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National Security and Defence in Polish Scientific Thinking

Preface

This paper is the result of research into the current knowledge of defence studies. Its key research problem was to establish the current state of theory within the subject matter area. The inquiries undertaken had two objectives:¹ exploration - to better understand the subject matter and discover possibilities for broader research; description - to serve as an introduction to explaining the phenomenon, if only for the reason that a scientific description is more precise and detailed than an informal one.

During the research, two key methods have been utilized: the monograph method, and analysis and critique of relevant literature.²

The monograph method covers gathering detailed data on the subject matter. Its goal is the “scientific examination of isolated properties and qualitative elements of a given structure, system, or process, defining their character and extent, as well as describing their functioning and further development”.³ On the other hand, the analysis and critique of relevant literature makes possible the establishing of the current state of knowledge of a given subject matter, that is the doctrine, subject literature, and pre-existing research problems - both those already solved and those still requiring a solution.

The bibliography used in the research consists of works by Polish theoreticians and practitioners in the field of security issues. Some of the authors have been listed below, in alphabetical order:

- Kitler Waldemar,
- Koziej Stanisław,
- Krakowski Krzysztof,
- Lidwa Witold,
- Marczak Józef,
- Pacek Bogusław,
- Pawłowski Jacek,

¹ In science, one distinguishes three key research objectives: exploration, description, and explanation. For further reading: E. Babbie, *Badania społeczne w praktyce*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, 2004.

² Methods outlined by Jerzy Apanowicz in his publication *Metodologia ogólna*, Wydawnictwo Diecezji Pelplińskiej „BERNARDINUM”, Gdynia, 2002.

³ APANOWICZ, Jerzy. *Metodologia ogólna*. Gdynia: Wydawnictwo Diecezji Pelplińskiej „BERNARDINUM”, 2002, p. 67.

- Szulc Bogdan,
- Tomaszewski Adam,
- Wojnarowska-Szpucha Sylwia,
- Wojnarowski Jan.

This paper is divided into two parts. The first part enumerates and explains key terms related to defence issues, while the second part presents defence as a scientific discipline - showcases its place in the classification system of science disciplines in the Polish educational system, as well as the subject matter and scope of research concerning defence studies.

Explanation of the key terms of defence studies

A definition is “an answer to the question of what a given phrase means”.⁴ Definitions are created to narrow the meaning of a given phrase, because “aside from the risk of multiple interpretations, oftentimes an ambiguous, unclear, shaky understanding of the expressed terms can impact us”- as noted by T. Kotarbiński.⁵ When touching on the problem of defining terms within the scope of defence studies, W. Kitler has noted that “the definitions are the semantic scope of a given term put in words. One would therefore prefer not only for the theory, but also for the legal practice to explain a given phrase by pointing to another phrase of the same language that holds the very same meaning”.⁶ Writing on terms and terminology concerning defence studies, M. Strzoda stated that “by the terms and terminology of defence studies, one should understand the entire body of words, expressions or their combinations, forming descriptions of objects, phenomena, attributes, structures, means, connections, processes, and numerous other elements characteristic of the armed forces and national defence capabilities”.⁷ One should therefore take note of the fact that despite seeming to be synonymous, the terms defence, defence capabilities, national defence and national defence capability differ from each other - as does their subject scope.

According to the *Dictionary of national defence terms*,⁸ defence is a “kind of military action of armed forces that had been pre-planned and prepared accounting for defensive characteristics of the terrain or organized extemporaneously, the intent of which is to counteract enemy attack”.⁹ On the other hand, in his *Traktat o dobrej robocie* [*Treatise on good work*], T. Kotarbiński states that defence

⁴ KOTARBIŃSKI, Tadeusz. *Elementy teorii poznania, logiki formalnej i metodologii nauk*. De Agostini, Ediciones Altaya Polska, 2003, p. 58.

⁵ Ibidem, pp. 54-55.

⁶ KITLER, Waldemar. *Przygotowania obronne państwa w systemie obronnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej: teoria i praktyka. Podstawy teoretyczne przygotowań obronnych państwa w kontekście zadań i potrzeb obronnych*, materials from the June 8 2010 seminar, organized at the National Security Faculty of the National Defence University of Warsaw (AON). Zeszyt Problemy 1(65)/2011, Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej.

