

**Redefining the Role of Political Sciences in Advancing  
Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development**  
**Redéfinir le rôle des sciences politiques dans la promotion de la  
protection de l'environnement et du développement durable.**

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**Abstract:**

This study aims to highlight the role played by Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver in the inclusion of environmental issues, due to their gravity, in the urgent issues. Rather than the securitization only of the political issues; that they are the environment threats.

In our research, we inferred the approach of the Copenhagen School of Security that added to the environmental sector in security studies to exacerbate environmental problems, as a result of the security of environmental issues made it the focus of governmental and non-governmental organizations' attention and held many conferences as well as conclusion with international treaties to achieve sustainable development.

**key words:** environment; sustainable development, securitization; Copenhagen school; environmental security.

**Résumé :**

Cette étude vise à mettre en évidence le rôle joué par Barry Buzan et Ole Weaver dans l'inclusion des problèmes environnementaux, en raison de leur gravité, parmi les questions urgentes. Plutôt que de se limiter à la sécurisation des problèmes politiques, ils ont mis l'accent sur les menaces environnementales.

Dans notre recherche, nous avons adopté l'approche de l'école de Copenhague en matière de sécurité, qui a intégré le secteur environnemental dans les études de sécurité afin d'aggraver les problèmes environnementaux. En conséquence, la sécurité des problèmes environnementaux est devenue le centre d'attention des organisations gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, donnant lieu à de nombreuses conférences et concluant des traités internationaux pour atteindre le développement durable.

**Mots clés :** environnement, développement durable, sécurisation, école de Copenhague, sécurité environnementale.

## **Introduction:**

The environmental deterioration in the world has led to the emergence of discussions among the scientific community, such as the political science major, in which it addresses the repercussions of environmental problems on the universe, in addition to its ascension to the political agenda due to the imminent danger posed by the negative behavior of man towards his surroundings.

The concept of security expanded after the end of the Cold War, thanks to the Copenhagen School, to highlight environmental problems as security threats by including environmental security in the international security agenda, through political elites talking about environmental problems and giving them a security character or feature, so that concern for the environment becomes one of the priorities of countries and international organizations.

The importance of the study lies in highlighting the contributions of political science studies in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development.

This study also aims to give importance to social sciences in general and political sciences in particular in addressing current national and international issues, including protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development, which preoccupied thinkers and researchers in political science.

Accordingly, we raise the following problem: What is the extent of the contribution of political science studies through the theory of securitization in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development?

The problem will be addressed according to two main axes:

- Environment and sustainable development - a conceptual approach -
- The role of securitization theory in including environmental issues as security threats.

## **The first axis: the environment and sustainable development - a conceptual approach –:**

### **First: the concept of the environment:**

The meanings of the environment varied and its concepts differed according to the specialization of each researcher in each of the different branches of social sciences, as each of them defines it in the light of his vision and specialization. Environment is a term or term commonly used in the scientific community at the present time, as it is commonly used by the general public, and in light of that generality, we find several definitions that differ according to the human relationship with the environment. The place and the house in which it resides (Hassouna, 2012), and the environment is derived from the verb -boa- and it is the place, the surroundings, or the house in which the living organism lives, although the term environment has become one of the commonly used terms at the present time, but it is difficult Setting a specific definition for it, and this is due to the variation in its meaning depending on the type of relationship that binds man to this term, where researchers and specialists differed among themselves in setting a specific definition of the term environment that everyone agrees upon, so there were many definitions accordingly in this regard, as it is the physical environment in which he lives Man, including water, air, space, soil, living organisms and facilities he built to satisfy his needs.

Specialists in natural sciences put a scientific definition that it is the sum of the conditions and external factors in which living organisms live and affect the vital processes that they carry out. The environment is also defined as the medium or the spatial field in which a person lives and is affected and affected by everything that this spatial field includes in terms of elements and data, whether they are natural, such as rocks and what they contain of minerals, energy sources, soil, water resources and climatic elements such as heat, pressure and wind. And rain, natural plants, marine and terrestrial animals, or human data that humans contributed to in their existence, such as urbanization, transport and communication roads, farms, factories, dams, etc. (Hassouna, 2012).

Buzan also sees that the environment means the preservation of the biosphere and the planets as a basic support for the system upon which all other human institutions depend (Trombetta M. j., 2008).

**Second: Ecosystem:** There are several definitions of the ecosystem, the most important of which are mentioned as follows:

- **The first definition:** "It is a group of elements that integrate and interact regularly to form a complete unit."

