

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: INTEREST OR VALUE ORIENTED RELATIONSHIP? THE CASES OF THE TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVERS NESTOS AND EVROS.

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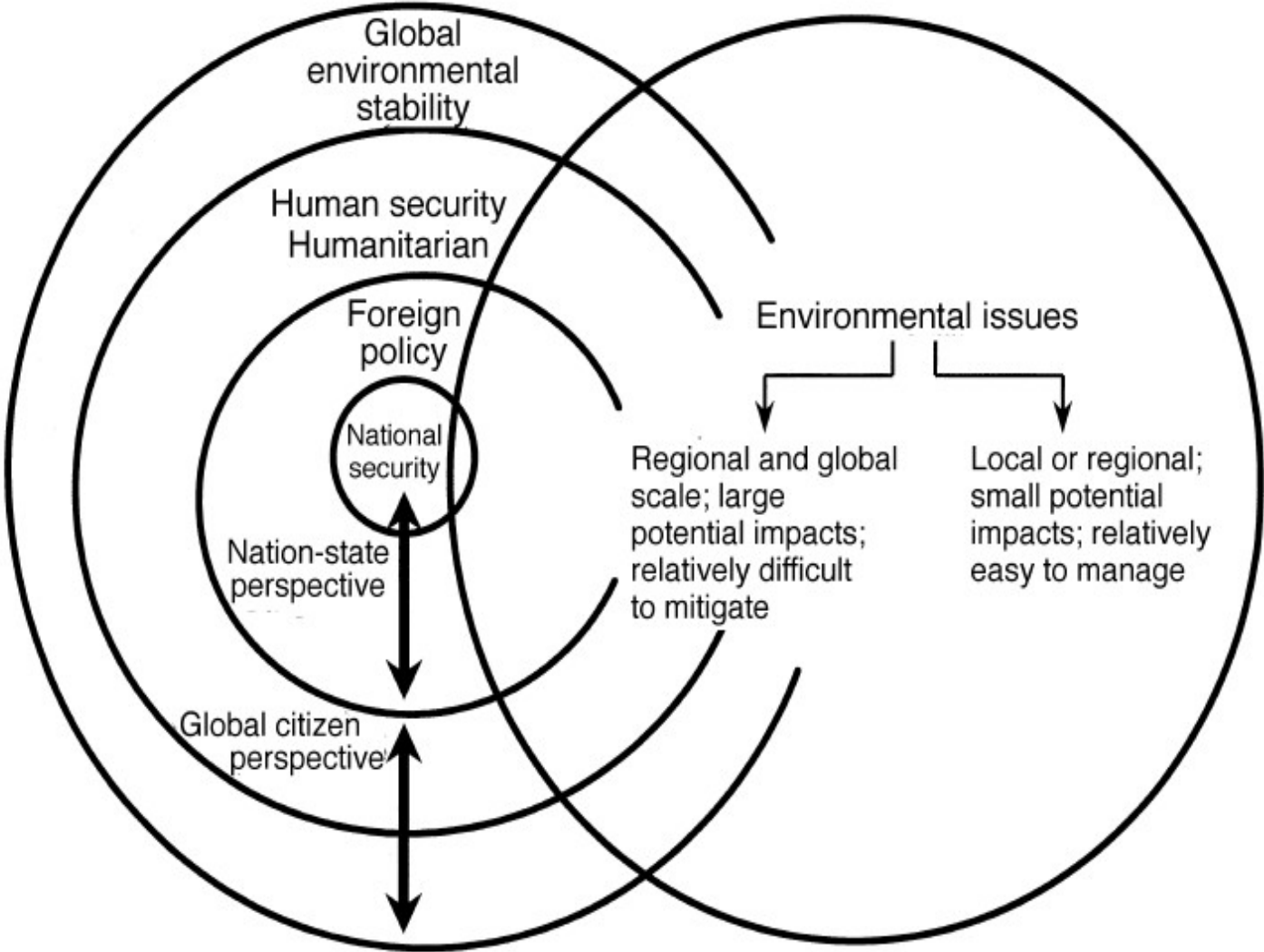
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International Relations and Environmental Security

- The process of rethinking the term of security began during the Cold War period, in the 70s and 80s.
- During the Stockholm Conference (1972) the issue of environmental degradation was placed in the agenda, while the first NGO's were born such as Greenpeace.
- Additionally, many experts underlined the need for a departure from the old militaristic perception of security (ex. The Copenhagen School with O. Weaver and B. Buzan).
- During the 1990s Environmental Security was linked with the management of natural resources. Key figure was Thomas Homer-Dixon and the so called Toronto School.

Definition

- Environmental Security examines ways to safeguard a state's natural resources for the maintenance of its own cohesion in political, economical and social level (state-centric approach).
- Environmental security is the quest for relative stability of Earth's ecosystems against to human acts. (UN definition-hyper-national approach).



The importance of water in the 21st century

- 2/3 of the planet are covered with water.
- Only the 2.7% is potable and most of it can be found in the form of ice in the poles and on the top of the mountains.
- The 73% of fresh water goes to agricultural use.
- Almost the 50% of the river basins are transnational with most of them being under no agreement for resolving the problem of their management.



International and European Water Law

- **Helsinki Convention (17 March 1992).**
- **UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, May 1997**
- **Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.**

Rivers Nestos/Mesta & Evros/Meric

Transboundary Rivers	Riparian Countries	Problems	Legal Framework
Nestos/Mesta	Bulgaria-Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pollution •Water quantity •Absence of international community (international institutions) 	Bilateral Agreement since 1995
Evros/Meric	Bulgaria-Greece-Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pollution •Water management •The River serves as state border between Greece and Turkey 	No agreement Only a network of prefectures between Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey in Orestiada.

Lessons from International Practice

- Mekong: 1995, Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin—a milestone in international water resources management treaties due to its emphasis on joint development, ecological protection, and a dynamic process of water allocation. Involvement of the ECAFE (even in the field of research only) and UNDP (Funding of the secretariat).
- Nile: in 1992 in Cairo negotiations have started. The result of this process was the creation of the Nile Basin Initiative in 1999. Involvement of the World Bank, the UNDP, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the ECA. (IN PROGRESS).
- Danube: 1994, Convention on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use. Involvement of the World Bank and the EU.

Future Scenarios

Nestos/Mesta		Evros/Meric	
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Bulgaria is a member of EU.	The truly implementation of the bilateral agreement of 1995 (especially as the annual river's flow is concerned).	The willingness of local community from Greece and Turkey.	The importance of the River as state border.
EU's intervention concerning the adoption of the WFD.	The increase on Bulgaria's energy demand because of the access to the EU.	A probable reduction of the pollution.	The intervention of power politics –foreign affairs.

Conclusion

- Transboundary water management in those two case studies is definitely not conflictual.
- However, political tensions are still there.
- In order to mitigate these tensions, local communities should be effectively involved and international donors and agencies should intervene in order to enhance cooperation.

The image features a green background on the left side, which transitions into a white area on the right. A large white rounded rectangle is positioned in the upper left, extending towards the center. A dark blue horizontal bar with rounded ends is located at the bottom, spanning across the white area. The text "Thank you very much for your attention" is written in a dark teal color, centered in the white area below the blue bar.

Thank you very much
for your attention