be Learned“

Result of second phase:

- Environmental change, resource scarcity and degradation was less likely to lead to international war.
- Threats of state collapse & internal conflict were partly caused, triggered or intensified by environmental factors, but focus is more on state capacity and policy dilemmas of social and environmental change.

Conclusions:

Both *reactive* & *pro-active* or *anticipatory* learning for adaptive & mitigating responses requires knowledge & understanding of interactions beyond the competence of any discipline and can only be achieved by **multidisciplinary research teams**.

During three phases :

- there is a **lack of research on hazards and disasters, gender sensitivity, social vulnerability, bottom- up resilience as well as peace building**.
- Overemphasis on research results by scientists in North America and Europe.

7. Emerging Debate since 2000: Securitization of Global Environmental Change and Climate Change

- **Securitization of water**
 - Ministerial Declaration of WWF in The Hague (2000)
- **Securitization of desertification**
 - NATO science conference in Valencia (2003)
- **Securitization of climate change: turning point (2007):
Publication of the Fourth IPCC Assessment Report**
 - a challenge for **international security**:
 - 17 April: UK put climate change on the agenda of the UNSC
 - June: WBGU Report: Climate Change as a Security Risk
 - March 2008: EU Report on Climate Change and Security
 - an issue of **US national security**: US Debate
 - an issue for **human security**: Human Security Network during Greek presidency (2007-2008)

7.1. Policy Response: Progressive Decarbonization of the Economy

- **Enemy is us:** our past, present, future burning of hydrocarbons since 1750, especially since 1950
- **Climate change causes & impacts: shifts focus to a proactive security policy on long-term political impacts of:**
 - temperature increase, sea-level rise and increase in number and intensity of hydro-meteorological hazards
 - forced migration and possible conflicts of migrants with resident population, humanitarian tragedies
- **Counter strategies require:**
 - No military (hard security) response to this challenge of survival!
 - Reducing GHG emissions by enhancing energy efficiency and shifting the sources of energy from hydrocarbon to renewables
 - Adaptation measures for affected regions, people, econ. sectors
 - Security policy for the Anthropocene must be based on a sustainable development strategy and aim at a sustainable peace

8. Towards a 4th Phase of Research:

Scientific Proposal: Oswald Spring – Brauch - Dalby

– **Three conceptual components for the fourth phase:**

- earth system research and the *Anthropocene* (Crutzen)
- *Human, Gender and Environmental Security* (HUGE),
- *Human and Environmental Security and Peace* (HESP).

– **Study of substantive issues in 4th phase:**

- extreme weather events,
- social systems and gender relations,
- environmental, social and urban vulnerability,
- migration, complex emergencies, crises and conflicts,
- political coping strategies with human insecurities

9. Proposed MEHSEC Initiative: An ENVSEC Initiative for the Mediterranean

Since 2003: Policy Initiative: OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, NATO, REC
Financed by: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland & United States of America.

