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Economic Security as a Concept: Comparative Analysis and Strategic Definition

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Abstract: *This article examines the transformation of economic security from a narrowly protection-oriented policy concept into a higher-order framework of strategic governance shaped by structural uncertainty, interconnected vulnerability, and adaptive continuity requirements. Although economic security has become increasingly central to contemporary national-security discourse, its conceptual structure remains analytically fragmented across countries and institutions due to differing strategic priorities, governance traditions, and geopolitical conditions. Addressing this gap, the study reconstructs the concept of economic security through a comparative analysis of the strategic logic embedded in major national and international policy frameworks.*

Methodologically, the study combines document analysis, comparative analysis, and conceptual analysis to examine strategic and policy documents from the United States, the European Union, OECD, Japan, China, Russia, and Mongolia's national security concepts of 1994 and 2010. The analytical framework integrates strategic theory, risk theory, and conceptual analysis in order to identify recurring conceptual attributes, reconstruct higher-order conceptual abstraction, and explain how economic security is increasingly shaped by conditions of structural uncertainty and cascading vulnerability. The findings demonstrate that contemporary approaches to economic security are progressively converging around resilience, supply-chain continuity, adaptive coordination, strategic autonomy, and long-term governance continuity rather than conventional protection-centered approaches alone.

The study further demonstrates that Mongolia's understanding of economic security has gradually evolved from sovereignty-centered protection toward broader developmental and governance-oriented approaches, although an integrated framework grounded in resilience and adaptive strategic coordination remains only partially consolidated. Based on the comparative synthesis, the article proposes a reconstructed definition of economic security as a state's strategic capacity to sustain structural continuity, safeguard strategic sectors and supply chains, and manage interconnected vulnerabilities in pursuit of long-term development and national-security objectives.

By repositioning economic security from a policy-oriented category toward a conceptually reconstructed framework of strategic coordination, the study contributes a coherent analytical foundation for understanding economic security as an evolving strategic concept within contemporary governance environments.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Research Rationale and Problem Statement

Over the past decade, the international environment has undergone a profound geoeconomic transformation, reshaping the relationship between economic policy and national security. Competition among major powers has increasingly expanded beyond military and diplomatic domains toward supply chains, technological dominance, strategic resources, industrial capacity, and financial influence. Under these conditions, economic systems no longer function merely as instruments of growth; they have become central components of strategic competition and state power.[1]

The COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical confrontation, disruptions in logistics networks, and volatility in energy and raw-material markets further exposed the structural vulnerabilities embedded within highly interconnected economic systems. These developments challenged the long-standing assumption that interdependence inherently generates stability. Instead, they revealed that interdependence can also transmit strategic pressure, accumulate vulnerabilities, and amplify cascading disruption across sectors.[2] Consequently, economic security has increasingly emerged not as a secondary policy concern, but as a core problem of long-term strategic management.[3]

Despite its growing importance, however, the concept of economic security remains analytically unstable. Different countries define and operationalize the concept according to their strategic priorities, geopolitical position, institutional structure, and development model. In some cases, economic security is framed primarily through protection and sovereignty; in others, through resilience, supply-chain continuity, adaptive coordination, or geoeconomic competition. This variation reflects the conceptual flexibility of economic security, but it also produces theoretical ambiguity and weakens analytical precision.[4]

Existing research has predominantly approached economic security at the level of policy instruments, implementation mechanisms, and sector-specific regulation. Comparative conceptual analysis capable of identifying the deeper strategic logic underlying these definitions remains comparatively limited. In particular, a coherent analytical framework linking goals, risks, capabilities, and coordinated governance has not yet been sufficiently developed.

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[1] Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 608–615; World Economic Forum, *The Global Risks Report 2026: 21st Edition* (Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2026), 5–16.
[2] Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye Jr., *Power and Interdependence*, 4th ed. (Boston: Longman, 2012), 7–15; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Global Trade Update 2026* (Geneva: UNCTAD, 2026).
[3] Ulrich Beck, *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, trans. Mark Ritter (London: Sage Publications, 1992), 21–35.
[4] European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *European Economic Security Strategy* (Brussels: European Commission, 2023), 1–8; State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2024), 18–31; Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030* (Moscow: Kremlin, 2017).

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Against this background, the article raises the following central question: how is economic security conceptually structured across different strategic environments, and what common strategic logic can be identified beneath these diverse national approaches?

