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Regional (continental) security: emphases of 2022

Регіональна (континентальна) безпека: акценти 2022 року

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Written by:

Vasyl Vereshchak⁹<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9513-5175>**Bohdan Holjanych**¹⁰<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0921-6142>**Kostiantyn Mamchur**¹¹<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1792-3349>**Hlib Smoliar**¹²<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3661-216X>**Pavlo Terpiak**¹³<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6635-0116>

Abstract

The intensification of the processes of globalization, regionalization, geopoliticization and the desire of countries to integrate into the world financial, economic and social-political space lead to the emergence of new challenges and dangers and intensification of existing ones in the field of regional political and security cooperation. The strengthening of military activity on the territory of sovereign countries, the lack of a peaceful settlement of regional conflict situations, and the growth of tension and instability require regional cooperation in the fight against common threats on the basis of ensuring the implementation of the principles of international law. Regarding the results of the research on the features of ensuring regional (continental) security under the influence of challenges and threats in 2022, it has been established that there are four groups from among the countries of the world that are characterized by common features of ensuring regional (continental) security, namely: highly developed countries that are able to ensure a high level of security, the efficiency of its management and the stability of state

Анотація

Посилення процесів глобалізації, регіоналізації, геополітизації та прагнення країн інтегруватися до світового фінансово-економічного й суспільно-політичного простору зумовлюють виникнення нових та інтенсифікацію існуючих викликів і небезпек у сфері регіонального політико-безпекового співробітництва. Посилення військової активності на території суверенних країн, відсутність мирного врегулювання регіональних конфліктних ситуацій та зростання напруженості й нестабільності потребують регіональної співпраці у боротьбі зі спільними загрозами на засадах забезпечення виконання принципів міжнародного права. Щодо результатів дослідження особливостей забезпечення регіональної (континентальної) безпеки в умовах впливу викликів і загроз 2022 року, то встановлено, що серед країн світу виділяють чотири групи, які характеризуються спільними ознаками забезпечення регіональної (континентальної) безпеки: високо розвинуті країни, які спроможні забезпечити високий рівень безпеки, ефективність управління нею та стабільність державного управління; країни

⁹ Assistant Professor, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Political Technology, Law Institute, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman, Kyiv, Ukraine.

¹⁰ Assistant Professor, Candidate of Political Sciences, Department of Theory and History of Law, Law Institute, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman, Kyiv, Ukraine.

¹¹ Professor, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Global and National Security, Educational and Scientific Institute of Public Administration and Civil Service, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine.

¹² Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Humanitarian Institute, National Defense University of Ukraine named after Ivan Cherniakhovskiy, Kyiv, Ukraine.

¹³ Assistant Professor, Special Department, Institute of Special Communications and Information Protection, National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", Kyiv, Ukraine.



governance; countries with a relatively high level of development that ensure high standards of regional (continental) security, however, significant efforts are directed to solving security issues; countries with an intermediate level of development that are significantly influenced by other countries and are in a state of struggle for the redistribution of spheres of influence; countries with a low level of development that have not completed the process of transformational restructuring and require strengthened measures in order to ensure regional (continental) security.

Keywords: Regional security, globalization, threats, challenges, dangers, political and security cooperation, regional cooperation, international security.

Introduction

Ensuring international order, effective geopolitics and regional stability in the conditions of armed military confrontations are strategic priorities for the development of all countries of the world. The state of international relations in a specific region of the world community characterizes the level of regional security in it, which is considered a component of international security and is aimed at ensuring effective countermeasures against military threats, financial and economic risks and dangers, social and political challenges, as well as at preventing external interference and encroachment on independence and sovereignty of states located in this region. It is obvious that regional security takes into account the features of the development of regions, the configuration of the balance of forces there, and various traditions. At the same time, it allows for the possibility of ensuring its optimal level with the support of specially created international regional political associations and organizations, from among the most famous the following ones should be identified, namely: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union (until 2022 the Organization of African Unity (OAU)). Moreover, the issues of ensuring regional security are closely related to the implementation of the primary goals of the regional development of countries; consequently, the study of regional (continental) security is extremely important, especially in the conditions of the escalation of the military conflict in Eastern Europe.

