

Abstract

Reconsidering Non-Traditional Security Threats: A Case of Natural Resource Security

HATAKEYAMA, Kyoko (Kansai Gaidai University)

Based on the common question of a volume as to how non-traditional security threats are related to traditional security threats, this article reconsidered the concept of non-traditional security threats as an introductory article. It then analyzed natural resource security by employing "the 2010 rare earth shock" as a case study. The reason there are versatile 'securities' ranging from a narrow national security to a comprehensive human security in the international society is that the concept of security is equivalent to protecting acquired values. Considering that "securitization" necessarily occurs in a non-traditional security area such as piracy and environment to create new "values", it is essential for us to analyze non-traditional security issues by paying attention to "who is protecting whose and what values by which means". Then, the article analyzed the 2010 supply disruption of rare earth by using "threat perception" and "supply chain" concepts. It concludes that although the supply disruption of rare earth may be a threat to national security if we widen the value to defend to "industrial superiority", it is a matter of risk rather than security threats affecting nation's survival.

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