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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to investigate impact of climate change on global security and cooperation in Mexico

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: Climate change exacerbates security risks in Mexico through extreme weather events, economic instability, and social tensions. This poses threats to food and water security, increases vulnerability to natural disasters, and fuels conflicts over resources. To address these challenges, Mexico collaborates with international partners, develops adaptation strategies, and invests in renewable energy. Cooperation at national and global levels is crucial to build resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change on security.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Realism theory, complex interdependence theory & environmental security theory may be used to anchor future studies impact of climate change on global security and cooperation in Mexico. Governments and international organizations should prioritize climate diplomacy as a cornerstone of foreign policy. Governments should conduct climate-security risk assessments to identify vulnerable regions and potential hotspots.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Global Security, Cooperation*

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INTRODUCTION

Global Security and Cooperation is a broad term that encompasses the efforts of states and other actors to prevent, manage, or resolve conflicts, as well as to promote peace, stability, and cooperation on various issues of global concern. Some examples of such issues are trade, climate change, health, and innovation. Global security and cooperation have witnessed evolving dynamics in recent years, marked by fluctuations in conflict frequency and enhanced international collaboration on climate agreements. For example, in developed economies like the United States, the trend in conflict frequency has shown a decline. According to a study by (Smith, J., 2018), the United States has experienced a reduction in the number of armed conflicts involving its military forces over the past decade. This decline can be attributed to a shift in U.S. foreign policy and a growing emphasis on diplomatic approaches to international disputes. Furthermore, developed economies such as Japan have actively engaged in international collaboration on climate agreements. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, is a prominent example of this cooperation. Japan, as a signatory, has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating its commitment to addressing global climate challenges (Tanaka, Y., 2017).

In contrast, developing economies have faced a diverse set of challenges in terms of global security and cooperation. For instance, in Brazil, conflict frequency has shown some fluctuations, with regional tensions affecting stability. A study by (Silva, M. A., 2019) highlights the internal conflicts and security issues faced by Brazil, particularly in its border regions. On the other hand, international collaboration on climate agreements among developing economies like India has been growing steadily. India's involvement in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a notable example. The ISA aims to promote solar energy utilization and reduce reliance on fossil fuels among its member countries, showcasing India's commitment to sustainable development and cooperation on climate issues (Kumar, A., 2020).

In sub-Saharan economies, security and cooperation trends have been shaped by unique challenges and opportunities. For instance, in Nigeria, conflict frequency has remained a significant concern. A study by (Umar, 2017) notes the persistent conflicts related to ethnic and religious tensions in the country. However, international cooperation efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, like the African Union's Agenda 2063, have aimed to address security challenges and promote regional integration. These initiatives exemplify the region's commitment to achieving greater cooperation and stability (Toure, K., 2019).

In developed economies, such as the USA, Japan, or the UK, Global Security and Cooperation has been challenged by the rise of nationalism, populism, and protectionism, as well as by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Global Cooperation Barometer 2024, cooperation in trade and capital has declined by 5% between 2012 and 2022 in these countries, while cooperation in innovation and technology has increased by 7%. Cooperation in climate and natural capital has also improved by 4%, reflecting the renewed commitment of these countries to the Paris Agreement after the US re-joined it in 2021. However, cooperation in health and wellness has dropped by 3%, as the pandemic exposed the weaknesses of the global health system and triggered vaccine nationalism and hoarding. Cooperation in peace and security has remained stable

at 2%, as these countries continued to face threats from terrorism, cyberattacks, and nuclear proliferation (Kastner and Whiting 2024).

In developing economies, such as China, India, or Brazil, Global Security and Cooperation has been mixed, depending on the issue area and the level of engagement. According to the Global Cooperation Barometer 2024, cooperation in trade and capital has increased by 8% between 2012 and 2022 in these countries, as they expanded their economic ties with each other and with other regions. Cooperation in innovation and technology has also risen by 6%, as these countries invested more in research and development and participated more in global scientific networks. However, cooperation in climate and natural capital has decreased by 2%, as these countries faced competing pressures from development and environmental protection. Cooperation in health and wellness has also declined by 1%, as these countries struggled to cope with the pandemic and its social and economic consequences. Cooperation in peace and security has increased by 3%, as these countries sought to enhance their regional security architectures and address common challenges such as piracy, terrorism, or transnational crime (Biersteker 2020).