- **The second definition:** "It is a group of interacting elements with each other, and it gains its inputs from the environment and conducts a conversion process on it, and then the outputs are returned to the external environment, and this reflects the need to rely on environmental inputs and outputs."

**The third definition:** "Any area of nature and what it contains of living organisms and living resources in their interaction with each other and with environmental conditions and the exchange they generate between living and non-living parts. Examples of ecosystems are the forest and the sea."

Through the above, the following definition can be concluded: An ecosystem is a group of resources and living and non-living organisms interacting with each other, which exist in a state of balance in the various environmental conditions on which the ecosystem maintains its existence (Mashan, 2011,2012).

From what was mentioned, we conclude that the ecosystem has a set of characteristics.

**Ecosystem Characteristics:** An ecosystem is characterized by several characteristics, namely:

- It contains living and non-living elements intertwined in one system.
- This system is governed by perfect harmony and coherence.
- The ecosystem exchanges its inputs and outputs with the surrounding environment.
- Any major imbalance in this system leads to weakness and then decay.
- A group of systems form a large-scale system that extends from the smallest unit, which is the atomic system, up to the system of the great universe.
- Man occupies a special place in the ecosystem unlike other organisms, due to his intellectual and psychological development, as he is in control of the ecosystem, and his good behavior maintains its balance (Mashan, 2011,2012).

**Ecosystem Elements: Each ecosystem consists of the following:**

**1- Non-living organisms:** These are the basic organic and inorganic substances in the environment, as well as physical factors such as heat, humidity and light.

**2- Living organisms:** They, in turn, are divided into two main groups:

**A- Autotrophic organisms:** These are organisms that can build their own food from simple inorganic materials, such as the photosynthesis processes carried out by green plants. These organisms also consume large amounts of carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and release oxygen into the air.

**B - Non-autotrophic organisms:** organisms that cannot form their own food and include consuming organisms that depend on what plants make and transform it in their bodies into different materials with which to build their tissues and bodies.

From the foregoing, we conclude that the ecosystem consists of all non-living organisms, living organisms, which in turn are divided into autotrophic organisms and non-autotrophic organisms.

**Second: The concept of sustainable development:**

The development that took place, whether at the level of thought or goals, led to the emergence of new concepts of development. After economic development was the basis for confronting underdevelopment, the concept of independent development came, which calls for society to rely on itself, develop the scientific and technical base, and qualify the necessary human resources, and that is accompanied by administrative changes that The country's liberation from popularity and exploitation and the associated ignorance, diseases and poverty, therefore, it confirms the adoption of independent decisions related to how to use local resources and the method of dealing with the outside world (Muhammad, 2013).

During the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the concept of sustainable development appeared in the third item, specifically the need to achieve the right to development, where the financing needs and the environment for the present and future generations are equally met. As for the fourth item, it included that when achieving sustainable development, environmental protection should be an integral part of the development process. It is not possible to think of development in isolation from the environment. Therefore, it calls for activating and revitalizing the

development process and for it to be within the framework of preserving the environment and observing the rights of subsequent generations.

Sustainable development consists of a series of basic concepts, namely:

- **The first basic concept:** interdependence: This means that we should understand how there are interdependent relationships between the environment and the economy at all levels from the local level to the global level.
- **The second core concept:** citizenship and stewardship: the responsibilities each individual has within society to ensure that the world becomes a better place.
- **The third core concept:** the needs and rights of future generations: understanding the basic needs of society and the implications of the actions taken today to meet the needs of future generations.
- **The fourth basic concept:** diversity, respect and appreciation for cultural, social and economic differences.
- **Fifth Basic Concept:** Quality of Life: Recognizing that achieving global equality and social justice are essential elements of sustainability and are also basic needs that must be met all over the world.
- **Key Concept Six:** Uncertainty and Precautions: Different approaches to achieving sustainability must be acknowledged by the constant change of situations and your recognition of sustainable learning methods.
- **The seventh basic concept:** sustainable change: understanding that resources are limited, which leads to a negative impact on people's lifestyles (Mubarak, 2016).

There are those who believe that sustainable development consists of three main elements: economic growth, social justice and environmental protection.

**A. The economic component:** It is based on the principle of maximizing the income of society and eliminating poverty through optimal and efficient utilization of natural resources. The concept of basic "needs" refers to the world's poor who should be given first priority.