⁷ STRZODA, Marek. Terminologia obronności - wymagania, zakres i wyzwania rozwoju. In: POLAK, Andrzej; KRAKOWSKI, Krzysztof. (ed.), *Obronność jako dyscyplina naukowa*. Akademia Obrony Narodowej, Warszawa 2015, p. 69.

⁸ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Akademia Obrony Narodowej Wydział Strategiczno-Obronny, Warszawa 2008.

⁹ Ibidem.

is a countermeasure against an assault: "The assaulting one is he who aims to institute a change discordant with the intents of his opponent; the defensive behavior is to attempt to prevent such a change taking place." [...] an assault can be a constructive or a destructive act, a defence - a preservative or preventative act".¹⁰

Defence capability, is defined in the dictionary as "one of the basic spheres of state activity, and realized with the objective of counteracting any and all threats".¹¹ The National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland describes defence capabilities as the "sphere of national defence comprising all activities, both civilian and military, meant to prevent and counteract any and all possible threats to state security, both military and non-military, that could lead to a political or military crisis".¹² On the other hand, S. Koziej describes it as "a nation's ability to counteract the most dangerous threats, such as military threats".¹³

A. Tomaszewski noted that "*the defensive capability* is often confused with the term *national defence*, which is usually defined in academic literature as the entirety of forces, resources, and actions undertaken by both state and society to prevent and counteract threats that could destabilize national security. Unlike the case of the term *defensive capability*, *national defence* does not emphasize activities conducted on the international arena as much, nor does it highlight participation in defensive alliances. The term *national defence* more often than not refers to the established concepts and proprietary defence system of a given country".¹⁴

The aforementioned *national defence* has been defined in the previously quoted dictionary as "the activity meant to appropriately prepare and utilize the forces and resources available to a country to counteract any and all external and internal threats detrimental to the national interest".¹⁵ It is, however, worth noting that the 1994 dictionary defines *national defence* as "the entire body of forces and societal (national) resources (institutions) and their activities relating to counteracting threats detrimental to the national interest".¹⁶

The issue of national defence had been covered in numerous papers by W. Kitler. In his book *Obrona cywilna (niemilitarna) w Polsce*,¹⁷ he stated that "a country, as a political institution and as a territorial form of societal organization (the literal act of self-organizing) takes actions in all spheres of its activity, using both its own abilities

¹⁰ KOTARBIŃSKI, Tadeusz. *Traktat o dobrej robocie*. Zakład Narodowy Imienia Ossolińskich - Wydawnictwo, 1969, pp. 248-249.

¹¹ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa... op. cit.*

¹² *National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland. Sectoral Strategy for the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*. 2009 r., pt. 4, p. 3.

¹³ KOZIEJ, Stanisław. *Koncepcja wspólnego bezpieczeństwa w Europie a obronność Polski*. In: SIENKIEWICZ, Piotr. (ed.), *Wystarczalność obronna*, Wydawnictwo Bellona, Warszawa 1996, p. 33.

¹⁴ TOMASZEWSKI, Adam. *Obronność w teorii i praktyce*. In: POLAK, Andrzej; KRAKOWSKI, Krzysztof. (red.), *Obronność jako dyscyplina naukowa*. Warszawa: Akademia Obrony Narodowej, 2015, p. 41.

¹⁵ *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego... op.cit.*

¹⁶ *Słownik podstawowych terminów dotyczących bezpieczeństwa państwa*, AON, Warszawa, 1994.

