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# Security Studies and Polemology - Common Research Areas

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**Abstract:** The article shows the relationships and dependencies of security studies and polemology. This science, due to the research area, play an important role in identifying trends related to the wars of the past and the present. According to polemology, by taking into account certain elements of the security studies, it is possible to forecast the causes and conditions of future wars and armed conflicts.

**Keywords:** Polemology, Security Studies, War, Armed Conflicts, Security

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## 1. Introduction

Security studies are one of the disciplines included in the area of social sciences. The subject of security studies research are modern safety systems in terms of military and non-military actions and their functioning at different organizational levels. These systems include the activities of the institutions of a state, the government and the local government, businesses, and community organizations. Research on the discipline should be used to create theoretical bases and the development of international and national security systems, operating systems in the area of security. *The aim of the article* is to show the relationship between polemology and security studies. Due to its interdisciplinary nature, polemology uses security studies, in this regard, it is to present and depending on them.

## 2. Method

The word *polemology* is derived from the greek word *polemos* which means *fighting, war*. As an precursor of it is considered to be G. Bouthoul. The term was meant to distinguish polemology as a field of research into war, from the traditional military academies to war science. The two specialties are inextricably linked with each other, namely war and armed conflict. There are many definitions in the literature. Referring to the words of C. Clausewitz's war theorist, "war is nothing but an extended duel [1]", it can be said that war in classical terms is a specific act of violence. It

is based on relationships between two or more actors who deliberately choose violence in their relationships. Likewise, H. Grotius, who has formulated his definition of war, also claims that "it is the state in which people are in conflict, by force [2]". In this connection, the question is why violence is the main action that conflict parties take. On the one hand, a motivator is willing to change the state of things, such as defining a new social structure, changing areas of influence, or satisfying particular ambitions. On the other hand, all activities aim at achieving the strategic goal of victory. "In a classic look, victory is nothing but the adversity of the adversary with the will that is imposed on him, as a result of the new rulers' submission [3]".

Aristotle saw war as a means of peace, but he did not treat it as the most important part of collective life. At the same time, he did not exclude the necessity of maintaining it for the maintenance of the independence of the state or the security of citizens. General F. Skibiński put forward the proposal to complement the classic definition of war, thus recognizing it as "a continuation of politics, guided by violence to force the enemy to fulfill our will; Bears the character of a bloody armed struggle fought by organized forces [4]". This means that the war cannot be treated solely as a military phenomenon. War should be considered as a social and political phenomenon, using all available means (social, political, ideological, economic, diplomatic, propaganda). In turn, the authors of the PWN Universal Encyclopedia for War acknowledge "a socio-political phenomenon that has been an integral part of the history of

humanity since the onset of the organization of societies, of growing scope with the advancement of technology [5]”.

Usually, all the scientists are asking a rather trivial question - what is the purpose of wars - but the answer to that is not unequivocal. In a simplistic way, it can be stated that the activities of war seek peace, however, maintained by the rules introduced by the victor. In this view, one can assume that “the war always deconstructs and preserves, resulting in and often causes the destruction of the defeated and the preserving of the victor, it changes the structure of the international order as preferred by the defeated and fixes the order in favor of the victor [6]”.

Returning to the field of war - polemology research, it is necessary to define the subject matter of the research, the purpose and the means at its disposal. According to T. Keşon the polemology is “a field of science dealing with the scientific study of war. (...) The purpose of polemology is to analyze the phenomenon of war in a manner similar to the study of other social phenomena. It analyzes their nature and the ground; location in time and space; periodicity; intensity; cause-effect relationships and typology [7]”. According to this approach, research on conflicts and wars is conducted on three levels: theoretical investigation of conflicts, discursive research into war and peace, and detailed investigation of conflict situations. On the other hand, according to E. Ponczek, the polemology “is a study of the war, its etiology, including reflections on undertakings concerning the possibility of eliminating military conflicts and ensuring security and the realization of peace [8]”. In this context, there is an emphasis on investigating the causes of war, and on practical, pragmatic undertakings in the sphere of influence on consciousness, the psyche of people who might reject social aggression, and military conflict as unworthy behavior of the individual. The definition of polemology is also found in the Lexicon of Contemporary International Political Relations. It is referred to as “the area of research into wars. Deals with explaining the causes, sources, determinants of wars and armed conflicts [9]”.

