

Course Title: Human Security in Central Asia
Course No: SA 658
Total Credits: 3 (Three)
Course Teacher: Prof. Mondira Dutta

INTRODUCTION

While security has tended to be viewed from the angle of political/military security, the 1990s saw the beginning of a far broader understanding of security that encompassed dimensions such as social, environmental, economic and developmental.

Human security is people-centered approach to foreign policy which recognizes that lasting stability cannot be achieved until people are protected from violent threats to their rights, safety and lives. It bridges the divide between security and development. Currently the enclave of human security is confronted by threats such as hunger, disease and natural disasters because these kill far more people than war, genocide and terrorism combined. Hence a people-centered view of security is necessary for national, regional and global stability.

Human security while protecting also empowers people and societies as a means of security. Its scope includes a broader range of threats, including environmental pollution, diseases, and economic deprivation. The realization of human security involves not only governments, but a broader participation of regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and local communities. Human security and human development are interconnected and people oriented. A lack of human security results in adverse consequences on economic growth and social development. While an imbalanced development involving 'horizontal inequalities' is an important source of conflict. Thus poverty and inequality become the root causes of individual vulnerability.

Since independence the Central Asian states have been confronted by serious problems not only in terms of political succession and governance but also suffer from grave human rights violation, threats of ethnicity, gender concerns, terrorism, drug trafficking and environmental degradation. The Central Asian economies, at present besides being a hot bed of international politics are also extremely vulnerable with concerns of stability and sustainability. This course attempts to build the conceptual link that covers the domains of poverty and conflict.

EVALUATION PATTERN

The weightage would be on a 50-50 division of marks between the end semester and internal assessment. An end-semester examination will be held covering the entire syllabus based on 50 percent of the marks. Students are required to submit a term paper

and do a presentation as part of the internal assessment for the remaining 50 percent of the marks.

COURSE CONTENTS

1. **Definition and Scope of Human Security:** Comparing and critiquing theories, philosophies and approaches. Genesis of Human Security and Schools of thought (Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want). Human Development as defined in terms of broad goals and measures of human welfare. Linking of Security to Development and Human Rights. Millennium Development Goals.
2. **Understanding the Area:** Space relations, Location and centrality within the region, understanding of challenges in a regional context. A people centred assessment approach of Central Asia in terms of Ethnic Groups, Migration trends and major challenges of Human Security. Regional cooperation programmes, bilateral & trilateral agreements.
3. **Economic and Social Security:** Human Development Index in Central Asian Republics. Education, Poverty and Employment, Lack of access to clean water and Energy distribution (TAPI & IPI); Transport Development & Emergence of Transport corridors (INSTC)
4. **Food Security:** Access to Food, Food Distribution and Food Consumption, Nutrition & Gender Concerns
5. **Health Security:** Access to Health Facility, Child Mortality, Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate
6. **Environmental Security:** Natural Disasters, man-made threats in nature and deterioration of the [natural environment](#) (Aral Sea)
7. **Political Security:** Political tensions and [ethnic](#) violence, Drugs & Drug Trafficking, Crime and Terrorism, Ethnic Conflicts, Violation of Human Rights, Civil Wars

SELECTED READINGS

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Kim Swanze (2004): *People in the Crossfire: Political Islam, the State and Human Security in Central Asia*; Canadian Consortium on Asia Pacific Security

Luong Pauline Jones (Edt): *The Transformation of Central Asia: States and Societies from Soviet Rule to Independence*; New Delhi, Manas, 2005, ISBN 81-7049-257-2

Martha Brill Olcott: *Central Asia's Second Chance*, Carnegie Endowment, ISBN: 0870032178

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Sen, Amartya: "*Why Human Security*", Presentation at the International Symposium on Human Security, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Takanawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, 28 July 2000

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United Nations: *Central Asia Human Development Report*, UNDP, 2005

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): *Kyrgyzstan - Human Development Index*, 1995.

United Nations Development Programme: *Human Development Report 1994 – New Dimensions of Human Security*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

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Warikoo K. & Dawa Norbu (1992): *Ethnicity and Politics in Central Asia*, Distributed in USA by International Book Co.