

Transversal Threats and Collateral Conflicts: Communities of the United States under the siege of political conflicts on the American continent

Research Article DOI: 10.59600/ijcae.v2i1.14

Jose Gabriel Carrasco Ramirez, MSc, Ph.D.

International Lawyer and CEO at Quarks Advantage, New Jersey, USA

Abstract

Security, a cornerstone of international relations, is intertwined with states' defense and survival. Barry Buzan's work expands security's scope from military to societal dimensions, highlighting its multifaceted nature. Buzan's Regional Security Complex paradigm elucidates interactions among states within and beyond geographical boundaries. Societal security emerges as pivotal, safeguarding a state's identity and integrity. Transnational threats, exemplified by South and Central America's challenges, underscore interconnected security risks. Venezuela's crisis, Colombian violence, and Mexican drug trade intricately impact regional stability and global dynamics. Assessing security through various lenses reveals nuanced perspectives, from realist state-centric views to liberal individualism and constructivist social dynamics. Understanding these complexities is essential for addressing contemporary security challenges effectively. This abstract synthesizes key concepts in security studies, offering insights into evolving security paradigms and their implications for international relations.

Keywords: Threats, Conflicts, Communities, USA

1. Introduction

The idea of security is crucial to understanding international relations since it is closely related to the defense and survival of states, which are the main actors in the world. Nonetheless, there are various viewpoints and lenses through which to see and comprehend the idea of state. Barry Buzan examined the idea of security both inside and beyond the state. This author introduced the Regional Security Complex paradigm in relation to external security. Members within the same RSC interact highly, while there is comparatively minimal interaction between members of different RSCs. Barry Buzan expanded the meaning of security in the home domain to include the political, economic, social, and environmental spheres in addition to the military. Out of these five security domains, societal security is the most important since it describes how the state protects the very society that gives rise to it. Addressing threats, there are the so-called transnational ones, which are security risks that do not belong to a single country. These transnational threats can be classified as transversal threats since they cross many domains when they seriously harm the societal, political, and economic sectors of another nation. These transversal risks cause a noticeable strain on communities within the host state, modifying material reality, and sometimes even resulting in physical altercations, which in turn causes collateral conflicts. Violence linked to gangs and drug trafficking, a problem throughout South and Central America, particularly in the nations that make up the Northern Triangle, can be analyzed to understand this approach, including a clarified view of the strict militaristic methods implemented by the governments to combat crime, where can be concluded that they have largely failed. In another approach, people's dissatisfaction with the almost permanent corruption and violence seems to have propelled the region toward a political tipping point. For much of the first decade of the 2000s, Colombia became one of the most violent and deadly countries in the world. Following Colombia, the main drug trafficking organizations in Mexico took advantage of the vacuum in the drug trade. As a secondary conflict, this is leading to huge illegal immigration, which is affecting the US. Moreover, neighboring Venezuela has also been grappling with its own set of challenges, exacerbating regional instability. The economic and political crises in Venezuela have led to widespread poverty, corruption, and a deteriorating security situation. This, in turn, has contributed to a surge in refugees and migrants

fleeing the country in search of better opportunities and safety. The repercussions of these interconnected crises are not only felt within the borders of each nation but also have far-reaching implications for the entire region, affecting international relations and straining resources. Cultural conflict as well as cultural threats to the dominance of American communities are also obvious, in addition to the financial strain placed on US communities in the United States as a result of transversal threats arising from conflicts, particularly in South America. Therefore, this envisages analyzing the multifaceted concept of transversal threats with regard to the American continent. It employs a qualitative research methodology and aims to investigate the transnational nature of these threats especially targeted toward the US. Hence, this investigation unfolds the detrimental implications of these threats on the US communities as a collateral conflict.

