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What is the foreign policy role of northern countries in the current environmental turmoil?

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Abstract

This paper studies 'the coming anarchy' which occurs unpredictably due to environmental issues using foreign policy as a tool for modeling in environment sector. The post-cold war was a cause and effect but also a 'wake-up call for states to consider threats of non-traditional security factors as a repercussion of social change such as economic and environmental decline. The implication/role of foreign policy in environmental realm is the states' driven goals to relieve its extent to environment-driven stress so that its prosperity and national security may be raised in other to tackle the international dimension with other nations. The author explains how environmental policy tries to resist the anarchy caused by the environment turmoil and how states compete for harnessing their national interest responded to by way of hegemony. Evidence is provided using environmental policy process regardless of the Northern countries without forgetting a view point on perspectives and theories.

Keywords: Foreign Policy Analysis, global warming, environmental policy process

1. Introduction

If we could only spot an environmental problem/ issue, we may not be able to stop it but we could at least be sensible about how to relieve it as resisting it is aleatory. Environmental issues are unpredictable, unstable, and messy, even chaotic. Developed and developing countries have them in common; whereas the difference between them is the way they deal with and respond to those environmental problems. We may reckon that wealthy countries become wealthier, while the poor evolve poorly. That is the reason we insist on the state's self-reliance in raising environmental problems in order to achieve wealth or progress. The sudden attention of the environmental concerns is due to its-being post-cold war. The United States for example would never understand giving human aid in Somalia due to both the degradation of the environment (drought) and environment driven stress like water pollution, until they face the environment disaster frequently occurring in Hawai; even more its repercussions on economic decline. The economic consequence of the Cold War is a reason to depict the Economy as having planted itself in the environment or nature. Similarly, the environmental concerns controlled turning into a sustained growth ecosystem that will consequently impact on developments in the economic arena.

Brien and Williams, (2016) ^[1] insist on the impact that environmental issues have on the global political economy. It is in fact that those problems happen to the nature and their stress extends. The former is considered here as occurring naturally like a disaster while the latter occurred because of actions caused by the human activity whether directly or indirectly such as, landfills, wetlands, CO2 emissions, global warming, air condition issues, misuse, and brownie fields.

Developed countries are aware that environmental concerns affect everyone but mostly human well-being and have a negative impact on societal aspects including the global Economy. These threats to non-traditional security have assembled northern countries to protect the environment and embrace environmental concerns in general. The North Atlantic Treaty organization- NATO (1999) ^[2] states how for example global climate change has consequences for both local and regional levels including small island states, Coastal zones, low-lying countries and drought- stricken regions. The growth of the economy has perished and the causes and effects of who causes (CO2 emission for example) and those who endures (human, economic, and environmental degradation) are termed global political problems

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linked with environmental change and human society (human security). It is clear that NATO states members known to be protecting themselves based on the agreement in Military power (Traditional security) have gone beyond with other countries as members of the United Nations and Western European Union to respond to non-traditional security concerns including Environment problems (per se: persistent organic pollutants, air polluted, biological-diversity, climate change and water) as the core of their political action.

These threats push to 'conscientize' states' national security through foreign policy since their goals are to increase first security as vital, then heighten Economic prosperity as very important and lasting as important participants in world peace. The two first points in this paper will be environmental security drive. Foreign policy here appears as an instrument to manage global environmental issues not only in global cooperation but it also takes necessary action in the domestic arena. Valerie M. Hudson (2014) ^[3] points out that although foreign policy is examined on the international level, there is less chance that it may be analyzed by foreign analysts but rather, foreign policy is made on the domestic desk and likely to be analyzed by domestic policy analysts. Foreign policy is about human decision-making which involves agent-oriented theory or human beings and states are subject to decision making by agents. Foreign policy appears here as the behavior of states comprised with material and ideational factors through human decision-makers. It is in that optic foreign policy in this paper plays a role in the anarchy as environmental turmoil, Northern countries compete for national interest to respond to the environmental concerns through security as hegemony in the theoretical proposition. The main instrument used is environment and the post-cold war prediction as states' threats of non-traditional security bears repercussion on the economic and environmental aspects.