The purpose of the research lies in substantiating the theoretical and applied principles for

із порівняно високим рівнем розвитку, що забезпечують високі стандарти регіональної (континентальної) безпеки, проте, значні зусилля спрямовують на вирішення проблем безпекового характеру; країни із середнім рівнем розвитку, які зазнають значного впливу інших країн та перебувають у стані боротьби за переділ сфер впливу; країни із низьким рівнем розвитку, котрі не завершили процес трансформаційної перебудови та потребують посилення заходів забезпечення регіональної (континентальної) безпеки.

Ключові слова: Регіональна безпека, глобалізація, загрози, виклики, небезпеки, політико-безпекове співробітництво, регіональна співпраця, міжнародна безпека.

studying the features of ensuring regional (continental) security under the influence of challenges and threats of 2022.

Literature Review

Existing challenges to international security cause violations of international peace and security norms and the need to ensure regional security, especially on the European continent. The competitive struggle of the key figures in international relations leads to the exacerbation of conflicts, as a result of which the provision of regional security in the international security system is subject to a destabilizing influence and significant obstacles. In order to investigate this problematic issue at the international level, predictive assessments of regional security are carried out and the main measures and strategic priorities of its provision are determined, which are systematized in the report of the Council on Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Huisken & Brett, 2022).

Stepanenko (2019), studying regional security in the international security system, has come to the conclusion that the provision of regional (continental) security significantly depends on the effectiveness of international treaties concluded between the states of the same region and on compliance with the following principles and norms of international law, namely:

- 1) peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts;
- 2) non-use of force and threat of force;
- 3) sovereign equality and territorial integrity of countries;
- 4) respect for human rights;

- 5) inviolability of borders;
- 6) non-interference in the internal affairs of the state;
- 7) cooperation and conscientious fulfilment of international obligations.

It is obvious that the development of the world economy depends on the processes of globalization and regionalization; it creates new challenges and threats both for individual countries and for regions, which, according to the viewpoint of Lishchynskyy & Lyzun (2020), requires the formation of flexible systems of regional security cooperation and an increase in the level of regional security. At the same time, scientists tend to believe that the effective management of regional security requires the implementation of a set of measures carried out by institutions at the global, regional and national levels. At the same time, the conducted scientific investigations in this direction have made it possible to systematize the basic international organizations that manage regional security in the context of the regions of the world. In particular, the Asian region has three organizations: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the East Asian Summit (EAS); the American region unites six organizations: the Organization of American States (OAS), the Andean Community (CAN), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Economic Union of the States of South America (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations, Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CELAC); the African region includes four organizations: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), the African Union (AU); the Eurasian region has two organizations: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO, Tashkent Treaty); the Middle East region unites two organizations: the Arab League (LAS) and the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Persian Gulf (GCC); the European region includes three organizations: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Todorov (2022) proves that taking into consideration the new challenges of a global and regional scale, the most tangible decline in the level of regional security is observed in such countries as Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, and, in the conditions of 2022, due to

the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its intimidation of a number of European countries, Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania are also included in this list.

Kopylov (2022) relates the decline in the level of regional security to the destabilization of the international security space, which has increased the likelihood of emergence of new risks, especially during the period of a full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of sovereign Ukraine, as a result of which it has become a springboard for clarifying relations between the West and the East. In this context, due attention is given to the issue of ensuring and strengthening regional security by Japan, which at the Asian Security Summit emphasizes the significant polarization of relations between major countries due to the instability of security situations in Taiwan, China's activities in the Pacific Ocean, and Russia's invasion into Ukraine (Lin & Ali, 2022).

A similar position is adhered by Tibuleac (2018), who believes that the issues of ensuring regional security are most acute in Eastern Europe, which is considered a region with a high level of international tension and the so-called "geopolitical fault line", where risks and threats to the security environment are tangible and the economic development of countries that are constantly under the influence of large states is slowing down, including because of the violation by the Russian Federation of international law and order. The standpoint of the scholar is shared by Lishchynskyy & Lyzun (2020), who are convinced that the system of regional security in Europe is ineffective, unreliable, and it does not contribute to the sustainable development of the European continent.