¹⁷ KITLER, Waldemar. *Obrona cywilna (niemilitarna) w Polsce*. Warszawa: Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej, 2002.

and benefits arising from international cooperation, to protect and defend its vital interests in the entire sphere of national security".¹⁸ He had named this sphere of a nation's activity national defence. However, in his postdoctoral dissertation¹⁹ concerning national defence issues, he proposed the following definitions for it:

- a particular form of a nation's activity within the sphere of national security, which decides the durability of the state and the society when faced with varied (external and internal) threats and challenges to its security;
- comprises the entirety of civilian and military activities of the nation, up to and including international activity, meant to protect and defend vital interests in the sphere of national security;
- comprises an internally coordinated set of elements implementing control (political and administrative) and executive (military and non-military/civilian) functions, defined by their relations (conjugation) and connected by a shared goal of protecting and defending vital interests in the sphere of national security;
- forms a superordinate, superior form of a nation's activity in the sphere of national security, in relation to other, specific forms of national security.²⁰

Another key term in the defence-related terminology is the *national defence capability*. Its dictionary definition is as follows: "a sphere of national security concerning counteracting external political and military threats, utilizing all available forces and resources (military and non-military)".²¹ However, as noted by A. Tomaszewski, "national defence capabilities could be understood by someone as the appropriately organized and prepared resources, as well as actions taken within the country and on the international arena (including entering alliances and pacts) with the goals of attaining a certain ability to monitor threats, particularly external military threats, and counteracting them effectively".²²

Analyzing the topic of defining terms in the sphere of defence capabilities, R. Lelito has reached the following conclusions: "The term defence means, in its most basic sense, an act - that is, fighting, defending, forbidding, resisting various perils. It is synonymous with combat, that is defensive action, resistance, and counteraction. Defence capability, on the other hand, is identified as the opportunity, ability, and readiness and therefore the preparedness to make a previously defined defence. Therefore the defensive capability indicates the need and necessity for defending a subject and its achievements in various spheres against threats that arise. It is a state of a subject, rather than its action, allowing protection of its vital interests during dangerous situations. In this context, national defence capability should be understood as its preparedness, that of its structures - and, in particular, the armed forces utilized for defensive activities oriented towards counteracting military threats."²³

¹⁸ KITLER, Waldemar. *Obrona cywilna (niemilitarna) w Polsce*. Warszawa: Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej, 2002, pp.30-31.

¹⁹ KITLER, Waldemar. *Obrona narodowa III RP. Organizacja. System*, postdoctoral dissertation, AON. Warszawa, 2002.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, pp. 54-55.

²¹ *Słownik terminów... op. cit.*

²² TOMASZEWSKI, Adam. *Obronność w teorii i praktyce... op. cit.* p. 40.

²³ LELITO, Ryszard. Identyfikacja obronności państwa. In: (ed.) LEŚNIEWSKI, Z.; OSTOLSKI, P. R.; PALCZEWSKA, M. *Obronność Polski w XXI wieku*. Warszawa 2017, p. 314-315.

Other important terms in the sphere of defence issues are: *national defence capability system* and the *national defence system*.

A *national defence capability system* is defined in the dictionary as an “internally coordinated set of interconnected elements, people, organizations, and devices working towards retaining the military security of the state”²⁴, while a *national defence system* has been described as an “internally coordinated set of human, material, and organizational elements, enabling the ability to withstand military threats, in accordance with the defence goals and intentions. It comprises three subsystems: military, non-military, and control. Its subject structure comprises the tasks implemented by each of the elements and links in all the spheres of activity encompassing defensive preparations during peacetime, threat, and wartime”.²⁵

Nevertheless, one should note that the *Leksykon obronności* [Defence lexicon] presents the national defence capacity system as a subsystem of national security (“a defence capacity [national defence] subsystem forms a part of the national defence [national security] system, intended for utilizing chances, taking up challenges, reducing risks, and counteracting [preventing and resisting] external political and military threats. It involves control and executive links: both military and non-military”²⁶), arising directly from the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland²⁷ (“To ensure implementation of the national interests and strategic objectives in the sphere of security, the Republic of Poland is organizing and developing an integrated system of national security. A national defence system forms a part of this system, created to withstand any and all threats to vital national interests”²⁸).

The issue of a national defence system is therefore an incredibly complex one. It has also been covered by numerous theoreticians and practitioners of defence studies. These include K. Krakowski, who during his analysis of Poland’s defence system noted that “in both practice and theory, the defence system is identified as a set of elements of a nation’s functional system, responsible for maintaining safety (primarily from external threats). A defence system has the following characteristics: responsibility and universality, intentionality, continuity, secrecy, specialization, and cooperation”.²⁹

As K. Krakowski explains, the universality manifests itself as the general defence obligation arising from both the constitution and the general defence obligation act; the system’s intentionality can be found in its focus on monitoring, counteracting, and neutralizing threats; continuity expresses itself through acting during each of the nation’s functioning states: normal state, wartime, occurrence of natural calamity, or other state of emergency; secrecy refers to classifying planning and organizational

²⁴ *Słownik terminów...* op. cit.

