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## NON-MILITARY SECURITY THREATS

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**Abstract:** *Since its existence, man, his communities and the environment have been threatened by various threats, which modern security studies basically divide into military and non-military. For a long time, and rightly so, war was considered the greatest threat to security, especially if you take into account the two world wars and the current war in Ukraine. However, non-military threats to security are multiplying more and more and in modern conditions they are increasingly endangering humanity and the planet Earth.*

*This paper mainly deals with non-military security threats. The main goal of the work is to point out the consequences of non-military threats to security in modern conditions. This is primarily due to the fact that non-military threats to security with drastic consequences are becoming more frequent, and the response of the international community is not adequate. Hence, the basic hypothesis from which the research started is as follows: The international community does not have a unique approach to the prevention of non-military threats to security, which increases the negative consequences they entail.*

*In reaching the goal and confirming the hypothesis, the primary methods used were: content analysis and case studies.*

*The work was created against the background of the first author's graduation thesis and the co-author's many years of dealing with security issues. The diploma thesis of the first author was successfully defended at the Faculty of Business Studies and Law in 2023.*

**Keywords:** *Security, Non-military security threats*

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## INTRODUCTION

Security is a term that is extremely widely used in everyday (colloquial) and scientific speech (language). Hence, the fact is that there is no single definition of that term. The shortest definition of the concept of security was given by Professor Barry Buzan, who says that it is: “the absence of threats to the reference object” (Buzan, 1983). At the same time, the reference object is man, his communities, which primarily include the state, the international order and the environment.

For a long time, war was considered the only threat to security. This has its own justification if we take into account the consequences of war, which is evident in two world wars, but also today in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. However, even during the Cold War, the *Copenhagen School of Security* extended security threats from a purely military aspect to other sectors, primarily political, economic, social and environmental (Buzan, Wawer, Wilde, 1998).

Among analysts of contemporary international relations, there is a consensus that the international community does not adequately treat non-military threats to security, which, therefore, complicates and complicates the consequences they bring. For this reason, the main goal of this work is to present a set of the most serious non-military threats to security and their consequences in modern conditions.

### 1. THREAT TO SECURITY

Threats to man, his communities and the environment are foretold by various phenomena. Thus, viewed in a general sense, jeopardizing (security) includes: “all those processes, phenomena and events that have a destructive effect on the value of the reference object of security, impair its security and cause harmful consequences of a different nature” (Forca, 2021:68).

Phenomena that threaten the safety reference object, or just phenomena that threaten security, are named differently in theory and practice. The concepts of sources, forms and carriers of endangerment appear in the theory (Stajić, 2013), to which some authors add types, which include several forms (Mijalković, 2018). Also in the theory, there is an attitude that security threats should simply be named as factors of security, not sources, forms and carriers, nor challenges, risks and threats (Ilić, 2012:52-61).

In practice, the concepts of challenges, risks, and threats are used for security threats. By practice, we mean official documents of states and the United Nations. In view of the above, a large number of theoretical works use the concepts of challenges, risks and threats (security).

#### 1.1. Typology of security challenges, risks and threats

The approach to challenges, risks and threats in the official documents of the states is at least twofold. One of them, including the documents of our country, perceive challenges,

risks and threats as a syntagm, that is, as one complex concept. Others, on the other hand, rightly make a distinction between these concepts and consider them to be concepts of different generality and character (Forca, 2021). In our work, we will not prove “who is right”, but we will deal with the classification of challenges, risks and, more importantly, threats as seen by various countries. At the same time, the identification of challenges, risks and threats, most often, appears in a document named as a (national) security strategy.

In the analysis of approaches to challenges, risks and threats, we will start from one attempt by the General Secretary of the UN, from the beginning of this century. Namely, in 2002, the General Secretary of the UN with a group of high-ranking diplomats conducted a panel survey and tried to establish a unique list of challenges, risks and security threats for the modern world. That list was published in a document entitled *A Safer World*, and included the following challenges, risks and threats: 1) economic and social threats (including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental destruction), 2) intra-state conflicts, (including civil war, genocide and other mass crimes), 3) interstate conflicts, 4) nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons, 5) terrorism and 6) international organized crime (Williams, 2012:50). It is not difficult to assume that the mentioned list did not receive agreement between developed and underdeveloped countries and remained only as an attempt.

If the UN Secretary General’s attempt failed, numerous countries explicitly identify challenges, risks and security threats in their (national) security strategies. By the way, the document called national security strategy first appeared in 1947 in the USA, and today it is adopted by almost all countries of the world (Forca, 2022).