Materials and Methods

This presentation, therefore, seeks to answer the question: How does Foreign policy access to environmental matter concerns while the latter underlies the economic decline?

The following hypothesis: the self-help of States' national interest intention to alleviate environmental issues/problems is way ahead of tackling similar issues abroad and the environmental policy process influences in terms of heightening its national security, has guided this paper along the way.

This paper is based on documentation and the deductive method has been applied. Besides, perspectives and realism were brought to bear on this essay, which also aims to analyze and prove that environmental matter concerns driven by stress/scarcity is both a threat to and a consequence of economic decline but first and foremost a matter for states' foreign policy to heighten national security and prosperity of one's nation before it takes these matters to the international level.

2. Theoretical perspectives: Understanding the Foreign Policy Process and its Applicability in Environmental Security

2.1 Why Foreign Policy in the Environmental Realm?

As in a real life, we are driven by a motivation to accomplish goals for any human needs to be secured.

According to the author in one of her exposé's, she termed 'levels of change' which is equal to steps no matter what the process might be. To achieve one's goal, a stimulus is needed. Similarly, foreign policy is an impetus and its motivation works as a tool in order to achieve goals. It focuses on institutions, stimulates intentions states and their drive national interest allowing foreign policy to be led overseas clearly through international politics as a result of the relationship with other countries. It is a kind of nations' adjusting themselves to the international fields. The national security can be interpreted as a guarantee for state safety. Security. These efforts and decisions adopted and followed of a state towards other nations is a kind by a state exercising its national power.

Although foreign policy addresses intentions of states and national interest in international politics, it is driven foremost and utmost by national security. You have to foster one's inside before launching or set about actions outside. In other way, a state needs to put its national security on a long scheme including Economics one through domestic policy. The latter is a state's internal political philosophy which plays an important goal in foreign policy. It is thereby the realism which is the building block or the basis of foreign policy theory. However, the realism derives from the idealism theory described with good intentions of a state which other nations have to rely or count on. The former United States president Thomas Woodrow Wilson in his essay, he once stated that idealism is the achievement of the foreign policy, a kind of example of a state's good intentions. He emphasizes how ending poverty should be coupled with tackling

Poverty abroad. That is why idealism and realism almost talk the same thing except realism heightens that it is not only to have good intentions but a state has to stand along on them. The national interest of a state is more important than ethical and moral considerations. Realism has something to do with cognitive that is why foreign policy is a response and an impetus to a nation's national interest. Christopher Hill (2016)⁴ emphasizes that besides realism is the best approach in International Relations, it allows the practitioners highlight the importance of its power in unpredictable and dangerous world.

Furthermore, foreign policy, avoiding the worst, seeks to coordinate as, establishes priorities for states that are competing for national interest with an external dimension. Moreover, foreign policy as a domestic policy is a tool of decision-making responding to behaviour of states including their power and capabilities. Foreign policy by playing roles in both domestic politics and international politics with the rights actions ensures who benefits from them. Thereby, since this paper is involved with foreign policy in the environmental realm, let us see how foreign policy handles environmental matter concerns so that national security can be achieved.

2.2 National security with foreign policy involved in environmental concerns

National security is part of the traditional security like the military sector. The national security is all about the way a state is intended to heighten its security when it is threatened. States over time have come to understand the necessity not only to take measures against traditional threats but also the non-traditional threats security in economics and the environmental realm, for example. The

post-cold war has awakened northerners about its consequence, foremost in the environmental realm which does not make any sense to estrange it from the Economic one. The repercussion of those environmental issues is seen among human well-being and in the environment itself. Since the nuclear era, climate change has impacted negatively on both human activities and the environment. Campbell and Parthemore (2008) [5] state that threat security to human security has consequences for the environmental and economic realm which further ensures political problems (national security), and the latter requires political action or domestic policy to remedy it. It can be understood that National security deals with all kind of threats security of all forms in all aspects from the specific (national security as traditional security) to general (national security linked with other realms). National security uses domestic policy which spawns foreign policy and its turn foreign affairs.