Along with this, Giegerich et al. (2022) claim that regional security is a dynamic category and the mechanism for ensuring it requires the coordinated interaction of subjects. It should be noted that scientists are convinced of the significant importance of NATO's activities in the conditions of 2022 in terms of training and supporting the development of the existing potential of the countries of the world, forasmuch as they believe that ensuring security in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific region will create appropriate conditions for ensuring European and Euro-Atlantic security. At the same time, scientists relate the provision of regional security to the stability of the functioning of each separate country, and in the international dimension, a higher level of

security is observed in those regions where the index of state instability is lower.

Elnagar (2022) has investigated the state and trends of regional security in the American region and established that its significant threats are the decline of political stability in the country, the challenges and dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic and macroeconomic instability. However, Qiang (2022) is convinced that it is the USA that provokes a number of risks and threats to regional security, in particular, in relation to the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, which justifies the desire to expand NATO in this region in order to restrain China. In the context outlined, the investigations of Ryabinin & Kulchikovskiy (2016), which have analysed new threats and challenges to the regional security of the Central Asian region, are of particular relevance. From among the most common threats and challenges, the scholars have distinguished regional and local conflicts, international terrorism and separatism, territorial contradictions, etc., and Ivanova (2018) has supplemented them with the destruction of industrial potential, significant losses of competitiveness, sales markets and competitive advantages, a decrease in regional liquidity and economic stability, an increase in migration, political instability, an increase in economic crime and a decrease in legal security. Moreover, Kazakova & Kolomyichuk (2016) are convinced that the issues of ensuring regional security are present not only in these regions, but are especially acute on the African continent, which suffers from heavy military confrontations and is exposed to such destabilizing factors as high mortality and hunger.

The Balkan region is equally unstable in terms of security, where, according to the viewpoint of Yuskiv (2016), the main threat to regional security lies in the aggravation of the ethnographic conflict on the territory of Macedonia, caused by the intensification of ethno-social confrontation and confessional contradictions, which have gone beyond the borders of the country and threaten, in particular, to Albania and Serbia.

One cannot fail to agree with the standpoint of Parakhonskyi et al. (2014), who consider that the international security environment in the face of the challenges of 2022 has turned out to be in a state of deep social-political and social-economic crisis due to manifestations of Russian aggression against Ukraine, its invasion of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the commission of harsh hostilities and war crimes

on the territory of Ukraine. As a result, the system of European and global security have turned out to be ineffective, and the processes of ensuring regional security have been significantly destabilized in the Baltic countries and the Black Sea-Caspian basin, challenging NATO as a guarantor of its provision and support.

Materials and Methods

General scientific and special methods of economic analysis have been used in the research. The general approach to determining the essence of regional (continental) security, its content and structure, is based on the system method and the method of analysis. The methods of abstraction, systematization and generalization have been used to substantiate the categorical apparatus and formulate conclusions. The method of the functional-systemic approach has been applied for the purpose of investigating the state, trends and dynamics of regional (continental) security. Graphical and tabular methods have been used to display the applied results of the regional (continental) security research.

The countries of Europe, Asia, America and Africa were selected for the research.

The information base of the research is based on reports of 2018–2021, namely: List of Countries by Fragile States Index according to the Fragile States Index.

Results

The current state of ensuring regional security in the conditions of interstate armed conflicts and uncontrollability of their development is characterized by instability and deterioration. The tight geopolitical and dangerous situation that has emerged in Eastern Europe gives rise to new threats, challenges and dangers, and it is extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible to oppose them within the framework of the existing international mechanisms for guaranteeing regional security. The evidence of effective counteraction to destabilizing factors and threats to regional (continental) security is the ability of countries to ensure the stability of their functioning and sustainable development.