In modern conditions, and especially in the latest strategic documents, the identification of challenges, risks and threats has several approaches: 1) direct naming of the biggest threat, which comes from another country (see: (1) National Security Strategy of USA, 2022; (2) The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, 2020 and (3) Strategy of national security of the Russian Federation, 2021); 2) comprehensive listing of a number of challenges, risks and threats (see: (1) National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, 2019; (2) National Security Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, 2017 and (3) National Security Strategy of Montenegro, 2018) and 3) listing of challenges, risks and threats, but also ways of countering them (see: Resolution on the National Security Strategy of Slovenia, 2019). As an illustration, Table 1 shows the identification of challenges, risks and threats in some countries of the environment.

Table 1. Challenges, risks and threats in the strategies of neighboring countries

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY of REPUBLIC of CROATIA, 2017	RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF SLOVENIA, 2019	NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY of MONTE NEGRO, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Armed aggression (unlikely)</li> <li>- Unresolved issues demarcation s certain neighbors to the states;</li> <li>- Political and intelligence action towards by Croatia countries that are conflicted with NATO and EU;</li> <li>- Hybrid action;</li> <li>- Terrorism (a little probable, but large consequences);</li> <li>- Extremism of individuals and groups within Croatia;</li> <li>- Corruption;</li> <li>- Organized crime;</li> <li>- Cyber threats;</li> <li>- Unfavorable global economic trends,</li> <li>- Susceptibility to floods and natural disasters and increase poverty;</li> <li>- Unfavorable demographics structure;</li> <li>- Energy dependence;</li> <li>- Climate changes;</li> <li>- Damage to the environment;</li> <li>- Residual explosive devices</li> <li>- Natural and human action caused by the accident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid threats,</li> <li>• Information-cyber threats,</li> <li>• Intelligence activity foreign actors,</li> <li>• Military threats,</li> <li>• Crisis hotspots,</li> <li>• Terrorism and violent extremism,</li> <li>• Unauthorized activities in the field of conventional weapons, weapons for mass destruction and nuclear and missile technology,</li> <li>• Tough and organized crime,</li> <li>• Illegal migrations,</li> <li>• Climate changes,</li> <li>• Global financial, economic, technological and social risks,</li> <li>• Endangering public safety,</li> <li>• Natural and other disasters,</li> <li>• Scarcity of natural resources and environmental degradation</li> <li>• Health and epidemiological threats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed aggression (little probable)</li> <li>• Terrorism and violent extremism;</li> <li>• Proliferation conventional and mass weapons destruction;</li> <li>• Cyber threats;</li> <li>• Hybrid threats;</li> <li>• Organized crime;</li> <li>• Endangering the public security;</li> <li>• Economic threat and energy security;</li> <li>• Illegal migrations;</li> <li>• Intelligence activity;</li> <li>• Endangering or destroying elements of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Safety of the sea, subsea and seabed;</li> <li>• Natural and artificially caused accidents and disasters;</li> <li>• Lack of natural resources and environmental degradation</li> </ul>

(Source: Forca Božidar, 2022:212)

Similar to what is stated in Table 1, the same can be said for the method of identification (type and number) of challenges, risks and threats in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2019.

A more careful analysis of the mentioned challenges, risks and threats (Table 1), as well as an insight into numerous strategic documents of the countries of the world (see: Forca, 2022), can state that the challenges, risks and threats, in essence, can be divided into military and non-military. At the same time, under military threats, most often, are considered an arms race, military pressures, military interventions and aggression that escalates into war. On the other hand, the entire corpus of challenges, risks and threats that do not fall under the military category can be named as non-military aspects of endangerment.