An important aspect is that polemologists “use the negative definition of peace, claiming that it is a state of no war or organized collective violence [10]”. It can be said that polemology is a variation of research into peace. However, there is a narrower approach to investigating the direct causes of war and organized violence. Less attention is devoted to political, economic and social conditions.

Polemology is based on three main pillars:

- a. “the general sociology of war, where attention is focused on the rhythms of wariness;
- b. the etiology of war and virulence factors, which are designed to investigate structural, cyclical, and occasional causes of conflict;
- c. prospection, including polemological barometers [11]”.

### 3. Result

Polemology is considered to be a relatively young scientific specialty, but various conceptions of wars have

appeared almost since the dawn of our civilization. Polemology deals with the study of armed conflicts and wars of past, present and future. The creator of the notion of polemology G. Bouthoul is the author of the concept of predicting conflicts and wars. It is based on predicting the potential for a war by analyzing symptoms and symptoms based on historical experience. Its primary research method is discursive analysis - based on the proposition - which assumes that each link in the chain of reasoning depends on the immediate precedent and affects the next. “Clarification of the sources, essence, character and effects of wars (and social conflicts) served to eliminate them and to build on this basis a lasting, universal and just peace [12]”.

The study of polemology emphasizes the need to know the war before embarking on the experience of peace. “Knowing the war can create a framework for knowing peace. The basis of polemology is to observe the phenomenon of war in a similar way to the study of other social phenomena [13]”.

The study of polemology assumes that the causes of wars are concentrated on three levels:

- a. “structural causes - depending on the level of intellectual development, technological development, economic, agricultural and industrial development, demographic situation, historical and geographical conditions;
- b. business reasons - especially political ones - alliances, coalitions, changes and behavior of the public under the influence of propaganda, indoctrination and ideology;
- c. occasional (direct) causes - unforeseen incidents, provocations, etc. [14]”.

Polemology in its research into the future development, predictions of possible wars or armed conflicts uses five polemological barometers: geographic / geopolitical factors (including geographic features, space and time), long-term factors (the theory of periodic wars), business cycles barometers of national structures (related to the state structure, development indicators, demographic indicators), short-term barometers (including the search for the causes of wars and armed conflicts in the sphere of motivation).

Polemology, which one of the precursors is Q. Wright, also defines the cause of the war. This researcher has formulated two classifications that clarify wartime motives. The first, divided into scientific, historical and practical - based on the study of phenomena, properties, means and the course of wars over the history and environment that shaped the changes in war art. The second classification included technological, legal, sociological and psychological [15] aspects. Consequently, it can be seen that war should be considered together with factors shaping the everyday lives of states and societies.

We cannot miss Sikorski's remarkably correct statement, which concluded that the success of war depends not only on the armed forces, but equally on the moral level and perseverance of the whole nation. Thus, W. Sikorski puts great emphasis on the development of the whole system of forces and means strengthening the morale of one's own society and weakening the morale of the enemy. He also

claimed that “war must be fought absolutely with all means available to us as a misfortune of mankind [16]”.

The idea of J. Bloch's polemics about the image of the future war was incomprehensible during his lifetime, but gained new meaning during the Cold War. This is because it has been confirmed that there is such a weapon that allows complete, repeated destruction of every life in the world (nuclear weapon). Hence, the question arises, what is the purpose of war, since nothing can be achieved beyond total destruction? Why is action undertaken leading to the escalation of military capabilities and war preparation, when other means of agreement can be used on the diplomatic and political way?

J. Bloch's beliefs in war and disarmament as a means of avoiding armed conflict led him toward pacifism, but his pacifism was specific. This is due to the fact that pacifists are based primarily on moral and ideological arguments. J. Bloch in his work did not touch practically these aspects. According to him, be against" the phenomenon of war means knowing and understanding the mechanisms that condition its emergence and finding effective ways to counter it. In addition, war is a peculiarity that has its own internal logic, and referring it to axiological measures as evaluation criteria makes no sense.