It is obvious that the study of the state and trends of regional (continental) security, at the current stage, is quite problematic, forasmuch as there are no methodological recommendations for assessing its level; the list of indicators has not

been determined yet, and there is no methodology for calculating the integral indicator and comparing it with the value in the countries of different regions. In current conditions, the Fragile States Index is considered the most optimal indicator that allows drawing conclusions about the level of regional (continental) security in countries of the world with different levels of development. This index shows the stability of the functioning of the state, the degree of its vulnerability to the impact of risks, threats, challenges and dangers, the value of which is directly proportional to the factors of destructive changes disrupting economic, social and political cohesion. It should be noted that the growth of the Fragile States Index indicates

intensification in instability in the country and an increase in its vulnerability to conflicts and the influence of destabilizing factors. We consider it expedient to conduct empirical studies of the Fragile States Index in various countries of the world, which are located in such regions as Europe, Asia, America and Africa.

The results of the conducted analysis make it possible to state that from among the countries of the European continent (Figure 1), the following states are recognized as the most vulnerable ones in the conditions of 2017–2022, namely: Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSI: 71,3–75,6), Russia (FSI: 68,0–74,7) and Ukraine (FSI: 71,65–71,0).

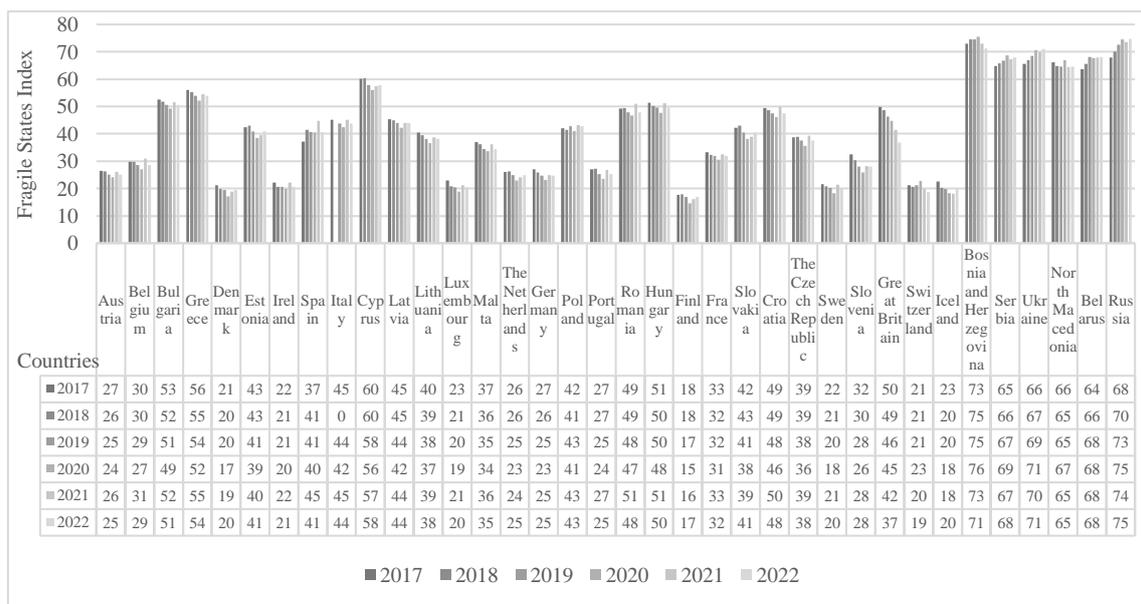


Figure 1. Dynamics of the Fragile States Index in European countries in 2017–2021 (Source: Compiled based on List of Countries by Fragile States Index, 2017–2020; Fragility in the World 2021 «Fragile States Index 2021»; Fragility in the World 2022 «Fragile States Index 2022»).

Finland (FSI: 14,6–17,9) and Denmark (FSI: 17,2–21,2) are the least vulnerable to risks, threats, challenges and dangers to regional (continental) security among European countries.

It should be noted that the geopolitical and security situation in Eastern Europe plays a decisive role in ensuring regional (continental) security on the European continent. It is beyond argument that, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine has destabilized the security mechanism and called into question the effectiveness of the functioning of such international organizations in the field of security as NATO, EU, OSCE and UN, which, in the face

of non-standard challenges and dangers, have testified to their inability to perform certain functions. At the same time, Russia is recognized as the main provocateur of risks and threats to the regional security of the European continent, the main obstacle to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries of this region and the cause of social-economic and social-political instability in Eastern Europe, which it considers to be a zone of its own interests.

