

# The Rising Role of Individual and Society in the Development of International Security and the Advancement of Technology; a Southern Case Study

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*The emergence of Industrial Revolution 4.0 brings uncertainty in the development of International Relations. In the context of international security, the south region is the epicentre of the development, especially with the concern of continual security issues that can be started or settled through the advancement of technology. However, the concept of International Security itself does not facilitate the change that currently occurs in the international world through industry 4.0. The role of the state is recognized as an upper hand over the role of individuals and society in international relations. Industrial Revolution 4.0 stresses the significance of autonomous and interconnectivity through advanced technology. On top of that, technology has been spread to the people globally. The existence of the internet helps people to expand their capacity as an individual. The aforementioned concept extends the role of individuals and society in international relations. This influence brings uncertainty to the traditional approach of International security thus giving way for other viable approaches. This research utilizes the postmodernism approach as outlined by Jim George with a focus on the concept of Critical Social Movement by R.B.J. Walker to provide new insights for International Relations and security studies. This will be complimented several findings of security issues in the global south that illustrate the empowerment of individuals and society through the advancement of technology and their role in international security. With its emphasis on the role of individuals and society and its statement on the unpredictability of International Relations, this approach is, therefore, essential in comprehending the discourse of International Security in the era of industry 4.0.*

**Keywords:** *Individual, Society, International Security, Postmodernism, Industry 4.0*

## **Introduction**

The fast pace of technological innovation introduced the study of International Relation to complex global issues which are known collectively as Industrial Revolution 4.0. The concept itself was first introduced in the Hannover Fair 2014 by Professor Wolfgang

Wahlster (Wahlster, 2014). In his opening remarks, Professor Wolfgang mentioned the Industry 4.0 term as the manner of how companies are able to highly perform in regional competition within the global society. Since then, academicians, policy makers, and world leaders try to offer their concept that they believe would fit to define Industrial Revolution

## 4.0.

Industrial Revolution is very likely to boost the productivity and pace of the factory. In the foresight, it may be a great notion that would improve the competitiveness of the business sector. However, it does not merely bring welfare for society. The Industrial Revolution brings fundamental changes in politic, economic, and social structures. The changes it-self led to another global concern.

The improvement of productivity would be a great notion for those who could cope up with the revolution. However, from a social perspective, it could widen the economic inequality in society (Schwab, *Revolusi Industri Keempat*, 2019). These could happen due to the existence of some parts in society with limited access to technology thus hampering them in coping with Industry Revolution 4.0. This then leads to a wide gap between those who can keep up and those who do not, thus creating non-traditional security issues such as inequality and segregation in society. In this regard, the writer would explain how the Industrial Revolution could affect the rise of non-traditional security.

The contest of Industrial Revolution 4.0 conception is quite vague as well as it brings uncertainty to the future realm of International Relations. This is particularly because the traditional perception on the actors of International Relations could be undermined. The existence of Industrial Revolution would massively shift the structures of the politic, economic, and social through enormous scale of innovation. (Schwab, *Revolusi Industri Keempat*, 2019). The massive changes on the essential's structures would bring uncertainty

on the realm of International Relations, in which the existing traditional security concept is needed to be contested. This is based on Amitav's statement as he emphasizes that Security concept needed to be redefined, which written below at the discourse regarding security concept. The massive impact by Industrial Revolution 4.0 raffles the states to cope up with the uncertainty ahead.

The developing countries need to cope with the national challenges on politics, economic and development. We emphasize the assumption from Amitav Acharya as he stresses on the redefinition of security concept within third world country. In this regard, the authors would scrutinize the developing countries into the sphere of Global South Region, which also include the states that engaged in the South-South Cooperation. The South-South Cooperation definition has not been confirmed yet, however, The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) defined the South-South Cooperation as the mean for the developing countries –that mostly located at the southern in globe context, which also has equally define the Global South Region states – to collaborate between developing countries purposively to find solutions to solve common development challenges. (Overview of South-South Cooperation, 2015)

The South-South Cooperation could exercise the potential of developing countries in many aspects, such as economics and technology. Countries such as MERCOSUR members and those in the Latin America region have great demography (Valladares, 2018), which would be a potential for producers to enter the market. The south-south cooperation

members create the opportunity for them to proceed with their development. Furthermore, South-South Cooperation states also addressed the importance of collaboration of states for technological advancement towards solving developing issues.

