



Article

# Theoretical Approaches to Ensuring Social Security

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**Abstract:** In this article, theoretical approaches to assessing the state of social security and studying security problems in the context of transformational processes in society are classified and retrospectively highlighted. The significance of sociological methodology in the study of methods for determining the level of social security is also highlighted.

**Keywords:** social security, sociological research, assessment of the state of social security, national security, potential risk, social structures, empirical data

## 1. Introduction

At the present time, when transformational processes are intensifying, the world community faces the urgent task of timely identification of various factors threatening security and elimination of their negative impact. [1] Therefore, the state of social security of states is constantly monitored by leading international organizations, research institutes, and "Smart Centers." As a result of their research, security indices and rankings of countries are formed. This, in turn, directly affects the international image of states and remains one of the main criteria for the development of political, trade-economic, technological, and cultural-humanitarian ties. [2]

Therefore, social security occupies an important place in the national security system. After all, the state of vital interests of the individual, society, and the state depends precisely on the level of social security. [3] Among other areas, new trends and problems in the sphere of social security of the Republic of Uzbekistan do not escape the attention of analysts. When it comes to social security issues, it is important, first of all, to identify and assess the interests in the sphere and the threats to them.

## Literature Review

There are a number of theoretical approaches to ensuring social security and assessing the current state in this field, which analyze the opportunities and threats in the process of ensuring social security. [4] These doctrines encompass fundamental research on the social sphere, revealing its specific features, historical development, existing patterns, and proposing the main criteria for assessing the state of security. [5] Theoretical studies on the issues of social security can be found in the works of such scholars as V. La Blanche, H. Mackinder, A. Mahan, K. Haushofer, Z. Brzezinski, H. Morgenthau, U. Perry, F. Fukuyama, and S. Huntington. When systematizing theoretical approaches, the following directions can be distinguished:

- a. K. Mannheim, P. Berger, T. Luckmann: sociology of knowledge;
- b. José Ortega y Gasset: theory of the masses;
- c. Charles Wright Mills: sociological imagination;
- d. Ralf Dahrendorf: conflict theory;
- e. Peter Blau: exchange theory;
- f. Erving Goffman: dramaturgical approach;
- g. Alfred Schütz: phenomenological sociology;

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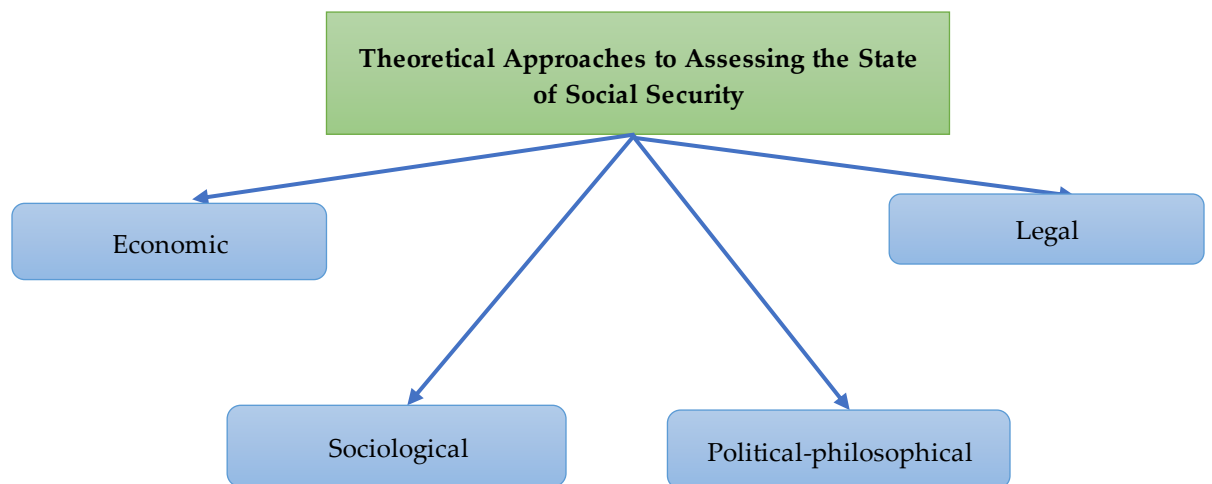
- h. Harold Garfinkel: ethnomethodology;
- i. Adrienne Rich, Nancy Chodorow: feminism;
- j. C. Lévi-Strauss, M. Foucault, J. Baudrillard: structuralism and poststructuralism;
- k. Giddens: theory structuralism;
- l. M. Castells: theory of the information society. [6]