Research Objective and Tasks

The objective of this study is to reconstruct the concept of economic security through a comparative analysis of the strategic logic embedded in major national and international policy documents, and to formulate a governance-oriented definition applicable to Mongolia.[5]

To achieve this objective, the study comparatively examines strategic documents from the United States, the European Union, OECD, Japan, China, Russia, and Mongolia's 1994 and 2010 national security concepts. Through this analysis, it identifies the conceptual framework, core elements, strategic logic, and policy orientation underlying different definitions of economic security.[6]

Brief Review of Existing Literature

Existing scholarship on economic security has developed along several distinct analytical trajectories. First, policy-oriented studies interpret economic security primarily through implementation mechanisms associated with resilience, supply-chain protection, technological safeguards, and strategic-sector regulation. OECD and European Union approaches, for example, increasingly define economic security through resilience-building and anticipatory risk management under conditions of geoeconomic uncertainty.[7]

Second, strategic-policy approaches interpret economic security through the broader logic of state competition and strategic influence. Within this perspective, the United States emphasizes technological leadership, manufacturing capacity, and strategic supply chains as instruments of geoeconomic competition. China integrates development and security into a unified governance structure, while Russia prioritizes economic sovereignty and resistance to external pressure.

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[5] Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), xi–xvi; Emil J. Kirchner and James Sperling, *Security Governance in a Globalized World* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1–12.
[6] The White House, *National Security Strategy* (Washington, DC: The White House, 2025); European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *European Economic Security Strategy* (Brussels: European Commission, 2023); Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Role of Resilience in Economic Security* (Paris: OECD, 2024); Government of Japan, *Economic Security Promotion Act* (Tokyo: Government of Japan, 2022); State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2024); Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030* (Moscow: Kremlin, 2017); National Security Council of Mongolia, *National Security Concept of Mongolia* (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 1994; 2010).
[7] Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Role of Resilience in Economic Security* (Paris: OECD, 2024), 9–15; European Commission, *European Economic Security Strategy*, 1–8.

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Japan, meanwhile, focuses on coordinated regulation aimed at reducing structural vulnerability across interconnected sectors.[8]

Third, theoretical scholarship has increasingly highlighted the conceptual ambiguity surrounding economic security itself. Comparative conceptual-analysis literature demonstrates that concepts lacking clearly defined structure and levels of abstraction are vulnerable to conceptual stretching and analytical inconsistency.[9] This challenge has become increasingly relevant as economic security expands simultaneously across economic policy, national security, resilience planning, and strategic governance.

Taken together, these strands of scholarship reveal an important analytical gap. While economic security has been extensively discussed at the level of policy practice, a systematic conceptual reconstruction grounded in comparative strategic logic remains underdeveloped. This article addresses that gap by examining economic security not merely as a policy category, but as an evolving concept of strategic governance.[10]

II. METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a structured methodological approach combining document analysis, comparative analysis, and conceptual analysis in order to examine how economic security is articulated across different strategic environments. Rather than treating economic security as a fixed policy term, the study approaches it as an evolving strategic concept whose meaning emerges through the interaction of goals, risks, capabilities, and governance arrangements.[11]

In the first stage, document analysis is employed to identify the policy contexts, strategic priorities, and governance structures through which economic security is defined. In the second stage, comparative analysis is applied to determine both shared characteristics and major differences across national approaches. This stage enables the study to identify recurring strategic patterns while clarifying how different states structure economic security according to their own strategic environment and policy orientation. In the final stage, conceptual analysis is used to reconstruct the internal structure of the concept itself by identifying its core attributes, levels of abstraction, and strategic logic.[12]

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[8] The White House, *National Security Strategy*, 27–33; State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era*, 18–31; Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030*; Government of Japan, *Economic Security Promotion Act*.
[9] Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64, no. 4 (1970): 1033–1053.
[10] Barry Buzan, *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*, 2nd ed. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1991), 16–20.
[11] Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), xi–xvi; Emil J. Kirchner and James Sperling, *Security Governance in a Globalized World* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1–12.
[12] Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64, no. 4 (1970): 1033–1044, 1052-1053; Gary Goertz, *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), 5–11.

