

EVOLUTION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY CONCEPTS UNDER HYBRID THREATS

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The article examines the evolution of economic security concepts under the growing influence of hybrid threats that combine economic, geopolitical, informational, and institutional instruments. It argues that the emergence of hybrid threats has fundamentally altered the analytical environment in which economic security is defined, assessed, and governed, rendering traditional stability-oriented and sector-specific interpretations increasingly insufficient. The study traces the conceptual transformation of economic security from early state-centered and protection-oriented approaches toward broader systemic and adaptive frameworks. It is shown that classical interpretations, which emphasized protection from external economic pressure and preservation of macroeconomic stability, were developed in relatively predictable environments and therefore inadequately capture the complexity of contemporary threats. Hybrid threats operate through indirect, non-transparent, and often non-linear mechanisms, blurring the boundaries between economic risk, political pressure, and security challenges. Particular attention is devoted to the role of uncertainty as a defining characteristic of hybrid threat environments. Unlike conventional economic risks, hybrid threats are not fully observable or quantifiable and often exploit institutional weaknesses, informational asymmetries, and structural interdependencies within economic systems. As a result, economic security increasingly depends not only on the prevention of shocks but on the capacity of economic systems to adapt, absorb disturbances, and maintain functionality under persistent pressure. The study further highlights the limitations of traditional risk-based and indicator-driven analytical models in capturing the complexity of economic security under hybrid threats. In response, the article emphasizes the growing relevance of adaptive, scenario-based, and system-oriented frameworks capable of addressing uncertainty, cascading effects, and cross-sectoral interactions. The findings provide a foundation for further empirical research and support the development of economic security policies that move beyond financial stabilization toward comprehensive resilience and adaptive governance in crisis-prone and geopolitically fragmented environments.

Keywords: economic security, hybrid threats, systemic uncertainty, economic resilience, adaptive governance, institutional vulnerability.

Problem statement. The contemporary economic environment is increasingly shaped by hybrid threats that combine economic, geopolitical, informational, and institutional instruments of influence. Unlike traditional economic shocks, hybrid threats operate through indirect, often non-transparent mechanisms such as economic coercion, sanctions, financial restrictions, disinformation, and disruption of global value chains. These developments fundamentally alter the nature of economic security, challenging conventional theoretical frameworks that were primarily designed to address isolated economic or financial risks. Despite the growing relevance of hybrid threats, the concept of economic security remains largely grounded in stability-oriented and state-centered approaches. Existing studies often focus on macroeconomic indicators, fiscal sustainability, or financial stability, while underestimating the role of informational pressure, institutional erosion, and strategic uncertainty. As a result, economic security is frequently conceptualized as a static condition rather than a dynamic process evolving in response to complex and interconnected threats. Moreover, hybrid threats intensify systemic uncertainty and blur the boundaries between economic risk, political pressure, and security

challenges. This convergence complicates both the analytical assessment and governance of economic security, as traditional risk-based models prove insufficient in capturing non-linear effects and cross-sectoral spillovers. Consequently, there is a growing need to reconsider how economic security is defined and understood in the context of hybrid threats.

Against this background, the core problem addressed in this study lies in the insufficient conceptualization of the evolution of economic security under hybrid threats. Addressing this gap is essential for advancing theoretical understanding and for developing analytical frameworks capable of reflecting the changing nature of economic security in contemporary crisis-prone and geopolitically fragmented environments.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The evolution of economic security concepts has been closely linked to broader developments in security studies and political economy. Early theoretical interpretations emphasized the role of economic factors as a foundational element of national security. Within this tradition, Buzan B. conceptualized economic security as a core dimension of national security, focusing on the vulnerability of economic



systems to external pressure and strategic coercion [3]. Although this approach acknowledged the political nature of economic threats, it largely reflected a state-centered and relatively static understanding of economic security. Subsequent theoretical contributions shifted attention toward uncertainty, instability, and systemic risk as intrinsic features of modern economies. Classical distinctions introduced by Knight F.H. between measurable risk and fundamental uncertainty provided an analytical basis for understanding why conventional economic instruments are insufficient in environments characterized by unpredictability [8]. These insights were further developed in theories of endogenous instability, particularly in the work of Minsky H.P., who demonstrated how internal dynamics of financial systems can generate fragility and amplify vulnerability even in the absence of external shocks [10].