**B. The social component:** It refers to the relationship between nature and humans, the advancement of people's well-being, the improvement of access to basic health and education services, the fulfillment of minimum-security standards, and respect for human rights. It also refers to the development of different cultures, diversity and pluralism, and the active participation of the grassroots in Decision making.

**C. The environmental component:** It relates to the preservation and promotion of the physical and biological resource base and ecosystems. Although these are

intertwined elements, "the view of sustainable development differs according to the angle of approach or the methodology and background of the analysis. Economists will focus more on economic goals than others, just as environmentalists stress the importance of protecting nature, and socialists stress the principles of social justice and improving the quality of life. This is why they differ." Definitions of sustainability from different perspectives." This point of view is shared by most researchers in this field (Muhammad, 2013).

## **The second axis: the role of securitization theory in the politicization of environmental issues.**

### **First: the environmental sector:**

Barry Buzan saw in his book *People, States and Fear* that achieving security is by expanding it on sectors, including the economic sector to achieve development, and the environmental sector. He worked to expand the security sectors into several sectors: 1- political 2- economic 3- societal 4- environmental 5- military, stressing that these sectors are intertwined and work in a related manner to achieve security.

Buzan confirms that the security sectors are analogues to bring the picture or state of the international system closer.

The military sector was considered the most important sector because the threats meant everything that was material, as states' survival was conditional on their military arsenal.

- Political security: relates to the number of strengths of institutions and the extent of their cohesion based on the legitimacy of the political system.

Economic security: relates to the extent to which countries are able to secure the livelihood of individuals, as well as open markets and achieve prosperity.

Buzan believes that mega-corporations can pose threats to the health of the national economy.

Community security: It is considered the most important sector because one of the sources of threat is identity.

- Environmental security: The environmental threat is considered a global threat, as the emission of gas and the melting of ice in Antarctica harms the safety and security of all countries, as well as drought, desertification, etc. (Gojili, 2014), so

that environmental security aims to assess the level of threats, as climate change is likely to make Many threats are exacerbated (Iler, 2008).

Thus, there is a strong link between environmental degradation and security. The serious consequences of environmental degradation damage have become recognized as more priority than external threats, as they can produce armed violence similar to the crises associated with manifestations of scarcity in natural and energy resources, especially those related to water in recent years.

Environmental security has become extremely important because the threats are increasing, which necessitated reshaping new visions and decisions to confront this challenge (Al-Masry, 2014). Environmental security has been marginalized in light of the war on terrorism, so that environmental threats seem less urgent. Climate change provides an important impetus due to the transformation of the discourse into environmental security to promote action to confront the consequences of climate change on both sides of the Atlantic (Trombetta M. j., 2008).

## **Second: Securitization of environmental issues:**

Based on the theory of language, Weaver considers security as an act of speaking, and Waever's understanding of the act of speaking is based on Austin's theory, as actions are accomplished and constitute an action by speaking about them (, security does not mean only - the absence of an actual threat (physical or tangible), but - also - that The prevailing discourses in society are devoid of "securitization" processes. Securitization simply means giving a security label to an issue that was not considered a security issue. Specifically, it is defining certain actors and issues as security threats even though they were not such before they were spoken of in a security way (Trombetta, 2007).

Austin argues that speech act theory shows that language can do more than just convey information, and even when it is used primarily to convey information, language often conveys more than just the meaning of words, particularly phrases which themselves constitute a form of verb or social activity, such as saying 'thank you', 'you're fired', 'I promise', 'I bet', 'I nominate' etc. These are cases where the speaker uses language not only for purposes of description, but also to actually do something (Hansen, 2007).

The securitization theory argues that many problems can be transformed into security issues if the political community builds them through the act of successful



speech and is accepted by the local viewer. Security is a form of social practice (Trombetta M. j., 2008), so we find the virus that has spread in the world, the Coronavirus (Coronavirus). covid 19) due to the speed of its spread, it was talked about by the political elites in the world, and it is a call for precaution and taking measures, the most important of which is the declaration of curfews in some countries, which expresses a security process for the corona virus securitization, as it is a rapidly spreading global threat that caused many deaths, This confirms the assumptions of the Copenhagen School that security is not necessarily a physical building, as the Corona epidemic is an invisible transnational threat that has terrified governments, making the Italian political elite declare its failure in the face of the terrible speed of its spread.