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The empirical foundation of the study consists of major strategic and policy documents from the United States, the European Union, OECD, Japan, China, Russia, and Mongolia's national security concepts of 1994 and 2010. These materials were selected because they define economic security at the level of strategic policy and provide insight into how states increasingly integrate economic governance into broader national-security frameworks.[13]

The conceptual analysis proceeds through four analytical dimensions: conceptual logic, core elements, strategic logic, and policy orientation. Conceptual logic identifies the central strategic problem addressed by economic security. Core elements clarify the principal components incorporated within the concept. Strategic logic examines how economic security is linked to competition, resilience, sovereignty, adaptation, and governance coordination. Finally, policy orientation identifies how these conceptual structures are translated into strategic practice.[14]

The methodological foundation of this framework integrates three theoretical layers. Strategic theory provides the basis for interpreting economic security through the interaction of goals, capabilities, environment, and governance.[15] Risk theory explains how contemporary vulnerabilities increasingly emerge through interconnected and uncertainty-driven processes that generate pressure across multiple sectors simultaneously.[16] Conceptual analysis then enables the systematic reconstruction of the concept by distinguishing essential attributes from policy-specific variation.[17]

Through this integrated approach, the study moves beyond descriptive policy comparison and establishes an analytical framework capable of reconstructing economic security as a higher-order concept of strategic governance.[18]

The integrated analytical structure and the conceptual reconstruction process employed in this study are summarized in the following figure.

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[13] The White House, *National Security Strategy* (Washington, DC: The White House, 2025); European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *European Economic Security Strategy* (Brussels: European Commission, 2023); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Role of Resilience in Economic Security* (Paris: OECD, 2024); Government of Japan, *Economic Security Promotion Act* (Tokyo: Government of Japan, 2022); State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2024); Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030* (Moscow: Kremlin, 2017); National Security Council of Mongolia, *National Security Concept of Mongolia* (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 1994; 2010).
[14] David Collier and James E. Mahon Jr., "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 87, no. 4 (1993): 845–855.
[15] Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, trans. and ed. Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976), 177–178.
[16] Ulrich Beck, *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, trans. Mark Ritter (London: Sage Publications, 1992), 21–35; International Risk Governance Council, *Risk Governance: Towards an Integrative Approach* (Geneva: IRGC, 2005), 11–23.
[17] Robert Adcock and David Collier, "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," *American Political Science Review* 95, no. 3 (2001): 529–546.
[18] Barry Buzan, *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*, 2nd ed. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1991), 16–20.

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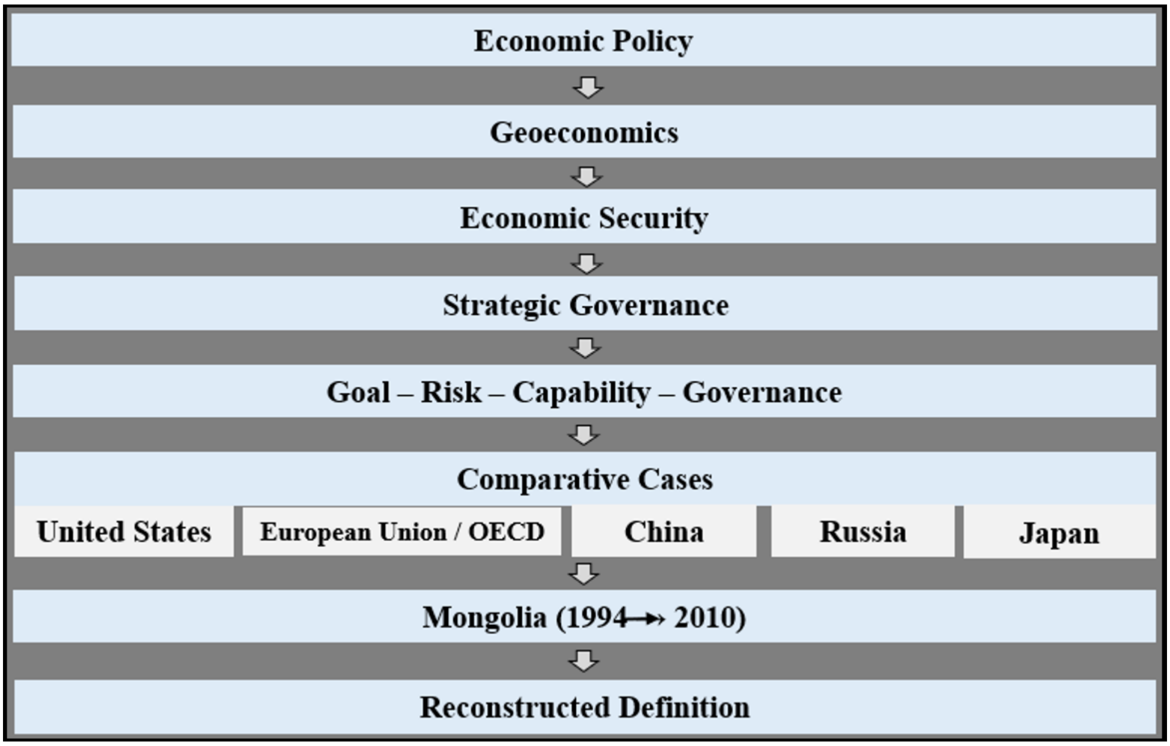
Figure. Comparative Analytical Framework of Economic Security



Source: Author's own elaboration.

