# Lecture 1: Security

Lecturer: Big football fan

Security depends on an outside context (house to outside, etc)

Security meanings:

* Individual property: Inner tranquillity
  + Cicero
* Collective good to be achieved by military-diplomatic means
* State-military conceptualisation
* ‘traditional security studies’ – discipline

Definition:

* Simplistic def includes survival
  + Survival is existential (alive vs dead, exit vs not exist, links with realist view of ‘security’)
  + Security is survival+: quality is key
* Classic def – Wolfers: “the absence of threats to acquired values”
* Baldwin: “low probability of damage to acquired values”
  + Absolute sec is unattainable

‘Traditional’ understandings of sec:

* Realism and ‘national [state] sec’

Realism:

* Assumptions
  + Anarchy
  + State having hard (military) power
  + Uncertainty of others’ intentions
  + Rational Actors
  + Survival is top priority
* Behaviour patterns
  + Fear
  + Self-help
  + Power-seeking

Realist/’Traditional’ approach to sec:

* “Realism presupposes that military issues […] are security issues and as such must be prioritised”
* Security for the state, v
* Values: state survival, integrity, sovereignty, pol independence
* Threats: military of other states,
* Means: hard power (military, focus, armaments, diplomacy, self-help, econ capabilities, coercive actions, balance of pow)

Realism’s Positivism:

* ‘Realists maintain that there is an objective and knowable world, which is separate from the observing individual’ (Mearsheimer)
* Sec agenda predetermined and closed, no room for normative, subjective, critical or constructivist suppositions

‘New security thinking’

* Security for individuals, social groups
* Values: physical safety, dignity, well-being
* Threats: economic, social, etc
* Means: soft power (pol and econ means, multilateral cooperation, solidarity, development)

NST: Human security:

* 1994, UNDP report
* Two aspects
  + safety from chronic threats (hunger, disease, repression)
  + protection from sudden disruptions in patterns of daily life (homes, jobs, communities)
* ‘Deepening’
* Broadening
* Criticisms
  + Too broad
  + Vague on priorities
  + Realists: draws attention away from ‘real theats’
  + ‘Critical’ criticism:

NST: ‘Securitisation Theory’:

* Product of ‘Copenhagen School’
* Attempts to broaden sec but prevent it becoming too broad
* sec as a process
  + Occurs when a pol actor uses rhetoric to create existential threat
  + 1. Securitisation Move
    - Actor convinces society that smth is a threat
  + 2. Audience Evaluation
  + 3. Policy Change

Against positivism

* UK NWs (nuclear weapons) not a threat to US, but Russian ones…
* Free speech – threat to NK, not to lib democracies
* Migration – previously econ issue, now pol
* Terrorist attacks: deadly but… car crashes each year deadlier

Conclusions:

* Sec is an inherently contested concept (realists say it shouldn’t be)
* Divide between Traditional (realist) and NST approaches
* Divide within NST: more or less sec the better?