²⁵ *Słownik terminów...* op. cit.

²⁶ HUZARSKI, Michał; WOŁEJSZO, Jarosław. (sci. ed.), *Leksykon obronności. Polska i Europa*. Warszawa: Bellona, 2014, p. 14.

²⁷ *Strategia Obronności Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Strategia sektorowa do Strategii Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*. MON, Warszawa 2009.

²⁸ *Ibidem*. pt 56.

²⁹ KRAKOWSKI, Krzysztof. Ogólne implikacje przygotowania systemu obronnego państwa. In: LEŚNIEWSKI, Zbigniew; OSTOLSKI, Paweł Rafał.; PALCZEWSKA, Milena. (ed.). *Obronność Polski w XXI wieku*. Warszawa, 2017, p. 30.

details in the sphere of defence; specialization is understood as assigning particular tasks to particular state authorities (system elements) specialized in fulfilling those tasks.³⁰

When covering this topic, S. Wojnarowska-Szpucha and J. Wojnarowski noted however, that the national defence system “forms an internally coordinated set of control and executive elements, as well as the functions they implement, and the processes and interactions between them. It is organized to counteract any and all potential threats to vital interests, specified as long-term strategic goals.”³¹

When describing the national defence system (subsystem), J. Wojnarowski also notes that it should implement three key functions:

1. form the primary defence (human, material, financial) capability,
2. act as a support system for the diplomatic service during all three state security levels (peace, crisis, war),
3. enable cooperation with other subsystems of the national defence system (protective, social, and economic).³²

Poland’s defence system (national defence system) consists, according to the 2009 National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland,³³ of three subsystems: the national defence control subsystem and two executive subsystems (a military and a non-military subsystem).

The defence control subsystem is intended for preparing and ensuring the effective functioning of the state under threat and during wartime. The goal of this system during peacetime is to prepare and maintain an appropriate level of defence capability and ensure its effective development to levels required during states of emergency and war.³⁴

The military subsystem comprises the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland. “They implement objectives arising from the Constitution of Poland, the National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland and the Defence Capability Strategy of the Republic of Poland, described in more detail in the Political and Strategic Defence Directive of the Republic of Poland and appropriate national and allied operational plans. The Polish Armed Forces are apolitical and subject to civilian, democratic control”.³⁵

³⁰ KRAKOWSKI, Krzysztof. Ogólne implikacje przygotowania systemu obronnego państwa. In: LEŚNIEWSKI, Zbigniew; OSTOLSKI, Paweł Rafał.; PALCZEWSKA, Milena. (ed.). *Obronność Polski w XXI wieku*. Warszawa, 2017, s. 30-31.

³¹ WOJNAROWSKA-SZPUCHA, S.; WOJNAROWSKI, J. *System-podsystem obronny państwa i świadczenia na jego rzecz*. AON, Warszawa 2013, p.10.

³² WOJNAROWSKI, J. *Model podsystemu obronnego państwa w systemie bezpieczeństwa narodowego*. In: KITLER, Waldemar; DRABIK, K.; SZOSTEK, I. (ed.), *System bezpieczeństwa narodowego RP. Wybrane problemy*. Warszawa: Akademia Obrony Narodowej, 2014, p. 261.

³³ *National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland...* op. cit.

³⁴ Zob. KOZIEJ, S. *Koncepcja wspólnego bezpieczeństwa w Europie a obronność Polski*. In: SIENKIEWICZ, P. (red.), *Wystarczalność obronna*. Warszawa 1996, p. 51.

³⁵ *National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland...* op. cit. pt. 65.