The emergence of the "risk society" paradigm significantly expanded the conceptual boundaries of economic security. Scholars associated with this framework, including Beck and later discussed by Leiss W. et al., emphasized the growing prevalence of manufactured risks, institutional uncertainty, and unintended consequences of modernization [9]. This perspective is particularly relevant to the analysis of hybrid threats, as it highlights the transformation of risk from an exogenous disturbance into a structural feature of socio-economic systems.

Contemporary research increasingly addresses the systemic and interconnected nature of economic threats. Analyses conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development stress that economic security and resilience depend on institutional quality, governance capacity, and policy coherence rather than on isolated protective measures [12]. Similarly, studies by the Bank for International Settlements demonstrate how global liquidity conditions, financial integration, and cross-border capital flows act as channels through which economic pressure and instability propagate across national economies [1]. At the global level, conceptualizations of economic security have been further shaped by assessments of hybrid and non-traditional threats. Reports by the World Economic Forum identify economic coercion, geopolitical fragmentation, information manipulation, and supply chain disruption as interconnected risks that undermine economic security through indirect and non-linear mechanisms [15]. Complementary analyses by the World Bank emphasize that prolonged exposure to such threats erodes institutional capacity and constrains long-term development, particularly in crisis-prone economies [14].

Finally, strategic and policy-oriented frameworks developed by international organizations increasingly recognize the need to adapt economic security concepts to hybrid threat environments. Institutional assessments by MOPAN and strategic documents of the United Nations Development Programme highlight the importance of resilience, adaptive governance, and multi-actor coordination in addressing complex and evolving economic threats [11; 13]. However, despite these advances, the literature remains fragmented, and a coherent conceptualization of how economic security evolves under hybrid threats is still lacking.

Overall, the reviewed research demonstrates a gradual shift from static, stability-oriented interpretations toward more dynamic and systemic perspectives on economic security. Nevertheless, existing studies insufficiently integrate the economic, informational, institutional, and geopolitical dimensions of hybrid threats into a unified conceptual framework. This gap underscores the need for further theoretical refinement of economic security concepts in the context of hybrid threats.

The purpose of this article is to analyse the evolution of economic security concepts under hybrid threats by identifying key theoretical shifts and expanding the understanding of economic security beyond traditional stability-oriented frameworks.

Methods of research. The study employs a qualitative conceptual research design based on comparative and systemic analysis. Methods of theoretical generalization and critical literature review are used to examine the evolution of economic security concepts across different analytical traditions. A comparative approach is applied to identify key conceptual shifts under hybrid threats, while systemic analysis is used to assess interdependencies between economic, institutional, and informational dimensions. Logical structuring and abstraction support the synthesis of an integrated conceptual framework for understanding economic security in hybrid threat environments.

Research results. The concept of economic security originally emerged within the broader framework of national security and political economy, where economic capacity was perceived as a prerequisite for state sovereignty and strategic autonomy. Early interpretations primarily emphasized protection from external economic pressures, including trade dependence, resource vulnerability, and financial coercion. In this context, Buzan B. conceptualized economic security as a core dimension of national security, highlighting the exposure of national economies to both external constraints and internal structural weaknesses [3]. At this stage of conceptual development, economic security was largely understood as a static condition associated with the preservation of economic stability and control over critical resources. Such interpretations reflected the dominant state-centred paradigm, in which economic threats were perceived as exogenous and largely manageable through traditional policy instruments. However, this approach underestimated the role of internal dynamics and systemic interactions in generating economic vulnerability.

The expansion of economic theory toward uncertainty and instability significantly altered this perspective. Classical contributions by Knight F.H. introduced a distinction between calculable risk and fundamental uncertainty, underscoring the limitations of rational economic planning under unpredictable conditions [8]. This insight laid the theoretical foundation for rethinking economic security as a dynamic process rather than a fixed outcome. Further conceptual transformation occurred with the development of theories of endogenous instability. Minsky H.P. demonstrated that economic systems, particularly financial markets, possess an inherent tendency toward fragility, whereby prolonged periods of stability generate risk-taking behaviour that

ultimately undermines systemic security [10]. These ideas shifted the focus of economic security analysis from external shocks to internally generated vulnerabilities, paving the way for more complex and adaptive interpretations.

Hybrid threats have fundamentally transformed the environment in which economic security is formed and maintained. Unlike conventional economic risks, hybrid threats combine economic, political, informational, and institutional instruments, operating through indirect and often opaque mechanisms. These include economic coercion, sanctions, financial restrictions, disinformation campaigns, and the disruption of global value chains, which jointly erode economic stability and institutional trust.