The looming concept of Industrial Revolution could impact the involving states in south-south cooperation to re-design their form of cooperation. In order to cope up with the emerging of Industry 4.0, the developing countries need to advance their technology while maintaining the pace of development. Hence, the south-south cooperation would be a right mean for developing countries to collaborate.

The Industrial Revolution 4.0 highly affects how state attempt to solve their development issues. The developing countries have the potential to create the suitable environment for Industry 4.0, especially with the engagement through South-South cooperation. Nevertheless, the looming concept of Industrial Revolution 4.0 would affect the social structures of developing countries.

It is inevitable that the establishment of Industry 4.0 could worsen the social security issue. Industry 4.0 may increase the rate of productivity, yet for the part of the society that could not keep up with the modernization, they will be left by a wide gap. Social issues such as Inequality, health, and society segregation in the developing countries could worsen. Developing countries still have huge concern over social issues. (Gates, Hegre, & Strand, 2015).

The potential of internal armed conflict which caused by the emerging of Industry 4.0 may become a new concern within

International Relations realm. Seeing from the hindsight, the traditional security concept has shaped the realm of International Relations. However, the contemporary issues now challenge the relevance of traditional security concept in addressing these issues. Industry 4.0, which centered on the people, would also affect the social conflict –which included in the human security. The writers conveyed that Postmodernism approach would more suitable in addressing the challenges that would be occurred ahead. We perceive that post-modernism is fit as foundation to challenge traditional concept of International Relations. (George, 1994).

All in all, this paper aims to examine the relevance of post-modernism in addressing human security issues caused by the emerging of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 concept within the South-South countries. It is important to seek the potential of South-South Cooperation to solve the uncertainty ahead. This paper will be conducted by a research question, “How does the advancement of technology empower the significance of the role of individuals and society in contemporary security issues within the global south region?”

## **Theoretical Framework**

### Postmodernism

As a critical approach, postmodernism challenges the existing tradition and discipline of International Relations. As Jim George’s Discourses of Global Politics (George, 1994) put it, through postmodernism,

“...emerged an alternative way of understanding and articulating reality, one focused on intertextuality and sociolinguistic

practice rather than monological literary convention and positivist objectivism and foundationalism ... it reformulates basic questions of modernist understanding in emphasizing not the sovereign subject (e.g., author/independent state) or the object (e.g., independent world/text) but instead the historical, cultural, and linguistic practices in which subjects and objects (and theory and practice, facts and values) are constructed.”

Amongst its criticism are the critics towards the disregard of traditional approaches, predominantly realism and neo-realism, in depicting and representing “heroic figures” as its textual foundation. As George cited Daniel Garst (Garst, 1989) on his critic on neo-realisms appropriation Thucydides and noting on how Machiavelli’s *The Prince* as the main reading of realism excludes the issue of virtue and the problem of violence in the pursuit of a life of virtue. Specifically in the case of Machiavelli, George argued that the exclusion of virtue was due to the fact that if it is to be accounted for, Machiavelli instead of being the Renaissance heir of Thucydides as the realists have accounted for, but a thinker in a specific time and space dealing with his world (George, 1994). It criticizes the traditional concept of sovereignty by interpreting the post-Kantian sovereign man narrative as a representation of,

“. . .when a privileged, singular, interpretive orientation became dominant within the major philosophical traditions invoking a unified, rational meaning to history, politics, and social reality. . . in which the myriad complexities of human experience were reduced to a singular, linear narrative centered on a sovereign figure (e.g., the “individual,”

the “class,” the “Tradition,” the “state”). . . the Kantian moment represents. . . devastating closure, the closure of critical, historical, and social reflection upon critiques, histories, and societies.”