The non-military subsystem is often also called non-military defence structures. It comprises “state administration, local government, and other subjects and institutions of the state, as well as entrepreneurs subject to the obligatory implementation of national defence objectives. This subsystem implements tasks encompassing: ensuring effective and safe functioning of the state, supplying human and material resources to the Polish Armed Forces and organizational units responsible for the state’s internal security, as well as the tasks arising from obligations of the host-country, providing security and fulfilling the basic needs of the wider populace, and establishing conditions necessary for its survival”.³⁶

The defence system can also be described from an organizational viewpoint: “from the organizational viewpoint, one should consider the control subsystem, identifiable as the Control and Command System (or: Wartime Command System during war), as part of the defence system. The Polish Armed Forces should be considered to form the executive element, while the non-military system comprises state administration and local government bodies, social and economic subjects, and all citizens implementing defence objectives. The effectiveness of a National Defence System is determined by the harmonious co-operation of its component parts and supporting environment systems”.³⁷

Another, newer document presents a somewhat different shape of Poland’s defence system. This document is the 2014 National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland. It was ratified on November 5 2014 by President Bronisław Komorowski at the motion of the President of the Council of Ministers.

The adoption of the new national defence strategy had been preceded by two important events: implementation of a new system for control and long-term management of national development (based on a new strategic document category) by the Council of Ministers, and completion of a first comprehensive National Security Strategic Overview.

The new system for the control and long-term management of national development had been implemented on the basis of the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 67 concerning adoption of “2022 Strategy for development of the national Security system of the Republic of Poland”, dated April 9 2013. This resolution effectively revoked the “National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, the Sectoral Strategy for the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland”, adopted by the Council of Ministers on December 23 2009 and the “Strategy for Participation of Polish Armed Forces in International Operations”, adopted by the Council of Ministers on January 13 2009. The 2022 Strategy for development of the national defence system of the Republic of Poland constituted an appendix to the abovementioned resolution, specifying the challenges, developmental trends, and development vision for the national defence system of the Republic of Poland, the strategic objectives and main directions of interventions, the strategy implementation system, and the budgetary bounds for the implementation of the strategy.³⁸

³⁶ *National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland...* op. cit. pt. 66.

³⁷ KRAKOWSKI, K. *Ogólne implikacje...* op. cit., pp. 32-33

³⁸ STAŚKIEWICZ, U. „Strategie bezpieczeństwa Polski w latach 1989-2017”. In: *Technologie morskie dla obronności i bezpieczeństwa*. NATCON, Gdańsk - Gdynia, 2018.

In accordance with the 2014 National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, “the goal of the preparation of the defence subsystem is the retaining and qualitative transforming of the national defence potential in the sphere of defence, taking into consideration the key need to retain abilities necessary for directly ensuring the security of the nation’s population, as well as national structures and territory. Preparation of the defence potential includes the development of diplomacy, the Polish Armed Forces, special forces operating within the defence sphere, and the industrial defence capability. It works towards strengthening the defence capability of NATO and the development of such capabilities by the European Union. The sphere linking the defence subsystem with the remaining subsystems is defence planning”.³⁹

The 2014 National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland presents an innovative approach based on a systemic understanding of the security issues, “allowing for the separation and highlighting of defence-related subjects responsible for the implementation of the National Security Strategy: ministers in charge of state administration, directors of the central authorities, voivodes, local government bodies, etc. Moreover, it marked the first time the National Security Strategy had been implemented as a part of such a comprehensive system of other strategic documents, adopted long- and medium-term assumptions arising from the Polish strategic thought. As a result, we now have a modern National Security Strategy reflecting the current reality and accounting for the radical changes that have occurred in the past few years in the global, regional, and local security environment.”⁴⁰

Among the newest documents concerning Poland’s security and defence capabilities, it is prudent to take note of the 2017 defence approach. This document presented opinions that the Land and Air Force remain the most important defence focus, that it is important to rebuild the national consciousness, and that by 2032 the Polish Armed Forces ought to be fully prepared for possible disruptions of peace on a regional scale – and be supplied with modern equipment, trained cadres, and well-rehearsed operational procedures.⁴¹

Nevertheless, one should remember that the national defence system is not by itself enough to ensure security. Factors such as appropriate international relations (e.g. establishing pacts and alliances) and the development level of the nation remain of crucial importance, as noted by A. Tomaszewski: “defence capability exists in a particular environment formed by: political and military situation, related threats, economic potential, and a given country’s territory, as well as its political and economic ties to other international subjects. These form key factors determining both defensive needs and capabilities of particular states”.⁴²

³⁹ *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, 2014, p. 45.