From an analytical perspective, hybrid threats blur the boundaries between economic risk and security challenges, intensifying systemic uncertainty. Theoretical insights associated with the “risk society” paradigm emphasize that modern economies increasingly face manufactured and interconnected risks that cannot be fully anticipated or controlled through traditional governance mechanisms [9]. In this context, economic security becomes vulnerable not only to material shocks but also to informational manipulation and institutional erosion.

Institutional analyses highlight that hybrid threats amplify economic insecurity by exploiting structural interdependencies within globalized economies. The OECD emphasizes that policy fragmentation, regulatory inconsistency, and weak institutional coordination increase susceptibility to indirect economic pressure [12]. Similarly, assessments by the Bank for International Settlements demonstrate that global liquidity conditions and financial integration serve as channels through which economic and geopolitical pressures are transmitted across national economies [1].

Global risk assessments further illustrate the systemic nature of hybrid threats. According to the World Economic Forum, economic coercion, geopolitical fragmentation, and information manipulation increasingly operate as mutually reinforcing risks, generating cascading effects across sectors and regions [15]. The World Bank also notes that prolonged exposure to such threats constrains development capacity and weakens institutional resilience, particularly in economies characterized by structural vulnerabilities [14].

As a result, hybrid threats necessitate a re-evaluation of economic security concepts, shifting the focus from narrow stability-oriented frameworks toward broader interpretations that account for uncertainty, adaptability, and systemic interdependence.

Hybrid threats have accelerated the conceptual transformation of economic security by exposing the limitations of traditional analytical frameworks and policy instruments. Under conditions of systemic uncertainty, economic security has evolved from a narrow focus on stability and protection toward broader interpretations emphasizing resilience, vulnerability, and multi-actor governance [2]. Early economic security concepts were predominantly stability-oriented, equating security with macroeconomic equilibrium, fiscal discipline, and financial soundness. Such approaches assumed that economic

threats were largely predictable and manageable through conventional policy tools. However, empirical evidence increasingly demonstrates that stability does not guarantee protection against systemic shocks or hybrid threats.

Limitations of stability-oriented approaches include:

- reliance on static macroeconomic indicators;
- underestimation of non-linear and indirect threats;
- limited capacity to address uncertainty-driven disruptions;
- focus on short-term equilibrium rather than long-term adaptability.

The growing exposure of economies to hybrid threats has shifted analytical attention toward resilience and adaptability. Institutional analyses emphasize that economic security depends on the ability of systems to absorb shocks, adapt to changing conditions, and recover without structural degradation [12; 14]. Global risk assessments further highlight that resilience-oriented approaches are better suited to environments characterized by persistent uncertainty and cascading risks [15]. As a result, economic security is increasingly conceptualized as a dynamic process rather than a static outcome, integrating stability with adaptive capacity and institutional learning.

Traditional economic security strategies often focused on protecting specific sectors or critical industries deemed essential for national interests. While sectoral protection remains relevant, hybrid threats reveal that economic systems are highly interconnected, making isolated protective measures insufficient. Hybrid threats exploit systemic interdependencies, leading to:

- disruption of global value and supply chains;
- spillover effects across sectors and regions;
- amplification of localized shocks into economy-wide instability.

Theoretical perspectives associated with systemic risk emphasize that vulnerabilities accumulate through complex interactions rather than isolated failures [9]. Institutional research further demonstrates that financial integration and global liquidity conditions serve as transmission mechanisms through which sectoral disturbances propagate across economies [1].

This shift underscores the need to address economic security at the system level, where vulnerabilities arise from the interaction of multiple sectors rather than from isolated weaknesses.

Conventional economic security frameworks were primarily state-centered, assigning responsibility for protection and regulation to national governments [7]. Under hybrid threats, however, this model proves increasingly inadequate due to the diffusion of economic power and the transnational nature of contemporary risks.

Economic security governance now involves a broader set of actors, including:

- international and supranational institutions;
- financial markets and multinational corporations;
- non-state actors influencing information flows and economic behaviour.

Institutional analyses emphasize that economic security increasingly depends on coordination between

Conceptual Shift from Sectoral Protection to Systemic Vulnerability

Traditional Approach	Evolving Perspective under Hybrid Threats
Focus on individual sectors	Focus on system-wide interdependencies
Protection of strategic industries	Identification of cascading vulnerabilities
Linear risk assessment	Recognition of non-linear spillover effects
National-level containment	Cross-border and cross-sectoral exposure

Source: developed by the author based on [1; 6; 12; 15]

public authorities, international organizations, and private actors [12]. Strategic assessments by global institutions further highlight that effective responses to hybrid threats require shared responsibility and multi-level governance mechanisms [13; 15]. This redistribution of responsibility reflects a fundamental conceptual shift: economic security is no longer solely a function of state capacity but a collective outcome shaped by interactions among diverse actors operating across borders and sectors.

