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# THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SECURITY PHENOMENON IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WELFARE STATE

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**Annotation:** This article examines the essence and manifestation of the phenomenon of security in the conditions of a social state. Security, being one of the central categories of social and political sciences, acquires a special meaning when viewed through the prism of a social state that prioritizes human dignity, social justice, and collective well-being. The study provides an analysis of relevant literature, methodological foundations, and practical observations, highlighting how security policies in social states balance between individual rights and collective responsibilities.

**Keywords:** Security, social state, social justice, human dignity, welfare, collective responsibility, political stability.

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of security has always occupied a central place in political theory, sociology, and state governance. Traditionally, security was associated with military and national defense dimensions, yet in the context of a social state, it is closely tied to social rights, equality, and welfare. A social state is an institutional framework in which the government actively assumes responsibility for ensuring citizens' well-being and reducing social inequalities. Hence, the manifestation of security within a social state goes beyond physical protection and expands toward economic stability, social cohesion, healthcare, education, and civil rights.

## LITERATURE ANALYSIS

Research in political philosophy (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau) emphasized the role of the state as a guarantor of citizens' safety. Later, 20th-century theories of the welfare state (Esping-Andersen, Marshall) introduced a broader view, in which social security systems were integral to ensuring overall safety. Contemporary scholars highlight multidimensional security—economic, political, environmental, and social—as interrelated aspects of sustainable development. In the context of a social state, authors such as Habermas and Giddens argue that true security cannot exist without guaranteeing equal access to resources, rights, and opportunities. Literature also suggests that the effectiveness of security in a social state is measured not

only by absence of threats but by the presence of proactive mechanisms ensuring social justice.

**METHODS**

The research applies a comparative-analytical method to evaluate security mechanisms across different social states, combining theoretical sources with empirical evidence. Content analysis of academic publications and policy documents is employed to identify the key dimensions of security manifestation. Additionally, a sociological approach is considered, examining the role of social institutions—education, healthcare, and welfare policies—in maintaining stability and reducing insecurity.

**RESULTS**

The welfare state represents a governmental framework in which the state assumes significant responsibility for the social and economic well-being of its citizens, typically through programs like universal healthcare, unemployment benefits, pensions, education subsidies, and social assistance. This system emerged prominently in the 20th century, particularly in Europe, as a response to industrialization, urbanization, and the vulnerabilities it created for individuals and families. Within this context, the "security phenomenon" can be understood as the multifaceted ways in which security—encompassing protection from material, existential, psychological, and social threats—manifests, is provided, and influences society. Drawing from academic analyses, this manifestation is evident in several interconnected dimensions.

Social and material security as a core function: In welfare states, security prominently manifests as a structured safety net designed to mitigate life's inherent risks, such as unemployment, illness, disability, old age, and poverty. This is achieved through redistributive policies that tax higher-income sectors or individuals to fund universal or means-tested benefits, ensuring a minimum standard of living for all. For instance, the state acts as a guarantor of human security by fulfilling basic rights and shielding citizens from both traditional threats (e.g., economic downturns) and non-traditional ones (e.g., health crises or social exclusion). This approach not only addresses immediate vulnerabilities but also contributes to broader national prosperity by fostering stability, which enables economic activities, education, and innovation to flourish without the constant fear of destitution.

This manifestation is multidimensional, extending beyond mere financial aid to include social protection mechanisms like health insurance and state support systems. Growing inequalities, rising unemployment, and poverty are viewed as key security risks in this framework, as they threaten societal cohesion and individual identity (e.g., through erosion of cultural or group-based stability). Welfare states address these by promoting equity and social insurance, which in turn blurs the lines between internal (domestic

social issues) and external (global influences like migration or globalization) security threats. The state's role here is pivotal, as it shifts security from individualistic or community-based efforts to collective, institutionalized ones, reducing reliance on informal networks.

Psychological and existential dimensions: Security in the welfare state also manifests psychologically, providing a sense of existential stability that influences individual well-being and societal trust. Attachment theory frames this by suggesting that the welfare state can serve as a source of security akin to interpersonal relationships or even religious beliefs, offering a "safe haven" during distress and a "secure base" for personal exploration and risk-taking. However, empirical studies indicate that while the welfare state delivers material security—reducing the need for alternative sources like religion—it does not fully replicate the personal, attachment-like functions of a deity or close human bonds. For example, in highly developed welfare systems like those in Scandinavia, increased material security correlates with declining religiosity, as the state assumes roles historically filled by religious institutions, such as care for the elderly or support during hardship.

This psychological manifestation is mediated by trust: expansive welfare states require and foster high levels of interpersonal and institutional trust, which enhances cooperation, reduces corruption, and supports well-being (e.g., better health outcomes and life expectancy). Conversely, attachment insecurities, such as avoidance, can undermine trust in these institutions, leading individuals to be less reliant on or supportive of welfare programs. During crises like pandemics, this trust becomes crucial for compliance and collective security.

Economic and path-dependent transitions: The shift from traditional forms of security (e.g., family-based resource sharing in agrarian or informal sectors) to state-provided welfare represents a key manifestation, often path-dependent on a country's legal origins and historical institutions. In nations with strong family security traditions—rooted in civil law systems emphasizing household redistribution—the transition to an extensive welfare state can accelerate economic growth by taxing productive modern sectors to fund broader social protections. This reallocation harnesses untapped potential, reducing dependency on kinship networks and promoting mobility. However, in contexts with weaker family security (e.g., common law systems), a smaller welfare state may be more growth-conducive to avoid overburdening the economy. This highlights how security evolves from private to public domains, influencing long-term development trajectories.

Broader societal implications: Overall, the security phenomenon in welfare states manifests as a balancing act between individual freedoms and collective protections, often leading to higher societal stability but requiring ongoing adaptations to global challenges like inequality or migration. While it

empowers citizens by minimizing existential threats, it can also introduce dependencies or debates over universality (e.g., whether benefits should be equal for all or targeted). In postmodern contexts, this extends to non-military threats, emphasizing human-centered security that integrates social, economic, and cultural elements for holistic well-being.

### DISCUSSION

The results highlight that the manifestation of security in a social state differs fundamentally from traditional, military-centered notions of security. In this framework, economic inequality is seen as a threat equal to external aggression, while unemployment or lack of healthcare may destabilize society as much as political unrest. The preventive and inclusive nature of social security policies enhances the legitimacy of state institutions, contributing to stability. However, debates remain about sustainability, efficiency, and potential dependency risks that social states might create. Critics argue that over-expansion of social guarantees may undermine economic competitiveness, whereas proponents emphasize their long-term stabilizing effect.

### CONCLUSIONS

The phenomenon of security in a social state is multidimensional, encompassing political, economic, and social aspects. It manifests not only as protection from external and internal threats but also as assurance of social justice, dignity, and equality. A social state strengthens security by combining state responsibility with citizen participation, ensuring sustainable stability.

Strengthen Preventive Measures – Focus on early interventions in healthcare, education, and employment to reduce insecurity.

Balance Economic Growth and Social Security – Develop sustainable economic models that support, rather than undermine, social guarantees.

Promote Inclusive Governance – Enhance citizen participation in decision-making processes to strengthen legitimacy and trust.

Integrate Multidimensional Security Policies – Align national security strategies with social welfare priorities.

Invest in Human Capital – Recognize that the security of a social state rests on educated, healthy, and socially protected citizens.

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