## 1.2. Non-military security threats

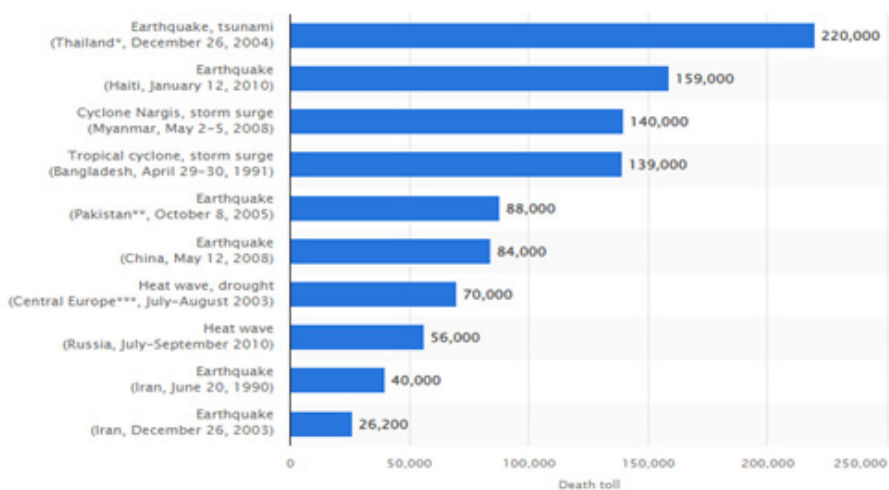
In accordance with the above, non-military threats to security are those phenomena that threaten the security of man, his communities (states) and surroundings, and are not of a military nature. The set of non-military threats to security in the strategies of states is extremely diverse, and in principle, they can be divided into three groups: 1) threats caused by human action, 2) technical-technological accidents and 3) natural accidents and disasters. Therefore, “non-military threats to security today are associated with numerous catastrophic scenarios, caused by risks that can be of natural and artificial origin.” Organized crime, extremism, terrorism, natural hazards (floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, droughts), pandemics and the like are usually associated with non-military security threats” (Keković and Kešetović, 2008:181-200).

## 2. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-MILITARY THREATS IN MODERN CONDITIONS

The focus of this paper is focused on some types of non-military threats and their consequences in modern conditions. Therefore, the term modern conditions implies the last 20 years, in the paper the focus is on the last 2-3 years. In this part of the paper, we will present some types of non-military actions and the statistics of their consequences.

### 2.1. Natural accidents and disasters

Graph 1. The largest natural disasters and disasters 1980-20202 by number of victims



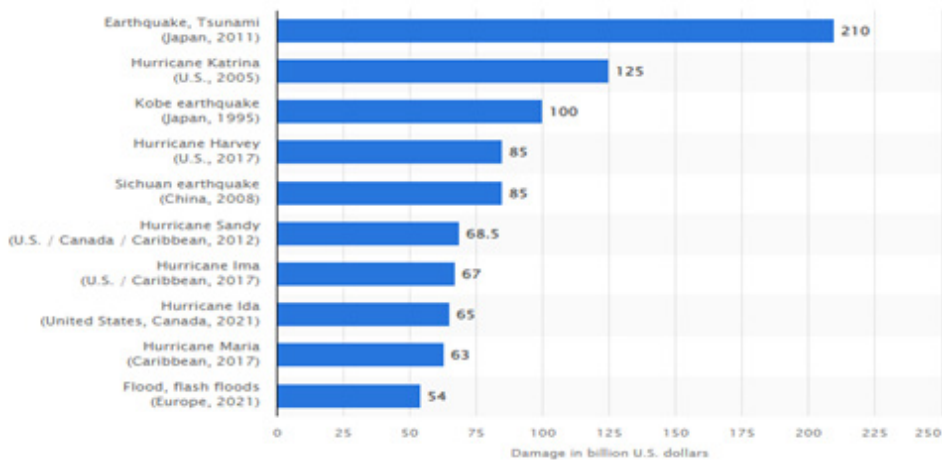
(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268029/natural-disasters-by-death-toll-since-1980/>, 01.10.2023)

As can be seen in Graph 1, of all the natural disasters shown, the earthquake and tsunami in Thailand on December 26, 2004 caused the most human casualties, when 220,000 people died. Then, according to the number of victims, follows the earthquake in Haiti, in which 159,000 people died on January 12, 2010. As a result of the storm surge and cyclone Nargis, 140,000 people died in the period from May 2 to 5, 2008, and this natural disaster ranks third among the ten largest natural disasters. In April 1991, a tropical cyclone and a storm surge claimed 139,000 lives in Bangladesh. The earthquake in Pakistan, which occurred on October 8, 2005, claimed 88,000 lives, while the earthquake in China, which occurred on May 12, 2008, claimed 84,000 lives. The heat wave and drought that hit Central Europe from July to August 2003 claimed 70,000 lives, while the heat wave in Russia from June to September 2010 claimed 56,000 lives (Milojević, 2023:18).

Overall, in 2021 alone, 52.7 million people died as a result of drought, while 29.2 million died as a result of floods. In 2021, 17.6 million people died as a result of the storm, and 1.1 million as a result of the earthquake. 0.7 million people died as a result of the fire, while 0.5 million people died as a result of the volcanic activity (Milojević, 2023:19).