⁴⁰ LEGUCKA, A. Główne założenia Strategii Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego RP 2014. In: *Strategie bezpieczeństwa narodowego RP. Pierwsze 25 lat*. Wojskowe Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej, 2015, p. 152.

⁴¹ *Koncepcja obronna Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*. MON, 2017, p. 39.

⁴² TOMASZEWSKI, Adam. *Obronność w teorii i praktyce*. In: *Obronność jako dyscyplina naukowa*, Warszawa, AON, 2015, p. 41.

Defence studies as a scientific discipline

Defence, security and war issues have interested researchers for centuries (Sun Tzu's famous *Art of War* can be held as an example of such interest as far back as in ancient China). Related issues have been addressed by representatives of many different disciplines of science: philosophy, sociology, history, political science, economy, and military science. As noted by modern scholars of military science, "war proves to be a necessary condition to retain peace and security. It is the middle link of a chain leading to the creation of intentionally oriented agreement and harmony in every social structure".⁴³

In 2011, Poland recognized the unique character of security studies and it has been recognized as a separate discipline, belonging to the sphere of social sciences.⁴⁴ Earlier, these issues had been considered a part of military science (which, in turn, is grouped among the humanities). Security studies are therefore one of the youngest scientific disciplines in Poland. However, as noted by L. Lutostański, "introduction of the new classification has led to many controversies. They pertained, among other things, to the semantic and material aspects of security and defence studies".⁴⁵ As noted by Z. Trejnis, it is hard to clearly define the cognitive identity and methodology of security and defence sciences, and numerous researchers ask themselves the question of whether the split had been necessary and of a non-administrative importance.⁴⁶

According to information found in the *Defence lexicon*, "defence science includes the theoretical foundations for the practical solutions concerning the preparation and functioning of the defence system in various conditions and states."⁴⁷ Meanwhile, B. Szulc claimed that "defence science includes the defence issues in all spheres of the constitutional existence of a state and its citizens, as well as any and all defence activity on an international scale. Its goal is to identify all possible threats and create comprehensive national action and international defence systems",⁴⁸ while the previously quoted W. Kitler argues that defence studies:

- are a science concerned with the phenomena arising under the process of ensuring the military safety of countries and other subjects of international relations;

⁴³ PALCZEWSKA, Milena. Wojna a system obronny państwa - ujęcie polemologiczne. In: LEŚNIEWSKI, Z.; OSTOLSKI, P. R.; PALCZEWSKA, M. (ed.). *Obronność Polski w XXI. Wieku*. Warszawa: Akademia Sztuki Wojennej, 2017, p. 109.

⁴⁴ Decree of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of July 8 2011 *concerning fields of knowledge, disciplines of science and arts* (Journal of Laws 2011.179.1065), Resolution of the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles of January 28 2011 amending the resolution on defining fields of science and art and disciplines of science and art.

⁴⁵ LUTOSTAŃSKI, M. *O dylematach polskiej klasyfikacji nauk w zakresie bezpieczeństwa – wybrane problemy*. In: SKIBNIEWSKA, K. A.; LUTOSTAŃSKI, M. (ed.), *Postęp w inżynierii bezpieczeństwa*. Olsztyn: Wydawnictwo UWM, 2015, p.33.

⁴⁶ TREJNIS, Z. Spory wokół tożsamości nauk o obronności. In: TREJNIS, Z.; MARCINIAK, M. (ed.). *Obronność państwa. Strategie oraz systemy bezpieczeństwa i obronności*, Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 2016, pp. 8-9.

⁴⁷ HUZARSKI, M.; WOŁEJSZO, J. *Leksykon obronności...* op. cit. pg.13.

⁴⁸ SZULC, B. *Metodologiczne i edukacyjne wyznaczniki nauk o obronności*. Warszawa: AON 2013, p. 66.

