

National Security in the Thought of the Supreme Leader (May his Nobel Presence Endure)

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Abstract

War consists of defense and aggression. Therefore, when it comes to hybrid war, this war includes both defense and aggression, just like classical war. Hybrid defense has a nature corresponding to hybrid aggression and should be carried out based on the joint action of all members and stakeholders of the society, from the government to the private sector and civil institutions.

In hybrid defense, a comprehensive security plan should be implemented that includes all the key parts of the society in its planning and implementation. In this regard, the main goal of this article is to explain the achievements of Martyr Soleimani's hybrid defense at different levels.

The type of research was applied and carried out in a systematic qualitative manner using the historical method and content analysis, the method of collecting data was library research as well as interviewing 20 experts.

The findings of the research indicated that Lieutenant General Haj Qasem Soleimani was one of the prominent strategic hands of the hybrid defense because he blended three achievements: firstly, the destruction of terrorism and ISIS, secondly, maintaining the united front of resistance and thirdly, starting US withdrawal from the West Asia region.

Based on the results of the research, the hybrid defense of Martyr Soleimani, on the one hand, has turned the "balance of power" into a "balance of resistance" and on the other hand, has turned the "balance of threats" into a "balance of security" in the framework of a broad cross-border perspective and development of strategic depth. This strategy has led to the formation of an "integrated geography of resistance" in order to confront America's excessive demands in the region and the world.

Key words: Hybrid war, Hybrid Defense, Hybrid Deterrence, Martyr Soleimani, I.R. Iran

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Introduction

One of the ways to understand the provision of security for the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strive to comprehend the security-related thoughts of the leaders of the Islamic Revolution, which can greatly assist in addressing security threats and have a guiding influence on the behavior and decisions of policymaking bodies, thereby increasing perceptual and behavioral cohesion. Undoubtedly, the statements, directives, and guidance of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (may his days be prolonged) can be instrumental in this regard. Hence, the present article seeks to enumerate the concept of national security in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his days be prolonged).

In other words, the correct perception of a phenomenon will lead to appropriate behavior regarding it, which can, from a practical standpoint, convey the importance of understanding that phenomenon. In this regard, the Supreme Leader of the I.R of Iran (may his noble presence endure) states: "The existence of forces that can provide security for this nation, this country, and for any constructive and vital activity in this land is as essential for any people as air and water" (Supreme Leaders' Statements, 1999).

The starting point for many security studies in the analysis of national security requires a proper understanding of this premise. If it is not properly elucidated, it may lead to misunderstanding, both from internal rulers and external adversaries, and the possibility of deviation in executive policies exists, which can impose significant costs at the national level. Therefore, stability in this diagnosis appears to be necessary from both a theoretical and strategic perspective.

The primary question is: What is the concept of national security from the perspective of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (may his noble presence endure)? In this regard, the following sub-questions have been raised:

- What are the main elements in the definition of national security?
- What are the priority components of the concept of national security in the view of the Supreme Leader (may his noble presence endure)?

This research is not a hypothesis-testing study, but rather an exploratory one. Multiple studies related to national security have been published, which can be categorized into three groups based on their subject matter:

First, there are texts that have focused on describing and explaining security models and schools of thought, as well as the school of national security. For example, Eftekhari and Nahazi (2011) have analyzed the theory of the three aspects of public security in its material, mental, and institutional dimensions, and have categorized and presented the collection of statements by the Supreme Leader (may his noble presence endure) based on the indicators of each of these dimensions in the form of a table. The results indicate that the Supreme Leader's view of public security is a comprehensive and broad-minded one, and it demonstrates the position and status of public security and the development of its material, mental, and institutional dimensions in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his noble presence endure). Chaharmahali, Majlesi, and Mostafavi (2015), in their article, have defined and presented the patterns of acquiring authority based on the statements of the Supreme Leader (may his noble presence endure) in order to explain national security.

Hosseinpour (2015) in his writing based on the statements and works of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (may his shadow be prolonged) has examined the nature and essence of security in the security doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Kafiri (2015) has addressed the Supreme Leader's (may his shadow be prolonged) views on the concept of security, types of security, security-enabling factors, and security challenges. Jafarzadeh (2015) has referred to the principle of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist), the republican and Islamic nature of the system, geopolitical position, abundant energy, and vast territory as the fundamental components of security-creating factors for the Islamic Republic, emphasizing the thoughts of the Leader of the Revolution. Amiri (2015) has introduced the most appropriate approach and strategy in the realm of sustainable security as the theories of Imam Khomeini (may God's mercy be upon him) and Imam Khamenei (may his shadow be prolonged), which have cultural, social, economic, political, and psychological components. Ghorbani-Rad and Jamshidian Bagheri (2015) have examined and analyzed the concepts and indicators of social security in the security doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the perspective of Imam Khamenei (may his shadow be prolonged)

and have identified five components of physical, financial, occupational, reputational, and moral security. Tashakkori (2015) has examined the security doctrine from the perspective of Imam Khamenei (may his shadow be prolonged). Jamshidian (2018), based on the thoughts and views of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged), has made a valuable effort and has enumerated the foundations, principles, goals, nature, components, characteristics, types, aspects, scope, perception of contributing factors, subjects, platforms, challenges, methods, acquisition tools, references, and requirements of national security.

Second, there are texts that have focused on on the epistemological foundations, conceptual, and metaphysical aspects of national security.

Qarabaghian (2015) has equated the concept of security in the thought of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (may his sublime spirit be sanctified) with notions such as national power, political stability and tranquility in the public sphere, preservation of the system's existence, attainment of genuine political independence, material and spiritual elevation, and preservation of territorial borders. Furthermore, they have enumerated the methods of ensuring security from the perspective of the Supreme Leader (may his sublime spirit be sanctified) to include: public participation, construction of a new Islamic civilization, national unity, adherence to the rule of law, initiative, generation of social capital, fulfillment of Imam Khomeini's (May God's mercy be upon him) recommendations, service provision, tripartite powers' activism, knowledge enhancement, and the role-playing of law enforcement forces, among others.