Natural accidents and disasters do not only result in human casualties, but also have a very negative impact on the economy of the affected countries. Graph 2 shows the greatest damage to the economy of countries where major natural disasters and catastrophes occurred.

Graph 2. Ten largest natural disasters worldwide by economic damage from 1980 to July 2022



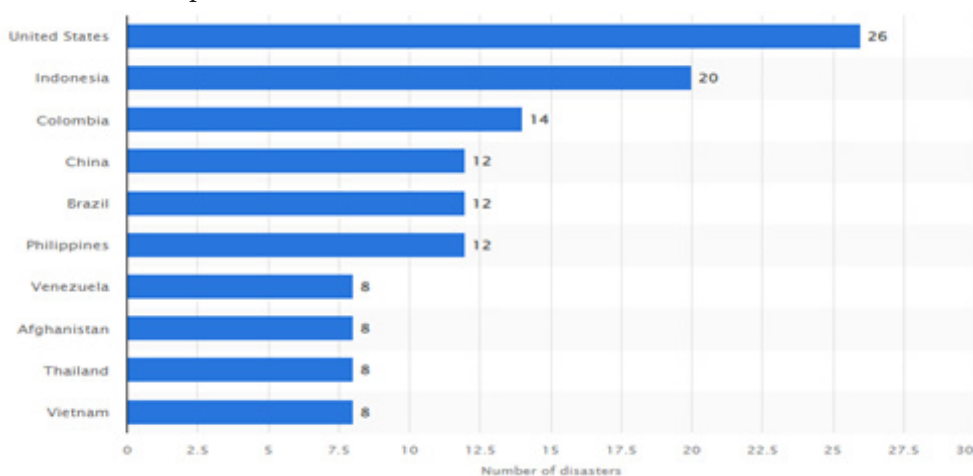
(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268126/biggest-natural-disasters-by-economic-damage-since-1980/>, 01.10.2023)

The earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 caused this country economic damage worth as much as 210 billion US dollars. Hurricane Katrina, which hit the USA in 2005, caused economic damage worth 125 billion dollars. The earthquake in Kobe (Japan)

that occurred in 1995 caused economic damage worth 100 billion dollars and, in terms of economic damage, this natural disaster ranks third. In fourth place is Hurricane Harvey, which hit the US in 2017 and caused economic damage worth \$85 billion. In fifth place is the earthquake in China from 2008, which caused damage worth 85 billion dollars. Hurricane Sandy, which hit North and Central America in 2012, caused economic damage worth 68.5 billion dollars. Hurricane Irma ranks seventh in terms of economic damage, and the damage it caused is 67 billion dollars. Hurricane Ida, which hit North America in 2021, caused damage worth 65 billion dollars (Milojević, 2023:20).

Collectively, in 2022 alone, the world was hit by 176 floods, 108 storms, 31 earthquakes, 22 droughts, 17 landslides, 15 fires, 12 extreme temperatures and 5 volcanic activities. The following graph shows the countries with the most natural disasters in 2022 (Graph 3).

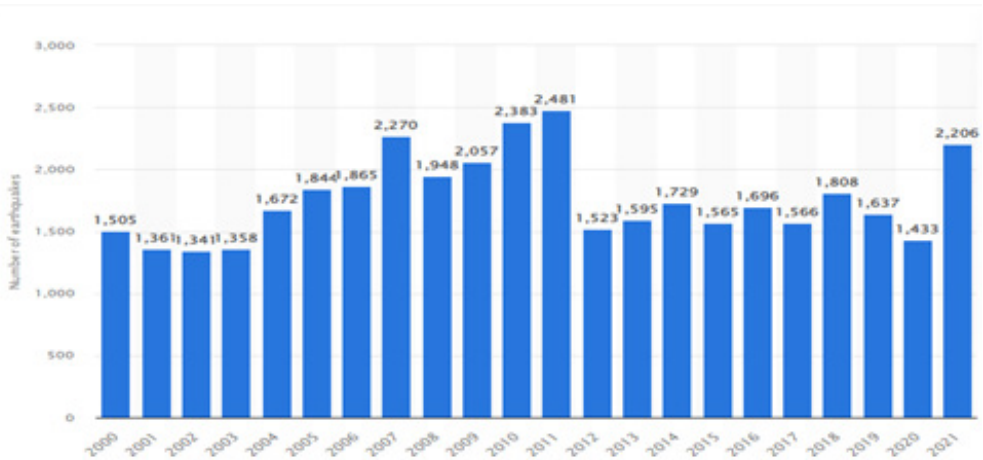
Graph 3. Countries with the most natural disasters in 2022



(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/269652/countries-with-the-most-natural-disasters/>, 20.09.2023).