2. Assessing the Rubric of Security

In international relations, the concept of security holds paramount importance as it is directly linked with the protection and sustenance of the primary international actors – states. However, there are different lenses and perspectives to view and understand the concept of state. National security, as defined by America's National Security Council, is the safeguarding of the people, protection of institutions, and establishment of fundamental values.¹ Scholars such as Tesagar and Simon Nir incorporate national security in the area of government policy because they are aware that its goal is to establish positive political, national, and international circumstances in order to protect or propagate essential national values against both current and potential adversaries. Barry Buzan asserts that national security encompasses military, political, economic, social, and environmental aspects. José Gabriel Carrasco addresses the perspective of security as a quality present at all levels of a community system, whether local, national, regional or global. According to the theory presented, security is defined as the ability of a system to satisfy individual and collective needs without danger, harm or risk. The main proposal is Integrated Security, which implies the dynamic and permanent union of all system components. This integration manifests itself at different

¹ David A. Baldwin, "The Concept of Security," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1997)

levels and generating forces, affecting the interaction patterns between the units of the community system. These patterns can generate relationships of balance or resistance in the dynamics of interactions, both at the national level and in relationships with other systems.²

Realist theories define "security" as the state's protection, with a focus on maintaining the state's physical safety for its citizens as well as its territorial integrity.³ If a state is able to resist or repel a violent attack and keep other states from forcing it to make significant behavioral changes or give up fundamental political principles, it is considered secure. Alternative definitions of "security" that prioritize individuals or the global level without giving special attention to the state, or which involve challenges to cultural independence or identity, economic hardship, domestic crime, and nonviolent challenges to human life (like disease or environmental decline), may be used to contrast this idea.

Security has always been a concern for liberalism, but only individual security as all institutions, including the state, are created and maintained by people and serve their interests.⁴ Indeed, liberalism's moral commitment to individualism is inextricably linked to it. All people deserve security, the tradition maintains, and institutions are judged on how well they assist individuals in achieving their ends. Liberalism is also not anti-statist. Liberal philosophy has focused especially on the state as an institution that is defined by its capacity to provide people with security and support their comfortable way of life.

Constructivists emphasize that their method of thinking about security enables a more nuanced interpretation of themes like power, security dilemmas, and balance of power that are typically connected to a realistic understanding of security. Constructivists understand security differently from realists who view it through the lenses of the state, power politics, and military relations, or from members of critical theories who view

² José Gabriel Carrasco Ramírez, *La Seguridad de la Nación Venezolana. Modelo Teórico*. Barquisimeto: Ediciones Parada Creativa, 2011.

³ Jeffrey W. Taliaferro, "Security Seeking under Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Winter, 2000-2001)

⁴ John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (1994)

security as a dedication to emancipation. The fundamental tenet that unifies the constructivist movement with security reflection is the belief that security represents a social idea.⁵ Constructivists attempt to steer clear of abstract and universal notions of security, contending that security is a context-dependent concept that is molded by social interactions among people. Actors think that while military prowess is important, opinions evolve with time, as seen by the realization that digital technology has a significant impact on warfare. Constructivists hold that social norms and the subject's identity play a major role in determining security. This relates to another core tenet of the current, which is that the construction and application of security in international politics is typically shaped by ethereal and creative forces.

3. Barry Buzan's Model of Security – Progression from Regional to Societal Milieu

Barry Buzan presented a multifold concept of security as he analyzed the notion of security on the outside of the state as well as the inside. In the context of external security, Barry Buzan, along with Ole Wæver presented the model of the Regional Security Complex.⁶ Different and consistent mechanisms of security interactions among players are referred to as regional security complexes (RSC). The levels of interaction between them set them apart from one another. While there is relatively little interaction among members of various RSCs, there is a high level of interaction inside the same RSC. By definition, regional security complexes remain geographical in character, as their name suggests. They are made up of adjacent actors who are kept apart from other actors by natural barriers like deserts, mountain ranges, and oceans. These "insulators" between RSCs can also be individual states.