Referring to J. Bloch, war is an unavoidable phenomenon in the functioning of states and societies. History cards have shown that conflicts are almost on the agenda. Consequently, war affects all spheres of state existence. Therefore, this phenomenon should be considered politically, economically, technically and socially. “Thinking about war in every country is a common concern. But this fear would increase even more if everyone realized that the economic crisis that would trigger a new war in Europe would outweigh the economic complications that accompanied the old wars, leading, perhaps, directly to the fall of today's social system [17]”.

The economic interrelationships of countries around the world, and in particular the European Union, show that J. Bloch's thesis is confirmed by the present day. He pointed to the dependence of economies on the social zone, which would have been stopped when the war broke out. Production plants and other social institutions would have to be closed in the face of warfare. In view of the dependence of the present society on the service sector and state aid, a scenario of social chaos is very likely. In addition, new technologies for the production and use of weapons would interfere with the normal functioning of tens of thousands of people.

According to A. Kostanecki, a scholar of biography and ideology by J. Bloch, from the foundation of his name, “war, instead of giving veterans the chance to test their physical and moral superiority, will be a type of situation without a solution. A state of armed peace on a large scale. Here is the future of the war. Not fighting, but hunger, not brutal murders, but the bankruptcy of nations and the collapse of the entire social organization [18]”. These words, presenting a kind of summarized theory of J. Bloch, indicate the social destruction caused by warfare striking every sphere of life in

the population of the state. As a consequence, after the end of such a conflict on a continent or world scale, fallen states, which lack the authority and the rule of law, will be able to disturb the world order.

Polemology assumes that war is based on the relationship between two or more actors who deliberately choose violence in mutual relations. War is by no means a human-to-human relationship, but a relationship to a state in which individuals become enemies by accident, not as people, or as citizens, but as soldiers; not as a member of the motherland, but as a defender. Finally, every state can have as an enemy only other states, not people, since there can be no real relation between things of different kinds.

Polemologists maintain that war proves to be a prerequisite for preserving peace and preserving security, an intermediate stage in shaping purpose-oriented consent and harmony in every social structure. In this view, armed conflict is an integral part of building a global social order. It reflects the individual's aspirations for transformations in the economic, political, legal and ethical realm. War is therefore a dynamic factor in initiating the change of the unjust and deprecating social system. It initiates the process of constructing new political, economic, and ethical systems. It presents itself as an antithesis in the continual abrasion of opposites. The war is the result of an uncontrolled increase in defensive aggression and an unrestrained desire to change status quo. The rise of this tendency to change unjust interpersonal relationships, especially at the political and economic level, will continue to be a source of social and moral conflicts and will eventually lead to the outbreak of war.

The war has passed and come, which is the area of study of polemology, have many common elements but also differing. Therefore, in formulating projections for future years, it is necessary to draw conclusions from the conflicts that have already occurred in human history and to take into account the trends that change the present reality. Similarly, J. Bloch, who said that “in fact, the war will only have one point in common with the wars of the past, namely, that its purpose will be to enslave the conqueror to fulfill the conditions dictated by the victor. In order to achieve this goal, you will have to break the opponent's strength and deprive him of the ability to continue fighting [19]”. Therefore, new weapons production technologies are moving towards the total destruction of the enemy using the smallest means. In addition, warfare is committed to the eradication of as many lives as possible, and the death of the civilian population is almost certainly included in the script of war.

It can be said that, in a certain way, the wars of their existence have shaped societies and civilizations. From the way of life, by influencing the structure of society, to the ways and the styles of government. Paradoxically, they have also influenced the strengthening of interpersonal bonds through the joint action of individuals and families against aggressors. Consequently, according to the polemological work *A Study of War* by Wright, it can be said that wars and armed conflicts at the turn of the century have begun to play

a stronger role in society. The most negative strategy of action can be attributed to the war by implementing a population elimination function, which, with the advancement of technology, has been increasingly effective in the form of increased numbers of deaths. However, wars and armed conflicts, especially those from the beginning of civilization, have influenced the consciousness of the human population connected with the statehood and the creation of the nation, the homeland. The desire to defend his family, land, belongings, and life has increased in people's desire to fight against aggressors. There were also alliances, federations, acting in opposition to the perpetrators who laid the foundations for the present military organizations. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that wars and armed conflicts are governed by their separate laws, and therefore a specific type of political conflict is the armed conflict in which violence occurs. Among them can be distinguished wars as specific armed conflicts that meet three conditions:

