Research Article

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BORDER SECURITY ISSUES MEANS AND ACTIVITIES VIA DIPLOMATIC

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ABSTRACT

Our study aims to present the results of a theoretical study on ensuring Mongolia's border security through diplomatic means. As the international security environment evolves, conflicts and conflicts arising from the imbalance of interests between states are increasing, which is leading to the loss of the order and international legal norms established after the Cold War. When considering the issue of preventing conflicts, disputes, and misunderstandings between states from the perspective of protecting national security interests, border security and the optimal selection and implementation of ways to ensure it are important.

Keywords: Border security, transnational crime, conflict, diplomatic means, systemic approach.

INTRODUCTION

Following the Cold War, governments realized the importance of resolving crises and disagreements amicably or diplomatically, as well as ensuring security through collective procedures, as evidenced by the substance of international bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.The concept of border security was officially established in the Final Act adopted by the Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975, which included the first principle to be followed by participating countries, the "Principle of Territorial Integrity and Inviolability of Borders". According to the content of this principle, a country's border is intrinsically tied to territorial integrity, and it is a distinct concept that borders are safeguarded.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK BORDER SECURITY

Core Concepts in Theoretical Frameworks of Border Security

A theoretical framework for border security integrates multiple perspectives and models to understand the complex nature of borders and how they are managed to ensure security. The main elements of this framework include the conceptualization of borders as dynamic social, political, and spatial constructs, the role of state and non-state actors, and the complexity of threats and cooperation mechanisms.

Borders as Social and Political Constructs such as borders are not merely physical lines but are socially and politically constructed and subject to change through political action and societal processes. They function as instruments for managing identity, control, and interaction between states and communities. The border's role varies historically and geographically, influencing its permeability and the degree of integration or separation it enforces.

Border Security as a Complex Adaptive System (CAS) as border security can be understood through complexity and systems theory, viewing borders as complex adaptive systems that evolve with social, cultural, political, and economic influences.

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- Institutional capacity (government and agencies responsible for border management)
- Criminal capacity (organized crime and illicit activities)
- Ability to facilitate or restrict the movement of people and goods
- Operational capacity (resources and strategies for enforcement)

The model emphasizes that border security is influenced by perceptions of threats, cultural identities, enforcement policies, and adversarial adaptations, making it a dynamic and interconnected system rather than a static barrier.

Implications for Border Security Policy and Research

Border security must be approached as a multifaceted, evolving system rather than a fixed physical barrier. Effective security requires understanding the social and cultural context, as well as the operational and institutional capacities. Cooperation between bordering states is crucial to managing complex transnational threats.

Theoretical models guide the design of border policies that balance security with facilitation of legitimate cross-border flows. The theoretical framework provides a comprehensive lens to analyze and develop border security strategies that are adaptive, cooperative, and sensitive to the complex realities of modern borders. Border security must be approached as a multifaceted, evolving system rather than a fixed physical barrier. Effective security requires understanding the social and cultural context, as well as the operational and institutional capacities. Cooperation between bordering states is crucial to managing complex transnational threats.Theoretical models guide the design of border policies that balance security with facilitation of legitimate cross-border flows. The theoretical framework provides a comprehensive lens to analyze and develop border security strategies that are adaptive, cooperative, and sensitive to the complex realities of modern borders.

THE CURRENT ISSUES OF BORDER SECURITY

The formal establishment of Mongolia's borders with its two permanent neighbors, as well as the signing of border accords, established the groundwork for the country's current peaceful and borderless existence. The Constitution, national ideology, and policy

all assert the inviolability and sovereignty of the border, while other laws and regulations specify the ways and means of ensuring border security. Border Diplomacy Among Russia, China, and Mongolia, border diplomacy between Russia, China, and Mongolia is characterized by active trilateral engagement, with a strong focus on economic integration, infrastructure development, and regional stability. The three countries share long land borders and have a history of cooperation, but also face challenges related to competition for influence and balancing national interests.

Trilateral Cooperation and Economic Corridors:

The three nations have prioritized the development of the China-Russia-Mongolia Economic Corridor, a flagship initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity and trade across their shared borders. This corridor involves ambitious plans for new road and railway routes through Mongolia, positioning the country as a vital transit hub between its two powerful neighbors. Recent high-level meetings, such as the October 2024 gathering of the heads of government, have reaffirmed commitments to turn agreements into tangible projects. These include the construction of the Zamiin-Uud-Altanbulag railway, a proposed natural gas pipeline from Russia to China via Mongolia, and collaborative efforts in green energy, tourism, e-commerce, and disaster response.

Strategic Balancing and Regional Influence

Mongolia, landlocked between Russia and China, pursues a policy of balancing its economic reliance on both neighbors while seeking greater independence and diversification. Diplomatic summits are used by Mongolia to attract investment, expand cross-border infrastructure, and buffer against overdependence on either side.Both Russia and China view Mongolia as strategically important, not only for transit but also as a sphere of influence. This sometimes results in subtle competition, even as they cooperate on major projects.

Border Infrastructure and Customs:

Modernization of border crossings and transport corridors is a key agenda item. Upgrades to the Ulaanbaatar Railway, expansion of checkpoints like Naushki on the Russian-Mongolian border, and the construction of new transit routes are designed to increase cargo transit capacity and facilitate smoother cross-border trade.There is a shared interest in expanding energy cooperation, including electricity transmission and the planned Soyuz Vostok gas pipeline, which would further integrate the three economies. We analyzed and compared some main concepts and issues about border, cross-border integration, boundary making at all (table 1).

Table 1. The comparisons of main issues of border.