In this way, the sovereign has the right to suspend democratic procedures and impose a state of exception as long as he sees that there is an actual or potential threat through, for example, the emission of gases. public approval to legitimize extraordinary or emergency measures. If this level of acceptance is not achieved, securitization may fail (Yassin, 2016).

In order to raise the environmental problems to the extreme policy or what is known as the state of emergency in line with the securitization process, three directions have emerged, as follows:

- **\_ The first trend:** It is evident from the large number of writings, researches, studies and articles aimed at raising awareness of the environment and its resources, and preserving it, and what it is exposed to from human misuse of it, and the devastating effects of that imbalance, and the endeavor to maintain the ecological balance and preserve the human race.
- **\_ The second trend:** It is evident in the interest of international forums, global and local organizations and bodies in holding seminars and conferences on the subject of the environment, its issues and problems, and the extent of its impact on humans and global civilization on the other hand, and these conferences bring together industrialized and developing peoples together to describe the rights of the global family in a healthy environment, And in sufficient food, and in good housing, and in pure water, and accordingly we note that the decade of the eighties and nineties of the twentieth century is characterized by the retreat of scientists from social concerns and focus on urgent and complex problems related to human survival and thus the transition from environmental problems such as the rise in the temperature of the globe and the danger that threatens The ozone layer surrounding

the land and deserts devouring agricultural lands, 2007 The security implications of climate change were discussed by the Security Council (Trombetta M. j., 2008).

• **\_ The third trend:** It is embodied in the interest shown by industrialized countries to establish ministries, departments and governmental bodies that take care of environmental affairs, so they set plans to control them and rationalize their exploitation to support the ecological balance and through the media.

There is no doubt that the media (radio, television, newspapers) have an effective and important role in developing citizens' awareness of preserving the environment, and this role is not new, rather it existed before. the environment.

Environmental media means "the employment of the media by environmentally and media qualified persons to raise awareness of environmental issues and create a positively interactive public opinion with those issues." Environmental media is one of the main ingredients in preserving the environment by creating environmental awareness, acquiring knowledge and transferring it to qualify the public itself to be a tool in spreading The values of preserving the environment and abandoning harmful behaviors. Environmental media vary between printed newspapers (newspapers and magazines), books, reports, pamphlets, pamphlets, printed guides, posters, audio and visual media such as television, video, cinema and the Internet, in addition to special events such as environmental events through exhibitions, competitions, conferences and seminars.

Environmental media aims to promote positive environmental trends, which prompt the target audience to actively participate in solving environmental problems, in addition to changing behaviors harmful to the environment by highlighting aspects and manifestations of environmental damage and showing all actions and decisions that negatively affect the environment. Also, one of the tasks of environmental media is enlightenment by providing information that helps in making decisions, motivating change for the better, and creating legitimate and possible aspirations without exaggeration, by calling for participation in changing behavior and enhancing popular participation, by presenting plans related to environmental policy to the masses through the media in a simplified manner. And in a language that the general public understands, inviting them to contribute to its implementation, by motivating them and developing their sense of shared responsibility, between the public and the executive authorities. Through the

"environmental page" devoted by some daily newspapers, the press can explain many environmental issues, how to mitigate them, the state's plan to overcome them, and the role of the individual in that (Mashan, 2011,2012).

## **Conclusion:**

The emergence of environmental problems and the emergence of epidemics in the world from a starting point made it a scope that jumps to the scope of the political elite (securitization) to the emergence of ideas and programs for treating environmental problems in the agenda of various governments and the beginning of forming a national and international public opinion that is supportive and supportive of dealing with these problems.

What justifies the contributions of political science in making environmental issues global issues, of concern to man in all parts of the earth in order to preserve the survival of the planet by paying attention to environmental culture, starting from the basic educational level up to the university level, where academic disciplines in the field of environmental culture began to appear in many universities of the world. Despite these positive results, however, some applied studies conducted in the field of media influence on environmental issues have shown that the media weight in this field is still concentrated in journalism, which means that the environmental media message reaches recipients who are at least proficient in reading and writing, in other words, still The environmental media message is directed to a specific type of recipient and does not reach large segments of society, especially after research has proven the relative lack of environmental media materials provided through radio and television, which are the most widespread media compared to the press.

The inclusion of the environment in urgent issues has proven to be the key to achieving sustainable development. In short, the achievement of the latter stems from the agendas of governments through the media until reaching the upbringing of the individual to protect the environment based on positive coexistence with the environment.

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