Habibzadeh (2018) considered the cultural, economic, political, social, defensive-security, and environmental dimensions from the perspective of Imam Khamenei (may his shadow be prolonged) to be involved in the creation and promotion of security, and while emphasizing the relationship between them, they considered the creation of a threat or the existence of harm in any of them to be effective on other dimensions, which should be taken into account by the authorities. Safi (2018) considers strategic depth defense as one of the main pillars of the defensive thoughts of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged), and points out that he considers strategies such as strengthening strategic depth and strengthening military power to be effective in deterrence, improving relative security, and consequently increasing the safety factor.

Third, there are texts that have focused on the the scholarly texts that have studied and examined national security in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged) are the following:

Montazerian, Taj-Abadi (2016) has elucidated the current goals and principles of national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the results of which indicate that these goals and principles serve as a tool in the service of the thought and discourse of Islam in order to preserve the life, property and chastity of Muslims, alongside preserving their values and beliefs, against the domination of infidels and adversaries, as well as the intellectual and cultural elevation of Muslims worldwide. Abbasi, Karim Kandi (2019) by examining the statements and guidelines of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged) in the year 2019, has enumerated the frequency of security concepts used by the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged) in the following order: military-security, political security, economic security, cultural security, and environmental security. The results of the qualitative analysis of the research also show that he considers security as a divine blessing, the preservation of which must be carried out with regard to divine commandments. Mousavi, Nabatian, Kalantari, Haghgoo (2020) in their article have considered Islam, the stability of the country and independence as the most important reference of national security from the perspective of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The distinguishing feature of the above research is that each has addressed security and national security from a perspective of schools of thought, patterns, epistemological and conceptual foundations based on the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his path be blessed). The common aspect of all of them is around the dissection of security and national security, which are valuable endeavors. However, in this article, the conceptual components of national security from his perspective, in addition to the above differences in terms of research methodology using qualitative content analysis and the time frame of the research covering the period from 1989 to 2021, are different from the third group of the above research. Therefore, it can contribute to a deeper examination, understanding, and more complete comprehension of national security.

Theoretical Foundations

Thought:

In lexical terms, it means idea, supposition, fear, dread, and also synonymous with thinking, imagining, and feeling fear and dread (Amid, 2019: 179). In the technical definition, thought is the mental effort for understanding, as stated by Anvari (cited in: Salarzaei, Ali Asgari, 2012: 33).

Security:

In lexical terms, security means being safe, safety, tranquility, and comfort (Amid, 2019: 171). In the lexical and technical definition of security, it has been expressed as follows: Security is defined by two sets of terms, which represent "fearlessness" and "confidence". In the definition of "fearlessness", the negative aspect of security is usually considered, which indicates the absence of danger to the interests of the actor, and therefore "being in safety", "protection", and "support" are suggested as equivalents of security. But in the definition of "confidence", the positive aspect of security is usually considered. Terms such as "trust", "peace of mind", "calmness", and "satisfaction" are usually suggested as lexical equivalents of security. Although there is no expert consensus in the technical definition of security, the author, within the framework of the analytical model of the security discourse, proposes two negative and positive definitions (corresponding to the existing lexical approaches) from Asghar Eftekhari.

a. In the negative discourse of security, it refers to a situation in which there is no threat to the actor's interests, or in the event of a potential threat, the possibility of effective management of it (including prevention or conversion to an opportunity) exists for the actor.

b. In the affirmative discourse of security, it refers to a situation in which there is a balance between the desires and possessions within a political unit, commensurate with the ideological coefficient (of that unit), which produces satisfaction among the actors (Eftekhari, 2015: 9).

National Security:

National security is a condition based on national power, in which the country's interests in the four spheres of values, sovereignty, citizenship, and territorial integrity are not under threat, or in the event of a potential threat, the possibility of managing it exists. The Supreme Leader (may

his soul be sanctified) defines national security as an expansive concept that simultaneously covers the two main domains of internal and external security: "National security includes both internal and external security. External security refers to when a country's security is threatened by forces outside its borders; or when military forces, such as wars that occur, attack the borders of a country; or when political and propaganda attacks are made against a country, which sometimes cause disruption and unrest, which has also been repeatedly seen in countries and has created problems".

Internal security is a broad spectrum of efforts, and if all relevant authorities work with all their might, they will be able to fulfill this great demand. Therefore, security is not a small thing" (Khamenei: 2018/01/06). Since researchers have been seeking to identify and explain national security in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last), they have not based a specific definition or theory as the concept of national security.

Threat:

Threat is one of the most important concepts in the field of security studies, to the extent that many theorists and thinkers in this field have defined security in terms of threat, and even the "insecurity rather than security" approach has become one of the dominant approaches in security studies, and in this framework, the focus of studies is the threat (Abdullahai Khani, 2007:13).

Reputable dictionaries define threat as an expression of intent to inflict harm, destruction, or punishment on others out of revenge or intimidation, and in the second definition, they define it as showing imminent danger, harm, and mischief, such as war. Another definition of threat has been provided by Karl Roper, with a focus on threats against critical infrastructure. He believes that a threat is "any indication of an event or condition that has the ability to cause damage and harm to an asset" (Abdullahi Khani, 2007:11).

The research methodology of this study is developmental, and the researchers' approach is descriptive and analytical. Due to the examination of the views, theories, perspectives, and statements of the Supreme Leader (may God protect him) in the time frame of 1989 to 2021, the data collection method is documentary with the tool of note-

taking. The researchers have used the content analysis method for the analysis.

Krippendorff (2012) defines content analysis as "the systematic, precise, and comprehensive examination and interpretation of the structure of materials in order to identify patterns, trends, meanings, and topics." Content analysis is a research method that includes specialized techniques in the processing of research data. This method is in search of perceiving the perceptual and emotional aspects of messages, or understanding the hidden and extractable aspects of Supreme Leader's statements and contents (Azar, 2001:5).