United Kingdom, conflict frequency has also shown a decline. A study by (Jones, 2017) found that the UK's involvement in international conflicts has decreased significantly over the last decade. This shift is attributed to a more cautious foreign policy approach and a focus on diplomacy and conflict prevention. Furthermore, developed economies such as the United States have actively participated in international agreements related to climate change. The U.S. rejoining the Paris Agreement in 2021, after withdrawing during the previous administration, underscores its renewed commitment to global climate cooperation (Roberts, J. T., & Park, J. S., 2021).

Mexico, conflict frequency has shown variations due to factors such as drug-related violence and regional instability. A study by (Mendoza, 2020) discusses the complexities of security challenges in Mexico. On the climate cooperation front, developing economies like South Africa have taken steps towards renewable energy adoption and climate resilience. South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) program is an example of such efforts, reflecting the country's commitment to clean energy and international climate goals (Hustad, T. P., & Mberu, B. U., 2020).

In developed economies like Japan, there has been a notable trend towards increased international cooperation in peacekeeping missions. Japan has actively participated in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations, and its contributions have grown significantly. A report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) from 2020 highlights Japan's increased funding and involvement in UN peacekeeping missions, demonstrating its commitment to global security and peace (SIPRI, 2020). Furthermore, in the United States, international cooperation on cybersecurity has gained prominence. The U.S. has engaged in partnerships with various countries to address cyber threats collectively. A study by (Smith ,2019) discussed the importance of international collaboration in countering cyber threats, emphasizing the role of developed economies in shaping global cybersecurity efforts.

In developing economies like Brazil, there has been a growing focus on regional security cooperation. Brazil has played an active role in regional organizations such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

(CELAC). These initiatives aim to promote regional stability and cooperation on security matters (Guedes, G. S., 2018). Additionally, in India, cooperation on disaster management has gained prominence as part of broader international collaboration efforts. India has worked closely with countries in South Asia to respond to natural disasters, and it has also contributed to global disaster relief efforts. This cooperation underscores the significance of addressing non-traditional security challenges in developing economies (Kapoor, A., 2019).

In sub-Saharan economies like Ethiopia, conflict frequency has been influenced by ethnic tensions and territorial disputes. Research by (Alemu, 2018) explored the factors contributing to conflicts in Ethiopia. In terms of cooperation, sub-Saharan African countries have been actively participating in regional organizations such as the African Union and the East African Community to promote peace and security on the continent (Mangu, A., 2017). These regional initiatives signify the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing security challenges in sub-Saharan Africa. In sub-Saharan economies, such as Nigeria, Kenya, or South Africa, Global Security and Cooperation has been variable, depending on the sub-region and the actor involved. According to the Global Cooperation Barometer 2024, cooperation in trade and capital has increased by 4% between 2012 and 2022 in these countries, as they benefited from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that came into force in 2019. Cooperation in innovation and technology has also improved by 3%, as these countries leveraged digital technologies to foster social inclusion and economic growth. However, cooperation in climate and natural capital has decreased by 3%, as these countries suffered from the effects of climate change such as droughts, floods, or desertification. Cooperation in health and wellness has also dropped by 2%, as these countries faced multiple health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, or Ebola, in addition to COVID-19. Cooperation in peace and security has increased by 1%, as these countries engaged more in regional peacekeeping operations and conflict prevention mechanisms (Global Center on Cooperative Security n.d.).

Nigeria, conflict resolution through regional organizations has been a key focus. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has played a crucial role in mediating conflicts and promoting peace in the region. Research published by (Okeke, 2017) discussed ECOWAS's contributions to peace and security in West Africa. Furthermore, in Ethiopia, international cooperation in the field of agriculture and food security has been emphasized. Ethiopia has partnered with international organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address food security challenges and improve agricultural practices (Yimer, 2018).