- a. "two or more armed parties are involved in the fighting, at least one of which is represented by regular government forces (military, paramilitary, police units).
- b. on both sides there must be a central organization that directs the war (even if its main purpose is for defense or guerilla purposes).
- c. armed operations show some continuity, both sides have a planned strategy [20]"

In today's world, wars and armed conflicts play a very different role than the acquisition of geopolitical territories. In the present situation, the possibility of deciding whether peace or war in a given region will increase the status of decision-makers. The prospect of influencing public sentiment, creating fear in the population, or playing, deadly" military technology alone changes the status and role of war. Relating to history, the factors that have influenced the course of armed conflicts and wars were primarily the introduction of electricity, chemical weapons, aircraft and nuclear weapons. These inventions have elevated the status of more industrialized countries, as opposed to less industrial ones. In this way, there was a clear division between those states that had just created the war and its actions, not just the military. In addition, the merger of the defense industry with ordinary business has intensified the role of war in society and the state.

Q. Wright, one of the theoreticians of polemology, distinguished the trends that have been historically shaped and portray the contemporary war [21]:

- a. the largest states, demographically, geographically and geopolitically, have the most developed military technology and most often participate in wars and armed conflicts,
- b. the average duration of a war is limited to a period of 4-5 years,
- c. statistical warrior, soldier is able to perform his war duties, about 4-5 years without a rest period,
- d. over the centuries, there is an increase in the number of soldiers in armies, both in their general numbers and proportionally to the population,

- e. a decrease in the duration of the war, and a proportionately lower proportion of war years to years of peace,
- f. increase the duration of individual battles during the war. This has resulted in more battles in the year as well as in the century,
- g. the proportion of soldiers and civilian population killed during the war tends to increase,
- h. the financial outlays put into warfare increase both directly and indirectly. This is due to the fact that the economic cost of the war also manifests itself in the mobilization of all sectors of the economy of the state to fight, as well as the lack of male workers after the war,
- i. the role of strictly military operations in the war is declining. Economic and propaganda forces increasingly affect the image and course of war,
- j. the role of war as an instrument of world politics is diminishing.

To sum up these trends one can say that there is a paradox. Namely, on the one hand, there is a noticeable increase in the size of the army, the number of battles, economic expenditures and social cost. Conversely, on the other hand, there is a decline in the frequency of wars, the importance of military operations, and the role of politics in the war itself. The war has become, in a sense, an institution, but only partially controlled. It turned out to be a temporary consequence of the existence of a civilization that cannot become predictable. However, it can be more effectively controlled through factors and technological and political actions. One may also point to the aspect that "the apparent paradox: wars and political violence can only be put to an end by negotiation. Insisting on each side of your truth does not bring peace, because the truth cannot be negotiated [22]"

According to Q. Wright, the phenomenon of war should be dealt with and considered from the point of view of each of the combatants. Therefore, for all those involved in the war, it is, in its simplest form, intensified by military activity, psychological tension, legal force, and social inclusion. However, this intensification cannot produce an effect until both sides of the warring party have no comparable military strength. Referring to the point of view of the civilian population, whose state fights in war or armed conflict, this phenomenon will always be associated with increased state activity. It covers all aspects of its functioning, f.ex. military, political, economic, social or cultural. Aristotle also pointed out that "wars and conquests are not the purpose of the state, even though the state must be prepared for war [23]"

Therefore, all technological improvements, invented and produced for the sake of wars should be regarded as good, but they are not necessarily the ultimate goal of the state, but are only the means for it.

The character and face of modern warfare have been shaped by a number of factors. Referring to Q. Wright, one of the most influential figures in the subject of war, is military technology. In his book *A Study of War*, he divided into four periods, initiated by a particular invention that influenced the social life of the population and at the same

time produced concrete military and political consequences. They are as follows: adaptation of firearms (1450-1648); professionalization of the army (1648-1789); capitalization of wars (1789-1914); totalitarianism of wars (1914-). While analyzing wars and armed conflicts, these aspects should be extended to in-depth analysis of the military means available at the moment. For example, during the characterization of modern military technology, its advanced mechanics, increased population of the army compared to previous years, progressive militarization of society, the nationalization of national war effort, and the possibility of total war must be taken into account. In addition, Q. Wright suggests to consider war, including economic, political, military and cultural changes.