Earthquake is one of the most common natural disasters and disasters that affects the modern world and takes many victims, along with enormous material destruction. In this sense, Graph 4 shows the total number of earthquakes in the world in the period 2000-2021.

Graph 4. Number of earthquakes in the world from 2000 to 2021



(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/263105/development-of-the-number-of-earthquakes-worldwide-since-2000/>, 09/25/2023)

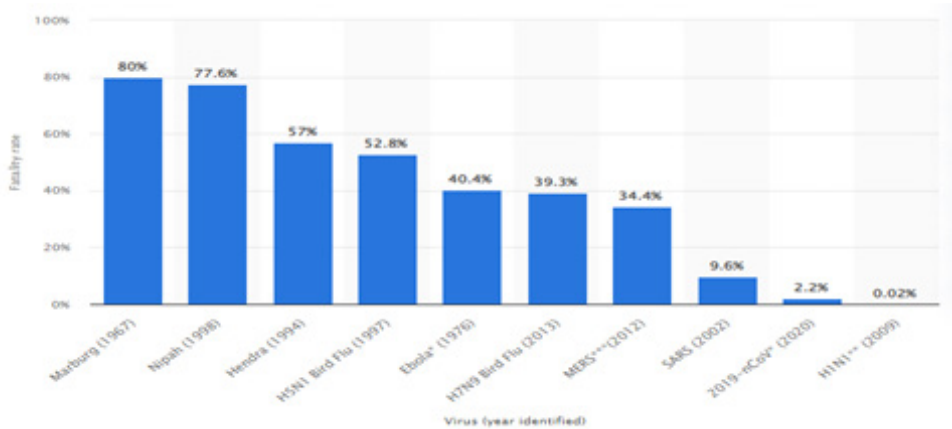
So, Graph 4, the world was hit by as many as 1505 earthquakes in 2000, while 1361 were recorded in 2001. Until 2011, the number of recorded earthquakes increased, and in the period from 2000 to 2021, the largest number of earthquakes was 2011, when as many as 2481 earthquakes were recorded. From 2011 to 2020, the number of recorded earthquakes is decreasing. In 2020, there were 1,433 earthquakes, and in 2021, as many as 2,206.

## 2.2. Pandemics and epidemics of infectious diseases

Infectious diseases are a constant threat to humanity. When they affect a limited region (country), it is called an epidemic, and when they take on global proportions, it is called a pandemic. From a historical point of view, epidemics and pandemics have, first of all, caused huge human casualties, which is measured in tens, even hundreds of millions of deaths. If we look at the period of the last 50 years, the death rate, primarily from epidemics, but also from pandemics, is shown in Graph 5.



Graph 5. Worldwide fatality rate of major virus outbreaks in the last 50 years

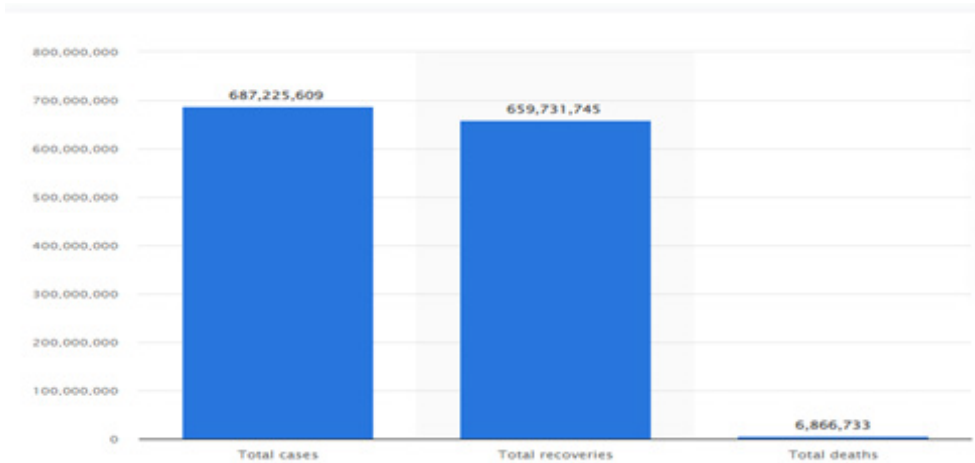


(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1095129/worldwide-fatality-rate-of-major-virus-outbreaks-in-the-last-50-years/>, 25.09.2023)

The death rate from the Marburg virus, which hit the world in 1967, is 80%. The Nipah virus hit the world in 1998, and the death rate from this virus is 77.6%. The Hendra virus, which is transmitted by bats, hit the world in 1994, and the death rate for this virus is 57%. The bird flu virus (H5N1) hit the world in 1997, with a fatality rate of 52.8%. Ebola hit the world in 1976 and the death rate for this virus is 40.4%. A new strain of bird flu (H7N9) hit the world in 2013, with a fatality rate of 39.3%. The MERS epidemic hit the world in 2012, with a mortality rate of 34.4%, and SARS in 2002, which had a lower mortality rate than MERS (9.6%). (Milojević, 2023:27).