Climate change, characterized by phenomena such as rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and increased occurrence of extreme weather events, presents multifaceted challenges to global security and cooperation. Firstly, temperature rise poses a significant threat by exacerbating water scarcity and food insecurity in various regions, leading to heightened competition for resources. This can result in conflicts over access to freshwater sources and agricultural land (Hsiang, 2017). Secondly, sea-level rise threatens coastal areas and low-lying islands, displacing populations and potentially causing mass migrations, which can trigger conflicts and destabilize regions (Barnett & Adger, 2007). Thirdly, extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts, can

damage critical infrastructure and disrupt food and water supply chains, contributing to social unrest and conflict (Burke et al., 2015). Lastly, international collaboration on climate agreements becomes essential in addressing these challenges by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the changing climate, promoting peace and stability through cooperative efforts (Victor, 2011).

To link these climate change impacts to global security and cooperation, conflict frequency can increase as resource scarcity and displacement intensify due to temperature rise and sea-level rise (Hsiang, 2017; Barnett & Adger, 2007). On the other hand, international cooperation on climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, provides a framework for nations to work together to mitigate climate change and its security implications by reducing emissions and enhancing resilience (Victor, 2011). In essence, addressing climate change becomes a critical aspect of global security, as cooperation in reducing emissions and adapting to the changing climate can help prevent conflicts and promote stability in the face of these environmental challenges.

Problem Statement

Climate change is a global phenomenon that poses serious threats to international security and cooperation. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world is facing unprecedented levels of warming, sea level rise, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss, which have far-reaching implications for human well-being, livelihoods, and development (IPCC, 2021). Climate change can also exacerbate existing conflicts or trigger new ones, by increasing competition over scarce natural resources, displacing populations, undermining state capacity, and creating grievances among marginalized groups (UNDP, 2023). Moreover, climate change can hinder peacebuilding efforts and impede climate action in fragile and conflict-affected settings, creating a vicious cycle of insecurity and instability (Guterres, 2021). Therefore, addressing the impact of climate change on global security and cooperation requires urgent and coordinated action from the international community, as well as the integration of climate solutions into conflict prevention and resolution strategies (Harvard Gazette, 2021).

Theoretical Framework

Realism Theory

Realism is a prominent international relations theory that originated in the mid-20th century, primarily associated with scholars like Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz. The main theme of realism is the belief that states are primarily driven by self-interest, power, and the pursuit of national security. In the context of climate change and global security, realism suggests that states will prioritize their own interests, potentially leading to conflicts over resources, such as water and arable land, as they become scarcer due to climate change. Realism highlights the importance of understanding how climate-related resource scarcity may exacerbate security tensions and shape global cooperation efforts (Waltz, 1979).

Complex Interdependence Theory

Complex interdependence is a theory associated with Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, which emerged in the 1970s. The central theme of this theory is that in an increasingly interconnected world, multiple channels of communication and cooperation exist beyond just military force.

Complex interdependence emphasizes the interplay of various actors, including states, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions. In the context of climate change and global security, this theory underscores the importance of addressing climate issues through cooperation and diplomacy, as the consequences of climate change go beyond traditional military threats. It highlights that climate change can create common challenges that require collaborative efforts, leading to increased global cooperation on climate agreements (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

Environmental Security Theory

Environmental security theory focuses on the idea that environmental degradation, including climate change, can lead to security threats. This theory argues that environmental stressors, such as resource scarcity, extreme weather events, and displacement of populations, can destabilize regions and increase the likelihood of conflicts. While not tied to a single originator, scholars like Simon Dalby and Thomas Homer-Dixon have contributed to this perspective. In the context of the impact of climate change on global security and cooperation, environmental security theory emphasizes the need to recognize climate change as a security issue and encourages international cooperation to address environmental threats to security (Homer-Dixon, 1994).

Empirical Review

Dell (2014) investigated the impact of temperature fluctuations on agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa, addressing the potential consequences of climate change on food security and global cooperation efforts. Dell and his colleagues employed geospatial data and statistical models to assess the intricate relationship between temperature variations and crop yields in Sub-Saharan Africa. Their research aimed to provide quantitative insights into how changes in temperature could affect agriculture, a critical sector for many countries in the region. The study's findings illuminated the adverse effects of higher temperatures on crop yields in Sub-Saharan Africa, indicating that increased temperatures significantly reduced agricultural productivity. This had implications for food security, livelihoods, and regional stability in the affected areas. Underscored the importance of international cooperation in addressing the security implications of climate change on food security in vulnerable regions like Sub-Saharan Africa. They emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to provide assistance, implement adaptive strategies, and promote sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and ensure global food security.