In the domestic context, Barry Buzan enlarged the definition of security beyond the military to encompass the political, economic, social, and environmental domains. According to Buzan, these domains are interdependent and do not operate

⁵ Yu-tai Tsai, "THE EMERGENCE OF HUMAN SECURITY: A CONSTRUCTIVIST VIEW," *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Autumn/Winter 2009)

⁶ Andrej Krickovic, "'All Politics Is Regional': Emerging Powers and the Regionalization of Global Governance," *Global Governance*, Vol. 21, No. 4 (Oct.–Dec. 2015)

independently of one another but rather form a robust network.⁷ Buzan offers strong justifications for the empirical claim that security on an individual basis is correlated with security on the levels of the state as well as the international community. However, rather than being merely an ineffective research strategy, his insistence that security cannot be isolated to be treated at any single level conveys the idea that this is fundamentally impossible.

Among these five sectors of security, societal security is predominantly significant as it articulates the protection of the very society that forms the basis of the state. Because communities (non-state ones) are major political realities, and because of the political significance of their responses to threats to their identity, societal security is a crucial issue in and of itself. When a sizable collectivity can be mobilized is what matters in a security environment. Security measures are always implemented in reference to and on behalf of a collective. The thing you could point to and say, "It ought to stay afloat, thus it is necessary to," is the referent object. When cultures believe that their sense of self is in jeopardy, there might be threats to the security of the community. A society's identity can be threatened by a variety of tactics, such as stifling its expression or interfering with its capacity for self-reproduction. Buzan states that this might involve anything from forbidding the employing of language, names, and dress, through the closing down of places of worship and education, to the expulsion or killing of community members. Furthermore, the sustained practice of repressive measures towards the public display of the identity can pose a threat to a society's ability to reproduce itself. Identity cannot be effectively transferred if institutions that replicate culture and language are prohibited from operating.

4. Evaluation of Transversal Threats and Collateral Conflicts

Security risks that are not limited to or originating from a single nation are known as transnational threats. Transnational threats include, but are not limited to, organized international crime, terrorism and a massive influx of refugees. The development of transportation and telecommunications in the late 20th century led to increased worry

⁷ Mathias Albert and Barry Buzan, "Securitization, sectors and functional differentiation," *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 42, No. 4/5 (August-October 2011)

about transnational threats. The time and effort it took for terrorist and criminal networks to transport agents around the world was significantly reduced by commercial aviation, and geographically scattered groups were able to communicate and plan their operations considerably more easily thanks to mobile phones, email, and the Internet.⁸ These transnational threats when significantly damage multiple domains of another country including its societal, political and economic sectors can be designated as transversal threats as they cut through multiple domains. These transversal threats result in collateral conflicts as they lead to palpable strain among communities, even physical altercations, in the host state.

From a transnational standpoint, the relationship between migration & security demonstrates the numerous security issues that connect sending and receiving states.⁹ According to this viewpoint, immigrants may pose a threat to the security of their homeland and the nation where they are now residing. There are several distinct dimensions to this, including political, cultural, socioeconomic, and legal. Politically, when immigrants oppose the government of their native country, transnational migration may be seen as a danger to the security and stability of that nation. Because of the potential damage to a nation's reputation abroad, the act of accepting refugees from another nation may already be cause for tension or conflict. However, the opposite scenario is also conceivable.

The social and economic structures may face difficulties from immigrants and asylum seekers. They could make things difficult on the domestic labor market and increase reliance on handouts. Because they must labor for a smaller wage than domestic regulations typically permit, migrant workers may pose a threat to domestic wages because they allow businesses to cut rates for specific branches. Additionally, migrant workers lose their jobs quicker than native-born workers do, particularly during economic downturns, because of their frequently low skill profiles, their poor standing on the labor market, and discrimination. As a result, they become dependent on welfare, which is seen as expensive for the nation of their origin. Also, the relationship

⁸ Britt Sloan and James Cockayne, "Terrorism, Crime, and Conflict: Exploiting the Differences Among Transnational Threats?," (Global Center on Cooperative Security, 2011)

⁹ Patrick M. Hughes, "Transnational Threats: A Changing Element of the Threat Spectrum," *American Intelligence Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (2021)

between immigration and crime and delinquency is growing. Certain crimes, such as human smuggling, are more likely to be perpetrated in connection with immigration or are unique to it. Furthermore, it's common knowledge that immigrants have greater percentages of criminal activity than native-born people.