- concern the organization and functioning of the state and international organizations in the sphere of defence and defence systems created by those subjects;
- are a discipline pertaining to researching patterns arising in the defence sphere;
- are a science focused on knowledge about state organization and its activities in the defence sphere.⁴⁹

As noted by B. Pacek, defence studies are focused on researching “military preparations and the development of a national defence system, including the armed forces, and organizing and conducting defensive operations, military operations, and the commanding and training of armed forces.”⁵⁰ B. Pacek also notes that this discipline also concerns itself with the study of the theory behind the art of war. Nevertheless, one should point out that up until 2011, military issues remained a focus of two disciplines of science: international relations and military science.

The subject of the art of war has been mentioned by W. Lidwa, who concluded that “as the theory and practice of armed military action, military science focuses on the issues of preparing and conducting armed combat. In the other sense, it is usually understood as the practice behind military command and operations, within the scope of preparing for and conducting combat. A similar split concerns its basic building blocks: strategy, operational art, and tactics.”⁵¹ J. Marczak and J. Pawłowski also have analyzed the art of war (in particular, its component, that is the concept of strategy) and agreed that “of all the component parts of the art of war, strategy is the most difficult - but also the most creative and unique, which are the characteristics of art. These properties make strategy a fairly hermetic discipline”.⁵²

After 2011, distinguishing the research subjects of defence and security studies had become one of the most pressing needs of these two disciplines. Such a distinction had been proposed by, among others, B. Szulc. The results are presented in the following table:

⁴⁹ KITLER, Waldemar. Transdyscyplinarność badań w naukach o bezpieczeństwie i naukach o obronności. In: KITLER, Waldemar; KUŚMIDER, T. (ed.), *Metodologiczne i dydaktyczne aspekty bezpieczeństwa narodowego*. Warszawa: Difin, 2015, pp. 165-166.

⁵⁰ PACEK, B. *Nauki o obronności i nauki o bezpieczeństwie w badaniach techniki i technologii obronnych*. 7th Science-Industrial Conference: Scientific Research in the Field of Industrial Machinery and Technology, Warszawa, May 21 2014. [<http://www.dnsw.mon.gov.pl/plik/file/Konkurs-2014/AON.pdf>].

⁵¹ LIDWA, W. *Dylematy taktyki*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Menedżerskie PTM, 2013, p. 8.

⁵² MARCZAK, J.; PAWŁOWSKI, J. *O obronie militarnej Polski przełomu XX-XXI wieku*. Warszawa: wydawnictwo Bellona, 1995, p. 11.

Table no. 1

Research subject matter	
Security studies	Defence studies
1. Current state of various kinds of security, in accordance with the adopted variable parameters;	1. Threats, in the context of preparing countermeasures;
2. Current threats to particular kinds of security;	2. Ability to resist existing challenges and threats;
3. Trends of change in each of the states;	3. Functioning of the defence system and its changes;
4. Factors affecting the security levels in the analyzed spheres;	4. Methods and forms in which the defence system operates;
5. Opportunities for change in the sphere of security, in context of shifting threats;	5. Opportunities and course of changes in the defence education of the populace;
6. Sense of safety of both citizens and state authorities;	6. New methods and tools for counteracting threats;
7. Impact of need fulfilment in the sphere of security.	7. Capability for co-operation between defensive and protective elements in international defence relations.

Source: B. Szulc, *Problemy metodologiczne nauk o bezpieczeństwie i nauk o obronności*. In: PAŹZEK, B. (ed.). *Drogą bezpieczeństwa i obronności*. Gdynia: Wyd. BP, 2015, pg. 283-284.

In 2018, a major reform of higher education took place - the *Higher education and science act* (Journal of Laws 2018 pos. 1668) of 20 July 2018. The document formed the basis for the new categorization of scientific disciplines and fields.⁵³ According to the new Decree,⁵⁴ defence studies became a part of security science, while security studies remained in the group of social studies. However, despite this Decree coming into force on October 1 2018, up until April 2019 one could receive a scientific degree in defence science, as both the Act⁵⁵ and the Decree⁵⁶ included transitional period stipulations.