The reason for selecting this method is that the researchers have been in the position of identifying and explaining the perspective of the Supreme Leader (may his sublime status be preserved) on the issue of national security, and have therefore refrained from selecting and using a specific definition or theory as the conceptual and theoretical basis in this research. Strengthening the indigenous discourse in the field of security in the country, which can contribute to the explanation of the security theory of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on the thought and reflection of the Supreme Leader (may his sublime status be preserved), is the main objective of this research, and a clear understanding of the concept of national security, the relationship between ideals and fundamental values with the concept of national security, as well as achieving the dominant approach to national security, whether negative or positive, in Islamic thought theoretically, which is one of the secondary objectives of this study.

Furthermore, from a practical perspective, the findings of this research will be helpful in effectively addressing security issues for the country's governance authorities and those responsible for maintaining national security, with the aim of achieving a desirable level of sustainable national security, emphasizing the security-related thoughts and ideas of the Supreme Leader (may his sublime status be preserved).

The organization and stages of this research are as follows: First, 45 technical keywords extracted from existing research texts and discussions with subject matter experts familiar with the views of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) in the field of security and national security were searched in the Hadi software as the entry point, given the research topic which is the concept of national security in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last). Only the keywords that the

Supreme Leader (may his glory last) has explicitly used alongside national security were filtered, from which 20 keywords were extracted and 234 notes were obtained. At this stage, the existing notes were considered the entire statistical population and underwent content analysis.

After review and verification, it was determined that a number of the notes were related to security organizations or had a purpose other than the concept of national security. Additionally, some of the notes were found in the statements of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) with various keywords in a shared and repetitive manner by the software, and reiterating them as evidence was avoided. Therefore, considering the above-mentioned cases, ultimately 37 documents were extracted, categorized, and coded. Finally, the components that have been effective in defining national security were identified, and the importance of each of them was prioritized according to their frequency.

Introduction to the Application of Content Analysis

Step 1: Preparing an initial list of keywords related to national security in the thought and speech of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last), Since there are different perceptions of national security, not all of which are endorsed by the Supreme Leader (may his glory last), and since he has a specific definition of national security that encompasses the two strategic areas of internal and external security, it is necessary to define and select keywords in the first step that have the greatest relevance to the viewpoint of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last). At this stage, the initial expert list of keywords was prepared using the following two techniques:

Reviewing the research publications on the views of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) in the field of security and national security;

Discussions with experts familiar with the perspective of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) in the security domains resulted in the identification of 45 key terms, which are referred to in Table 1.

Table I: Proposed Key Terms by Researchers and Experts

Row	Proposed Key Terms	Row	Proposed Key Terms	Row	Proposed Key Terms
1	Threats	16	Infiltration	31	Peace
2	Regime Survival	17	Development (Progress)	32	War
3	Civic System	18	Existence	33	Country's Existence
4	Citizens' Lives	19	Welfare	34	Territorial Integrity
5	Expansion of Vital Values	20	Foreign Interference	35	Power
6	Core Values	21	Capability	36	National Capability
7	Victory in War	22	Satisfaction	37	Balanced Development
8	Objectives	23	Jurisdiction	38	National Unity
9	Danger	24	Sovereignty	39	Political Participation
10	Fundamental Interests	25	Citizens	40	Presence
11	Vital Interests	26	Culture	41	Production
12	National Interests	27	External Threats	42	Opportunity
13	Safeguarding	28	Internal Threats	43	Strength
14	Potential Threats	29	Hegemony	44	Weakness
15	Actual Threats	30	Harm and Vulnerability	45	
45					

Step Two: Keyword Refinement

Given that in this research, only those keywords are considered as criteria which have been explicitly used by the Supreme Leader of Iran (may his shadow last long) along with the term "national security", in this step and using the Hadi software, all the above-mentioned cases were controlled along with the keyword "national security", and the number of related records was identified. The software output indicates that 25 out of the 45 proposed titles in the above table were not used by the Supreme

Leader of Iran (may his glory last), and therefore have been excluded. (See Table II).

Table II: Keywords Excluded Due to Non-Use
in the Supreme Leader's Statements

Row	Word Entry	Row	Word Entry
1	the Survival of the Regime	14	Balanced Development
2	Civic Order	15	Political Participation
3	Citizen's Way of Life	16	Victory in War
4	Expansion of Vital Values	17	Capability
5	Core Values	18	Satisfaction
6	Potential Threats	19	Sovereignty
7	Actual Threats	20	Peace
8	Interference of Foreigners	21	Territorial Integrity
9	External Threats	22	Danger
10	Internal Threats	23	Existence
11	Vital Values	24	Weakness
12	Country's Existence	25	Harm and Vulnerability
13	National Capabilities		
Total		45	

Regarding 20 other key terms, 234 index cards were extracted, which indicates that the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged) has generally elucidated his views on national security using these keywords. The number and frequency of these are detailed in Table III.

Table III: Keywords Used in the Statements of the Supreme Leader
on the Subject of National Security

Row	Keyword	index cards	Row	Keyword	index cards
1	Threats	4	11	Production	8
2	Objectives	14	12	Presence	29
3	Fundamental Interests	2	13	Citizens	1
4	Vital Interests	3	14	Culture	19
5	National Interests	4	15	Dominance	15
6	Safeguarding	3	16	War	25
7	Infiltration	15	17	Power	32
8	Development (Progress)	13	18	National Unity	4
9	Welfare	6	19	Opportunity	24
10	Realm	2	20	Strength	11
Total				234	

The Third Step: Based on this, a full census was conducted using the existing index cards as the statistical population, and all 234 index cards were examined and subjected to content analysis. In this stage, care was taken not to omit any keyword (even if it had a low frequency), in order to preserve the overall perspective of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged). In the study and examination of the obtained index cards, some of them had no conceptual relationship with the research topic, or were related to security organizations or a purpose other than the concept of national security, or were repeated with several keywords as the search entry, and their repeated mention as a document was avoided. Therefore, the number of documents has been reduced to 37. (See Table IV)

Table IV: Frequency of Documents from the Statements
of the Supreme Leader on National Security

Row	Word Entry	Number of Documents	Row	Word Entry	Number of Documents
1	Threats	2	11	Production	1
2	Objectives	5	12	Citizens	1
3	Fundamental Interests	2	13	Culture	3
4	Vital Interests	2	14	Dominance	2
5	National Interests	2	15	War	1
6	Safeguarding	1	16	Power	2
7	Infiltration	2	17	National Unity	4
8	Development (Progress)	1	18	Presence	1
9	Welfare	2	19	Opportunity	1
10	Realm	1	20	Strength	1
Total		37			

The Fourth Step: In this stage, the implications of each document were extracted, and categorization was carried out.

