**Lebanese Armed Forces**

**Research and Strategic Studies Center**

**Security conditions as Prerequisites**

**To Social and Economic Developments**

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**Security Conditions as Prerequisites**

**To Social and Economic Developments**

**Introduction:**

In the age of globalization, security does not refer exclusively to military security. Today, nation-states are concerned about various security issues, such as environmental security, food security, social security, economic security,…etc.

There is no doubt that peace (i.e. stability) may attract foreign investments and this, in turn, may produce economic and social development. On the other hand, economic factors have always held a position of considerable importance in the study of the essential conditions for world peace and/or in the case of poverty, the causes of national and international strifes.

It should be noted that power is poison; and it is a poison which by coercive means creates peace at the expense of justice.

The objective of politics is to balance and reconcile the claims of security, welfare and order. Each of these claims, in turn, involves reconciling conflicting objectives:

1. Security imposes the choices between war and the costs of yielding to the enemy.
2. The social welfare objectives impose the intertemporal choice between welfare now and, through growth, later.
3. The constitutional order imposes the choice between justice (including freedom) and order.

Hence, political instability and yet, insecurity arises if there is unbalanced growth in the three main sectors (security, welfare, and order) or if these aims are pursued without the provision of adequate inputs.

Third world countries have failed to build strong states. By a strong state, one does not necessarily means an authoritarian or totalitarian state; any state that adopts a strategy of universal suffrage to secure effective citizens’ participation in the governmental process, and strengthens its national unity, can be described as strong.

It is essential to note that no nation-state can be built without national loyalty or the flourishing of a strong national sentiment. Here, nationalism is not based on religion, nor can be based on ethnicity, race and language. In retrospect, the focus is on a functional definition of nationalism, emphasizing communication as a crucial element of nationalism. I refer to the meaning of words as a complementary action that can be qualitatively measured. In some cases, people from different parts of a nation can have an understanding of what is going on.

Here, nationalism is perceived as that sentiment that unified a group, or groups, of people, who have a real or imaginative common historical experience and a common aspiration to live together as a separate entity in the future.

Lebanon:

**(A) Three security challenges:**

1. Zionism
2. Terrorism
3. Lack of a strong national unity: confessionalism

**(B) Political development**

1- Obstacles:

* The curse of geography: regional conflict
* Confessionalism
* Lebanon cannot afford the so-called radical solution that is the secular solution, because it threatens the very existence of all confessions.
* The danger of political islam.
* Consociationalism is only a temporary measure to a long-term crisis.

2- The prospects of state-building:

* Continuous national dialogue
1. Long process
2. The process must include politicians and members of civil society
3. The discussions must not be limited to “high politics”.
* Formal reforms
* The enactment of a discretionary civil personal status
* The adoption of an electoral law, of which proportional representation may be an effective formula.
* Maximum administrative decentralization as to ensure local participation in the development of all regions.
* Promote the administrative efficiency.
* The state must made itself a priority in citizens’ lives.
* Promoting a fully judicial independence.
* Promote Lebanon’s neutrality in Arab-Arab rivalries.

**(C) Economic development**

According to the emblem of the Lebanese constitution, the government is required to promote balanced economic development, including regional (peripheries) development to ensure a form of social equity. What can be done in the area of economic development?

1. To recognize the tightly linkage of “policies” with politics; that is, the convergence of economic flexibility and political stability. I may call this model the cooperatist approach or arrangement which can be achieved at two levels:
2. At the economic level: The state must opt for a strategy of export specialization to narrow the gap between the industrial and agricultural sectors of its economy.
3. At the political level: The state must adopt a strategy of universal suffrage to strengthen its national unity.

Cooperatist approach has two characteristics:

* An ideology of social partnership, shared by both business and unions, and expressed in national unity.
* A voluntary and informal coordination of conflicting objectives to be conducted through continuous political bargaining between groups, state bureaucracy, and political parties.

The state must:

* Support free trade
* Pursue a policy of domestic compensation
* Adopt a flexible policy of industrial adjustments.
* Oppose economic protectionism
* Support employment through public subsidies.
1. In order for a state to become developed, it must promote export of manufactured goods and allow less governmental controls over local economies.

Thus, economic development is possible as long as there is a coordination between domestic politics and external market. The more successful the government was in promoting growth, the more powerful private capital at home and the more closely integrated with external markets and world capital abroad, the power of the government to shape the domestic economy declined.

1. We may conclude with the following observations:
2. International economic development and national welfare contribute to peace among nations.
3. The link between political stability and economic flexibility, the absence of governmental control over domestic economy, and the theory of the eventual stages of growth which run-in parallel with political progress reveal the relevancy of the study of economic developments in the era of economic policy and international political economy.

**(D) Social development**

Development has also its social dimension with the aim to invest in developing human skills. This means that social development aims at creating the necessary conditions that precede economic growth.

These conditions or circumstances include:

1. Equality between man and women
2. Children rights
3. Employment of the youths
4. The role of the media
5. Cooperation between public and private sectors
6. The inclusion of the physically challenged people in social life.
7. Administrative: decentralization the government must provide support (health, education…) to existing artisans and villagers to improve their life conditions and work with then on various issues.

In brief, social development theory attempts to explain qualitative changes in the structure and framework of society, that help the society to better realize aims and objectives. In essence, development is a process of social change, not merely a set of policies and programs instituted for some specific results.

The basic mechanism driving social change is increasing awareness leading to better organization. This means that development is the result of society’s capacity to organize resources to meet challenges and opportunities.

Finally, development pace and scope varies according to stage society is in. The three main stages are physical, vital (refers to the dynamic and social energies of humanity that propel individuals to accomplish), and mental. Regarding the latter, development is a human process, in the sense that human beings, not material factors, drive development. Development takes into consideration the following aspects:

* The energy and aspiration of the people
* People awareness
* Efficiency, productivity, creativity, and organization capacities.
* The level of people education, values, skills, and information.

**Conclusion:**

Economic and social developments require security as a product of political stability. Otherwise, anarchy, poverty, and underdevelopment prevail.