The abovementioned reform has both proponents and opponents. Considering defence studies are (were) one of the youngest scientific disciplines in Poland, it is possible that its achievements and uniqueness were not enough to secure a place as a separate discipline under the new system. It is, however, also possible that defence studies had not been given enough time to present its unique and distinct characteristics, as it had been given merely seven years for this purpose.

Summary

In conclusion, defence studies are a fairly specific field of science, raising many controversies over both its subject matter scope and status as a separate scientific discipline. As young sciences, defence and security studies undoubtedly had to face

⁵³ Decree of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of September 20 2018 *concerning fields of knowledge, disciplines of science and arts* (Journal of Laws 2018, pos. 1818).

⁵⁴ Decree of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of September 20 2018 *concerning fields of knowledge, disciplines of science and arts* (Journal of Laws 2018, pos. 1818).

⁵⁵ *Higher education and science act* (Journal of Laws 2018 pos. 1668) of 20 July 2018.

⁵⁶ Decree of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of September 20 2018 *concerning fields of knowledge, disciplines of science and arts* (Journal of Laws 2018, pos. 1818).

numerous challenges, find their identities, and establish their distinct nature. Defence studies did not stand the test of time as a separate scientific discipline.

On the other hand, defence is undoubtedly one of the most important spheres of a nation's activity, as its goal is to counteract any and all kinds of threats. Without the continued maintaining of a nation's defence capability, it would become unable to repel attacks.

The documents concerning Poland's defence capabilities that have been discussed in this paper indicate that the national defence system undergoes constant change. It is an important quality of the system, as it needs to be able to react to the ever-changing security environment.

The current state of knowledge concerning national defence capabilities has been formed over centuries. Each battle, each war, rise and fall of empires formed the basis of analyzing the means and methods of defending a country. The first known treatise on this topic was written as early as the 6th century B.C.

Yet despite such wealth of knowledge and experience, we still have not exhausted the issue of national defence and defence capability, as each new threat requires a reevaluation of existing operational methods. It may very well turn out that the currently implemented methods prove inadequate for modern threats, owing to the advancement of technology for example, and should revise their approach to the subject matter.

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RESUMÉ

STAŚKIEWICZ, Urszula: NÁRODNÍ BEZPEČNOST A OBRANA V POLSKÉM VĚDECKÉM MYŠLENÍ

Tato publikace je výsledkem výzkumu současných znalostí o obranyschopnosti státu. Hlavním problémem výzkumu bylo zjistit, jaký je stav teorie v dané oblasti. Prováděná bádání měla dva cíle – lépe porozumět dané problematice a poznat možnosti provádění důkladnějšího výzkumu; popis – jako úvod k vysvětlení složitosti problematiky, i když pouze kvůli skutečnosti, že vědecký popis je cílenější a přesnější než jednoduchý popis.

Během prováděného výzkumu byly použity dvě výzkumné metody: metoda zvaná monografie a metoda analýzy a kritiky literatury.

Referát byl rozdělen do dvou částí. V první části byly uvedeny a vysvětleny základní pojmy v oblasti obranyschopnosti státu, zatímco ve druhé části byla obranyschopnost státu představena jako vědecká disciplína – je uvedeno místo vědy o obranyschopnosti v polském systému klasifikace věd a také předmět a oblast výzkumu vědy o obraněschopnosti státu.

Klíčová slova: obrana, národní obrana, schopnost národní obrany, národní obranný systém.

S U M M A R Y

This paper is the result of research into the current knowledge of defence studies. Its key research problem was to establish the current state of theory within the subject matter area. The inquiries undertaken had two objectives: exploration - to better understand the subject matter and discover possibilities for broader research; description - to serve as an introduction to explaining the phenomenon, if only for the fact a scientific description is more precise and detailed than an informal one.

During the research, two key methods were utilized: the monograph method and analysis and critique of relevant literature.

This paper has been divided into two parts. The first part consists of enumerating and explaining key terms related to defence issues, while the second part presents it as a scientific discipline - showcases its place in the classification system of science disciplines in the Polish educational system as well as the subject matter and scope of research concerning state defence studies.

Keywords: defence, national defence, national defence capability, national defence system.