Jessica Tuchman Mathews (1989, p.162-77) [6] in 'Redefining Security,' goes beyond international economics saying "Global developments now suggest the need for another analogous, broadening definition of national security to include resource, environmental and demographic issues." It is clear that her exposure to international economics depicts the fear if not the threats of progress about the Economy's decline. It highlights the author's point of view above in the introductory section that environmental issues are unpredictable, unstable, and messy and even chaotic. She went on to describe the main issue: "Environmental strains that transcend national borders are already beginning to break down the sacred boundaries of national sovereignty."

This security threats talks about the complexity, even the inability of international relationships to deal with the occurring environmental and climate problems: "No one Nation or even group of nations can meet these challenges, and no nation can protect itself from the actions- or inactions- of others. No existing institution matches these criteria." National security highlights a state's interest of people's welfare. Thereby, National security threats reduces (in both the national and international dimension) the economic productivity, consumption and distribution. Its dislocation with institutions turns into spiral conflicts and the environmental security threat comes foremost, hence, global warming as one case of environment change is harmful to the ecosystem.

3. Portrait of Environmental security in European Union countries

Food and demographic problems, the Green-house effect, rapid and plant depletion, deforestation, Ozone reflection, natural resources shortening and especially deteriorating drinking water, Oceans, fresh water pollution, biodiversity shrinkage and acid rain are effects of the global environmental crisis in European Union countries. Although environmental problems occur unpredictably, they are identical in terms of definition in every country, even on each continent. However, it is not in the same way states respond to those environmental concerns even though completely ending them is far from likely to be accomplished, notwithstanding all the efforts made. It is for a specific purpose that this paper has expressly chosen northern countries to see their foreign policy implication in responding to the environmentally driven stress. The

environmental matters concerned require a lot of pecuniary means. Besides northern countries have a certain level of economic wealth, the European Union is a strong political and economic entity incremental; that is why the author in this section has chosen this Ukrainian study by Melnyk *et al.* (2016) [7] in their paper 'European Union Environmental Security: The Only Achieving Strategy' as an example.

European Union members' states have four major regions and they face the environmental crisis differently due to both their geographic area and their respective states power. The Southern European Union countries such as Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Croatia have manufacturing and touristic infrastructure, and agrarian environmental problems oriented towards: soil erosion, air and water pollution, predominantly in coastal areas.

They use green production as an environment policy process and as a result over 10 years they experience economic development and are autonomous in financing and implementing themselves using their own measures (National environmental policy) by protecting the environment even in the areas with severe environment conditions.

They redouble agriculture without chemical fertilizer and pesticides, concentrate tourism infrastructure optimizing the ecology and landscape on the coastal side and develop national parks. They are 'conscientized' on optimal environmental conditions and are rational in the use of natural resources since they are high-technology oriented.

The Eastern European Union countries are comprised of Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia with predominantly higher industrial pollution such as: coal, steel, and chemical industries making a negative, even devastating impact on water, air and soil, elevate landfills and Environmental mistreatment.

The environmental policy process concerns the non-mistreatment of environment and other mechanisms like environmental debt exchange. Being indebted countries, in exchange of the European Union loan they have continuously to meet European Union requirements such as process of recycling material, and reducing landfills. In brief, they spend on environmental security in exchange of saving their countries' national currency.

The Northern European Union countries for instance Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Lithuania are famous for their rationality in use of natural resources besides their harmonious wealth economy. They do not have such anthropogenic environmental burden consequences like other European countries and consequently they are turned into socio-political problems and rely mostly on the traditional outlook range of the wide population. Norway for instance is the first in technology innovation.

They use the domestic environmental policy process in biodiversity preservation, energy sources, agriculture and are turned into the implementation of innovative technologies of active recycling. However, the Baltic countries are the greatest sufferers of the toxic chemicals inheritance and outdated explosives dropped on land and coastal including inland waters from the Soviet- era. Governments' funds are allocated to improve soil and clean water since they face acid rainfall, marine water pollution, oil production that consequently decreases the ozone-layer. They use environmental policy to protect the environment too, and industries so that they can abide by environmental

security's requirements. What they have in common is their profitable Economy.

