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STUDYING SECURITY ISSUES IN CHANGING WORLD

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Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed an unprecedented changes in the of global politics and international security. With the diminishing post – Cold War unipolar system dominated by the United States, the world has witnessed multipolarity where the giants, middle powers, and even regional actors are in process of shaping the security environment. This transformation is not only based on cooperation but by competition, contests, and a number of wars and disputes that echo far beyond the borders. From Europe to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, regional wars are no personal or individual events – they are interconnected crises that bring instability in international structures and pose a challenging environment the of the international institutions to keep stability [1].

Among the most substantial conflicts bearing severe implications, of this century are the Ukraine war, the Israel- Palestine- ongoing and never-ending war, Lebanon, the Syrian civil war, and the Yemen conflict. These wars have turned their regions into dens of sectarian problems, fostered extremist networks, and created humanitarian crises, while also behaving as battlegrounds for bigger geopolitical rivalries. Similarly, security issues in Sudan and the wider Sahel endorses how weak states and weak governance structures produce security insecurities that causes both regional and global intervention. At the same time, in Asia, the South China Sea long standing disputes embodies the maritime perspective of international insecurity, igniting the stakes of U.S.–China rivalry and alarming to draw in multiple regional states and global economic powers [14].

The common factor of these conflicts is not destructive in nature on local level they also

carry a systemic significance. The wars reshape trade patterns, redirect energy flows, create refugee crises, and challenge the structures and the validity of international law and institutions like the United Nations. They act as critical crossroads in the transformation, away from a Western-led order into a system in which different levels of power compete to remake the rules, norms, and spheres of dominance. This change is specifically seen as rising powers such as China, resurgent actors like Russia, and influential middle powers including Türkiye, Iran, and Gulf states growth in projecting their influence into ongoing conflicts, creating them for regional struggles and global confrontations [18].

Thus, this article explains how these wars combinedly shift the trajectory of the international system. By doing critical analysis on the Ukraine war, Middle Eastern conflicts, African instability, and maritime disputes in the South China Sea, it showcases how local disputes contributes to broader transformations in global politics. Ultimately, these conflicts showcase how the decaying of unipolarity and the rise of multipolarity are not just theoretical phenomenon but concrete realities visible in the battlefields and diplomatic crises of the 21st century.

Methodology: This article adopts a qualitative research methodology to explore the complicated repercussions and implications of ongoing wars on global security.

Gap: While a lot of research has been done on conflicts or regional instability, there was always a significant gap in comprehensive understanding how ongoing wars are threatening regional and international security.

Wars in the world and security issues

Russia-Ukraine War

Ukraine, an independent state since 1991, has been struggling with its internal divisions in connection with its ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences, specially between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian people living in regions like Donetsk, Luhansk, and Crimea. In the history, it was considered as second most powerful Soviet republic, Ukraine maintained deep strategic and cultural ties with Russia, make it more vulnerable after independence. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 ignited tensions into conflict, dragging in major international actors such as the EU, U.S., and UN. Ukraine's fragility goes back to its post-Soviet dependence on Russia and competing pressures over Western or Russian alignment. The Russia-Ukraine war has three dimensions basically: the annexation of Crimea, the continuous activity in Eastern Ukraine, and naval confrontations in the Black Sea. Together, these dynamics pinnacle how past legacies, and ongoing geopolitical rivalries, shape the developing conflict [19].

How the Ukraine War Became a Global Security Threat: Pathways, Risks, and Implications for Russia, NATO, and the United States

Core pathways through which the war globalizes risk

1) Strategic nuclear brinkmanship raises systemic escalation risks. Russia's revenant nuclear motioning – doctrinal shifts, presence in Belarus, and coercive rhetoric – keeps the conflict settle in a “nuclear shadow,” where unintentional or deliberate escalation cannot be ignored. Scholarly analysis of the war's nuclear kinetics concluding that deterrence and coerce effects are real particularly because existence genuine nuclear risks; this keeps the stability of these crises fragile and fosters risk-taking attitude alive at some flashpoints (e.g., Crimea, cross-border strikes), has the capacity to take global danger well beyond the borders [5].

1) Energy, food, and fertilizer shocks transmit insecurity worldwide. The war disturbs some of the globe's most important commodity avenues, grain, sunflower oil, natural gas, and fertilizers – escalating prices and damaging fragile states

that end up spending large sections of income on food and fuel. Higher food and input costs boost all the probabilities for human catastrophe and unrest, a precedent from economic to political instability that can affect the whole region. Peer-reviewed syntheses document how the disturbances and price hikes reverberate far beyond Europe, threatening already damaged -weak post-pandemic economies [17].