The Fifth Step: In this section, considering a code for each category, coding was done so that the text is prepared for analysis and writing the results. (See Table V)

Content Analysis of the Documents

The documents obtained in Table IV were studied and refined, and the implications of each document were extracted. Subsequently, categorization and coding were carried out, the results of which are shown in Table V.

Table V: Analysis of the Documents Derived from the Statements of the Supreme Leader

coding	categorization	implications	documents	Row
NT NSH	The absence of threat is a fundamental component of civic security (for citizens).	<p>The absence of threats from the enemy must be taken into account in the concept of national security.</p> <p>National security ensures the preservation of life.</p>	<p>If there was no security in a society and the country was under the threat of enemies, then no scientific and research work could be properly carried out in that country, nor could economic activity be undertaken, nor could intellectual and cultural work be performed. In an unsafe environment, everyone is concerned with preserving their own life.</p> <p>These murders that are occurring in the country, which is not the first time, but this time they have intensified them, are actions that are contrary to the sense of national security. A nation within its own home must feel a sense of security. The Islamic system is a powerful system. The enemy, in order to break this power, wants to instill the helplessness of this system and the helplessness of the government and the helplessness of the security and judicial authorities. Killing citizens is a crime against those individuals, whoever they may be, outside of the way the authorities should carry out based on the rule of law and the authority they have, and is an act against security.</p>	1
BEA	The Ideological Foundation of National Security	<p>Ideological, geographical, linguistic, or ethnic fault lines, as they impact the cognitive structure of national security, must be taken into consideration in the concept of national security.</p>	<p>The third point that should be given very careful consideration in the programs, statements, and promises of the honorable candidates is precisely this national security, this national tranquility. They should strive not to incite ideological, geographical, linguistic, or ethnic fault lines.</p>	2
HEA NT HEN	<p>The Preservation & Protection of Security</p> <p>Absence of Threat</p> <p>Maintaining Cohesion</p>	<p>The objective is to preserve and protect national security, national pride, the development and progress of the country, and the safeguarding of the country from the evil of enemies.</p> <p>Removing the evil of enemies strengthens national security. Unity and cohesion indicate the positive nature of national security, as it considers the strengthening of security to be contingent upon internal unity.</p>	<p>Therefore, if the objective is to preserve and protect national security, national pride, the development and progress of the country, and the safeguarding of the country from the evil of enemies, then the military organizations, academic organizations, research organizations, cultural organizations, and economic organizations are all immense forces that are working together, assisting one another, complementing each other, and not viewing each other with competition or envy. In this case, such cohesion will be established in the country. This is what we place our emphasis upon.</p>	3

GHM	National power	<p>The Presence of the People on the Scene Has an Effect on National Security</p> <p>The Presence of the People on the Scene Has an Effect on National Security</p>	<p>Our dear people must know that their presence in various arenas is determinative.</p> <p>Determinative of what? Determinative of national security. If the people are present on the scene, the country will remain secure. Well, today this system has preserved the security of the country, has accelerated the progress of the country, and has given dignity to this nation. So they should enter this field to give dignity to Iran and Iranians, for the continuation of national security, to guarantee the progress that, thank God, began from the beginning of the revolution and has continued uninterruptedly until today; for these, they must enter. Everyone must enter.</p>	4
EGHG	strong economy	A Strong Economy is Effective in National Security.	<p>How are National Dignity, National Security, National Power, and Comprehensive Progress Achieved?</p> <p>I say that without the country having a strong economy, these will not be achieved. Our need is a strong economy, strong production, accompanied by strong management; our need is a strong, secure, and self-reliant economy where our hand is not outstretched to others.</p>	5
TMA	Territorial Integrity	The Protection of the Country's Borders and the Vigilance and Wakefulness of the Guardians Have an Impact on National Security.	<p>I Have News That Our Enemies, in Collaboration with Some Unwise Officials in the Persian Gulf Region - not all of them, but some - are trying to bring proxy wars to the borders of Iran. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and all guardians of national security in various organizations are vigilant and alert. They should know that if any mischief occurs, the reaction of the Islamic Republic will be very harsh.</p>	6
MBN	Confronting Infiltration	Infiltration Threatens Our National Security	<p>Even if the enemy is unable to act militarily and has no hope, they may try to achieve their sinister goals through cultural, political, and security means, through fostering espionage, and infiltrating the firm beliefs and faith of the believing men and women of this land. This threatens our security. Security in the country and in every region is the foundation of progress.</p>	7
BEA	The Ideological Foundation of National Security	Firm Faith and Belief are the Creators of Security		
AMD	Internal security	<p>You make an excellent point. Internal security is one of the key components of national security. To address internal insecurity, a preventive and deterrent approach must be adopted, and firm action must be taken.</p>	<p>Some people disrupt the security of families for their own base and ignoble goals. This is an example of insecurity, but not a primary example. Insecurity stemming from careless, evil, and rogue individuals who naturally have malice and make the living environment unsafe - this is also insecurity. Evil people who create insecurity in the streets and neighborhoods for the nation, the sanctity, and the reputation of the people. It is the responsibility of the law enforcement and judicial authorities to deal with these ruffians and troublemakers who make the living and working environment of the people unsafe.</p>	8
ARH	The vital :values	<p>Under the auspices of Islam and Islamic teachings, security is achieved. Within the Islamic system, it is possible to attain both social and spiritual security.</p>		
AR		<p>The teachings of Islam provide a comprehensive framework that can address the root causes of insecurity, whether they are economic, social, or moral in nature. By adhering to</p>		