As such, George argues that the postmodernism idea is a critique towards the dogma of traditional approaches. The way traditional approaches appropriate “heroic figures” such as Marx and Thucydides and how the “Kantian Moment” allows the closure of these misappropriation from critical, historical, and social reflection. As such, George believes that opposition to this dogma will lead to critical social movements that aims to change this dogmatic structure.

#### Critical Social Movements

George laments on “how complex questions of politics, ethics, and social life have been reduced to the illusory certainties of rational-actor models, game-theory, and systems analysis” (George, 1994). This leads critical social movements that works to fully understand, resist, and change oppressive power structures in their specific sites and under diversity of cultural circumstances (George, 1994). Here, George cites R. B. J. Walker’s *One World, Many Worlds* (Walker, 1988) that covers the major theme of postmodernism such as sovereignty, textuality, and anarchy from the vantage point of the marginalized, the silenced, and those whose lives, cultures, and histories have been read out of the power politics narrative.

This movements or “politics of resistance” represents the aspirations and experiences of different people which cannot and should not be constrained by projection

of the “meaning of humanity” narrative by the traditional discourse of International Relations. It defies grand-theorized strategies of revolutionary thought and behavior in favor of innovative, creative resistance carried out in specific sites of struggle, in a sense activating in their daily lives (George, 1994). Critical social movements must continue its struggle towards injustices and dangers in the one world. It must appreciate that,

“ . . . issues of war, peace, and security cannot any longer be reduced to rational-scientific certitude is regarded as part of a more general appeal for a non-Traditional agenda, including newly formulated developmental, ecological, gender, and cultural themes and new levels of democratic participation in decision making processes.”

The postmodern resistance, while sometimes violently engaged with modernity, it is not a form of conventional radicalism imbued by the authority of one or another sovereign presence. It instead opposes large scale brutality and inequity in human society, active in everyday communities, neighborhoods, and interpersonal levels, that confronts processes that systematically exclude people from making decisions about who they are and what they can be (George, 1994). Finally, Walker noted in *One World, Many Worlds* (Walker, 1988) that critical social movements and the postmodernist perspective has no monopoly of wisdom. George added by citing Peter Dews’ *the Logic of Disintegration* (Dews, 1987), that the politics of resistance must not be detached from the modern world. It instead must engage with the language, logic, and power relations of modernity.

It can be concluded that postmodernism laments and criticize the dogma enforced by the traditional approaches of International Relations that disregard the marginalized and the silenced in the society. It enforces the idea of critical social movements engrained in the everyday lives of the people in interpersonal level. However, it is not a conventional radicalism enforced by a single sovereign being. It does not condone the monopoly of wisdom and it must not be detached from the root of modernity.

## **Methodology**

### The Qualitative Approach

This research will be done using the qualitative approach, one where the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based on primarily constructivist perspectives, or in the case of this research, advocacy/participatory perspectives (political, issue oriented). The qualitative strategy used will be case studies, in which the researchers explore in depth a program or events, which are bounded by time and activity. Researchers then collect detailed information using various data collecting procedures over a period of time. (Creswell, 2003)

### Case Study Data Collecting

Case study data collection involves a few types of data. Creswell gives four kinds of data in a case study, interviews, observation, documents, and audiovisual materials (Creswell, 2013). This paper heavily utilizes documents as source of data. These sources will all be summarized and utilized to aid the authors to then formulate the answer towards the research question.

## Security Development in Global South

The use of postmodernism as theoretical framework of this study is imperative to understand the shifting of security development in Global South. The theory itself existed to understand the nature of sovereign entities, which dominates the cause of security challenges in global south.

Individual entities in security discourse firstly thought by P.G Bock and Morton Berkowitz in ‘The Emerging Field of National Security’ (Bock & Berkowitz, 1966) that elaborates the complexity of national security affairs in post-World War II due to multitude actors that began to involving themselves in national security affairs, from governmental institutions, academics, to citizen committees and study group. However, Bock and Berkowitz noted that until then, none have managed to meaningfully define the concept of national security.