2) Alliance polarization and force posture shifts institutionalize a more dangerous security order.

NATO has reorganized force positioning, reinforced its eastern flank, and deepened political activities after the invasion. While this has fostered to deter, it also segments a more polarized Euro-Atlantic security architecture, increases the possibilities of close military adventures and miscalculation. Recent research shows the invasion acted as an adventitious shock” that reformed alliance cohesion on basic defense tasks – *changes that can persist and shape threat perceptions and escalation ladders across multiple theaters* [13].

Why these pathways matter – point – by – point analysis

A. Nuclear signaling normalizes crisis gambling

The war explains that nuclear-armed states may position nuclear rhetoric and position themselves accordingly to prevent conventional operations and avoid pressure adversaries. That perspective complicates third-party crisis management: each prone to long-range strikes, maritime clashes, or cross-border attacks, must be considered against unexpected escalation thresholds. Scholarship on the conflict endorses that our knowhow of nuclear coercion's limits is inherently probabilistic; the very lack of clarity sustains deterrent implications while attracting risky tests at the margins – conditions in which errors, misperceptions, or unauthorized actions could scale rapidly into catastrophe [5].

B. Weaponized interdependence spreads insecurity via markets

Disturbance of Black Sea shipping, port ability, and logistics amplify shocks to cereal,

vegetable-oil, and fertilizer flows that many low-income importers depend on. When basic commodities and consumptions become expensive, governments face inflation, budgets are narrowed, and food security suffers—witnessed in history, this kind of unrest demolishes the governance. Peer-reviewed evidence from the beginning of war, global food prices hitting record levels, with unavailability of grain, hike

in the prices of energy, and fertilizer prices that decline the harvests coming in future. This food insecurity, though secondary level of security, also is key security factor amid this war – Another important aspect is the migration increase which leads to regime fragility – that needs international responses [17].

C. Militarized blocs and denser force deployments heighten friction.

The invasion ignites NATO measures ranging its expansion in the forward areas to air and missile defense upgradation. Research on alliance coherence witnesses that the “shock” of 2022 positioned the members on mutual defense, hastening decisions that would otherwise have taken years. On one hand there is clearer resistance but the other part of the story a busier battlespace where surveillance, patrolling, and military drills take place in defense of Russian forces, igniting the of military incidents leading to the political pressure [13].

Global Security Threats from the South China Sea Rift

The South China Sea (SCS) has turned into one of the world’s most dangerous geopolitical flashpoints. Geographically, it expands across vital sea lanes linking the Pacific and Indian Oceans, making it pivotal for trade, energy security, and strategically important for the military. Politically, it is challenged by multiple states - China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei - yet its strategic importance has made it a battlefield between great powers, namely China and the United States, along with by their respective allies. What started as converging maritime claims has turned into a full-scale power struggle, raising risks not only for

regional stability but also for global security and economic order.

There are four different and important dimensions of these risks (1) the potential of becoming a strategic flashpoint for great-power conflict, (2) A threat to global trade and economic stability (3) the diminishing of international norms and institutions, and (4) Rise in militarization and engagements of alliances.

Simultaneously, these signals explain how a regional maritime dispute could ignite into a systemic global crisis.

1. Strategic Flashpoint for Great-Power Conflict

Strategic Flashpoint for Great-Power Conflict.

The South China Sea (SCS) has transformed from a local sovereignty dispute to a main flashpoint in U.S.– China rivalry. China claims nearly 90% of the South China Sea through its “nine-dash line” and has secured artificial islands in the Spratly and Paracels with runways, radars, and missile systems, authorizing sustained force projection [20].

The U.S. counters with Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) under UNCLOS(UN Convention on Law of Sea), leads to tense encounters often and tension, where the possibilities of misadventures escalate These misadventures sometimes go beyond the concept of great power competition, as U.S. treaty obligations to the Philippines and security ties with Japan and Australia has all the capacity to turn these skirmishes into a regional or even global conflict, turning it into a cold war environment [20].

2. Threats to Global Trade and Economic Stability

The South China Sea holds very important economic dimensions. The region scats as a **maritime superhighway**, facilitating about **30% of global trade** and more than **\$3 trillion worth of goods annually**, including important energy shipments to Japan, South Korea, and China itself. For countries like India and the European Union members, continuity of flows through the SCS guarantees energy security and industrial stability [9].