This illustrates the collateral conflict dynamics of these transversal threats as increased competition may cause some locals to lose their jobs or be displaced. The most vulnerable elements of the community—women, young people, low-skilled and informal laborers, and residents in marginalized and degraded areas—are probably going to be one of the most impacted by these negative effects. This problem is intricately linked to the host nation's socioeconomic structure.¹⁰ Working in an unsupervised labor market is a common situation for illegal immigrant workers. These undocumented workers have the potential to undercut local labor costs and become victims of dishonest employers due to their willingness to accept lower compensation.

The possible effects on the environment and wildlife protection are two aspects of migration with security that are frequently disregarded. This domain bears significance for the broader security circumstances of the country. Because of their low situation and need for financial support, some illegal aliens may occasionally participate in illegal activities such as poaching and wildlife trafficking. Such activities jeopardize biodiversity and have a knock-on effect on the region's ecological equilibrium. In order to counter the demand for products derived from the illegal wildlife trade, the World Wildlife Crime Report highlights the importance of raising public awareness. In addition to their negative effects on the environment, illicit forest cutting and deforestation for agricultural or settlement purposes also jeopardize the food security of countries.

5. Political Conflicts on the American Continent – Analyzing the Source of Collateral Conflicts in the US

There are no wars in Latin America like there are in other regions of the world. However, the area is beset by social unrest, drug trafficking, crime, corruption, and inequality. Robust democratic institutions and political stability are more of a rare

¹⁰ "The US Council of Economic Advisers on Immigration's Economic Impact," *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (Sep., 2007)

occurrence than the rule. With regard to politics, South America in particular never appears to stop swinging from left to right and back over and over without resolving the economic and social concerns that cause the pendulum to swing. The region appeared to have arrived at a political turning point fueled by the discontent of the populace over the violence and corruption that seemed to be there forever.¹¹ However, wealthy elites in Honduras and Guatemala managed to topple impartial panels that had been successful in eliminating corruption. The leaders of both nations are once again committed to combating corruption, but they will likely encounter strong opposition. Concerns have been voiced about El Salvador's democracy's stability in light of Bukele's authoritarian decline.

The region is plagued by violence associated with drug trafficking and gangs, especially in the countries of the Northern Triangle. Government efforts to combat crime by stringent militaristic policies have mainly failed, but Bukele's harsh tactics are increasingly gaining support throughout the region. Meanwhile, the demand for drugs from the US and Europe undermines international efforts to combat drug trafficking via aid programs. Corruption is rife in the area and is frequently linked to the criminal organizations who control the drug trade. Systems that support bribery appear to be unaffected by public protests and scandal disclosures. Furthermore, powerful interests have retaliated in nations like Honduras and Guatemala, where anti-corruption initiatives have achieved significant success. In Nicaragua, the complex landscape of violence and criminal activities mirrors the challenges faced by neighboring countries in the Northern Triangle. The country grapples with issues related to drug trafficking and gangs, contributing to a volatile security environment. Despite the regional struggles, Nicaragua's unique political dynamics add another layer of complexity to the overarching issues, posing additional hurdles for effective governance and crime mitigation.