Barry Buzan arguably contributed in criticizing the unbalanced literature of national security defined the role of people and society towards the development of security. In his book “People, States, and Fear” (Buzan, 1983), he further noted the heavily emphasized military literatures diminish the exploration of political interests of certain groups or actors. The underdeveloped conceptual aspect of national security led to skewed diagnosis “as applied through state policy, makes the problem worse.” This empirical emphasis led to many disputes in regard to the meaning of national security.

David Baldwin on “The Concept of Security” (Baldwin, 1997) also shares his participation on re-defining security term as he cited Arnold Wolfers “National Security” as

an Ambiguous Symbol, which was published 40 years earlier. Wolfers stated that without specification, national security leaves room for more confusion, and Baldwin elaborates that what Wolfers means by specification is not only the concept of national security as a policy objective, but also the means for its pursuit. Baldwin goes as far to state that while it would be an exaggeration that Wolfers’ article in 1952 is the sole conceptual analysis of security, it is not much of one. Security has been an important analytical concept for most security studies scholars which are more interested in military statecraft. It is also allegedly a contested concept. This allegation represents the challenge in conceptual analysis. Baldwin notes that instead of essentially contested, security is more appropriately described as a confused concept.

In 1994, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published the first Human Development Report (United Nations Development Programme, 1994). The report goes at length on the concept of human security, criticizing the dominant perception that the concept of security has been shaped by potential conflicts between states, threats to a country’s borders, and many nations who chose to sought arms to protect their security. The report added:

“For most people today, a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from the dread of a cataclysmic world event. Job security, income security, health security, environmental security, security from crime-these are the emerging concerns of human security all over the world.”

The report elaborates further insights on

redefining the concept of security, that human security is relevant to the people everywhere, whether rich or poor, with different threats, and these security issues may involve different states. It is imperative to address these security issues early on and that long-term development support is essential rather than short-term humanitarian assistance.

The Global South was brought along into the discourse of security development on Amitav Acharya's "The Periphery as the Core: The Third World and Security Studies" (Acharya, *The Periphery as the Core: The Third World and Security Studies*, 1997). He put the importance of redefinition of security as it was deeply rooted by Cold War issues, which dismissed the role of third world to be incorporated into the discourse. The emergence of the third world challenged the dominant understanding of security in three aspects; The focus on interstate level as the origin of security threats, exclusion of nonmilitary phenomena from the security studies agenda, and the belief that global balance of power is the legitimate and effective instrument of international order. The fact is that a lot of security threats in the third world are intrastate in nature and also came in form of nonmilitary phenomena. Amitav Acharya also notes that the bipolarity caused by the Cold War instead of dampening conflicts in the third world contributed to its escalation.

Amitav Acharya shared these critics alongside with the notion of the term "Third World" whose retained the development of security studies. He elaborates three principal reasons on the matter; (1) the acknowledgement on North-South divisions had become a

collective of challenges in understanding the international order as it stayed as unresolved issue, (2) Economic and political differentiation in Third World countries covered up by the common features that shared in the security issues, which disclose the heterogeneity in the region, and lastly (3) The misuse of the term "Third World" as the lowest strata of the international system that create the disadvantaged position in understanding the rapidly changing global political economy in the region (Acharya, *The Periphery as the Core: The Third World and Security Studies*, 1997).

The term "Global South" popularized followed by the addition of third world into the development of security studies. In *Oxford Handbook of International Security*, Rita Abrahamsen and Adam Sandor cited that despite the embodied geographical point, the global South are more akin to a "symbolic designation" in regards of places in the world that have a mutual political situation in the advancing decolonization in the mid-twentieth century (Grovoqui, 2011). Global South presents new patterns to global security that historically rooted consequences from the rise of multipolar power structure, a new level of ideological conflicts, the dominance of a security community in the midst of capitalist power, and the rise of international society as significant interaction among states overthrown the western norms and values to become a powerful element in the security environment (Buzan, *New Patterns of Global Security in the Twenty-First Century*, 1991). These patterns encourage increasing knowledges and policies in approaching security issues.