III. RESULTS: COMPARATIVE CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

3.1. Economic Security Concept: The Case of the United States

In the strategic documents of the United States, economic security is not presented through a single formal definition. Nevertheless, a clear strategic logic emerges in which economic capacity functions as a foundational element of national power. Within this framework, economic security extends beyond protection and increasingly operates as an integrated strategic capability linking industrial strength, technological leadership, supply-chain control, and geopolitical influence.[19]

American strategic documents define economic security primarily through policy substance rather than abstract conceptual formulation. Across trade, manufacturing, energy, finance, and technology, the economy is treated not merely as an object requiring protection, but as an active instrument through which security objectives are pursued. Economic policy therefore becomes inseparable from strategic competition.[20]

[19] The White House, National Security Strategy (Washington, DC: The White House, 2025), 7–11, 14–16;
[20] The White House, National Security Strategy, 14–18; The White House, Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States (Washington, DC: The White House, 2022), 9–12.

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Several core elements consistently structure this approach. Supply-chain resilience is elevated to a strategic priority in order to reduce external dependency in critical sectors. Technological superiority is framed as a central source of national advantage. Manufacturing capacity and industrial policy are directly connected to long-term security objectives, while financial and energy dominance are increasingly deployed as instruments of geopolitical influence.[21]

Taken together, the U.S. approach reflects a strategic logic structured around three interrelated dimensions. First, economic strength constitutes the foundation of national power. Second, vulnerability reduction becomes a central objective of strategic management. Third, economic systems operate as arenas of geopolitical competition. Economic security therefore emerges not as a passive condition of protection, but as an active strategic framework through which the state sustains long-term advantage under conditions of intensifying competition.

3.2. Economic Security Concept: The European Union and OECD

Within the strategic documents of the European Union and OECD, economic security has increasingly evolved from a protection-oriented concern toward a governance-oriented framework centered on resilience, continuity, and anticipatory coordination. In both cases, economic security is understood less as the defense of isolated sectors and more as the capacity of economic systems to maintain stability under conditions of structural uncertainty.[22]

The European Union structures economic security through the dual logic of openness and strategic risk reduction. Supply-chain disruption, technological dependency, and the strategic use of interdependence have pushed economic security beyond conventional growth-oriented policy. As a result, the concept increasingly functions as a framework for preserving strategic autonomy while maintaining participation in an open global economy.[23]

This approach is organized around several interconnected elements, including resilience, strategic autonomy, technological protection, supply-chain reliability, and policy coordination. These components collectively indicate that economic security now operates across trade, technology, industry, and investment simultaneously. The strategic emphasis therefore shifts from reactive protection toward proactive management of structural vulnerability.[24]

OECD approaches similarly define economic security through the long-term continuity of economic systems. Here, the emphasis falls on resilience, adaptability, and the ability to absorb disruption under conditions of uncertainty. Economic security is consequently interpreted as the

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[21] U.S. Department of Commerce, Disruptions to U.S. Supply Chain (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022); The White House, Building Resilient Supply Chains, Revitalizing American Manufacturing, and Fostering Broad-Based Growth (Washington, DC: The White House, 2021).
[22] European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *European Economic Security Strategy* (Brussels: European Commission, 2023), 1–4; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Role of Resilience in Economic Security* (Paris: OECD, 2024), 9–15.
[23] European Commission, *European Economic Security Strategy*, 1–8.
[24] European Commission, *European Economic Security Strategy*, 4–6; European Council, *EU Strategic Agenda 2024–2029* (Brussels: European Council, 2024).

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capacity to sustain economic functioning across interconnected domains rather than merely preserving short-term stability.[25]

Together, the European Union and OECD approaches reposition economic security at the level of coordinated governance. The concept increasingly functions as a framework for managing structural vulnerability, preserving continuity, and strengthening adaptive capacity within complex economic systems.