		<p>the principles of Islam, a society can foster an environment of stability, harmony, and well-being for all its members.</p> <p>As you rightly pointed out, the Islamic life and system offer not just material prosperity, but also spiritual fulfillment and a sense of purpose. This holistic approach to security is essential for the overall well-being and progress of a nation.</p>	<p>When we talk about the Islamic life and system, we mean the blessed life and system in which all the desirable blessings for humanity exist - both material well-being and social and spiritual security are provided, and spiritual purity, knowledge, insight, research, devotion, sincerity, and attention to God are observed.</p>	
ARH	The vital values	The vital value for us is Islam.	<p>Bear in mind that our specific objectives are encapsulated within Islam. Islam is not merely a belief; Islam is the virtuous life of human beings. When we speak of the Islamic life and system, we refer to a virtuous life and system in which all the desirable goods for human beings exist; both material well-being and social and spiritual security are provided, and spiritual purity, knowledge, insight, research, devotion, sincerity, and attention to God are observed.</p>	9
GHM	National Power	All military and non-military organizations must play a role in achieving national security.	<p>Therefore, if the goal is to preserve and safeguard national security, national dignity, the country's development and progress, and protecting the country from the evil of enemies, then the military organizations, university organizations, research organizations, cultural organizations, and economic organizations are all in fact immense forces that are working together.</p>	10
Pish	progress	The progress of the country is a guarantor of national security	<p>I would also like to point out that we do not take the model of development from the West; first of all, we call this movement "progress," not what they call "growth and development."</p> <p>We do not take the model of the country's progress from the West. Westerners have made themselves miserable because of this method and this model. Of course, we make maximum use of the latest knowledge and technology, and we consider progress to be a source of the nation's well-being, a source of national pride, and a source of the country's security, and we strive for the progress of the country.</p>	11
NO NSH	Penetration Security and the Citizen-Based System	<p>Penetration threatens national security</p> <p>Chaos and disorder lead to the weakening of national security</p>	<p>I would like to convey the following to the great and courageous nation of Iran: For the past 20 years, you have kept the enemy that the revolution expelled from this country at the door with great power and did not allow this enemy to enter through any loophole. Be vigilant. This is the meaning of the repetitive words that I have conveyed to the Iranian nation and officials in these few years, that the enemy is trying to infiltrate. Wherever it finds an opening, it will enter; increase your vigilance. The enemy has targeted our national security. National security is the most essential thing for a nation. If there is no national security, no government can function; for development, no stone will be laid upon another. When there is chaos and insecurity,</p>	12

			<p>none of the country's problems - not the people's economy, not their culture, not their social issues, not their political issues - will be solved. When there is no security, all of these will perish.</p>	
REF	Welfare	The peace and comfort of citizens is the fruit of the existence of security.	<p>Today, those who, in the guise of the police force, strive to provide tranquility, security, and peace of mind for the citizens of our country, are indeed, in the true sense of the word, holy warriors (mujahideen) in the path of God; this is of immense value.</p>	13
NMJ	Young Armed Forces	The youth in the armed forces defend the security of the country.	<p>Our young people have fought and struggled with all their being to maintain security - both in the early months of the revolution victory, when mischievous and secessionist movements arose in some of the borders of this country at the instigation of enemies, and after that until today, as the enemies have tried to deprive this country of security. Our faithful young people have stood with the utmost gallantry and power in the armed forces, including the police force, and have defended the security of this country.</p>	14
NM	Armed Forces	<p>The armed forces are responsible for ensuring the security of the people in the Islamic system.</p> <p>The armed forces are the defenders of the national security of the country.</p>	<p>If armed forces in various societies and throughout history have been formed to defend powers and the powerful, in the Islamic system, the armed forces are in the service of the security of the people and have the mission of bringing tranquility to the public life of the people.</p> <p>The Islamic system desires the armed forces to be in the service of the security of the people.</p> <p>What is important for the armed forces - whether the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Army, or the Law Enforcement Forces - is this sense that they are the defenders of the national security of this country. In various realms, this security has been divided among different organizations with diverse duties. The armed forces are responsible for securing this security. Therefore, the security of the borders is an essential component of national security.</p>	15
MNA	Fundamental Interests	<p>Negotiating with America means retreating from Islamic positions and the fundamental, destiny-shaping interests of the country, which are among the principles of the country's national security.</p> <p>Alleviating poverty and establishing civil and judicial security are also of great importance and must be taken into account. In the Islamic world, the Islamic Republic system raised the flag of freedom.</p>	<p>The meaning of negotiation is not that America is willing to recognize the identity of this nation, the Islamic Republic system, the faith of these people and their positions. They are opposed to this foundation; they are opposed to the presence of these faithful people; they are looking to establish the same methods that were applied during the Pahlavi regime. This cannot be solved through negotiation. Will this nation allow any official in this country, from the Leader to all the other officials, to take a step back from their Islamic positions and the fundamental interests that shape their destiny?</p> <p>Alleviating poverty and establishing civil and judicial security are also very important and must certainly be considered. Freedom must be ensured in the society in a logical and proper manner; the same freedom that the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic system raised the</p>	16

			<p>banner of in the Islamic world; not an extremist, imitative, and arbitrary freedom as in America, where freedom extends only to the point that it does not harm the fundamental interests of the capitalists who are the behind-the-scenes orchestrators of the American system.</p>	
MAH	Vital Interests	<p>The preservation of vital interests is considered one of the pillars of national security.</p>	<p>The Imam was able to defeat America, which had defined vital interests for itself here, and force it to retreat. Those who had designed the imposed war aimed to destroy the revolution and eradicate the Islamic system; the great Imam turned this threat into an opportunity; this is a sign of the strength, power, and authority of the great Imam.</p>	17
MAM	National Interests	<p>Unity, security, and national interests are not exchangeable for any other subordinate matter.</p> <p>Discernment leads to the understanding of national interests.</p> <p>Participation in elections safeguards national security and interests.</p>	<p>Why should certain individuals sacrifice the unity of the nation, national unity, national security, national interests, and the welfare of this country for factional interests? If it is without the influence of the enemy, it is very bad, and if it is with the influence of the enemy, it is several times worse.</p> <p>We cannot remain neutral in the face of aggression occurring anywhere in the world, even if it is not directly related to our national interests.</p> <p>What is important for the national security of every country is the presence of the potential for aggression and domination on the other side of the borders - individuals in whom one feels no interest whatsoever regarding national interests and the welfare of the country. It is truly astonishing. Now, some are young, emotional, and deceived; some are not, and they are not even young. One sees that they are unwilling to comprehend, understand, and stand up for these national interests. What the enemy wishes to be uttered from their lips manifests itself in their actions. I want to say that to the same extent that we were saddened by this aircraft crash incident and grief descended upon our hearts, our enemy was equally delighted by this incident.</p> <p>A free nation is one that does not succumb to such influence, but rather thinks, reasons, and acts freely in pursuit of its national interests. This requires discernment.</p> <p>Thirdly, it is a religious duty that we have mentioned before. The truth is that elections safeguard the national interests of the country. Anyone who is concerned about the national</p>	18