Rita and Adam centred on the attacks

of September 11, 2001 as the pivotal point of security development in the global South as it demonstrated the dispute that happened in another parts of the world could shed away the lives of peoples on the other side of the globe, lifting the existence of states that deemed failed and fragile to become the most significant entity of international security problems (Abrahamsen & Sandor, 2018). The aforementioned event also supported by another study who analyse global security environment after 9/11 (Wasi, 2003) and found that there are internal and external dynamics that affected in the region of South Asia and impacting to the ongoing insurgencies, struggle of autonomy, internal power struggles and issues within inter-state relations. Despite the drawbacks to the states within South Asia, the catastrophe given the light to the region in international security that benefited greatly to the development of the states within. Wasi (2003) states that changes in perception towards states existed security concerns and give prospect of cooperative security with the use of technology. He continued with changes in operation which outline the responsibility in achieving a secured state, should be held by the cooperation with governments within the region. This analyses led global South to become a more important region in the development of security approach.

Human Development Report (1994, p. 3) indicates the early human security cases were identified mostly in the southern region with ongoing crisis and severe internal tensions. Human security has led to emerging trends of non-traditional security issues that directly threatened individual and society. In “An Introduction to Non-Traditional Security

Studies” (Caballero-Anthony, 2016), the development of non-traditional security issues was driven by the desire to understanding contemporary security challenges that existed in global South. From 6668th Meeting of United Nations Security Council (UNSC), non-traditional issues are presented by several conflicts in developing States (Security Council, 2011) from Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), pandemics, refugees, terrorism, cybercrime, and climate change. Those issues are deemed to give greater impacts for human, state, regional, and International security. Retrieved from Acharya’s critic in defined concept of Third-World; imbalance in societal, ethnicity, and territorial have raised global South as a region with a collective identity of peoples who were consistently challenged with multiple political scales that provoke critics to the existing security approach.

These literatures shows that the concept of security develops overtime. From it was gradually recognize multitude actors that could played a role in national security affairs, to put individual entity as significant part of contemporary security challenges. All of these developments specifically rotated around Southern region, which indicate the area as focal point of the ever-changing security issues. The idea of using technology as part of security approach is also considered throughout the development alongside with the need of cooperative measures across region.

### **Analysis**

The critical notion from postmodernism towards the existing discourse of security studies lived to understand the complex

nature of security issues in global South. As postmodernism embraces the individuality and society, the discipline can elaborate those fundamental variables in the approach of non-traditional security issues in global South. Through this discipline, the approach to overcome security issues in global South can be expanded by accepting aspects that were not considered before in security discourse. By approaching identity and the marginalized society, postmodernism can represent various interpretations that would understand security issues in this heterogeneity region despite the shared common features.

The development of international security centred in global South shows the incapability of traditional security method that used before post-cold war. First, non-traditional actors in security affairs began to be considered, thus slowly disassociate with the state-centric approach. Amidst the rise of new security challenges in global south shows that it gradually stresses in individual entity that took similar pattern outlined through postmodernism. Lack of continuity on conceptual exploration in security approaches with reflection towards emerging security issues in global south lead to imperatively to rely on more on non-traditional approaches to explore security related issues.

As non-traditional approaches with non-traditional actors become more prominent in challenging security issues, this pattern enforce the empowerment of critical social movement. It first to be noted in the awareness of individuals as significant actor that led to emerging human security cases. Then, governmental to international organizations began to work hand in hand with civil organization such as Non-

Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). In regard to South-South Cooperation (SSC) (Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation , n.d.), they allied with civil societies in order to enhance society's capacity building through The Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC).