3.3. Economic Security Concept: China, Russia, and Japan

China, Russia, and Japan each embed economic security within broader systems of state strategy and governance. In all three cases, economic security operates beyond the level of sector-specific protection and becomes closely tied to long-term state capacity, national resilience, and strategic coordination.[26]

China integrates economic security into a comprehensive national-security framework that directly links development and security. Rather than treating economic growth and security policy as separate domains, Chinese strategic documents govern them as a unified process. Food security, energy security, financial stability, infrastructure reliability, and technological capacity are managed through centralized coordination and continuous strategic oversight. Within this framework, economic security becomes an active process of maintaining long-term developmental continuity under conditions of uncertainty.[27]

Russia adopts a more sovereignty-centered strategic logic. Its approach emphasizes the protection of economic autonomy, resistance to external pressure, and the preservation of strategic independence. Economic security is organized through a sequential understanding of challenges, threats, and vulnerabilities, all of which are managed through state-centered policy instruments designed to preserve internal stability and national cohesion.[28]

Japan, by contrast, structures economic security through coordinated policy management. Rather than defining the concept abstractly, Japanese policy focuses on reducing structural vulnerability through regulatory coordination, supply-chain continuity, technological protection, and infrastructure reliability. Economic security thus becomes a governance-oriented mechanism for managing interconnected vulnerability across strategic sectors.[29]

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[25] Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Role of Resilience in Economic Security*, 11–18.
[26] Emil J. Kirchner and James Sperling, *Security Governance in a Globalized World* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1–12.
[27] State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2024), 18–31; State Council of the People's Republic of China, *The 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China* (Beijing: State Council, 2021).
[28] Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030* (Moscow: Kremlin, 2017); Viktor K. Senchagov, *Economic Security of Russia: General Course* (Moscow: BINOM, 2005), 21–39.
[29] Government of Japan, *Economic Security Promotion Act* (Tokyo: Government of Japan, 2022); Government of Japan, *National Security Strategy of Japan* (Tokyo: Government of Japan, 2022), 28–34.

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Although these approaches differ in institutional form and strategic emphasis, they collectively demonstrate a broader transformation in the concept itself. Economic security increasingly functions as a system-level governance framework through which states manage development, continuity, resilience, and strategic coordination simultaneously.

3.4. Economic Security Concept: The Case of Mongolia

ongolia's National Security Concepts of 1994 and 2010 reveal a gradual transformation in the country's understanding of economic security. While both documents treat economic security as an essential component of national security, they differ substantially in conceptual scope and strategic orientation.[30]

The 1994 framework approaches economic security primarily through the logic of sovereignty protection and self-reliance. The emphasis falls on domestic production capacity, macroeconomic stability, strategic sectors, and the management of external dependency. Economic security is therefore closely tied to preserving national independence under conditions of structural vulnerability.[31]

The 2010 framework broadens this perspective by directly linking economic security to sustainable development and long-term governance capacity. Greater attention is given to economic structure, investment policy, financial stability, competitiveness, and external trade. Within this framework, economic security evolves beyond sectoral protection and increasingly becomes associated with coordinated management of economic development.[32]

The comparison between these two documents demonstrates a clear conceptual transition. Mongolia gradually moved from a protection-oriented understanding centered on sovereignty toward a broader developmental logic connected to economic governance and structural management. Nevertheless, a fully integrated framework grounded in resilience, adaptive coordination, and long-term strategic continuity has yet to be fully consolidated.

3.5. Comparative Analysis of the Strategic Logic of Economic Security Concepts

The comparative analysis demonstrates that economic security does not possess a single universal meaning. Instead, the concept evolves through distinct strategic logics shaped by different geopolitical positions, policy priorities, governance traditions, and development models.

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[30] National Security Council of Mongolia, National Security Concept of Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 1994); National Security Council of Mongolia, National Security Concept of Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 2010).
[31] National Security Council of Mongolia, National Security Concept of Mongolia (1994), sections 3–5.
[32] National Security Council of Mongolia, National Security Concept of Mongolia (2010), sections 3.2–3.5; Government of Mongolia, Vision-2050 Long-Term Development Policy (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 2020).