Regarding the countries of the Asian region (Figure 2), the least vulnerable states are as follows: Singapore (FSI: 20,7–28,1), South Korea (FSI: 26,9–33,7) and Japan (FSI: 27,0–34,3). High indicators of state instability are

revealed in such countries as Iran (FSI: 83,0–86,0), Bangladesh (FSI: 79,7–87,7) and Turkey (FSI: 77,2–80,3).

Studying the features of ensuring regional security in Asian countries, it is necessary to state that most of them adhere to the concept of multipolarity of international relations and

choose the USA as one of the main partners in order to protect their own interests from transnational threats and dangers. In particular, the issue of protection against terrorism is especially acute in this region, which the United States partially guarantees to such countries as Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia, being the largest supplier of weapons in this region.

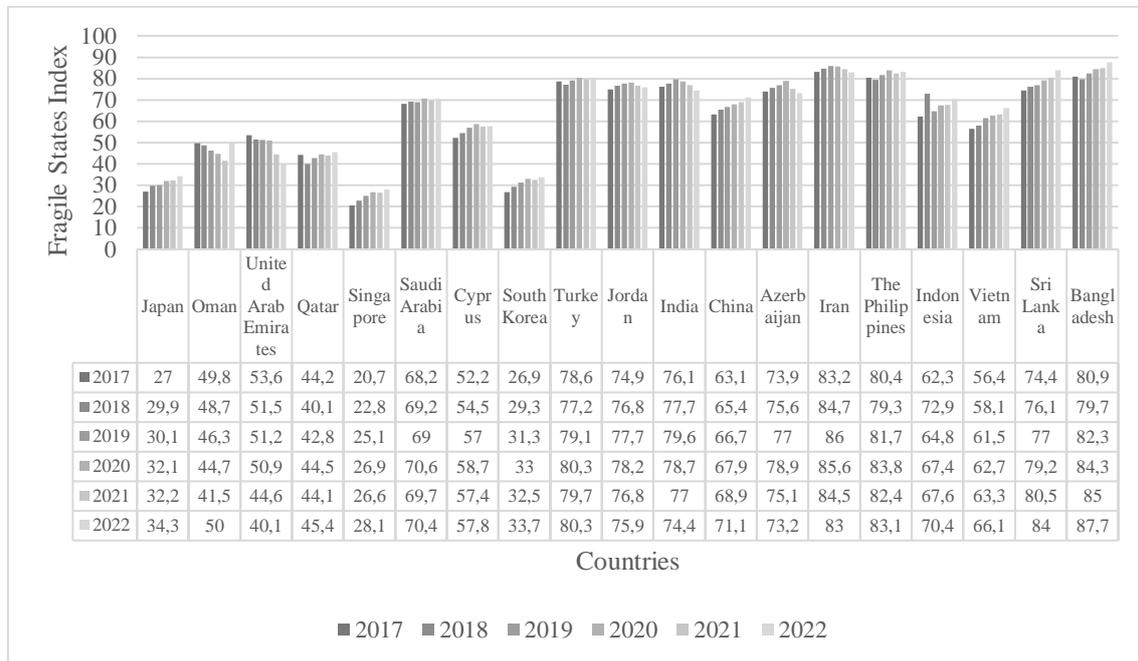


Figure 2. Dynamics of the Fragile States Index in Asian countries in 2017–2021 (Source: Compiled based on List of Countries by Fragile States Index, 2017–2020; Fragility in the World 2021 «Fragile States Index 2021»; Fragility in the World 2022 «Fragile States Index 2022»).

The results of the study of American countries (Figure 3) have revealed that Canada (FSI: 20,0–24,7) is the most resistant to risks and threats to regional security. It should be noted that fairly average values of the indicator under consideration have been recorded in the United States (FSI: 38,0–51,5), which is considered to

be the one of the superpowerful states with significant spheres of influence. At the same time, Venezuela (FSI: 89,3–102,3) is the most unstable in this region among the studied countries.