The cooperation itself has touch into the heart of individuality with several individual initiatives that have grown to approach security challenges. These movements utilize technology that are developed throughout IR 4.0 to overcome their limitation in solving security issues that threaten individual and society. The movement grown specifically in southern region, which the highlight of several human security cases. This analysis is served with several case studies that shown the practicality of critical social movement that strengthen by the use of technology;

## **Case Studies**

### Rohingya Project

Facing denied citizenship from Myanmar, Rohingya refugees has been stateless for over the decades and are stranded without access to basic human services and threatened with the possibility of ethnic cleansing. By 2017, an estimated 700,000 people seek refuge to other countries after alleged massacres in villages and killed around 400 to 1,000 people (Ratcliffe, 2017). Rohingya Project existed in the light of impact of stateless condition that Rohingya diaspora faced before; severe poverty due to living as an invisible people on the margins. The movement is focusing on financial inclusion through the creation of secured

international Blockchain-leveraged ecosystem by giving Rohingya refugees an access to a range financial applications and other services to encourage entrepreneurial potential of the Rohingya community and provide a chance to counter their exclusion from the mainstream (About Rohingya Project, n.d.). The movement has raised benefit for 1,000 member of diaspora with digital identity cards that allow access to services such as banking and education (Asia, 2017). The effort have support the problems of statelessness of the biggest stateless minority worldwide and secure the identity of Rohingya people.

#### PeaceTech Lab

PeaceTech Lab (We are PeaceTech Lab, n.d.) is a global initiative that has helped a lot of people in conflict area with conflict prevention by harnessing combined power of data, tech, and innovative ideas. They have supported many civilians in at-risk communities by empowering them with training and tech tools to help their situation through their programmes. They empower peacebuilders in conflict zones through PeaceTech Exchange with sustainable projects to enhance local peacebuilding work. In Pakistan, PeaceTech Exchange has revamp writing industry by engaging Pakistani youth in peacebuilding conversations by conducting an online theme based story writing competition with the theme of radicalization. The project received enormous praise as it improves the awareness of peacebuilding in society. Another notable programmes from PeaceTech Lab is PeaceTech Accelerator that scaled start-ups to produce innovative technologies that manage, mitigate, predict, or prevent conflict and

promote sustainable peace. One of the start-ups is Junub Games (Junub Games, n.d.) who used gaming to build bridges among communities and improve peaceful condition in South Sudan. PeaceTech Labs also working with Mercy Corps to implement Kenya Election Violence Prevention and Response Program (KEVP) to mitigate the risk of election-related violence in the lead up of 2017 Kenya elections. Their effort has registered over 200,000 subscribers in four of the most violent counties in Kenya through peace messaging via Short Message Service (SMS) for early warning messages in at-risk for violence areas and monitored hate language in social media by assisted verified response hubs.

#### Operation Red Alert

India has placed in Tier 2 countries in 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report (America, 2019), leaving the country to not fully meet Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standard yet making significant efforts to comply. According to report from Operation Red Alert Research Report (2015), there are 20 million commercial sex workers in India with 80% of them are victims of sex trafficking by 2013. Operation Red Alert (Our Work, n.d.) aims to end sex trafficking in India by 2025 and has been focusing in prevention to support the national response to trafficking. Some significant efforts by this movement is media campaign expose that utilize live action VR documentary on sex trafficking and create a dedicated helpline to track trafficking case by simple call system. By 2017 (Evidence of Prevention), Operation Red alert has raised 16,759 helpline case and found 80 new human

sex trafficking cases while also gained around 350,000 social views for awareness.

## Conclusion

The hyper-connected region of the global south reminds us that the international security matter needs to be addressed in constructive manner. In the regards of industry 4.0 establishment, the global south region shall no merely be looked as potential market. Yet also as the region that could build the mutual trust between communities through the innovation. As the non-traditional security concept has become relevant, the opportunity of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 as mean towards peace in the region needs to be addressed. Thus, this paper suggests that the role of individual and society in global south region needs to be further addressed, especially within IR 4.0.

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