The last pandemic to hit the world in 2020 is the COVID-19 virus pandemic, with a fatality rate of 2.2%.

Graph 6. Number of cases of corona virus (COVID-19), recoveries and deaths worldwide (data from May 2, 2023)



(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1087466/covid19-cases-recoveries-deaths-worldwide/>, 25.09.2023)

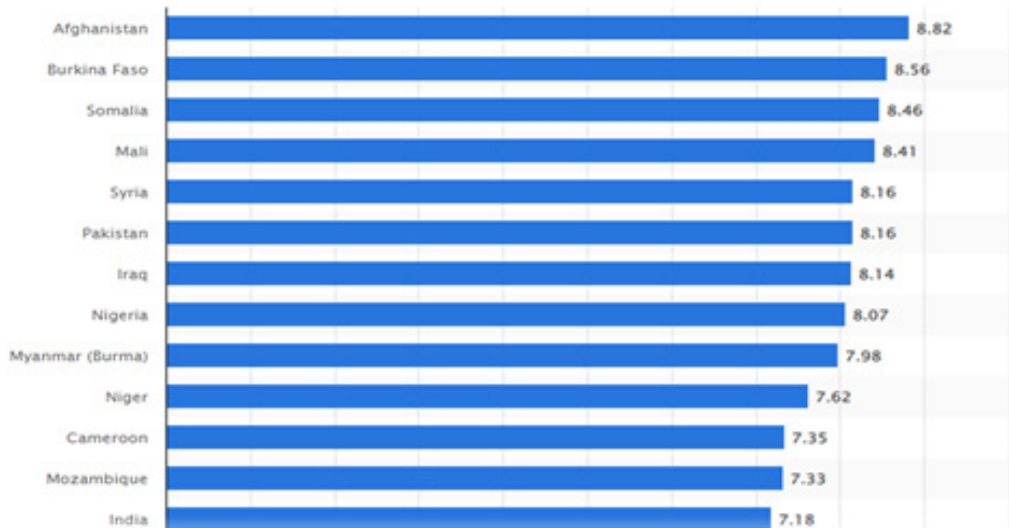
The total number of recorded cases of the COVID-19 virus on May 2, 2023 is 687,225,609. A total of 659,731,745 people recovered, while as many as 6,866,733 people died. The country with the largest number of patients is the USA, with 106,678,503 cases of infection. The USA is followed by India, with 44,949,671 cases of infection. After India, France follows with 39,991,340 cases of infection, followed by Germany with 38,403,667. In Brazil, 37,449,418 cases of infection with the COVID virus were recorded, while in Japan, 33,725,765 people fell ill. (Milojević, 2023:29).

### 2.3. Terrorism

Terrorism is a security threat that occupies the highest place in the identification of challenges, risks and threats in the strategies of all countries of the world. This is especially so after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington (USA) on September 11, 2001. Even though armed violence is used on a massive scale in terrorist activities, especially by modern terrorist organizations, this scourge of the modern world is classified as a non-military threat. We will not deal with the question of whether it is correct, but we will give some statistical indicators of terrorist acts and consequences in modern conditions.

According to international standards and research, certain regions of the world are classified as risky when it comes to terrorism. In this sense, the so-called The global index of terrorism and critical regions (countries) in 2022 are shown in Graph 7.