The study of war and peace should not only be based on descriptions and historical analysis of individual wars and occupied peace, but also on the philosophical reflection on these phenomena. It is also included in the question about the meaning of war and the importance of peace for the human condition on an individual and social scale. In the philosophy of war the following problems are important:

1. the relationship of war with the universal qualities of man, with his nature and psyche,
2. assessment of the impact of the war on individual attitudes and on social institutions,
3. sources of war, causes of aggressiveness in behavior of individuals and communities,
4. criteria for a just war,
5. the relationship of war with technical and scientific progress, with the development of civilization,
6. place of war in politics, in political activity related to the permanence of the state and legitimization of state power (the legitimacy of the use of violence against individuals, peoples and social groups);
7. opportunities for future peacekeeping (the choice of appropriate methods to eliminate or avoid war);
8. the moral legitimacy of the means of achieving peace between peoples and effective guarantees of lasting peace [24].

The polemological approach to the cause of war represents a fundamentally interdisciplinary and historical standpoint for martial arts. It focuses on in-depth analysis of geostrategic interactions, military and political technology, political and legal (including national and international norms and laws), sociological and cultural (including religion and values), biological and political (including ethnic identity, age, gender Ideological (including concepts of peace and justice), dialogue (diplomacy, media, propaganda), the natural environment, and psychological factors that influence the causes of armed conflicts and wars [25].

#### 4. Discussion

The origins of security studies in Poland dates back to the early 1990s. At that time, more and more studies on the environment of national and international security were undertaken in the context of military science. In the

mentioned military sciences a significant scientific output has gone beyond the scope of research into the development of the state defense system, the theory of martial arts, including strategy, operational art and tactics, as well as the organization and conduct of defense operations, military operations, command and military training.

The eight areas of knowledge were separated, in each area, the fields of science and art were specified, and in particular areas the classification of scientific and artistic disciplines was made. Secondly, the area of knowledge is the area of social sciences. Within this area in the field of social sciences was established as the first scientific discipline – security studies. In the second order was distinguished as a scientific discipline – defense studies. It should be emphasized that the newly established science discipline – security studies, requires a thorough theoretical basis.

The security theory is a system of ideas and recommendations designed to know the full spectrum of human dangers arising from its contact with the surrounding environment and to show all ways to ensure its safety. The task of maintaining security in the current conditions of the technological revolution, maintaining the resources of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the emergence of new challenges and threats (including asymmetric threats) are very important issues for international and national actors. Every scientific discipline should have a clearly defined subject matter and a set of concepts and theories that form the foundation of this science.

The subject of research in security studies is the threat to man in his environment along with ventures to ensure his safety. The subjects of security studies research should be:

1. Contemporary international and national security systems in the military and non-military dimension;
2. Their functioning at different organizational levels;
3. The activities of state, government and self-government institutions, entrepreneurs and social organizations that cover these systems.

Under the concept of an entity should be understood any system, world, country, person, living organisms, technical means and the environment. The subject of security research is the person and the surrounding environment. Considering the security studies from the point of view of social needs it can be stated that:

1. Safety issues are the essential and indisputable needs of society;
2. Security issues have ceased to be perceived only in the context of national defense, defense preparations or public order and security;
3. There is no area of social life that would not be bound in a wider or narrower sense of security;
4. The academic and didactic achievements of many academic institutions pursuing national security, internal security or security engineering confirm the importance of security issues and the need for further research and education for security at various levels.

Security in contemporary terms focuses on the main effort to provide the public with development opportunities,

counter threats, decent life, health, public order and democratic freedoms. Security research requires an appropriate methodology. It should be stressed that the issue of security studies is of an interdisciplinary nature and encompasses wide areas of human cognition. Politics, economics, ecology, technology, military and defense, the demographic and social spheres, which translates into the application of a new methodology adequate for the study of the new scientific discipline. Key tasks in security studies include:

1. Acquiring knowledge of complex security processes;
2. Presenting the future model of the security system, defining its objectives and tasks, defining the place and role of the essential elements and their interdependence. Is it a centralized, decentralized or mixed system.
3. Diagnose relationships among security research directions and formulate common knowledge - general security theory;
4. Undertaking development activities in the field of security in various dimensions;
5. Developing criteria for assessing national and international security and preventing threats to security.