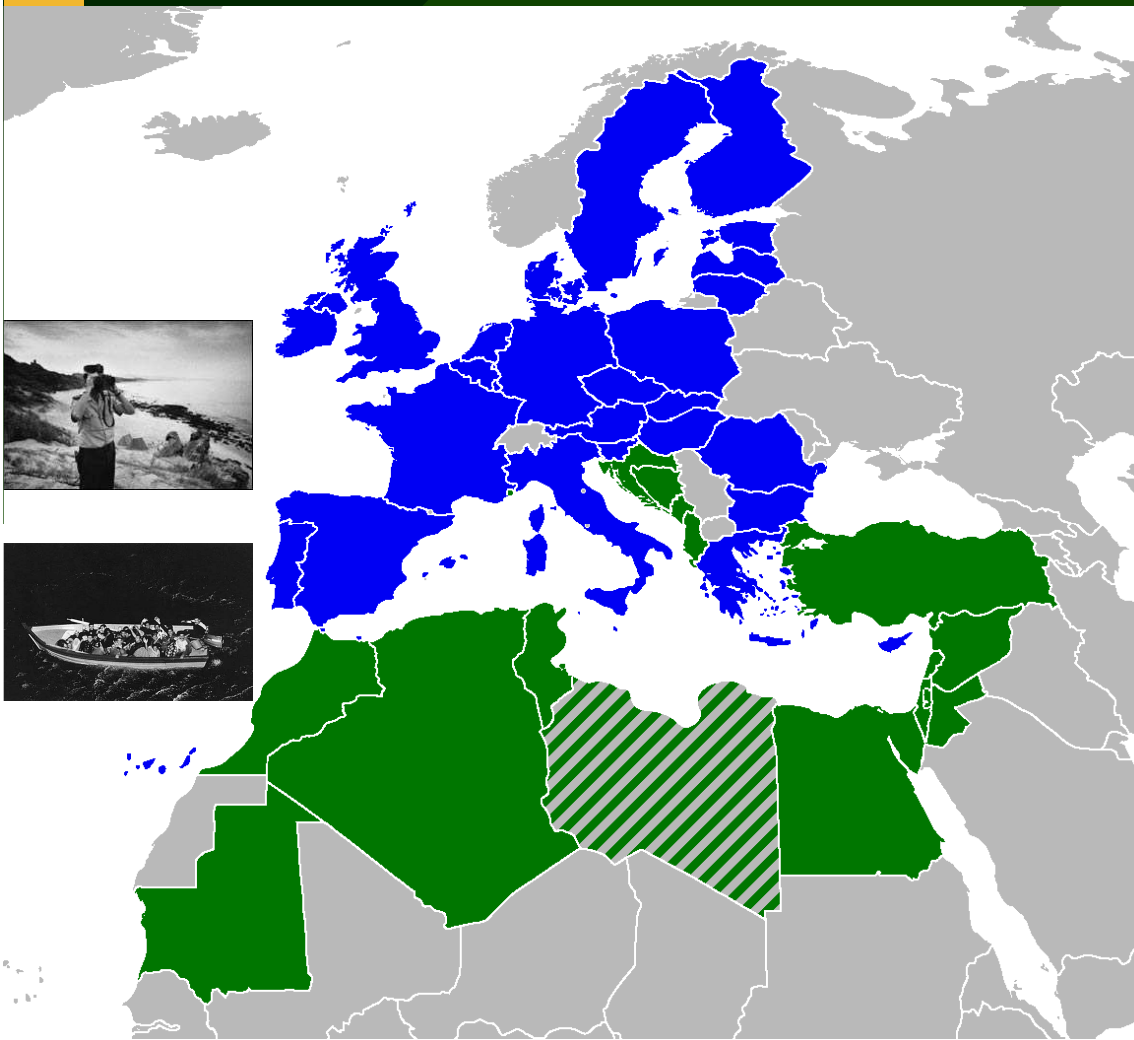
- **ENVSEC: Environmental Security Initiative for Southeast Europe, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus & Central Asia**
- **Functional cooperation on environmental issues to prevent that they can become additional causes of conflict**
- **Regional effort to protect peace & environment:**
 - Identify environment & conflict hotspots by carrying out desk & field assessm.
 - Present results of assessments in graphically rich maps, reports & website & draw attention of politicians & people to situations & hot spots with high risks
 - Help societies to deal with key issues by raising awareness, building capacities & strengthening institutions
 - Support concrete action & catalyse specific solutions for identified security-relevant environmental problems on the ground
- **No spill-over to the solution of national conflicts e.g. in southern Caucasus.**



9.1. An Environmental & Human Security Initiative for the Mediterranean (MEHSEC)

Mediterranean Environmental & Human Security:

- Address longer-term environmental dimension of human security posed by GEC: water, soil & climate change
- Address causes & regional impacts of GEC
- Framework of the Mediterranean Union
- Partners: MU (leader), EU, UN, UNEP, UNDP, OSCE, Arab League, WMO, IPCC et al.



9.2. Tasks of MEHSEC

- MEHSEC should address soft non-military, environmentally-induced security threats, challenges vulnerabilities and risks for the Mediterranean that are projected to evolve by 2025, 2050 and 2100 and that cannot be solved with military means or with a **Hobbesian approach** to security.
- They can only be overcome by **Grotian** forward-looking, **proactive, functional cooperation that requires knowledge creation** (e.g. regional climate change scenarios for the Mediterranean: Mediterranean climate impact assessment).
- **Initiative should coordinate global & regional organizations**
 - to analyse, assess available research and develop joint cooperative adaptation and mitigation measures
 - to develop cooperative measures dealing with societal consequences, including environmentally-induced forced migration that may lead to hunger & food riots, domestic conflicts & only in the worst case in violent conflicts.
 - **Goal: preventive diplomacy and conflict avoidance by addressing root causes of conflicts:**
 - **Sustainability first Scenario of UNEP's GEO-4 Report (2007)**
 - **proactive global and regional scenarios suggested in final report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005).**

10. Conclusions: Scientific Proposal & Policy Initiative

- **Combination of Copenhagen & Paris Schools of Security Studies with HEXAGON analyses on EHS linkages:**
 - Buzan, Waever, de Wilde: Securitization theory
 - Bigo's link between international & internal security
 - HEXAGON: environmental dimension of human security
- **Develop: environmental pillar of Med. Union**
 - Barcelona process: became a bureaucratic process without a policy vision.
 - Mediterranean Union: a cooperative policy vision that needs forward looking content on policy areas where there are common risks to security & survival
 - Securitization of GEC and its regional impacts in the Mediterranean: huge area for functional cooperation

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