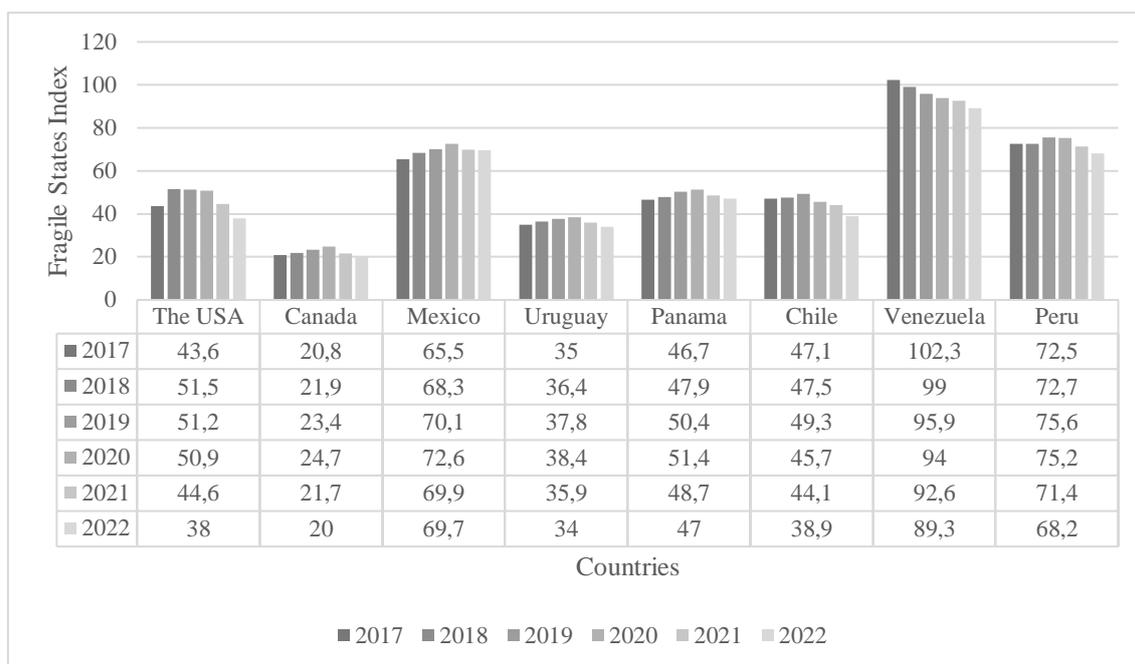


Figure 3. Dynamics of the Fragile States Index in American countries in 2017–2021 (Source: Compiled based on List of Countries by Fragile States Index, 2017–2020; Fragility in the World 2021 «Fragile States Index 2021»; Fragility in the World 2022 «Fragile States Index 2022»).

Studies of the state and tendencies of regional security on the African continent (Figure 4) indicate its lowest resistance to global and

regional challenges and dangers, which indicate high values of the index of state instability in the countries of this analysed group.