Addressing safety from the point of view of social needs and the research conducted so far in this area, it can be said that: security matters are a fundamental need of the people; security related rights are no longer perceived only in the context of issues related to state defense, counterfeiting and offenses; in principle, there is no area of social life that would not be related to security; many fields and scientific disciplines deal with selectively security issues; the current academic achievements, the didactic nature, the number of higher education centers on national security, internal security and security engineering, confirm the importance of security issues, the need for further research and education at various levels in this regard; safety reduction paradigms have prevailed in the current security studies, according to which elements of the security system were concerned, and the conclusions of the study were often generalized too broadly.

Every scientific discipline should have a fairly clear definition of the subject matter of the research and a set of concepts and theories that form the basis of this science. But there are doubts - what in terms of the subject understood the concept of security - in the age of open borders, global world, changing factors of development, pathological phenomena? Although in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland it is stated that ensuring security is the most important task of the state - it is difficult to find the indisputable definition of this concept. There is no law on state security, there are very few scientific studies attempting to address security in a fairly comprehensive way.

Attempts to define this concept have not even taken place by the legislature, which recognizes security as a fundamental task of the state, which has appointed many state-financed entities to it, has created conditions for the functioning of other entities (local government, commercial and social). Thus, security, when the legislator in the detailed regulations introduced many concepts such as state, national,

external, internal, public, universal, civil, citizens, people, public order, crisis management, local threats etc. From the point of view of content on themselves, understood quite narrowly? In addition, scientific and teaching and research institutions, as well as practice, use other notions, such as national security, business security, social security, financial security, food security, political security, economic security, military security, technical security, fire security, marine security, ecological security, sanitary security, veterinary security, phytosanitary security etc.

By addressing security issues in a comprehensive way, there must be analyzed in different ways - at least in spatial, functional and subjective dimensions. In the spatial layout we can talk about security: the external (international) and the internal, which in turn can distinguish regional and local security. An important role is played by the state border, separating the area of external and internal security.

The contemporary paradigm of security studies should be based on ensuring the satisfaction of service recipients in terms of security, system (comprehensive) approach to security issues, proper innovation of activities. This level of satisfaction of service recipients, resulting from the innovative management of organizations for security, should be a key criterion for assessing the quality of the activities in this area. In developing or improving, the functioning of the organization should be dominated by the process approach - not the institutional approach currently prevailing (based on departmentalisation of activities).

## 5. Conclusion

The phenomena of war and peace, since the dawn of time, have been the interest to thinkers, philosophers, rulers of states and politicians. The basis for them was to study their essence, genesis, character and meaning in the lives of individuals, societies and states. For many centuries, attempts have been made to identify and understand the phenomenon of war, while seeking the means and methods that can eliminate it. Referring to historical experience, it is important to note that war and armed conflict are social phenomena that require interdisciplinary, multi-faceted research.

Knowing the essence of war and armed conflicts of the past, present and future can be creatively used in various aspects of state security and defense projects and procedures. This is also possible in strategic planning and in improving systems for extending peace zones in global, regional and local terms.

Science in the modern world plays a very important role. It is, in a sense, the cornerstone of societies, states. Thanks to it, it is possible to develop humanity, which is now so strongly emphasized. Every area of knowledge, science or discipline connects with others - correlates in a specific way. This is due to the engagement of research objects of these sciences. Similar dependence occurs with the phenomenon of war, which can be studied in philosophic, historical, political, religious, sociological, geographical or psychological.

In polemology that deals with the study of wars, there are

also relationships and dependencies. Thanks to them, a wide-ranging study of the phenomenon of war and armed conflicts can be made, combining them with related sciences and areas of knowledge, such as security studies. Entering a comprehensive, holistic analysis of a given subject, subject or object makes it possible to understand its determinants. Staying within just one scientific discipline, while studying the phenomenon of war, can distort her image. The tendency is that the wider the subject, the broader you can get to know its determinants, causes, effects.

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