Component	Description
Border as Social-Political Construct	Borders are fluid, politically contested, and socially constructed entities.
Complex Adaptive System (CAS)	Border security is a dynamic system influenced by institutional, criminal, operational, and facilitation capacities.
Cross-Border Integration Models	Categorization of borders by integration level: alienated, coexistent, interdependent, integrated.
Boundary-Making Theory	Emphasizes state and multi-actor roles in border management and cooperation against transnational threats.

Noted: The comparison study of our research.

Border as Social-Political Construct, Border is frequently used as a geographical lens through which one can study the evolution of society and tensions around issues like migration, place-making, colonialism, identity, conflicts, cross-border cooperation and globalization. The concept of border presents the advantage of a shift in focus to peripheral zones which contain contingent spaces, marked both by precariousness and interdependency. The border's both inconsistent and fertile space incite cross encounters, favoring an unpredictable access to the unfamiliar, thus discovering unexpected connections. The consideration of the culture of a region from an alternative perspective of heterogeneity, messiness, contingency generates a lot of conceptual possibilities contained in the metaphors of borders, border crossings and borderlands, some scholars or artists celebrating in the hybridizing effects of borders. The latent power and innovative possibilities of conflictual regions allow the challenging of the formal structures that enabled the social, cultural and economic oppression.

Complex Adaptive System (CAS), A Complex Adaptive System (CAS) is a system composed of numerous interacting and interdependent agents or components, each following simple rules, with no central control or leader. The collective interactions among these agents give rise to emergent patterns and behaviors that cannot be predicted solely by analyzing individual parts.

Emergence system-level patterns and structures emerge from the local interactions of agents, even though no agent is directing the overall outcome.Adaptation of both the agents and the system as a whole can adapt or change in response to environmental shifts or internal dynamics.Non-linearity: Interactions are non-linear, meaning small changes can have disproportionately large effects, often due to feedback loops. Self-Organization system organizes itself without external direction, as agents follow simple rules leading to organized complexity.Decentralization is no central command; agents act autonomously, and the system's behavior arises from their interactions.

Feedback Loops, Outputs of the system can be fed back as inputs, influencing future behaviors and creating dynamic, sometimes unpredictable, system evolution. Dynamism, The system is constantly evolving, with the state of the system rarely, if ever, repeating exactly. Stochasticity, Randomness or chance plays a role in agent behavior and system outcomes, making the system inherently unpredictable in detail. History Dependence, the system's past influences its present and future behavior, leading to path dependency. Openness, CAS often have ill-defined boundaries and interact with their environment, exchanging information, energy, or matter.

Cross-Border Integration Models, Cross-border integration models provide frameworks to understand how regions separated by national borders interact, cooperate, and sometimes merge their economic, social, and political activities. The models help explain the varying degrees of integration and the strategic use of borders as resources.Geo-Economic Model, focuses on the border as a source of differential benefits. Integration is driven by actors seeking to capitalize on economic asymmetries between neighboring regions. Often results in increased cross-border socio-economic disparities. Cooperation is typically instrumental, aiming to maximize economic utility or manage negative externalities (such as smuggling or environmental impacts). Territorial Project Model emphasizes convergence and mutual recognition across the border. Integration is based on building trust, mutual understanding, and shared identity. The border is seen as a resource for innovation, hybridization, and place-making that transcends the dividing line. Requires strong willingness to cooperate and fosters deeper, more sustainable integration.

Boundary-Making Theory, A theoretical framework for border security integrates multiple perspectives and models to understand the complex nature of borders and how they are managed to ensure security. Key elements of this framework include the conceptualization of borders as dynamic social, political, and spatial constructs, the role of state and non-state actors, and the complexity of threats and cooperation mechanisms.

Borders as Social and Political Constructs, borders are not merely physical lines but are socially and politically constructed and subject to change through political action and societal processes. They function as instruments for managing identity, control, and interaction between states and communities. The border's role varies historically and geographically, influencing its permeability and the degree of integration or separation it enforces.

Border Security as a Complex Adaptive System (CAS)

Border security can be understood through complexity and systems theory, viewing borders as complex adaptive systems that evolve with social, cultural, political, and economic influences.

The model emphasizes that border security is influenced by perceptions of threats, cultural identities, enforcement policies, and adversarial adaptations, making it a dynamic and interconnected system rather than a static barrier.

Boundary-Making Theory in Border Security Cooperation

This theory focuses on the role of state actors in managing borders while acknowledging the influence of other stakeholders such as border communities, politicians, and international actors. It underlines the necessity of cooperation between neighboring states to address transnational threats like human trafficking, smuggling, illegal immigration, and terrorism. The Comprehensive Border Security Cooperation (CBSC) Model derived from this theory identifies six components essential for effective border security cooperation frameworks.

CONCLUSION

Institutionalization and Future Outlook such as the institutionalization of trilateral meetings at the head-of-government level is seen as essential for advancing strategic projects and ensuring peace and sustainable development in the region. The next trilateral meeting is scheduled for 2025, indicating ongoing commitment to this diplomatic format. The three countries also collaborate on environmental protection, scientific research, public health, and cultural exchanges, further deepening their ties beyond just border management and trade

Borders, as social and political constructs, are dynamic sites shaped by strategic interests, cultural identities, and shifting power relations, rather than fixed lines on a map. Their significance extends beyond territorial demarcation, deeply influencing the lives, identities, and opportunities of those residing in borderlands, often serving both as barriers and as spaces of exchange and hybridization. When viewed through the lens of complex adaptive systems, borders become zones of constant interaction, adaptation, and emergent patterns, where local actions can have unpredictable and far-reaching effects. Cross-border integration models demonstrate that the function and permeability of borders depend on the interplay of economic, social, and political factors, ranging from exclusion to deep cooperation. Ultimately, understanding borders as evolving, contingent, and contested spaces reveals their capacity to both reinforce divisions and foster innovation, resilience, and new forms of solidarity.

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