Non-Traditional Security Challenges for East Asia (and Beyond)

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Definition and Conceptualization

- Definition: challenges to the survival and well-being of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non-military sources

  - Rooted in social, economic, and cultural conditions

  - Transnational in scope

  - Instigated mainly by non-state actors

1. Weak state capacity <u>relative to</u> the scope and scale of the challenges (not just the problem of "weak or failed states")

2. Permeable borders and increasingly integrated world (globalization and IT revolution)

"Not all security risks are military in nature. Transnational phenomena such as terrorism, narcotics trafficking, environmental degradation, rapid population growth and refuge flows also have security implications…" (National Security Strategy 1994)

Historical Background

- Cold War: military security (inter-state conflict)

- Oil Shocks: energy security (resource scarcity)

- Helsinki Process: comprehensive common security

  - Military security

  - Economy, science, technology and environment

  - Human issues

- Post-Cold War Ethnic Strife, Asian Economic Crisis, 9/11, SARS, Tsunami, Global Warming…

NTS Challenges and Responses in East Asia

1. Infectious Diseases

2. Natural Disasters

3. Transnational Crime

4. Terrorism

5. Poverty and Refugee Flows

6. Economic Crisis

7. Environmental Degradation

NTS Challenges: Group I

NTS Challenges	Examples	Regional Responses
Infectious Diseases	- SARS epidemic (2003) - Avian Flu: "Ground Zero" in Southeast Asia (WHO 2005)	- ASEAN Fund for Avian Flu (2005) - EAS Declaration on Avian Influenza, Prevention, Control and Response (2006)
Natural Disaster	- Tsunami (2004)	- ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Simulation Exercise (2005)

NTS Challenges: Group II

NTS Challenges	Examples	Regional Responses
Transnational Crime (profit motive)	- Piracy - Narcotics - Human Trafficking	- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia - ASEAN + 3 Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime
Terrorism (ideological motive)	- Bali Bombing	- ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism (2002) - Shanghai Cooperation Organization - APEC: extended mandate
Poverty and Refugee Flows	- Two-Tier ASEAN: Development Gap - North Korea food crisis	- Vientiane Plan of Action (2004) - ASEAN Social Charter: draft presented by the ASEAN Trade Union Council (2005)

NTS Challenges: Group III

NTS Challenges	Examples	Regional Responses
Economic Crisis	- Asian Crisis (1997)	- Chiang Mai Initiative - ASEAN Plus Three
Environmental Degradation	- "Haze" in SE Asia - "Yellow Sand" (sandy dust) in NE Asia	- ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (2002) - Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation

Issues in Responding to NTS Challenges

- Domestic Capacity
    - Infrastructure for Public Health and Emergency Relief
    - Law and Order
    - Resolution of Political, Economic, and Social Discontent
- Border Control
    - Prevention, Detection and Screening, and Containment

- Jurisdiction and Sovereignty
    - "Interference in Internal Affairs" (cf. Politics of Crisis Management)
    - Corruption
    - Extradition
- Regional and Global Information-Sharing and Coordination
    - Resources
    - Governance

Impact on International Relations: Slouching Toward a Community?

- Traditional Security Threats and Multilateral Cooperation
    - Security Dilemma Dynamics: Collective vs. Cooperative Security
    - Veiled Attempt to Constrain Superpowers

- Non-Traditional Security Threats and Multilateral Cooperation
    - Socialization through Collective Problem-Solving (Constructivism)
    - Easy Common Denominator for Everyone: Transnational, not necessarily Regional Cooperation
    - "Creeping Institutionalism": Not enough to achieve comprehensive common security