The emergence of hybrid threats has fundamentally redefined the conceptual boundaries of economic security, necessitating a broader and more integrative analytical framework. Unlike traditional economic risks, hybrid threats operate through indirect, multidimensional channels, reshaping how economic security is understood, assessed, and governed. Under hybrid threats, economic security extends beyond conventional concerns related to macroeconomic stability, fiscal balance, and financial soundness. Contemporary interpretations increasingly incorporate dimensions related to institutional robustness, supply chain integrity, and the resilience of critical economic functions [5]. This expansion reflects the recognition that economic security is vulnerable not only to market fluctuations but also to strategic economic pressure and structural manipulation.

Institutional analyses emphasize that economic security must be understood as the capacity of an economy to preserve functional continuity under persistent and coordinated pressures rather than as a condition of temporary equilibrium [12; 14]. Global risk assessments further indicate that the erosion of economic security often occurs gradually, through cumulative disruptions that remain below the threshold of immediate crisis but nonetheless undermine long-term stability [15].

A defining feature of hybrid threats is the integration of informational and institutional mechanisms into economic pressure strategies. Disinformation, strategic narratives, and asymmetric information influence economic expectations, investment behaviour, and policy credibility, thereby affecting economic security through non-material channels.

Theoretical perspectives associated with the “risk society” paradigm highlight that institutional trust and informational transparency have become critical determinants of economic stability and security [9]. At the policy level, international organizations emphasize that weak institutions and fragmented governance structures amplify the impact of hybrid threats by reducing coordination capacity and strategic coherence [12; 13]. Consequently, economic security increasingly depends on the resilience of informational environments and institutional frameworks,

reinforcing the need to integrate these dimensions into conceptual and analytical models.

Hybrid threats intensify systemic uncertainty by combining multiple sources of disruption and by exploiting unpredictability as a strategic instrument. Unlike conventional risks, which may be assessed through probabilistic models, hybrid threats generate uncertainty that resists quantification and complicates anticipatory governance [4]. Classical distinctions between risk and uncertainty underscore why traditional risk-based approaches are insufficient in hybrid threat environments. Moreover, endogenous instability theories demonstrate that prolonged uncertainty alters economic behavior, discourages long-term investment, and increases systemic fragility [10]. Global risk assessments confirm that uncertainty itself has become a central factor shaping economic security outcomes, rather than merely a contextual condition [15]. As a result, contemporary conceptualizations of economic security increasingly emphasize adaptability, learning capacity, and resilience as core responses to uncertainty-driven and unpredictable threats.

Hybrid threats pose significant methodological challenges for the analysis and measurement of economic security. Their multidimensional and indirect nature complicates the identification of clear causal relationships and undermines the reliability of conventional indicators. As a result, economic security under hybrid threats cannot be adequately captured through static metrics or isolated sectoral assessments, as emphasized in institutional analyses by the OECD and the World Bank [12; 14].

One of the key limitations of existing analytical approaches lies in the reliance on traditional risk-based models. Such models assume the availability of historical data and estimable probabilities, which are largely absent in hybrid threat environments. Classical distinctions between risk and uncertainty demonstrate that hybrid threats operate primarily within the domain of fundamental uncertainty, rendering probabilistic assessment tools insufficient [8]. Moreover, endogenous instability theories highlight that risk accumulation under prolonged uncertainty may remain invisible until systemic disruption occurs [10].

In response to these limitations, contemporary research increasingly emphasizes the need for adaptive and scenario-based analytical frameworks. Global risk assessments developed by the World Economic Forum illustrate the value of scenario analysis in capturing cascading effects, cross-sectoral interactions, and non-linear dynamics associated with hybrid threats [15]. Similarly, institutional frameworks advocate for adaptive governance mechanisms that prioritize learning, flexibility, and coordination across

multiple actors and levels of economic security [12; 13]. Overall, the methodological evolution of economic security analysis under hybrid threats requires a shift from prediction-oriented models toward approaches capable of managing uncertainty, anticipating structural disruptions, and supporting strategic resilience in complex and rapidly changing economic environments.

Conclusions. This study examines the evolution of economic security concepts under hybrid threats and demonstrates that contemporary economic security can no longer be adequately understood within traditional stability-oriented or state-centred frameworks. Hybrid threats fundamentally alter the environment in which economic systems operate by combining economic, informational, institutional, and geopolitical instruments, thereby expanding the scope and complexity of economic security.