			<p>interests of the country participates in the elections.</p> <p>The application of this heavenly command, as well as the explicit instructions of the Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him), in international concepts and relations is that we cannot remain neutral in the face of aggression anywhere in the world, even if it is not directly related to our national interests.</p> <p>What is important for the national security of any country is the existence of the potential for aggression and domination on the other side of the borders, otherwise the miscalculation at any place and at any moment is possible.</p>	
VAM			<p>the outset of this second sermon, I wish to convey a matter that stems from a sense of necessity currently felt by our nation and society - the need for unity and cohesion.</p>	
VA			<p>At the start of this year, we emphasized that the slogan for this year should be "National Unity" and "National Security." Truly, given the circumstances of the country, the ongoing issues, and the international matters, these two crucial slogans are what the officials and the people must pursue in their respective capacities. If national unity and national security are ensured, I would place greater emphasis on "national unity," for security itself emanates from unity. If there is no unity, national security is jeopardized, leading to the creation of insecurity.</p>	
VAM	national unity			
	national unity	<p>Unity is the prelude to national security.</p>	<p>Today, certain individuals are undermining national unity, not through religious slogans, but through divisive political slogans. We previously advised them, and we advise them again today not to allow the unity of this great and united nation to be compromised.</p>	
VAM	national unity	<p>Security, dignity, health, and national prosperity are not attainable without a robust economy. And of course, they are not achievable without national unity and cohesion.</p>	<p>We desire national security for the Iranian nation, we desire national dignity, we desire public health, we desire public welfare; we desire comprehensive progress, we desire independence from the domineering global powers, we desire the flourishing of talents, and we desire to be liberated and saved from social ills such as addiction and corruption.</p>	
	national unity	<p>General unity and national security are two crucial pillars.</p> <p>General unity and national security are two important pillars</p>	<p>We must be able to influence oil prices, make our national currency valuable, and raise the purchasing power of the people; without a robust economy of this kind, we will not achieve lasting dignity, nor will we achieve lasting security. And of course, it cannot be achieved without national unity.</p> <p>At the beginning of 1379 (2000), I requested from the people and officials that their efforts be directed towards general unity and national security; indeed, efforts were made. The enemy can only achieve its goals when it can create discord and division within the governing system and among officials in various sectors.</p> <p>The enemy is pursuing this matter.</p>	19

			Mr. Mousavi Lari referred to the issue of national security that I mentioned at the beginning of the year. I had also mentioned general unity. The people respond to unity.	
GHR	territory	The preservation of territory and the punishment of the aggressor are the guarantors of national security.	Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished guests, I am the President of a country that has been at the heart of one of the most elevated and sensitive periods in the history of the cradle of civilization and the epicenter of human culture, and it is now also a military domain that is founded upon that same steadfast legacy. The objective was not merely the reclamation of occupied lands or the acquisition of war reparations, although both were the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation, and despite the fact that many of the losses were irreparable. The more important goal was the punishment of the aggressor and the eradication of the apparatus of aggression. In addressing the issue of punishing the aggressor, we were not only seeking a reliable bulwark for our own national security, but this also ensured, and continues to ensure, security and stability for the entire region.	20
HOM	The presence of the people.	The presence of the people on the scene is a determinant of national security.	<p>The essence of my message to the people is this: Our dear people must know that their presence in various spheres is decisive.</p> <p>Decisive for what? Decisive for national security. If the people are present on the scene, the country will remain secure. The reason you see the brazen, impudent, and thick-necked enemies of the Islamic Republic refraining from any harsh action is due to the presence of the people; they are frightened, literally frightened. This is not an analysis; in Islamic Iran, the enemy has been unable to act because of the presence of the people. It is because of the presence of the people that the enemies have been unable to commit aggression.</p> <p>We sometimes hear and have heard in the past that some have supposedly said, "We came and took on responsibility, and we were able to remove the shadow of war from the country." No, these are not correct statements. Hear it from me: what has removed the shadow of war, the shadow of enemy aggression from this country over all these years, has been the presence of the people.</p>	21
FG	Culture	<p>Culture, its related elements, and cultural institutions are responsible for creating security.</p> <p>Culture, its related elements, and cultural institutions are responsible for the establishment of security.</p>	<p>It has been stated that the armed forces are the fortress of security and the fortresses of the subjects. It is an important point to know that the fortress and rampart of the subjects are not only the armed forces, but the armed forces are among the most important security ramparts of the subjects, which is also by the permission of God. Various organizations can all accompany and keep pace with the army in this direction; economic organizations, cultural organizations, educational organizations, research organizations; the whole of the country.</p> <p>Whether it is an economic organization, a cultural organization, scientific and research</p>	22