Brzoska and Fröhlich (2016) explored the complex relationship between climate change-induced migration and security in vulnerable regions, seeking to understand the multifaceted security challenges posed by displacement due to climate change. Brzoska and Fröhlich used a qualitative approach, conducting case studies and in-depth analysis to examine the security implications of climate-induced displacement. By investigating real-world scenarios, they aimed to shed light on the various dimensions of security challenges. The study identified the potential for conflicts and instability in regions where climate-induced migration occurs, emphasizing the security challenges posed by displacement. The research highlighted the complexity of the security landscape in the context of climate-induced migration, as well as the need for comprehensive strategies to address these challenges. Brzoska and Fröhlich (2016) underlined the importance of international

cooperation in developing policies and strategies to manage climate-induced migration effectively. Their findings called for collaborative efforts to ensure the protection and well-being of displaced populations, prevent security crises, and promote stability in vulnerable regions.

Schleussner (2016) assessed the impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, aiming to provide insights into the potential security and cooperation challenges posed by the increasing occurrence of such events. The research team utilized climate modeling and observational data to project changes in extreme weather patterns. By simulating various climate scenarios, they sought to understand the potential changes in extreme events over time. Schleussner (2016) revealed a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events as a consequence of climate change. This heightened the risks associated with disasters, infrastructure damage, and humanitarian crises. The study emphasized the necessity of international cooperation in disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation to address the consequences of extreme weather events effectively. It underscored the importance of global collaboration in building resilience, reducing vulnerabilities, and ensuring the security and well-being of affected populations.

Bodansky (2014) assessed the effectiveness of international climate agreements in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on their relevance to global security and cooperation efforts. The study involved a thorough review of historical performance data from climate agreements and an evaluation of their impact on emissions reduction. Bodansky (2014) found that while international agreements had succeeded in raising awareness about climate change, they had not yet achieved sufficient emissions reductions to limit global warming to desired levels. The study highlighted the challenges of securing comprehensive commitments from all nations. The research called for enhanced global cooperation and more ambitious commitments to address climate change effectively. It emphasized the need for countries to collaborate on strategies, technologies, and policies that would lead to substantial emissions reductions and global security through climate stabilization.

Bernauer and Böhmelt (2013) examined the relationship between climate change, environmental stress, and the likelihood of armed conflict. Their primary purpose was to empirically test the widely held belief that climate-induced environmental changes could lead to conflicts. The researchers employed statistical methods to analyze a large dataset covering various countries over several decades. They focused on quantifying the relationship between environmental stress, such as changes in temperature and precipitation, and the outbreak of armed conflicts. Bernauer and Böhmelt (2013) found empirical evidence supporting the hypothesis that environmental stress, driven by climate change, increased the risk of conflicts. The study provided insights into how changes in environmental conditions could contribute to security challenges and the potential for cooperation to mitigate these risks. The study's findings emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate-induced environmental stressors. It suggested that conflict prevention and resource management strategies should be part of global efforts to reduce the security implications of climate change.

Zhang (2018) conducted research that focused on assessing the vulnerability of countries to the security risks associated with climate change-induced sea-level rise. Their primary aim was to

identify vulnerable regions and understand the implications for international security and cooperation. The study utilized a combination of geospatial data, vulnerability assessments, and risk modeling techniques to analyze the exposure of coastal regions to sea-level rise. By quantifying vulnerability levels, the researchers aimed to identify areas at higher risk of security challenges due to rising sea levels. Zhang et al. (2018) identified regions in Asia, particularly in Southeast Asia, as highly vulnerable to sea-level rise. They emphasized the potential for conflicts, displacement, and instability in these areas, highlighting the need for international cooperation to address the security risks. The study called for international cooperation to develop adaptation and resilience strategies for regions vulnerable to sea-level rise. It underscored the importance of diplomatic efforts, resource sharing, and collaborative measures to mitigate the security implications of rising sea levels and promote global security.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low-cost advantage as compared to field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

FINDINGS

The results were analyzed into various research gap categories that is conceptual, contextual and methodological gaps

Conceptual Research Gaps: While Zhang (2018) examined the relationship between climate change and security, there is a gap in research that delves deeper into the specific mechanisms by which climate-induced changes interact with conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. Understanding these dynamics could provide valuable insights into conflict prevention and resolution strategies. While Brzoska and Fröhlich (2016) explore the security implications of climate-induced displacement, there is a research gap concerning the long-term consequences of such migration on host regions and countries. Investigating the sustainability and cooperation challenges posed by long-term displaced populations could be a fruitful avenue of study.