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Despite these differences, several common patterns emerge across the examined cases. Economic security increasingly extends beyond narrow concerns of economic protection and becomes associated with resilience, continuity, adaptive coordination, strategic autonomy, and integrated state management. The economy is no longer treated merely as a domain requiring protection; it increasingly functions as a strategic arena through which states pursue long-term security objectives.[33]

The United States emphasizes competition, technological leadership, and strategic advantage. The European Union and OECD focus on resilience, continuity, and anticipatory coordination. China integrates development and security into a unified governance structure, while Russia prioritizes sovereignty and strategic independence. Japan advances a coordinated regulatory approach designed to manage interconnected vulnerability across critical sectors.[34]

Mongolia occupies a transitional position within this broader landscape. While the country has gradually expanded economic security beyond protection-oriented logic, its governance framework remains only partially integrated at the level of resilience, adaptive coordination, and long-term strategic management.[35]

The major conceptual differences and converging strategic patterns identified across the examined cases are summarized in the following comparative framework. Taken together, these findings indicate that economic security is evolving toward a higher-order concept centered on governance capacity under conditions of strategic uncertainty. Across different national models, the concept increasingly converges around the ability to sustain continuity, manage vulnerability, coordinate policy, and preserve adaptive capacity across interconnected systems.[36]

The major conceptual differences and converging strategic patterns identified across the examined cases are summarized in the following comparative framework.

Table 1. Comparative Strategic Logic of Economic Security Concepts

Country	Conceptual Logic	Core Elements	Strategic Logic	Policy Orientation

[33] International Risk Governance Council, *Risk Governance: Towards an Integrative Approach* (Geneva: IRGC, 2005), 11–23.
[34] The White House, *National Security Strategy* (Washington, DC: The White House, 2025); European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *European Economic Security Strategy* (Brussels: European Commission, 2023); State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Security in the New Era* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2024); Russian Federation, *Strategy of Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030* (Moscow: Kremlin, 2017); Government of Japan, *Economic Security Promotion Act* (Tokyo: Government of Japan, 2022).
[35] National Security Council of Mongolia, *National Security Concept of Mongolia* (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 1994; 2010); Government of Mongolia, *Vision-2050 Long-Term Development Policy* (Ulaanbaatar: Government of Mongolia, 2020).
[36] Emil J. Kirchner and James Sperling, *Security Governance in a Globalized World* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1–12; International Risk Governance Council, *Risk Governance: Towards an Integrative Approach*, 11–23.

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United States	Economy as the foundation of national power	Supply chains, technology, manufacturing, energy, finance	Economic capacity is deployed as a strategic instrument of geoeconomic competition	Protection + competition
European Union	Open economy combined with risk management	Resilience, strategic autonomy, supply chains, technology	Strategic autonomy is pursued through proactive risk management	Openness + de-risking
OECD	Resilience of the economic system	Stability, growth, resilience, strategic sectors	Strengthening the capacity to manage systemic risks	Resilience-based policy
China	Integration of development and security	Food, energy, finance, infrastructure, technology	Centralized strategic governance aimed at safeguarding the development system	State-led coordination
Russia	Economic sovereignty	National interests, threats, risks, protection	Ensuring the capacity to pursue independent economic policy	Sovereignty-based protection
Japan	Coordinated policy governance system	Supply chains, infrastructure, technology, regulation	Establishing regulatory mechanisms to manage systemic vulnerabilities	Regulation + coordination
Mongolia (1994)	Economy as the foundation of sovereignty	Self-reliance, strategic sectors, macroeconomic stability	Protection-oriented logic to ensure sovereignty through economic capacity	Self-reliance + protection
Mongolia (2010)	Economy as the foundation of sustainable development	Economic structure, investment, finance, trade	Managing economic development at the policy level	Development-oriented governance

3.6. Conceptual Synthesis Logic

This study approaches the concept of economic security not merely at the level of describing how it appears within national policy documents, but within a conceptual analytical framework aimed at reconstructing its internal structure, level of abstraction, and conceptual validity. In this regard, the study draws upon Giovanni Sartori's logic of "conceptual stretching" and the "ladder of abstraction,"[37] Gary Goertz's theory of multi-level concept structures,[38] as well as Collier and Mahon's approaches to conceptual validity and category adaptation[39] as the principal analytical foundations for operationally decomposing the concept of economic security. Accordingly, the

[37] Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64, no. 4 (1970): 1038–1041.
[38] Gary Goertz, *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), 5–11.
[39] David Collier and James E. Mahon Jr., "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 87, no. 4 (1993): 845–848.

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study does not interpret economic security directly at the level of policy usage alone. Instead, it employs a process of conceptual reconstruction through which lower-level policy attributes are comparatively analyzed in order to identify shared conceptual properties and subsequently reconstruct them at a higher level of strategic abstraction.