Graph 7. Global terrorism index in 2022

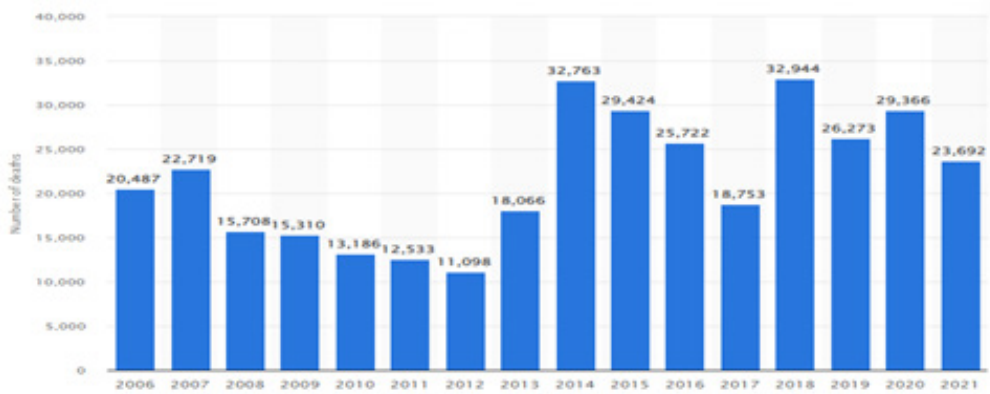


(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/271514/global-terrorism-index/>, 25.09.2023)

As can be seen in Graph 7, Afghanistan has the highest global terrorism index and it is 8.82. Afghanistan is followed by Burkina Faso with a global terrorism index of 8.56, followed by Somalia with 8.46. Mali is in fourth place with a global terrorism index of 8.41. Syria and Pakistan have a terrorism index of 8.16, and Iraq 8.14. After Iraq, Nigeria is ranked eighth, with a global terrorism index of 8.07. Myanmar ranks ninth with a global terrorism index of 7.98. Among the countries shown, India has the lowest global index of terrorism and it is 7.18. (Milojević, 2023:29).

The number of terrorist attacks in the last 15 years is very high, but it varies from year to year, especially in terms of the number of deaths (Graph 8)

Graph 8. Number of fatalities in terrorist attacks worldwide between 2006 and 2021

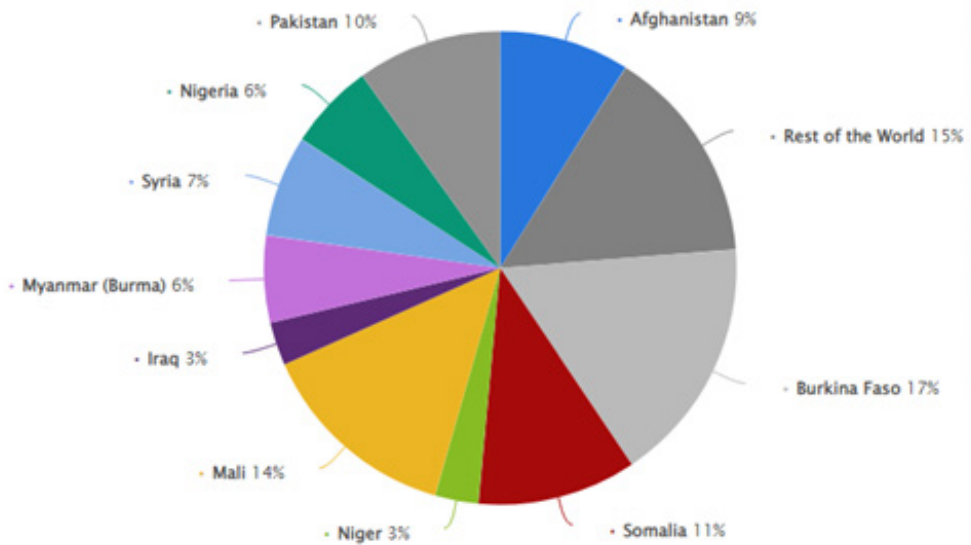


(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/202871/number-of-fatalities-by-terrorist-attacks-worldwide/>, 25.09 .2023)

At the beginning of the observed period, in 2006, 20,487 people died in terrorist attacks, and the following year, 22,719. The following year, in 2008, the number of people killed in terrorist attacks dropped significantly, from 22,719 to 15,708. The largest number of people died in terrorist attacks in 2014, when as many as 32,763 people died, and in 2018, when 32,944 people died. At the end of the observed period, in 2021, 23,692 people died. (Milojević, 2023:30).

If we take into account terrorist attacks only in 2022, the percentage of fatalities is shown in Graph 9. In Pakistan, as many as 10% of people die in terrorist attacks, while in Afghanistan that percentage is 9%. In the rest of the world, 15% of people died in terrorist attacks in 2022, and in Burkina Faso as much as 17%. In 2022, 11% of the population died in terrorist attacks in Somalia, 14% in Mali, and 3% in Niger. In 2022, 3% of the population died in terrorist attacks in Iraq, and 6% in Myanmar. In 2022, 7% of the population died in terrorist attacks in Syria, and 6% in Nigeria.