## 2. Materials and Methods

The analysis of theoretical approaches shows that issues of social security focus on:

- a. Researching social security problems based on a systemic-personal approach;
- b. Studying the interrelationships between civil society, social capital, and social security;
- c. Investigating quantitative as well as qualitative sociological aspects of social security issues. [7]

The figure 1 illustrates theoretical approaches to assessing social security. A central green box represents the main concept, branching into four blue boxes: Economic, Legal, Sociological, and Political-philosophical approaches. Arrows indicate their interconnectedness, emphasizing financial, regulatory, social, and ideological perspectives in evaluating social security systems (Figure 1). [8]



**Figure 1.** Classification of existing theoretical approaches to ensuring social security

## 3. Results

The first theoretical approaches to social security originated in Ancient Greece, where significant scientific contributions were made by encyclopedists such as Plato and Aristotle. [9] In particular, the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, who lived and worked in the 5th century BC, emphasized in his works that the state should pay special attention to the army, which ensures its social security. [10] In his view, no problem should distract warriors from such an important task as ensuring security.

Plato viewed security simultaneously as both "assistance" and "salvation" for the state and society. That is, in wartime, security acts as "salvation," protecting the state from internal and external threats, while in peacetime, it serves as the primary tool of "assistance," ensuring stability. Therefore, Plato asserted that security issues should be at the center of the state's attention.

Overall, Plato's theoretical views are characterized by a statist approach. He considered the security of the state and society as inseparable concepts. At the same time,

mechanisms for ensuring social security play an important role in Plato's concept of security. These mechanisms imply sufficient material and spiritual support for the population. By material goods, he meant providing citizens with essential means for survival, such as food, water, and medicine, while spiritual goods referred to education, art, and culture [11]. Plato argued that the source of social disasters lies in the imperfection of the state structure.

Notably, the "security – freedom" dilemma, which remains relevant today, closely aligns with the "stability – development" category in Plato's scholarly views. In this context, he supported the priority of state stability (security). Furthermore, Plato is considered the author of the earliest views that demonstrated the objective relationship between state and individual security.

Another ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, viewed security issues in a political context, asserting that "man is by nature a political being." From this perspective, he advanced fundamental ideas about the role of the state in ensuring social security and creating a social system. In his opinion, in order to achieve the welfare of the people and social justice – which are the main goals of the social system – it is necessary to build a state with a strong legal system and appropriate forms of governance.

Another doctrine related to this area is the theory of the welfare state. This theory emerged in the mid-20th century and holds that the state should play an active role in ensuring social welfare and protecting citizens' interests. According to this theory, the state is obliged to use the powerful political and economic tools at its disposal to ensure the well-being of society.

One of the prominent representatives of this doctrine is the Swedish economist B. Larsen, who made a significant contribution to the development of the "Swedish model" of the welfare state. Larsen's concept served as an impetus for implementing social-democratic reforms in Sweden. His views were based on the principles of social justice and equality in the state.

According to this approach, the state must achieve the following goals to ensure social well-being:

- a. guaranteed social protection: the state is obliged to provide its citizens with pensions, unemployment benefits, healthcare services, free and quality education, as well as social support.
- b. combating social stratification and poverty: the state must create equal rights for all segments of the population, ensure access to social services, and take measures to reduce social stratification and combat poverty.
- c. support for economic development: the government should stimulate economic growth through investments in social infrastructure, education, and healthcare, as well as actively participate in creating new jobs.
- d. establishment of legality and social justice: every citizen has the right to live in a just state where social rights are guaranteed, and there is free access to social services.

In general, according to this theory, a prosperous life for individuals and society, as well as ensuring social security, is considered the responsibility of the state.

Theories advocating the use of economic instruments to ensure social security include, in particular, the theory of social insurance. According to this theory, social security can only be ensured through financial protection of individuals and groups in the event of certain "risks" and hazardous situations, such as illness, disability, unemployment, or old age, as well as other unexpected circumstances. Although this theory originated in the 19th century in Germany, one of its most prominent representatives is the British economist William Beveridge. His concept, "Social Insurance and Allied Services," published in 1942, became the theoretical basis for social reforms in the United Kingdom after World War II [12]. Beveridge advocated for the creation of a comprehensive social insurance system that would protect society from the so-called "five

giants" – poverty, disease, crime, incapacity, and unemployment.