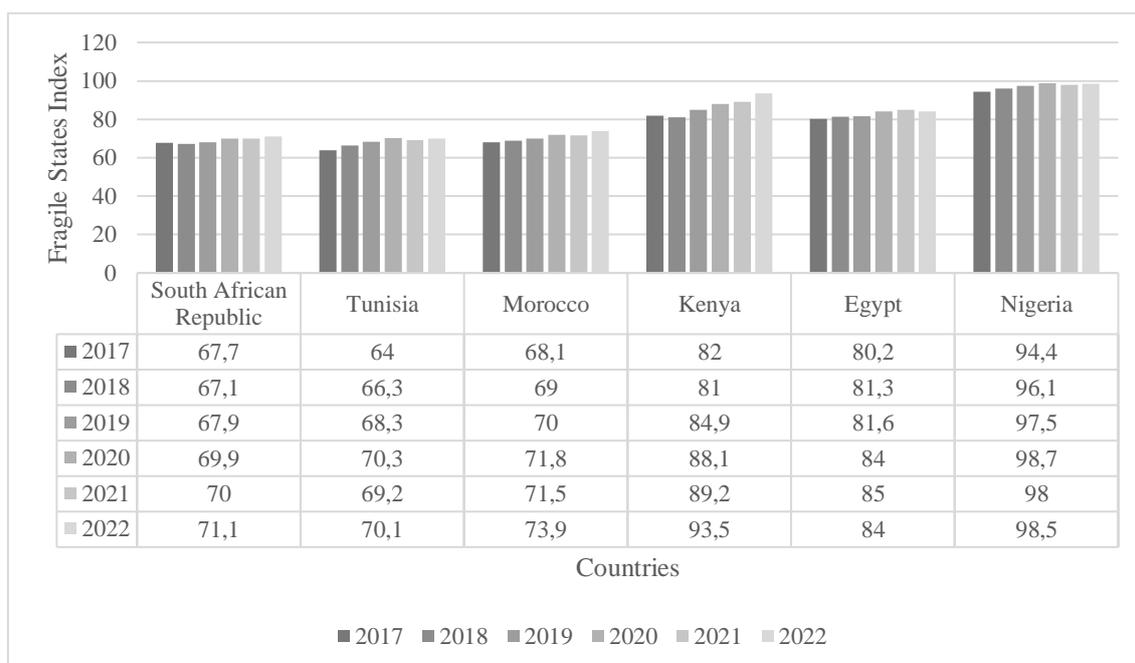


Figure 4. Dynamics of the Fragile States Index in African countries in 2017–2021 (Source: Compiled based on List of Countries by Fragile States Index, 2017–2020; Fragility in the World 2021 «Fragile States Index 2021»; Fragility in the World 2022 «Fragile States Index 2022»).

At the same time, the system of regional security cooperation, united by a single global space, partially limits the participation of Central African countries in the process of ensuring continental security. Taking into consideration the numerous wars that are being waged in this region, its grip on mortality and famine, constant coups pose significant threats to regional security and nullify the right of countries to equal participation in the management of regional security.

It is expedient to conduct in-depth empirical studies using the technology of cluster analysis based on the k-means method in order to group the countries of the world according to the Fragile States Index (Table 1), the results of

which prove that the countries of all regions have different tendencies in ensuring regional (continental) security. In particular, highly developed countries, namely: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Finland, France, Sweden, Slovenia, Switzerland, Iceland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Canada have been placed in the first cluster and are characterized by the ability to guarantee an appropriate level of security for their own interests and provide it to neighbouring states. Furthermore, such countries contribute to the improvement of the security climate in the regions and carry out effective management of regional (continental) security.

Table 1.

Grouping of the countries of the world according to the index of state instability (Fragile States Index) in 2017–2022.

The index of state instability (Fragile States Index), 2017–2022			
Nº	Country	Cluster number	Euclidean distance
1	Austria		1,199
2	Belgium		4,806
3	Denmark		5,131
4	Ireland		3,408
5	Luxembourg		3,749
6	The Netherlands		0,924
7	Germany		1,051
8	Portugal		1,752
9	Finland		7,729
10	France	1	7,706
11	Sweden		4,019
12	Slovenia		4,729
13	Switzerland		4,012
14	Iceland		4,804
15	Japan		6,996
16	Singapore		2,857
17	South Korea		7,212
18	Canada		3,010
19	Estonia		1,149
20	Spain		2,545
21	Latvia		3,284
22	Lithuania		2,449
23	Malta		5,589
24	Poland	2	1,811
25	Slovakia		1,286
26	The Czech Republic		3,019
27	Great Britain		5,298
28	Qatar		3,581
29	Uruguay		4,897
30	Chile		5,318
31	Bulgaria		2,034
32	Greece		3,180
33	Italy	3	9,381
34	Romania		3,709
35	Hungary		2,822