	Culture	Culture, its related elements, and cultural institutions are responsible for the creation of security.	<p>organizations, or military organizations, the goal of all should be the same. The tasks are different, but the goal is one.</p> <p>The Americans and others have the experience that they do not resort to a direct military confrontation with the Islamic Republic, they do not take action; they know that if a military war occurs, many of their security and cultural plans within the country will be disrupted. Today, the plan is a complex one; it is both security and cultural, as well as economic. It is also political. The programs are interwoven programs; in this situation, the duties are very heavy; they have security plans. These are dangers; these are things that require prudence, intellect, precision, and study. That is to say, one cannot just lower one's head and attack in this way; one cannot work with eyes closed.</p> <p>Therefore, in my view, the duties of these organizations are very heavy. The issue of culture is one of the important issues, this should be explained. Therefore, one task is the duty of explanation; this explanation is both in the student environment and outside the student environment. What is important for the armed forces, whether the Revolutionary Guard, the army, or the police forces, is the feeling that they are the defenders of the national security of this country. In various fields, this security is divided among various organizations with different duties. Security is a very important issue, and without security, a country will face problems in all areas of activity and effort; the main prerequisite is security. The armed forces provide this security. Another part is cultural security and moral security. Cultural security is also largely provided by the Basij forces, the faithful and self-sacrificing forces.</p> <p>The composition of the armed forces in our country is a logical and excellent composition. And when the enemy intends to attack - whether cultural aggression, urban and civic aggression, or aggression from outside the borders - the presence of these forces is a source of pride and dignity for this nation.</p>	
TD SY	production Anti-Hegemony	<p>The production of security is a creative act.</p> <p>The armed forces are the fortress of national security against the domination of the hegemonic powers.</p>	<p>Production, by which I do not mean merely the production of goods, but production in a broad sense, should be the slogan of our nation. Production of work, production of science, production of technology, production of wealth, production of knowledge, production of opportunity, production of dignity and status, production of goods, and production of capable human beings - these are all forms of production. The key to the prosperity of our nation lies in the government and the people dedicating themselves to this broad spectrum of production. This ensures national security, power, and progress of the country; this is a jihad.</p> <p>You, the youth, should primarily bear in</p>	23

			<p>mind that as stated by Imam Sajjad (peace be upon him), the armed forces are the fortress of national security. If this fortress stands tall and firm, both in terms of equipment and morale, the nation will feel a sense of security and tranquility. Without security, there can be no enjoyment in the lives of even the most advanced human societies. Security is the source of psychological calm, and if the armed forces know their duty and role, and position themselves where they rightfully belong, with courage, sacrifice, and intelligence, they can provide this security and fulfill this need.</p> <p>However, the armed forces must be strong. The world is a world of aggression; it is a world dominated by the politics of supremacy. The motivation for domination in the oppressive systems of the world serves as a warning to all nations to develop and strengthen their internal structure and necessary preparedness to bolster this structure.</p> <p>The Americans say that we had this dominance over your country, the revolution came and drove us out; return this to us so that we can dominate your country again. This is the talk of the Americans. - Their tools are also threats, intimidation, psychological warfare propaganda, discouraging the people, making the people despair, creating divisions and provoking tensions; to make the officials divided. Today, America is a threat to global peace and security; the reason is the greed of the American regime, the arrogance of the American regime, their arrogance, their lust for domination, and their being a plaything of the Zionists; the Americans have also shown their spirit of domination, greed, and deceit in this matter.</p>	
<p>SY</p>	<p>Anti-Hegemony</p>	<p>The United States is a threat to global peace and security with a spirit of domination and greed, using the tools of threat, intimidation, propaganda, psychological warfare, and demoralizing the people.</p>	<p>The young people should first be aware that according to Imam Sajjad (peace be upon him), the armed forces are the fortress of national security. If this fortress is proudly and firmly maintained in terms of equipment and morale, the nation will feel secure and calm. Without security, there will be no pleasure in the life of even the most advanced human societies. Security is the source of mental tranquility, and if the armed forces know their duty and role courageously, selflessly, and intelligently, and place themselves where their true position is, they can provide this security and meet this need.</p> <p>However, the armed forces must be strong. The world is a world of aggression; it is a world dominated by the policy of hegemony. The motivation of hegemony in the world's hegemony and oppressive systems warns all nations to create and strengthen the necessary internal structure and preparedness to strengthen this structure.</p> <p>The Americans say, "We had this dominance</p>	<p>24</p>

			<p>over your country, the revolution came and expelled us; return this to us so that we can dominate your country again." This is the Americans' statement. Their tools are threat, intimidation, psychological warfare propaganda, discouraging the people, making the people despair, creating divisions and provoking tensions to make the officials divided; today, America is a threat to world peace and security; the reason is the greed of the American regime, the arrogance of the American regime, their hegemony, and their being a plaything of the Zionists; the Americans have shown their spirit of domination, greed, and lying in this matter as well.</p>	
JG	War	War threatens the national security of the country.	<p>They are intent on dragging proxy wars to the borders of Iran. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and all the guardians of national security in various organizations are vigilant, alert. Let them know that if any mischief occurs, the reaction of the Islamic Republic will be extremely harsh.</p>	25
GH GH	power	<p>The armed forces, as the bulwark of national security, are the embodiment of the power, determination, and will of the nation.</p> <p>Power is the guarantor of the national security of the country.</p> <p>Production is the provider of national security.</p>	<p>Within the entire populace of the nation, based on the division of duties, a group of determined individuals and those with resolve and will, like the vanguards of the nation, don this sacred garment as the stronghold and fortress of national security and safety. In Islam, militarism, army-oriented activities, and being armed signify that this nation should continue to taste the flavor of security and psychological comfort, and feel that, by the leave of the Almighty, a sturdy fortress guarantees its safety. Upon witnessing the preparedness of the armed forces, the adversaries' perspective toward the country and the nation changes. Many of their covetous intentions stem from the presumption of weakness within the nation. Nations must not feel weak. You are the embodiment of the power, determination, and will of the Iranian nation. I say to the great and courageous Iranian nation, who for twenty years have powerfully kept the enemy, whom the revolution has expelled from this country, at bay and have not allowed this enemy to enter through any breach; be vigilant. Increase your vigilance. The enemy has targeted our national security. National security is the most imperative for a nation. If there is no national security, no government can function; for development, not a single stone will be laid upon another.</p>	26
FT	opportunities	The creation of opportunities is the provider of national security.	<p>Production, what does it mean? I do not simply mean the production of goods; production in a broad sense must be the slogan of the nation. Production of work, production of science, production of technology, production of wealth, production of knowledge, production of opportunity, production of dignity and status, production of goods, and</p>	27