The Central and North-western European Union countries are comprised of: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. They are the higher industrial manufacturing sector and they have a lot of waste characterized by considerable toxicity and harmful emission of substances, so they have several environmental problems.

Their environmental policy focused on manufacturing technology and implementing new synthetic materials. The United Kingdom and Germany tend to adopt a policy covering renewable energy resource. Switzerland for example uses hydro-electric power; France tends to use the wind generators and solar panels of biogas plants.

If we look at these realities and try to imagine the means they require, someone may wonder what is happening in Africa, unable to meet the requirements for living decently and forced to deal with all political and socio-economic challenges without forgetting environmental problems as the main source of poverty. Realism in foreign policy requires self-help in the national dimension before tackling the international dimension. Ending environmental matter concerns is way ahead of tackling similar matters/ issues abroad. Realism in foreign policy has a concept termed 'security dilemma or spiral model' which is producing similar actions undertaken by another state in self-help too. It is kind of dragging or pulling other countries to react due to a state's actions. If conflict is happening in a given state, their neighbors tend to react similarly in a defensive way. The same way if you strengthen security, you tend to influence others. China not being a developed country of the same rank as the countries named above is aware of its higher production of emission of Carbon dioxide. Rethinking strategy of production and energy such as reducing energy consumption and increasing renewable energy are among China's process action tasks.

4. International political economic and environmental concerns hinged

Tightening the lacing secures the foot within the shoe. Running with untied shoe-laces is riskier leaving one or both behind before the destination. Loosening the bootlaces on the other side allows the shoe to open wide enough or narrowly for the foot to be removed or inserted. It is meaningless to wear untied shoe-laces or separate shoe-laces while the foot is inside the shoe. Likewise, the Economics and Environment have repercussions on each other when parted or considered each far between the other. Brien and Williams (2016) ^[8] explain the evolvement of the environmental problems and how states and non-states started giving them higher consideration in the global economy. It points out two major reasons for integration of environmental issues into International Political Economics-IPE: (a) several series of environmental problems affect the global political economy besides the common international assenting coping the environmental problems; (b) global environmental change is undeniably linked with the classic Economics 'raison d'être' systems of production, distribution and consumption on both national and international levels.

Before the Environment was apprehended on protection side due to its post-cold war effect and wilderness and wildlife conservation were considered including, marine pollution,

and limiting the spread of nuclear weapons from its convention and agreement on noticeable things due to its cold war consequences.

The global political economy on its side pays attention to environmental degradation in two steps because: (i) the emergence of a new wave of environmentalism starting in the 1960s; (ii) the conference on the Environment marked by the United Nations, known as the Earth Summit in 1992 trail-blazed environmental issues in national and international dimension as its mission.

The mission of the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development -UNCED was sustainable development and environmental monitoring, mainly urban renewable, pollution, biodiversity and deforestation. What was happening at that time, states were protecting the environment as a belonging territory without really looking behind the consequence of not doing so or without having a better reason to do so. It is similar we were kid and we had to go to school as a fact and mainly because if we do not do so, we may endure punishment from our father. It is all the opposite when you go to school fully conscious that you are gaining knowledge, you do better when there is awareness. Thereby, the global concerns with environmental degradation were foremost: (a) the international conference held in Stockholm in 1972 by the United Nation Conference on Human and Environment- UNCHE emphasized the importance for developing countries to link development and environment, and for developed countries to respond to the problem of pollution. Environmental security was born and the matter has become international. It was termed International economic diplomacy; (b) scientific knowledge became evident as international issue with the discovery of the Ozone layer which implies environmental degradation and society; (c) environmental disasters as collision between environment and economy: Chernobyl and Bhopal as examples of human vulnerability and marine life were underlined in modern industrialization.

The international economy diplomacy calls for the foreign policy, whereas the measures about pollution, protection of environment, sustainability depict the environmental domestic policy and its positive impact when industries are 'conscientized' to respond to renewable resources: the demands of global political economy are met. This interconnection of developed countries and developing countries put economic capabilities at an elevated level since it is about dependence and interdependence. Valerie M. Hudson (2014) ^[8] already cited in her book 'Foreign Policy Analysis- Classic' explains how foreign policy intervenes as source of Economic interaction in economic capabilities when developing countries at the lowest level and countries with middle-income depend on aid developed from countries.