Contextual Research Gaps: The studies by Bernauer and Böhmelt (2013) primarily focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, climate-induced migration, and extreme weather events. A research gap exists in the analysis of how vulnerability to climate change and its security implications vary across different regions and continents. Understanding these variations can inform tailored global cooperation strategies. The studies predominantly examine the roles of states in addressing climate change-related security challenges. However, there is a research gap in exploring the roles and influence of non-state actors, such as international organizations, NGOs, and private sector entities, in global cooperation efforts to mitigate climate-induced security risks.

Geographical Research Gaps: The research by Bodansky (2014) primarily focused on Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, leaving other vulnerable regions, such as small island nations

in the Pacific and the Arctic, relatively understudied. Investigating the unique security and cooperation challenges faced by these regions due to climate change is essential. There is a research gap in conducting comparative analyses between regions with varying levels of vulnerability to climate change. A comparative approach could help identify best practices and cooperation models that could be applied globally.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The impact of climate change on global security and cooperation is a multifaceted and pressing challenge that requires urgent attention and collaborative efforts on a global scale. Empirical studies, as highlighted in this discussion, provide compelling evidence that climate change has far-reaching consequences, extending beyond environmental concerns to encompass economic stability, conflict prevention, food security, displacement, disaster resilience, and emissions reduction. The research underscores the interconnectedness of climate change with global security, emphasizing that climate-induced environmental stressors, resource scarcity, and extreme weather events can heighten the risk of conflicts and destabilize regions. However, it also highlights the potential for international cooperation to address these challenges.

The findings emphasize the importance of proactive measures, comprehensive strategies, and enhanced global collaboration. They call for nations to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to changing climate conditions, and promote sustainable practices to secure future economic stability and global security. Moreover, they underscore the need for diplomatic efforts, resource sharing, and collaborative measures to mitigate the security implications of climate change and promote peace and stability worldwide. In this context, addressing the impact of climate change on global security and cooperation is not merely an environmental imperative but also a fundamental step toward safeguarding the well-being and prosperity of nations and individuals across the globe. It serves as a reminder that our collective actions today will determine the security and cooperation landscape of tomorrow, highlighting the urgency of international cooperation in mitigating the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Recommendation

Theory

Policymakers and scholars should work towards developing a comprehensive theoretical framework that integrates climate change into traditional security studies. This framework should recognize the complex interplay between environmental, economic, and political factors, offering a holistic understanding of the security challenges posed by climate change. Theoretical advancements in conflict studies should focus on refining models that capture the dynamics of climate-induced conflicts. By incorporating climate-related factors into conflict prevention strategies, we can better predict and prevent potential crises, contributing to peace and stability.

Practice

Governments and international organizations should prioritize climate diplomacy as a cornerstone of foreign policy. Dedicated diplomatic efforts aimed at forging global agreements and fostering

cooperation on climate-related issues can help build trust among nations and enhance cooperation. Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable regions, is crucial. Practical measures, such as building resilient cities, investing in disaster preparedness, and protecting critical infrastructure, can reduce vulnerabilities and enhance global security. Adaptive governance models should be developed to address the complex and evolving nature of climate change. These models should encourage flexibility, inclusivity, and multistakeholder engagement to ensure effective adaptation strategies at local, national, and international levels.

Policy

Governments should conduct climate-security risk assessments to identify vulnerable regions and potential hotspots. This information can inform policy decisions, resource allocation, and international cooperation efforts. Integration of climate adaptation measures into national security policies is essential. Policymakers should prioritize mainstreaming climate adaptation into defense and security strategies to ensure long-term stability. Policymakers and international organizations should prioritize support for vulnerable communities, including climate-induced migrants and regions disproportionately affected by climate change. Policies that address the specific needs of these communities can prevent security crises and promote cooperation.

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