¹¹ Shannon K. O'Neil, "The Americas Can't Handle Immigration a la Carte," *Bloomberg*, September 15, 2023, <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-09-15/the-americas-can-t-handle-immigration-a-la-carte?sref=hF44Hb0C>

6. South American Drug Trafficking Framework

For a considerable amount of time, a number of political figures from Latin America have maintained that the region would not be beset by the strong and well-funded drug trafficking organizations, commonly referred to as cartels, that have proliferated all through the hemisphere over the past 25 years or so, if the citizens of the United States weren't taking in so much of illegal drugs. It is undoubtedly true that the US is currently the world's largest biggest marketplace for illicit drug use, having been for decades. After the two main cartels were broken up, more than 300 minor drug trafficking groups, or cartelitos, emerged in Colombia in the latter part of the 1990s & early 2000s to take over the economic climate of the country's still very lucrative drug trade. Consequently, drug-related violence in Colombia escalated to uncontrollable levels in the latter part of the 1990s and early 2000s. In fact, Colombia turned into one of the world's most violent and dangerous nations during a large portion of the initial decade of the 2000s.¹² In response, President Clinton and the American government adopted Plan Colombia in July 2000 to support the Andrés Pastrana government in its fight against drug manufacturing and trafficking in Colombia.

The major drug trafficking groups in Mexico exploited the void in the drug trade created by the Uribe administration's as well as the US-backed Plan Colombia's relative success in defeating cocaine traffickers in Colombia to seize control of the drug's smuggling from Colombia into the US. Because of the fierce competition between different Mexican trafficking groups for control of the extremely valuable smuggling trade from Colombia and the southern Andes into the sizable and lucrative US market, drug-related violence and criminality ultimately moved northward into Mexican territory.

Venezuela, situated in the midst of the South American drug trafficking landscape, has experienced its own set of challenges in recent years. The country's political and economic instability has created an environment conducive to illicit activities, including drug trafficking. The collapse of state institutions, coupled with widespread corruption, has allowed criminal organizations to flourish. As neighboring countries grapple with

¹² David C. Morrison, "Colombia and drug trafficking," *Great Decisions* (2002)

the aftermath of dismantled cartels and shifting dynamics, Venezuela has become a key player in the transshipment of narcotics. The lack of effective governance and law enforcement has facilitated the rise of smaller trafficking groups, further complicating regional efforts to curb drug-related issues. The situation in Venezuela underscores the interconnected nature of the South American drug trade and highlights the need for collaborative international strategies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by organized crime in the region.

7. Violence and Deteriorating Economy: Catalysts of Illegal Immigration

According to reports from Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the Northern Triangle countries are going through never-before-seen levels of violence outside of a conflict zone. Venezuela, Cuba y Nicaragua government's repressive behavior are adding additional pressure to the wide view of this situation. Regular occurrences such as kidnappings, extortion, and citizen murders. In addition to forcing people into their ranks and using sexual violence as a tactic of intimidation and control, non-state actors also maintain an atmosphere of unease. These nations have some of the highest rates of homicide worldwide and people are reverting to illegal immigration.¹³ As the head of U.S. Southern Command in 2014, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly claimed that gangs and cartels "have left near-broken communities in their wake," driven by the country's drug demand. The government of the United States contends that since those who are leaving these areas do not meet the requirements to be considered refugees, the country is not required to grant them asylum. Nonetheless, they adhered to the general terms of the post-World War II refugee agreements. According to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, a significant percentage of those fleeing may be in need of international protection, as per the U.N. refugee agency's conclusion.

From bottlenecks in Darien to the US-Mexico border, South America's ten-year economic slowdown is a role in the migrant dilemma. Even though South America was severely affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, the continent was already experiencing

¹³ Sarah Bermeo, "Violence drives immigration from Central America," *BROOKINGS*, June 26, 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/>

economic and productivity standstill prior to the spread of the infectious disease. A low percentage of national savings, an unfavorable investment climate, and political and social unrest were among the causes of this. The population of the majority of South American countries is now poorer than it was at the start or midpoint of the previous ten years. Venezuela is the most shocking sample. The GDP per capita of the majority of South American nations topped many years ago: in Brazil (2011), Chile and Colombia (2013), Ecuador and Paraguay (2014), and Argentina (2015).