			<p>production of capable individuals; all of these constitute production. This is the provider of national security, authority, and progress of the country; this is a jihad.</p> <p>Today, the production of science, the production of work, the production of innovation, the production of goods, the goods needed by the people, the production of capable individuals, the production of opportunity, and the production of dignity, each of these is a jihad.</p>	
GHT	strength	The morale and strength of the representatives of the parliament are the guardians of national security.	The parliament can be the guardian of national security; it can be a formidable barrier against the aggression of enemies and the greed of foreigners. The representative must be revolutionary; they must possess the spirit, dynamism, hope, strength, and revolutionary zeal in order to be able to break through the paths that may appear to be deadlocked and move forward.	28

Analysis of Findings:

Step 1: In this stage, the initial list of keywords related to the term "national security" in the thought and speech of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) was compiled through software search, and 234 cards were obtained, which are specified in proportion to their frequency in Diagram 1.

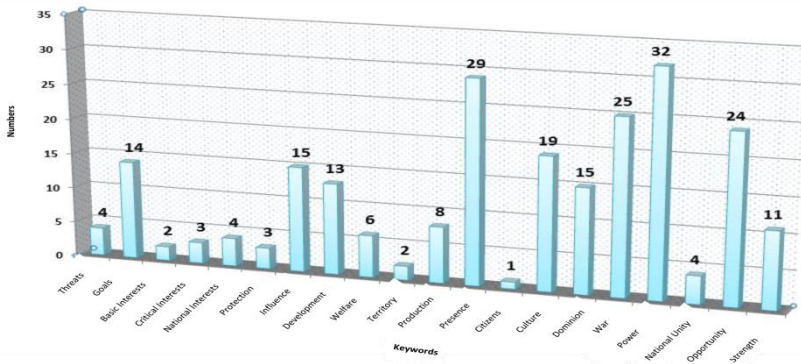


Diagram 1: Frequency of National Security Keywords Based on the Number of Cards in the Speeches of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last)

As Diagram 1 shows, the keywords that have been used as the entry point in relation to the concept of national security in the statements and remarks of the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) are 20 cases (the columns of the diagram), which the Supreme Leader (may his glory last) has generally used in explaining national security. Therefore, the cards related to the word "power" have the highest frequency with 32, and the least number of cards are related to the keyword "citizens" with 1 card, which are specified separately.

Following the examination of all 234 cards obtained, a total of 37 documents were produced, which are displayed in a detailed manner for each keyword in Diagram 2.

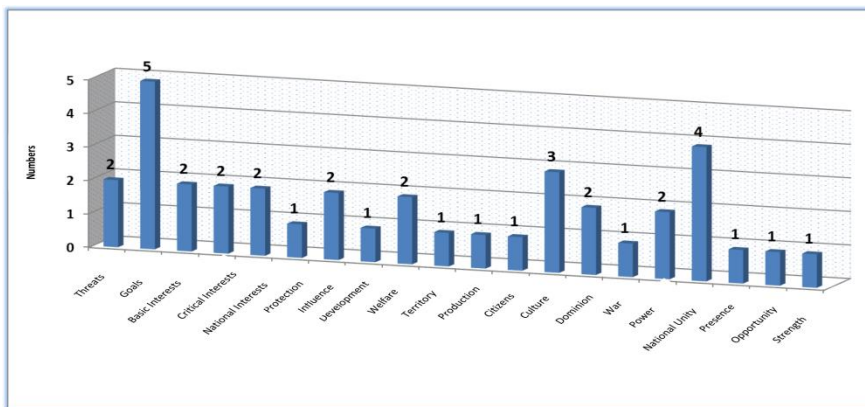


Diagram 2 - Frequency of Documents Obtained from Cards

The results of the diagram indicate that these components have a direct relationship with the frequency in the documents related to the definition of national security, and the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (may his grace be prolonged) has directly emphasized these components in his statements and views on national security, and the frequency of each one shows their importance. Components such as objectives, national unity, and culture regarding national security have the highest frequency and repetition in the statements of the Supreme Leader (may his grace be prolonged), and other components have an equal frequency in the documents.

Step 3: In this step, after analyzing the content of the documents, the implications of each document were determined, and the related categories were identified and coded. Diagram 3 shows 29 categories with their respective frequencies.

and negative. National security in the thought of the Supreme Leader (may his shadow be prolonged) can be defined as preserving and enhancing national interests, national unity, culture, values and fundamental and vital interests, national power and the security of the civic system, consolidating and expanding the foundation of beliefs, producing a strong economy, maintaining cohesion and countering the enemy's infiltration through the government, the presence of the people, powerful and anti-hegemonic armed forces, which results in the preservation of the territory and territorial integrity, the removal of the threat of war, progress, welfare, opportunity, strength, and internal security.

The primary, most important, and highest priority components of the concept of national security are, first and foremost, national interests, national unity, and subsequently, national power, vital values, culture, and after that, the absence of threat, the security of the civic system, the foundation of beliefs of national security, then the fundamental and vital interests, anti-hegemony and power, and finally, components such as maintaining cohesion, preserving and safeguarding security, a strong economy, territorial integrity, countering infiltration, internal security, progress, welfare, the armed forces, territory, war, the presence of the people, and production, which received the highest frequency, which are the answers to the secondary questions of this article. The noteworthy point is that in this regard, in addition to the aforementioned categories, two other pillars, namely the government and the nation, alongside the armed forces, play a significant and prominent role in ensuring and enhancing national security.

Recommendation

To achieve and maintain national security, one must pay attention to the aforementioned influential factors and consider them all, and it is not possible to strengthen one and disregard the other. However, depending on the circumstances, the priorities of some may become greater than others. The crucial point is that the responsible and supervisory entities of the country, each in proportion to their role and mission, must set goals, plan, and strive in this domain, in order to attain sustainable national security in all spheres and to reduce the threats resulting from neglecting these factors.

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