Within this framework, the concept of economic security is reconstructed along the following ladder of abstraction: "economic stability → economic protection → economic resilience → strategic governance capacity."

This analytical sequence is intended to explain how the concept of economic security evolves from the level of macroeconomic stability toward the level of strategic governance capacity through the logic of conceptual abstraction. Sartori argues that when the logical relationship between levels of abstraction is not consciously maintained, conceptual connotation becomes diluted and the risk of "concept misformation" inevitably emerges.[40] For this reason, the present study does not confine economic security to isolated dimensions such as growth, protection, or macroeconomic stability alone, but instead reconstructs the concept toward a higher-order strategic abstraction through a structured methodological sequence.

Within this conceptual analytical framework, the study distinguishes between the necessary conditions and insufficient conditions constituting the concept of economic security. The comparative analysis demonstrates that continuity, resilience, governance capacity, and adaptive coordination constitute the core necessary attributes of the concept, whereas growth alone, protection alone, or macroeconomic stability alone cannot function as sufficient conditions for defining economic security in a comprehensive sense. As Goertz emphasizes, identifying the core constitutive attributes of a concept is essential for reconstructing its conceptual structure.[41] At the same time, Collier and Mahon warn that excessive expansion of conceptual scope in comparative research weakens conceptual validity itself.[42] Accordingly, this study does not mechanically aggregate the diverse policy usages of economic security found across international cases. Rather, the study reconstructs economic security at a higher level of abstraction by systematically identifying the shared conceptual attributes emerging across comparative policy frameworks.

IV. DISCUSSION

4.1. Theoretical Synthesis of the Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis demonstrates that economic security has evolved beyond a narrowly protection-oriented concept and increasingly functions as a governance-oriented strategic framework shaped by structural uncertainty, interconnected vulnerability, and adaptive

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[40] Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64, no. 4 (1970): 1039–1040.

[41] Gary Goertz, *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), 6-8.

[42] David Collier and James E. Mahon Jr., "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 87, no. 4 (1993): 845–847.

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continuity requirements.[43] Although states define economic security through different strategic traditions and policy priorities, their approaches increasingly converge around a shared concern: preserving long-term continuity under conditions of complex and cascading disruption.

The United States approaches economic security primarily through strategic competition and technological advantage. The European Union and OECD emphasize resilience, continuity, and anticipatory coordination. China integrates development and security into a unified governance structure, while Russia foregrounds sovereignty, strategic autonomy, and resistance capacity. Japan advances a coordination-centered model focused on reducing vulnerability across interconnected sectors. Despite these differences, all cases increasingly position economic security within broader systems of strategic management rather than isolated economic policy.[44]

This convergence reflects a deeper transformation in the nature of contemporary vulnerability itself. Economic disruption no longer appears primarily as isolated market instability or short-term sectoral imbalance. Instead, pressure increasingly emerges through interconnected processes capable of simultaneously affecting supply systems, technological networks, financial stability, institutional coordination, and state decision-making. Under these conditions, the central challenge shifts from protecting individual sectors toward preserving governance continuity across complex and rapidly changing strategic environments.[45]

As a result, resilience, adaptive coordination, institutional flexibility, and strategic continuity increasingly become central components of economic security. The concept therefore expands beyond macroeconomic stability or protective regulation and evolves toward a broader governance-oriented framework grounded in the long-term capacity of the state to anticipate, absorb, coordinate, and adapt to structural disruption.

Within the Mongolian context, this transformation carries particular strategic significance. Mongolia's economic structure remains highly exposed to external volatility through trade concentration, supply dependency, energy vulnerability, and investment fluctuations. Under these conditions, economic security cannot be reduced to defensive protection alone. It increasingly depends on the state's capacity to sustain policy continuity, coordinate strategic priorities, and preserve adaptive governance under conditions of uncertainty.

The comparative findings therefore suggest that the core problem of contemporary economic security lies not merely in defending economic systems from external pressure, but in sustaining the continuity of strategic governance itself.

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[43] Ulrich Beck, *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, trans. Mark Ritter (London: Sage Publications, 1992), 21–35; International Risk Governance Council, *Risk Governance: Towards an Integrative Approach* (Geneva: IRGC, 2005), 11–23.
[44] Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 608–615; Emil J. Kirchner and James Sperling, *Security Governance in a Globalized World* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1–12.
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4.2. Mongolia's Strategic Positioning

Mongolia's national-security concepts reveal a transitional trajectory in the country's understanding of economic security. The 1994 framework emphasized self-reliance, protection of strategic sectors, and the preservation of sovereignty through economic capacity. The 2010 framework expanded this approach by linking economic security to sustainable development, structural management, and broader policy coordination.