The analysis confirms that the conceptual boundaries of economic security have significantly widened. Economic security increasingly encompasses not only macroeconomic stability and financial soundness but also institutional resilience, informational integrity, and the capacity to maintain functional continuity under indirect and coordinated pressures. This expansion reflects a shift from static interpretations of security toward dynamic and process-oriented conceptualizations capable of addressing systemic vulnerability.

A key finding of the study is the growing recognition of uncertainty and unpredictability as central determinants of economic security under hybrid threats. Unlike conventional economic risks, hybrid threats operate in conditions of fundamental uncertainty, limiting the applicability of probabilistic risk assessment and conventional forecasting

tools. Prolonged uncertainty alters economic behaviour, constrains investment decisions, and accelerates the accumulation of systemic fragility, thereby undermining economic security even in the absence of immediate crisis events.

The research further highlights a significant transformation in the governance of economic security. The traditional dominance of state-centered approaches has given way to multi-actor frameworks involving international institutions, financial markets, private actors, and informational environments. This redistribution of responsibility reflects the transnational and interconnected nature of hybrid threats, which cannot be effectively managed by national governments alone.

From a methodological perspective, the study demonstrates that existing indicator-based and risk-oriented models are insufficient for capturing the complexity of economic security under hybrid threats. Adaptive, scenario-based, and resilience-oriented analytical frameworks provide a more appropriate foundation for assessing uncertainty-driven and non-linear economic threats. However, their effectiveness depends on systematic integration across analytical levels and governance structures.

Overall, the findings contribute to the theoretical refinement of economic security by conceptualizing its evolution under hybrid threats as a shift toward multidimensionality, adaptability, and systemic awareness. The results provide a theoretical basis for future empirical research and support the development of economic security policies capable of addressing complex and uncertainty-driven challenges in contemporary crisis-prone and geopolitically fragmented economic environments.

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ЕВОЛЮЦІЯ КОНЦЕПЦІЙ ЕКОНОМІЧНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ В УМОВАХ ГІБРИДНИХ ЗАГРОЗ

У статті досліджено еволюцію наукових підходів до трактування економічної безпеки в умовах поширення гібридних загроз, які поєднують економічні, інформаційні, інституційні та геополітичні інструменти впливу. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена трансформацією сучасного безпекового середовища, в якому економічний тиск, санкційна політика, інформаційні маніпуляції, фінансові обмеження та порушення глобальних ланцюгів створення вартості дедалі частіше застосовуються як альтернативні або доповнювальні механізми впливу на економічні системи. Традиційні концепції економічної безпеки, сформовані в межах стабілізаційної та державоцентричної парадигми, не відображають повною мірою характеру сучасних загроз, а саме, що в умовах гібридних загроз економічна безпека перестає бути лише функцією макроекономічної рівноваги або фінансової стабільності та набуває ознак динамічного процесу, який залежить від здатності економічної системи адаптуватися до непрямих, багатовекторних і часто непередбачуваних впливів. У дослідженні окреслено ключові зсуви в еволюції економічної безпеки, що проявляються у переході від домінування підходів, орієнтованих на економічну стабільність, до акцентування на системній стійкості та адаптивності економічних систем; від зосередження на захисті окремих секторів – до усвідомлення системної вразливості економіки, зумовленої міжсекторальними та транскордонними взаємозв'язками; а також від виключно державоцентричних моделей забезпечення економічної безпеки – до багатосуб'єктних підходів, що передбачають участь міжнародних інституцій, ринкових механізмів, приватних акторів та інформаційних середовищ. Окрему увагу приділено ролі невизначеності та непередбачуваності як ключових характеристик гібридних загроз. За таких умов традиційні ризик-орієнтовані моделі оцінювання економічної безпеки втрачають аналітичну спроможність, оскільки не здатні врахувати нелінійні ефекти, кумулятивні вразливості та стратегічний характер непрямих загроз. Отримані результати формують теоретичне підґрунтя для подальших емпіричних досліджень та можуть бути використані при розробленні й удосконаленні державної політики у сфері забезпечення економічної безпеки в умовах підвищеної ризиковості та геополітичної нестабільності.

Ключові слова: економічна безпека, гібридні загрози, системна невизначеність, економічна стійкість, інституційна вразливість, адаптивне управління.

Дата надходження статті: 25.01.2026

Дата прийняття статті: 16.02.2026

Дата публікації статті: 03.03.2026