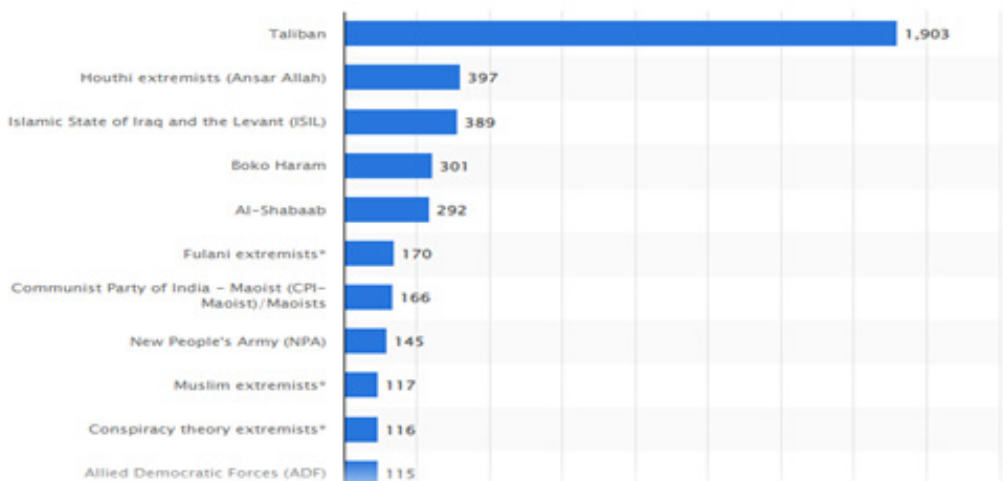
Graph 9. Countries with the highest number of deaths from terrorism in 2022



(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/377061/countries-with-the-highest-number-of-deaths-by-terrorism/>, 09/25/2023)

The number of terrorist organizations in the world is not decreasing, on the contrary. Graph 10 shows the most active terrorist organizations by number of attacks in 2020.

Graph 10. The most active terrorist organizations in the world in 2020 by number of attacks



(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/937553/terrorism-most-active-perpetrator-groups-worldwide/>, 25.09.2023)

### 3. SERBIAN CITIZENS' PERCEPTION OF NON-MILITARY THREATS

For the purposes of preparing the thesis of the first author of this work, research was carried out on the perception of non-military threats by the citizens of Nis, Leskovac, Kruševac and Vranje. The research was conducted by 115 random subjects, of which 64% were female and 36% were male. Of these, 43% are aged 18-28, 34% are aged 29-48, while 23% are older than 48. According to professional education, the majority of respondents have secondary education (56%), and the least with elementary school (6%), while 29% of respondents have higher education, of which 9% have master's degrees. (Milojević, 2023:34).

Respondents were offered to give answers to several questions, of which we will single out only the characteristic ones, which we will group in one table due to the limited volume of the text.

Table 2. Respondents' views on non-military threats to security

QUESTION	The prevailing answers		TOTAL
	I agree	I totally agree	
The safety of all mankind is at stake	39%	41%	<b>80%</b>
Military threats are more dangerous than non-military ones	16%	17%	<b>33%</b>
Humanity is in great danger of pandemics	30%	33%	<b>63%</b>
Humanity is in greater danger from climate change	39%	43%	<b>82%</b>
Bioterrorism is the most dangerous form of terrorism	30%	30%	<b>60%</b>
Organized crime is a great danger to humanity	30%	30%	<b>60%</b>

(Source: Milojević Tatjana, 2023)

### INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

In the last few years, the whole world has been occupied by a multitude of military and non-military threats to security, as in no other period of human development. Formally speaking, these threats can be classified into military and non-military. Their characteristic in modern conditions is that they act together, that is, that wars, earthquakes, floods, and pandemics occur at the same time.

Security science has long pointed out non-military threats to security, as well as the fact that little attention is paid to their prevention, as well as the comprehensive elimination of their consequences. This is how the concept of security was expanded from purely military to other sectors: political, economic, social and environmental.

In making a difference between military and non-military threats, one fact is contradictory, and that is that with non-military threats, over time, solidarity with the "victim" occurs, i.e. providing assistance to vulnerable states and the population, while with military threats, the same is directed at intentional causing loss and damage.

This work also has a purpose in this sense that, if it cannot move the world to unite against all threats or to indicate that non-military threats are increasingly coming to the fore, at least to emphasize the aforementioned difference between non-military and military threats, so that humanity can be directed towards peace and security.

Security is a prerequisite for the survival and development of humanity.

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