8. Ingress of Transversal Threats in the US: Evaluating the Inimical Implications

The transversal threats originating in the American Continent forces palpable stress on the US economy and society as they lead to collateral conflicts, thus, putting the American communities under siege. The majority of immigrants worldwide reside in the United States. The immigration landscape has become an exceptionally sensitive subject in America, despite the fact that immigrants adapt more quickly in the US than in industrialized European countries. Although cultural concerns dominate much of the discussion, it is evident how immigration has affected the economy: foreign labor inflows have decreased employment opportunities and American wages. The immigration wave affects natives with low and high levels of skill.¹⁴ The Americans with low skill levels—many of whom are Black and Hispanic—have been the most negatively impacted by this pay decrease. The loss of money is substantial. The average annual income for a high school dropout is around \$25,000. Based on data from the census, the number of immigrants who were admitted without a high school education during the previous 20 years has increased by around 25% of the labor force with poor skills. Consequently, this most susceptible group's incomes decreased by \$800 to \$1,500 annually.

Along with economic strain on American communities in the US due to transversal threats emanating from conflicts, especially originated in South America, cultural conflict and cultural threats to the preeminence of the American communities is also

¹⁴ "THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION ON THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMY," *Penn Wharton Budget Model*, June 27, 2016, <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2016/1/27/the-effects-of-immigration-on-the-united-states-economy>

evident. These communities predominantly White Anglo-Saxons and Scots-Irish communities following evangelical protestant religion feel their cultural, moral and religious values threatened by the influx of illegal immigrants into the US. There is a big political concern about the erosion in American religiosity. Sixty-one percent of independents as well as Republicans with a conservative Republican leaning say religion is "very important" to them, and over fifty percent of Republicans think that the United States ought to be a Christian nation. Despite the fact that many come from extremely religious countries, immigrants aren't inherently more religious than Americans who were born here. This could be due to the fact that religious practices are disrupted while traveling from one country to another, that the United States is still exceptionally devout for a nation of its economic growth, or both. It's also possible that people who have strong religious ties are less likely to move.

A sizable portion of Americans—possibly even the majority—are concerned about mass immigration.¹⁵ Many anti-immigration Americans are old-timers who have almost completely forgotten their immigrant forebears. They frequently reside in suburbs or small towns, and many of them don't interact much with immigrant families in their networks of friends, churches, and communities. There is an emotional component that influences attitudes regarding immigration in addition to the discussion of the economic effects of immigration. Like everyone else, a large number of Americans feel more at ease in the familiar than in the unfamiliar. They worry that immigrants from other countries, languages, and cultures won't learn English and integrate into American society.

Many Americans have legitimate concerns about the future, despite the fact that many of their views and anxieties over recent immigrants are based in ignorance and bigotry. Many native-born people are worried about their future and the future of their children because globalization and huge industrial restructuring have taken over many conventional avenues of employment, both blue collar as well as white-collar in nature. The news media frequently provides instances of sectors that look to replace native-born workers with less expensive immigrant labor. There are relatively few native-born

¹⁵ Charles Hirschman, "The Impact of Immigration on American Society: Looking Backward to the Future," *Social Science Research Council*, July 28, 2006, <https://items.ssrc.org/border-battles/the-impact-of-immigration-on-american-society-looking-backward-to-the-future/>

Americans looking for work in certain industries, like agriculture's harvesting of fruits and vegetables, but immigrants make up a disproportionate share of the workforce in many other industries, such as meatpacking, development, hospitals, and even many fields of advanced study in research universities. These instances serve as fodder for opportunist political figures who aim to take advantage of public anxieties for personal gain.

These collateral conflicts have been magnified by certain political leaders who have attempted to capitalize on the situation making it seem even worse. This aggravated the apprehensions of their followers, thus, further exacerbating the strain imposed on communities in the US. Republican governors are taking action because of the increase in both illegal immigration and the number of people applying for legal asylum at the US southern border.¹⁶ With unprecedented levels of illegal immigration, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson asserted that the nation is at a breaking point. It is a fact that deadly drugs are entering US territory at unprecedented rates. It is uncertain how many terrorists have entered the country and established terrorist cells all around the country, according to Johnson, who also claimed that 312 people on the terrorist watch list had been arrested. They contend that there is an increase in crime in the United States as a result of unauthorized immigration.