If the conflict erupts, global shipping will face its consequences. Insurance premiums would skyrocket, tankers and container vessels might be forced to reroute via the Malacca Strait or alternative routes and the disrupted supply chains - especially in **semiconductors, rare earths, and electronics** - would be threatened. In the COVID-19 pandemic, even minor supply-chain disruptions showed world inflationary pressures; a **military blockade in the SCS** would troll such disturbances, leading to systemic economic crises.

Moreover, the potential of resources in SCS also can intensify the ongoing conflict. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that the sea contains **11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas**. These resources are very important to any stakeholder's energy strategies and can have the potential to intensify the situation and lead to competition of sovereignty. Thus, the SCS is not only an important artery for ongoing trade - it also has potential to escalate further **for resource competition** [9].

3. Erosion of International Norms and Institutional Conflict Resolution

Besides militarization and economics, the South China Sea (SCS) conflict is prone to damage the international legal order. In 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration rejected China's nine-dash line, confirming the Philippines' UNCLOS rights. The rejection of Beijing and beefing up the militarization makes a precedent that great powers can disregard international law without considering its implications [7].

This disturbs the stability in two ways: it shows smaller states that arbitration is not very effective, dragging them toward persistent maritime tactics, helps in weakening ASEAN, which faces challenges to reach consensus under Chinese influence. In a bigger picture if power overrides law in the SCS, institutions like the UN Security Council or WTO have all the chances to lose their credibility, repeating the same kind of situation as in the Arctic or Eastern Mediterranean. Thus, the SCS is not only concerned with Asia's security but can emerge as a big challenge for the future of global governance [7].

4. Militarization and Alliance Entanglement

Another critical layer of risk arises from militarization and alliance entanglement. China has deployed more naval and coast guard fleets, while also expanding maritime militia to enhance its presence. The United States has countered this move by strengthening alliances and started working on new security frameworks, such as the Quad (U.S., Japan, India, Australia) and AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.), which is directly connected to maritime security.

These alliances were prone to all kinds of entrapment risks. For instance, the Philippines has supplicated U.S. backing when confronted Chinese coast guard vessels at Scarborough Shoal. Likewise, Australia's participating in AUKUS increase its presence in SCS disputes. If a skirmish takes place—for example if involving Philippine naval vessel and a Chinese coast guard ship—Washington might be forced to intervene militarily.

The situation reflects dynamics of early 20th-century alliance politics, where entangled commitments magnified the risk of escalation. In the nuclear age, such tangles made diminishing even harder. Furthermore, China's growing security ties with Russia further divide the geopolitical landscape, linking the SCS dispute with comprehensive global rivalries. Hence, militarization combined with alliance dynamics intensify the possibility that a regional clash becomes a global security crisis [11].

The Israel-Palestine Conflict and Its Implications for Middle East and South Asian Security

The Israel-Palestine war, in progress, has implications for Middle Eastern security, regional stability, and the global strategic balance. Besides the humanitarian loss, the conflict reshapes alliances, affects power dynamics, and increases security risks for not only neighboring states and global actors involved in the region. This not only makes Middle East unstable but also South Asia is also affected where joint security, trade, and political interests are threatened.

1. Direct Security Threats within the Middle East.

The Israel-Palestine conflict produces circumstances of ongoing insecurity across the

Middle East. Countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria deal with the fall out cross-border militancy, migrations of refugees and political instability. The constant and repeated violence also fuels extremist agendas, giving opportunities for militant groups to continue their job across the border. As regional players are stuck in this war, the security architecture of the Middle East is threatened, leaving situation endangered to proxy warfare and sectarian frictions [6]

2. Regional Security Dynamics and Rivalries.

The war ignites already going rivalries among regional actors such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt. Iran's support for Hamas and Hezbollah places it as an important rival to Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), subsequently growing a proxy type of the war. This competition of interests makes regional security increasingly delicate, compelling Middle Eastern states toward militarization and increasing the risk of regional war on a larger and expanded scale [10].

3. Impact on U.S. and Western Strategic Interests. The Israel-Palestine war endangers U.S. security and strategic aims in the Middle East. Washington is obligated to keep strong military commitments to provide security to Israel and its Arab allies, while at the same time and to balance that, it needs to address its global security role in Europe and Asia. The conflict is diminishing U.S. credibility among Arab publics, surfacing the anti-American sentiments and lowering down the U.S. soft power. Moreover, constant escalation engages NATO members to divert its resources to Middle Eastern security management, decreasing their ability to on other global challenges such as Russia or China [12].