The interdependence on the other side is when developed countries fix the price for scarce goods; namely oil and block the emerging countries to spur other markets.

5. Environmental policy process

In order to foresee understanding the sense of foreign policy, like any other policy as political or public, someone needs to comprehend it as an internal policy that is well designed and shaped accurately so that it has to be implemented in the environmental sector. Thereby, the environmental policy process is nothing but continuous policy-making.

The cases below are illustrative of northerners' environmental matter concerns.

5.1 We are wetlands! What kind of foreign policy does environment security hold in store?

Wetlands comprise a range of natural surroundings such as swamps, peat-lands, flood-plains, rivers, lakes, coastal areas like salt marshes, mangroves and sea-grass beds including coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six metres at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands: waste-water treatment ponds and reservoirs. The water retention disables access to agriculture lands as well as forest. The wetlands are costly for its management besides many people not having the knowledge of how to improve wetlands and made them in incremental to Economics. National wetlands policy on saving inland fresh water and coastal ecosystem conservation including biological diversity could help and impact on Economics values. Wetlands domestic policy on water cycle or hydrologic is included in wetlands management policy and plays a great role in ecological and social aspects. It is possible to transform the retained water into agricultural fields; tourism is a way of reaping benefit through coral reef diving and, photography. Although it is expensive, its benefit values may take a while to be achieved compared to its consequence of harsh wetlands loss that regresses the Economy. The Government has to sensitize landowners to innovate and create renewable natural economic benefits.

5.2 Will the foreign policy approach help us meet the goal set for global warming reduction?

Between water flooding and a warmer planet, where may the choice be led? Although it is wise to choose wobbling a rock and a hard place, when it comes to global warming, wildfire is one case among others. If you imagine the cost of the two apart from their damage, the world is aware that adaptation to climate change is not as easy as that and does not offer many choices.

Stephen M. Watt (2017) ^[9] in the Foreign Policy magazine 'Global Warming Is Setting Fire to American Leadership,' shows how it would be a burden on the United States' economy to adapt on a warmer planet. At the end of the 21 century, the US GDP may decrease by 10%, which is twice as high as the recession crisis in 2008. Donald Trump recapitulates it for a bit. To keep the dossier in the drawer, Hurricane Sandy for example did not wait in 2013. The kind of policy appropriate here consists of correctives measures. How to temporarily respond to it including budget on infrastructure since it took away everything.

In Chile for instance, the wildfire was mixed with drought and strong winds. Environmental policy in self-help releases but does not end wildfire once for all. Wildfires are natural occurrences that reduce fuel loads; they down trees, brush, leaves, and other combustible material. A policy on forest management could temporary help as measure.

5.3 When it comes to brownfields, how does foreign policy respond?

Brownfields are previous manufactured or industrial lands that are abandoned and not currently in use anymore. Those vacant properties could be deserted due to job migration, tax revenues beyond the usual degree, a complicated economic situation, or industries that decided to end business. The location of those brownfield lands are in old cities or towns

with few inhabitants. The national policy process of reusing unproductive urban and redevelopment of brownfields could help recreate jobs, and sustained growth of the economy. The start-up of the reusing properties should go with conditions suitable to environmental policies so that we can reduce current environmental problems with guardrails policies that fit together with social, economic and environmental issues.

5.4 May the policy for landfills relieve environmental problems?

Landfilled wastes are buried waste materials and covered with soil like batteries, can bottles, and shredded tires. These places are disposed of as refuse mostly and keep serving as extending usable land in the commercial sector, generally produced by industries and business. The United Kingdom has a lot of those landfills and its revolution is the waste policy derived from the European Union's waste hierarchy policy consisting of reducing the level of waste going to landfill and sensitize people to recycle more. United Kingdom encourages its population to consider waste as recovery of energy in order to recycle and reuse. The landfill waste hierarchy consists of policy of recycling shopping bags in order to avoid littering. The policy tries to control waste facilities in order to avoid hazardous waste.