9. Conclusion

The American continent grapples with a myriad of challenges, from social upheaval and drug trafficking to violence, corruption, and inequality. The transversal threats emanating from these issues place substantial strain on communities and often lead to physical altercations in the affected regions. As these transversal risks traverse multiple domains, they give rise to collateral conflicts, further besieging the societies and economies of the nations involved. Particularly noteworthy is the impact of illegal immigration, which has become a contentious and complex issue in America, stirring debates about cultural, economic, and societal implications.

¹⁶ Robert Reich, "Republicans make wild claims about the dangers of immigration. Here's the truth," *The Guardian*, January 12, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/12/whats-wrong-with-republicans-immigration-claims>

All of this is having an evident impact in local communities in the United States. The challenges faced by these communities are multifaceted, encompassing cultural, economic, and societal dimensions.

Societally, the evolving demographics and cultural dynamics introduce new challenges in terms of social cohesion and understanding. The need for effective communication and integration strategies becomes paramount to ensure harmonious coexistence and to address misconceptions that may contribute to social tensions.

Recognizing the interconnected nature of these challenges is crucial, as collaborative efforts and nuanced strategies are imperative to address the multifaceted dimensions of security and stability on the American continent, taking into account the specific concerns and aspirations of local communities in the United States.

References

- David A. Baldwin, "The Concept of Security," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1997)
- José Gabriel Carrasco Ramírez, *La Seguridad de la Nación Venezolana. Modelo Teórico*. Barquisimeto: Ediciones Parada Creativa, 2011.
- Jeffrey W. Taliaferro, "Security Seeking under Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Winter, 2000-2001)
- John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (1994)
- Yu-tai Tsai, "THE EMERGENCE OF HUMAN SECURITY: A CONSTRUCTIVIST VIEW," *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Autumn/Winter 2009)
- Andrej Krickovic, "'All Politics Is Regional': Emerging Powers and the Regionalization of Global Governance," *Global Governance*, Vol. 21, No. 4 (Oct.–Dec. 2015)
- Mathias Albert and Barry Buzan, "Securitization, sectors and functional differentiation," *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 42, No. 4/5 (August-October 2011)
- Britt Sloan and James Cockayne, "Terrorism, Crime, and Conflict: Exploiting the Differences Among Transnational Threats?," (Global Center on Cooperative Security, 2011)
- Patrick M. Hughes, "Transnational Threats: A Changing Element of the Threat Spectrum," *American Intelligence Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (2021)
- "The US Council of Economic Advisers on Immigration's Economic Impact," *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (Sep., 2007)
- Shannon K. O'Neil, "The Americas Can't Handle Immigration a la Carte," *Bloomberg*, September 15, 2023, <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-09-15/the-americas-can-t-handle-immigration-a-la-carte?sref=hF44Hb0C>

- David C. Morrison, "Colombia and drug trafficking," Great Decisions (2002)
- Sarah Bermeo, "Violence drives immigration from Central America," BROOKINGS, June 26, 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/>
- "THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION ON THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMY," Penn Wharton Budget Model, June 27, 2016, <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2016/1/27/the-effects-of-immigration-on-the-united-states-economy>
- Charles Hirschman, "The Impact of Immigration on American Society: Looking Backward to the Future," Social Science Research Council, July 28, 2006, <https://items.ssrc.org/border-battles/the-impact-of-immigration-on-american-society-looking-backward-to-the-future/>
- Robert Reich, "Republicans make wild claims about the dangers of immigration. Here's the truth," The Guardian, January 12, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/12/whats-wrong-with-republicans-immigration-claims>