4. Implications for Israel and the Arab States. For Israel, the conflict has a short and long terms: immediate threat from militant groups and the long-term threat of diplomatic isolation. Ongoing and never-ending military engagement with Palestinian groups needs high defense budgets and constant work on the military, draining Israel's economy and damaging democratic outlook. On the other hand, Arab states like the UAE and Saudi Arabia confront public pressure to of not continuing normal re-

lations with Israel, sabotaging U.S.-backed regional security frameworks such as the Abraham Accords. This brings in possible difficulties for regional cooperation, substituting them with increased mistrust and fractured diplomacy [4].

5. Consequences for South Asian Security. The consequences of the Israel-Palestine conflict reach to South Asia, where countries like Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan are directly or indirectly prone to the threat. Pakistan has historically aligned with the Palestinian cause, and any escalation in the Middle East strengthens domestic Islamist groups that oppose normalization with Israel. India, while maintaining strong ties with Israel, risks being caught between its energy dependence on Arab states and its strategic partnership with Tel Aviv. The conflict also influences Afghanistan, where militant groups exploit the narrative of Palestinian resistance to strengthen recruitment against Western powers and their allies in the region [15].

6. Risks for Regional Stability and Global Trade. The conflict jeopardizes key global trade routes such as the Suez Canal and the Persian Gulf, both of which are critical to the global energy supply chain. Disruptions caused by militant attacks, instability in neighboring Arab states, or heightened Israeli Arab tensions could endanger oil and gas flows, taking the prices up worldwide. This environment specifically endangers energy-importing economies in South Asia, including Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, whose economic stability is connected to access to Middle Eastern hydrocarbons [8].

7. Strategic Implications for Big Powers. The Israel-Palestine war further disturbs the strategic calculations of big powers such as the U.S., Russia, and China. The U.S. is bound to do defensive diplomacy, while Russia uses the conflict to oppose Western impact by engaging Arab states and present himself as a power broker. China, relying on Middle Eastern energy imports, faces challenges in supply that can be disturbed and therefore support its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a part of this region. For the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the war entangles their balance act between U.S. security guaran-

tees and growth in the economic ties with China and Russia [2].

Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Sahel Conflicts and security threats

The continuing conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and the Sahel have significant implications for global security. The Syrian civil war, beginning in 2011, has ignited sectarian divides and regional conflicts, especially between Iran-backed and Gulf-supported factions. It has also boosted extremism and made groups such as ISIS, which carries international terrorism risks. The huge refugee movements have reshaped dynamics and strained political systems far beyond the Middle East, bringing global ripple effect [3].

Just like that, the Yemen conflict disturb an important region for global oil trade. The long fight shapes humanitarian crises, threatening millions. The power struggle between the Houthis and the Yemeni government, backed respectively by Iran and a Saudi-led coalition, disturbs the the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden shipping movement. Which badly affects global trade routes [16].

Instable Sudan involves complex internal conflicts connected with broader regional and international power conflicts and has a ripple effect the Horn of Africa and beyond. It is refugee flows, arms trafficking, and delicate governance and are the source of high risks for neighbors. Meanwhile, the Sahel crisis is mainly operated by jihadist and followed by fragile institutions, source of both regional and global security [3,16].

Conclusion

The wars and tensions all around the world - from the Ukraine war to the fighting in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, as well as the turmoil in Sudan, the Sahel, and the South China Sea – exposing the surge in complex and dismantled nature of 21st-century international security. Far from the local conflicts, these wars act as fault lines in the global order, exposing the weaknesses of a system in turning from unipolarity to multipolarity. Each war looks like more of a clash of military or the fight over the issues of territorial integrity and border disputes. They act as they catalysts the reshape the power relations, the brings in the of new actors,

and the reducing capability great powers of the past.

The very crystal-clear identity is that recent wars are associated with and carry some global consequences. The Ukraine war has restructured European security, confronted NATO unity, and disturbed global food and energy markets. The Middle East's constant disputes - whether in Gaza, Syria, or Yemen - is a framework of instability with some direct serious consequences on international terrorism, migration, and great power rivalry. Likewise, any kind of disturbance in Africa's Sahel r and in Sudan region showcases the delicacy of post-colonial states and the risk of fragile governance frameworks to outward manipulation and internal crumble. Finally, the tensions in the South China Sea showcases the insecurity in maritime affairs of globe, pivotal sea lanes and increasing all the probabilities of clashes between the United States and China.