The most interesting is the 'UK shared responsibility' policy to avoid the so-called whipping boy or scapegoat. The policy generates a certain amount of money to reuse, recycle and dispose of waste properly so as to avoid further waste growth. The shared responsibility is paid by both industries and government.

6. Speculative Conclusions

This study has shown that there is no ultimate expert in environmental problems. Worry is the common concern; the way it is comprehended is no more questionable, the way states deal with it differs from one state to another which implies a way of thinking, if not re-thinking. Environmental issues are unpredictable, unstable, and messy and even chaotic. Focusing on them and undertaking actions could help to alleviate damage without being able to end it. The fact that 'the rich become wealthier while the poor get poorer' is still applicable to one thing the share being unable to deal with environmental concerns whatever the means. However, the first

Category is a way in advance with its involvement and has found the environmental issues affect the economic decline. That is why this paper foremost considered the northern countries known to be wealthy so that they encounter fewer problems interconnect with development than it would be choosing the latter category. Without doubt, less developed and emerging countries are facing the same situation without the pecuniary means to respond to it. Foreign policy here appears as both a regulative tool and an impetus expected to make a significant improvement. It has to be efficient and used rationally in natural resources. Foreign policy for environmental concerns requires both revolution and resolution including an excessive budget. Although, it requires a lot of financial resources, if it is not considered, environmental problems escalate the damage and impact on its socio-economic, political and environmental realm. The great role of foreign policy is to relieve its consequences since we are unable to end them.

When the environmental policy allows considerable progress like renewable energy or a waste policy, it is termed development policy. The environmental policy process helps in policy-making continuously since environmental issues require adapting to the environmental sector without any final solution. Its actions are corrective measures. Learning the role of foreign policy in the environmental turmoil, we have seen that the environmental policy is first local or domestic before it tackles other countries. Thereby, an environmental security policy has a potential impact on the non-traditional security realm.

The Environmental policy process is trans-boundary where it calls for international cooperation or institutions. International institutions like the United Nations do not cease to do impeccable work through communicative actions or intervene in problem-solving conflicts; we have seen how the environmental problems emerged through 'the United Nations Conference for Economics and Development' or even when it has to impact on human 'United Nations

Conference on Human and Environment.' Environmental matter further concerns emerged from its scientific knowledge like the Ozone layer study and after from its natural occurrence or the driven stress it procures. As we are aware of how environmental issues are unpredictable, unstable, and messy and even chaotic, environmental domestic policy has to be relevant; hence, foreign policy has to make a great effort to not only manage from those studies but also has to be concrete in actions. Intentions and actions give a better result when paired. The challenges in environmental sector are normal due to its unpredictability. However, being unable to assess, responses as contextualized actions in real time and in the right place are possible. From awareness, not to say pro-activity, foreign policy could bring correctives measures/ actions. Foreign policy as a policy-making needs to be comprehensive when it comes to environmental problems in any geographic area, takes account of the current political and socio-economic situation before it undertaken any mechanism regardless the environmental concerns.

Increasing scientific knowledge regardless of environmental problems in Environment and Security, in global politics, Ecology- Economics and Environment- Economics or International Political Economics is the assurance for not leaving behind and its power will give results. In the sector of environment where we tend to go around in vicious circles, the kind of evaluation required is a mid-term evaluation since a policy says one thing and in the field it is something different. The mid-term evaluation of the environmental policy process allows knowing whether to abandon the project or modify it. Compliance with the Environmental realm is initiated or welcomed; binding should be taken in as well in case the non-achievement of the compliance. The 'shared responsibility' happening in the United Kingdom with its waste policy is encouraging as we have the implication from both sides' state and industries. International cooperation should be included as well. Works emerge from paying attention.

In conclusion, since the impact of global political economic and environmental degradation on social, Ecological, Economic and political foreign policy actions needs to help encounter those problems whose causes are multi-factors, taking careful understanding and interacting with International institutions and the ecosystem. For further

study, an integrative approach between global political economic and security threats as the biggest challenge the world face may contribute to comprehend environmental problems after decades and decades of warnings and predictions. Its rightful place has been put at the core of everything, though realities have not; and the solution is yet to emerge.

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