This transition demonstrates that Mongolia gradually moved away from a narrowly protection-oriented understanding and toward a more development-centered strategic framework. Nevertheless, the analysis also indicates that resilience, integrated coordination, and adaptive governance remain only partially consolidated within the country's strategic architecture.

As a result, Mongolia currently occupies an intermediate position between traditional sovereignty-based protection and more advanced governance-oriented approaches grounded in resilience and strategic coordination. While the conceptual scope of economic security has broadened considerably, the institutional logic necessary to sustain integrated strategic continuity remains underdeveloped.

4.3. A Reconstructed Definition of Economic Security – Conceptual Synthesis

Definition

Economic security refers to a state's strategic capacity to sustain structural continuity, safeguard strategic sectors and supply chains, and manage interconnected vulnerabilities in pursuit of long-term development and national security objectives.

Alternative Formulation

Economic security denotes the capacity of the state to preserve the continuity of critical economic structures and strategic systems under conditions of uncertainty through coordinated governance and adaptive management.

Explanation

The reconstructed definition proposed in this study emerges from the comparative synthesis of major international approaches to economic security. Rather than mechanically aggregating national policy examples, the definition identifies the shared strategic logic underlying diverse conceptual traditions and reconstructs the concept at a higher level of analytical abstraction.

Within this framework, economic security is understood not as a static condition of protection, but as an ongoing governance-oriented strategic process through which states preserve continuity under conditions of uncertainty. The concept therefore incorporates resilience, adaptive

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coordination, supply-chain continuity, strategic-sector protection, and governance capacity within a single integrated analytical structure.

This reconstruction reflects a broader transformation in the meaning of economic security itself. The concept increasingly depends not only on protecting economic assets or preserving macroeconomic stability, but also on the long-term capacity of governance systems to anticipate disruption, coordinate strategic response, absorb cascading pressure, and sustain continuity across interconnected domains.

At the same time, the reconstructed definition incorporates Mongolia's own strategic trajectory. It synthesizes the sovereignty-centered logic of the 1994 framework with the development-oriented governance perspective introduced in 2010, while integrating contemporary approaches centered on resilience and coordinated strategic management.

In this sense, the proposed definition establishes economic security not merely as a policy category, but as a higher-order concept of strategic governance capable of integrating development, security, continuity, and adaptive state capacity within a unified analytical framework.

V. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that economic security has evolved beyond a fixed or narrowly defined policy concept and increasingly functions as a governance-oriented strategic framework shaped by structural uncertainty, interconnected vulnerability, and adaptive continuity requirements. Although countries interpret economic security through different strategic traditions and policy priorities, the comparative analysis reveals a converging logic structured around the relationship between goals, risks, capabilities, and coordinated state management.

The findings further show that economic security is no longer confined to the protection of isolated sectors or the preservation of short-term stability. Instead, it increasingly depends on the long-term capacity of states to sustain continuity across supply chains, strategic sectors, institutional coordination, and adaptive governance under conditions of accelerating uncertainty.

Within the Mongolian context, the analysis identified a transitional strategic position. Mongolia has expanded its understanding of economic security beyond sovereignty-centered protection and increasingly connected it to development policy and economic governance. Nevertheless, a fully integrated framework grounded in resilience, adaptive coordination, and long-term strategic continuity has not yet been fully consolidated.

The study therefore concludes that the central challenge of contemporary economic security lies not simply in protecting the economy from external disruption, but in preserving the continuity of strategic governance itself. Under conditions where vulnerability increasingly emerges through interconnected and cascading processes, the effectiveness of economic security depends less on isolated policy measures than on the state's capacity to anticipate disruption, coordinate

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strategic response, sustain institutional adaptability, and maintain continuity across complex systems.

In this regard, the article contributes theoretically by repositioning economic security from a policy-oriented category toward a conceptually reconstructed framework of strategic governance. At the same time, it provides an analytical foundation for integrating economic policy, national security, resilience, and governance coordination within a unified strategic framework. Economic security therefore emerges not merely as an economic-policy concern, but as a foundational concept for governing security through economic systems under conditions of structural uncertainty.

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