These wars show that all the geopolitical interests of all the big powers are interconnected and interlinked. In the Middle East, the competition between Iran and U.S.-are connected powers such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates makes that regional wars persist as proxy battlefield. The Sahel tension, exactly like that, shows broader wars between Western powers, Russia, and emerging actors like Türkiye, each looking for leverage through security assistance, mercenaries, or economic ties. In the meantime, the South China Sea tensions sum up the changing character of U.S. - China rivalry, where regional actors are captured in the quarrel of security assurance, economic dependence, and nationalist mission

Just like that, the most important is the humanitarian cost and societal disruption caused by these wars. Long conflicts, engraved poverty, aggravated displacement catastrophe, and growing extremism, which in result produced deep rooted threats for both regional and global security. Refugee displacements from Ukraine, Syria, and Sudan change population stats and pressures political systems far beyond their borders, while persistent food insecurity from conflicts in Ukraine and Yemen challenges social unrest in security prone states. These multiplying effects strengthen the reality that

it's hard to keep the conflicts within borders, and that security in one the security of one country is pretty much dependent on the stability in another country.

The growing effect of these wars proposes that the international stakeholders are now going in the enduring insecurity, where the fights for balance of power are witnessed in various regions simultaneously. This new environment needs a change in global governance approaches, going far away from presumptions of Western led world toward more cooperative, comprehensive and evolving structure that recognize the task of emerging powers and regional actors. Without substantial cooperation, the threats stay at the peak that local disputes could change into broader wars, especially when big powers and the allied countries are directly involved.

In sum, the wars explored in this article witnesses that the 21st century is not likely to be explained by peace in the era of unipolar, but rather by the disturbance of multipolar competition. Wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, Africa, and the South China Sea are not confined problems – they are the shift of a global order. Understanding their connections, environment is essential not only for analyzing ongoing risks but also for imagining the possible ways toward a more peaceful and international security environment based on cooperation.

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Xülasə

Şeraz Mehmud

Dəyişən dünyada təhlükəsizlik məsələləri

21-ci əsr dünya siyasətində və beynəlxalq təhlükəsizlikdə görünməmiş dəyişikliklərin şahidi oldu. Ən mühüm məsələlər arasında müxtəlif bölgələrdə davam edən regional müharibələr təkə regionu qeyri-sabit vəziyyətə salmaqla yanaşı, qlobal təhlükəsizlik nizamını da təsir və yenidən formalaşdırır. Bu məqalə Ukrayna müharibəsi, İsrail-Qəzza-Livan döyüşləri, Suriya vətəndaş müharibəsi, Yəmən münaqişəsi, Sudan və Saheldəki qeyri-sabitlik və Cənubi Çin dənizindəki ərazi mübahisələri daxil olmaqla müharibə və mübahisələrin dünyanı Qərbin rəhbərlik etdiyi birqütblü nizamdan çoxqütblülük mühitinə aparan mənəbə kimi necə xidmət etdiyini araşdırır. Bir sözlə, bu məqalə dünyada baş verən böyük müharibələrin və təhlükəsizliklə əlaqəli müharibələrin dünyanı necə dəyişdirdiyini izah edir.

Açar sözlər: *Beynəlxalq təhlükəsizlik, regional müharibələr, Suriya vətəndaş müharibəsi, Cənubi Çin dənizi, çoxqütblülük*

Резюме

Шераз Мехмуд

Вопросы безопасности в меняющемся мире

В XXI веке мировая политика и международная безопасность стали свидетелями беспрецедентных изменений. Среди наиболее важных проблем - продолжающиеся региональные войны в различных частях мира, которые не только дестабилизируют соответствующие регионы, но и влияют на глобальный порядок безопасности, формируя его заново. В данной статье исследуется, каким образом войны и конфликты - включая войну в Украине, столкновения Израиля с Газой и Ливаном, гражданскую войну в Сирии, конфликт в Йемене, нестабильность в Судане и Сахеле, а также территориальные споры в Южно-Китайском море - служат источником перехода мира от однополярного порядка, возглавляемого Западом, к многополярной среде. Одним словом, статья объясняет, как крупные войны и конфликты, связанные с безопасностью, меняют современный мир.

Ключевые слова: *международная безопасность, региональные войны, гражданская война в Сирии, Южно-Китайское море, многополярность.*