According to the theory of social insurance, social security can be ensured through the financial insurance of every member of society against various social threats. The mechanism of social insurance is based on the following key principles:

- a. generalization of potential risks: all risks and probabilities of unforeseen adverse situations that a person may encounter throughout life must be identified and systematized to ensure financial protection.
- b. universality: every individual, regardless of their economic situation and social status, must have access to social guarantees.
- c. obligatoriness: to ensure the financial stability of social insurance programs, all individuals are required to make mandatory contributions based on their income or other criteria.
- d. social solidarity: social insurance is based on the principles of solidarity and mutual assistance, whereby people consciously contribute to the social insurance system in order to receive support in the future in the event of unforeseen risks.

Thus, the theory of social insurance represents an approach that scientifically substantiates the possibility of ensuring public welfare, combating poverty, and strengthening the socio-economic stability of the state through the implementation of social insurance programs.[13]

The third group of theories related to social security considers social threats and other social indicators as the main criteria for assessing the state of social security.

Notably, the theory of social risk, proposed by the German sociologist Ulrich Beck in the late 20th century, stands out in this direction. [14] This theory examines the potential consequences of new threats and adverse situations arising from scientific and technological advancements, as well as economic and social upheavals in modern society. According to this doctrine, traditional mechanisms of social protection and risk management are losing their effectiveness in the face of modern threats, as social risks and dangers are becoming more complex, large-scale, and acquiring a global character.

The theory of social risk has attracted the attention of many sociologists, political scientists, economists, and other researchers. They recognized that this theoretical approach can be used to analyze the specifics of modern social life, including environmental issues, social inequality, political instability, as well as to assess social factors influencing social security.

In the theory of social risk, during the process of analyzing risks and threats faced by individuals and groups, such negative factors as poverty, social inequality, discrimination, and limited access to social services are considered sources of social threats. Their impact on people's lives and their level of well-being is also studied.

This approach proposes potential risks and threats as a criterion for assessing social factors affecting social security. Proponents of this theory emphasize that traditional forms of social protection are insufficient to eliminate new risks and threats; therefore, it is necessary to constantly assess social dangers and improve measures to counteract them.

Another German sociologist, Niklas Luhmann, also addressed the concept of social risk in his systems theory [15]. Luhmann emphasized that modern society possesses an extremely complex structure, and he examined the possibilities of communication and the social system in countering threats. Representatives of the theory of social risk, such as Sheldon Krinsky and Dominic Golding, attempted to assess potential risks and negative impacts that may arise as a result of social interactions between security subjects. This theory contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of social risks and incorporates such categories as social capital, social solidarity, resilience to social risks, and social inequality.

#### 4. Discussion

The theoretical approaches to ensuring social security discussed in this study highlight the multifaceted nature of the field, emphasizing the interplay between economic, legal, sociological, and political-philosophical perspectives. Each approach provides a unique lens through which social security can be analyzed, reinforcing the complexity of developing comprehensive policies to address contemporary challenges.

The historical foundations of social security theory, dating back to Plato and Aristotle, underscore the long-standing significance of maintaining stability and welfare within society. Plato's emphasis on state-centric security and Aristotle's advocacy for a structured political system demonstrate early recognition of social security as a fundamental aspect of governance. These classical ideas have evolved over time, influencing modern theoretical frameworks such as the welfare state and social risk theories.

One of the critical insights from this study is the ongoing relevance of the "security–freedom" dilemma, originally explored in ancient philosophy but still prevalent in contemporary debates. The balance between state intervention and individual freedoms remains a central issue in modern social security policies. The welfare state model, as exemplified by the Swedish system, highlights the role of government in ensuring social protection, while social insurance theories, such as those proposed by Beveridge, emphasize structured financial mechanisms to mitigate risks.

Furthermore, the theory of social risk introduced by Ulrich Beck provides a crucial perspective on emerging threats in the modern era, particularly those associated with globalization, technological advancements, and economic instability. This theory suggests that traditional social security mechanisms may be insufficient in addressing new and complex risks, necessitating a more adaptive and resilient framework.

In conclusion, the discussion of theoretical approaches to social security illustrates the necessity of an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach. While historical perspectives provide a foundation, contemporary theories highlight the need for continuous evolution in policy-making to address emerging social risks. The findings of this study contribute to the ongoing discourse on social security, offering insights that can guide the development of more effective and sustainable social protection systems in the future.

#### 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, theoretical approaches to ensuring social security are the result of many years of scientific research on the state of social security and serve as an important source for implementing a comprehensive approach to solving the problems of modern developed society. Each of them helps to determine priority areas in the study of the state of social security and reveals the complex features of social life, the regularities of the emergence and development of social risks (threats). When developing new methods for sociological assessment of the state of social security, it is impossible to ignore the fundamental interests recognized in these doctrines.

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