36	Croatia	4,120
37	Oman	5,859
38	United Arab Emirates	5,214
39	Cyprus	5,801
40	Vietnam	1,725
41	The USA	6,612
42	Panama	4,132
43	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,825
44	Serbia	8,331
45	Ukraine	6,607
46	North Macedonia	9,988
47	Belarus	8,399
48	Russia	3,601
49	Saudi Arabia	5,751
50	Turkey	4,288
51	Jordan	1,679
52	India	2,392
53	China	8,379
54	Azerbaijan	1,097
55	Iran	9,382
56	Philippines	6,799
57	Indonesia	8,435
58	Sri Lanka	4,751
59	Bangladesh	8,664
60	Mexico	5,955
61	Venezuela	9,912
62	Peru	3,184
63	South African Republic	6,448
64	Tunisia	7,355
65	Morocco	4,917
66	Kenya	2,122
67	Egypt	7,389
68	Nigeria	2,094

4

Source: Compiled based on List of Countries by Fragile States Index, 2017–2020; Fragility in the World 2021 «Fragile States Index 2021»; Fragility in the World 2022 «Fragile States Index 2022».

The second group consists of Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Qatar, Uruguay and Chile, which are able to ensure high standards of regional (continental) security, have high defence capabilities and provide enhanced security assistance to countries with lower level of development. Certain countries of this group have passed the stage of post-transformational reconstruction and overcome significant security risks and threats.

The third group includes Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, the USA and Panama, where considerable attention is paid to ensuring regional security, in particular, in the Black Sea region, which is caused by the militaristic sentiments of the Russian Federation towards the countries of the post-Soviet space.

The least developed and politically unstable countries of the world, namely: Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Belarus, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, India, China, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, South African Republic, Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya, Egypt and Nigeria belong to the fourth cluster and are considered countries of the transitive type, which are unable to independently ensure an adequate level of regional security.

On the basis of the conducted research, it can be established that the provision of regional (continental) security significantly depends on the level of social-economic and social-political development of the country: highly developed countries are the main subjects and coordinators of the process of managing regional security, and developing countries are not able to independently protect their own national interests from the destabilizing influence of global and regional risks, threats, challenges and dangers.

Discussion

The results of the studies conducted on the features of ensuring regional (continental) security under the influence of challenges and threats in 2022 make it possible to identify four groups among the countries of the world, characterized by common features of social-economic and social-political development, mechanisms for ensuring regional (continental) security and stability of public administration. These are as follows:

Group 1. Highly developed countries that are able to ensure a high level of regional (continental) security; they are characterized by high indicators of the stability of state governance and carry out effective management of regional security (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Finland, France, Sweden, Slovenia, Switzerland, Iceland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Canada).

Group 2. Countries with a relatively high level of development, where high standards of regional (continental) security are revealed, however, there are a number of unresolved security issues related to ensuring defence capability and risks of post-transformational reconstruction (Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Qatar, Uruguay and Chile).

Group 3. Countries with an intermediate level of development, which are significantly influenced by other countries and are in a state of struggle for the redistribution of spheres of influence (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, the United States and Panama), where considerable attention is paid to ensuring regional security, in particular, in the Black Sea region, which is caused by the militaristic sentiments of the Russian Federation towards the countries of the post-Soviet space.

Group 4. Countries with a low level of development that have not completed the process of transformational restructuring yet and need strengthened measures in order to ensure regional (continental) security (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Belarus, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, India, China, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, South African Republic, Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya, Egypt and Nigeria).

It is worth noting that ensuring regional (continental) security requires increased attention of the entire world community and the development of a set of security measures that would take into account the interests and specifics of the functioning of countries on different continents.

Conclusions

Therefore, the conducted studies on the features of ensuring regional (continental) security under the conditions of influence of challenges and threats in 2022 provide grounds for the conclusion that the modern global security environment is undergoing significant destructive changes and large-scale transformations, and it is also characterized by a high level of turbulence, unpredictability, instability, growing competition between states, the emergence of new conflicts, the settlement of which requires significant efforts and mutual agreements. The solution of the issues outlined is possible due to the effective counteraction and prevention of risks, threats, challenges and dangers that reduce the level of regional (continental) security and ensure the optimal level of regional (continental) security. It has been proven that highly developed countries, which are considered the main players in international relations, provide higher indicators of state stability and regional security and increase the level of international security, while countries with a lower level of sustainable social-economic and social-political development position themselves as weak countries and vulnerable to the influence of destabilizing factors.

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