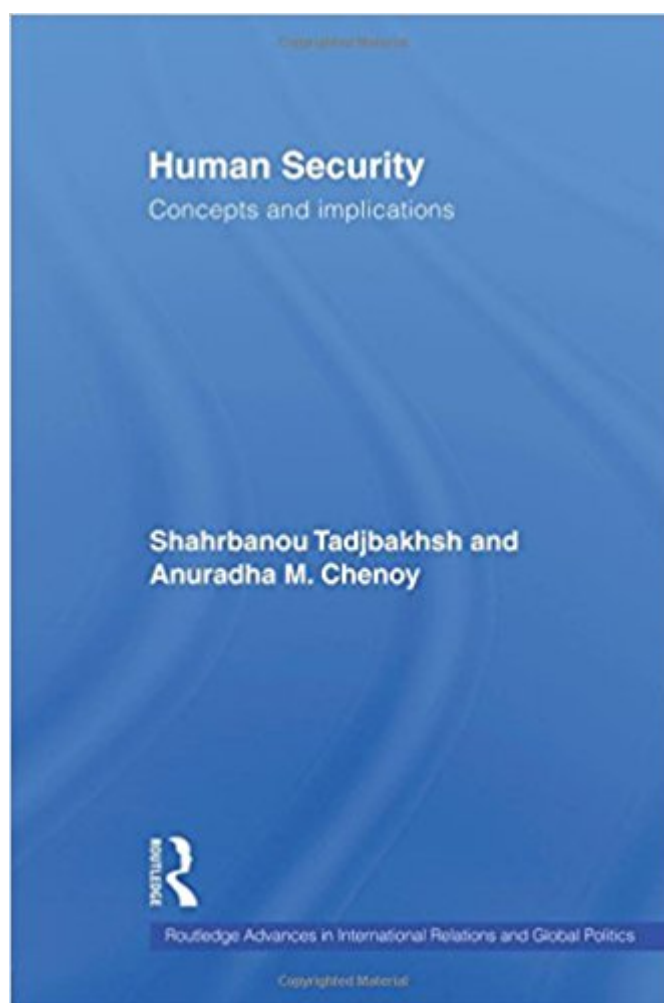


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Human Security: Concepts And Implications (Routledge Advances In International Relations And Global Politics)



Synopsis

This book, now available in paperback, traces the key evolutions in the development of the concept of human security, the various definitions and critiques, how it relates to other concepts, and what it implies for polities, politics, and policy. Human security is an important subject for the whole world, in particular Asia, as it deals with interactions among fields of social change, such as development, conflict resolution, human rights, and humanitarian assistance. In a globalizing world, in which threats become trans-national and states lose power, security can no longer be studied in a one-dimensional fashion. Written by authors who are experts in this field and with case studies from different regions (Afghanistan, Central Asia and South Asia) presented throughout, this book - now available in paperback - contributes to this new multidimensional conception of security, analyzes its strengths and weaknesses, and focuses on its implications for analysis and action.

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Customer Reviews

"Human Security is a new buzz word - but what exactly does it mean, who uses it, who disagrees and what are the catches? This important book clarifies these points and much more, drawing on experience in Afghanistan and other countries in conflict of Asia and Africa and presenting perspectives tried out in the US, France and India. The book, clear and readable, is excellent for students, a quick catch up for policy makers who may not be quite sure how and when to use the

concept and a challenge for all who doubt its relevance for the world today." Sir Richard Jolly (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK) "This critically informed study is the most intellectually balanced, grounded, and action-oriented attempt to theorise and conceptualise human security so far published." Professor Oliver Richmond (School of International Relations, Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of St Andrews, UK)

Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh is the Director of the Center for Peace and Human Security at L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris, where she teaches courses on human security and on international organizations and is editor of the Human Security Journal, an online publication. She has also taught on human security as an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University in New York. Between 1995 and 2002, she was a staff member of the United Nations Development Programme, and currently continues to work as a consultant with teams preparing national Human Development Reports. She has written numerous articles on human development, human security and gender issues as well as on the application of these discourses in Central Asia and in Afghanistan.

Anuradha M. Chenoy is Professor in the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi, where she has been the Chairperson and Director of the Area Studies Program for Russia and Central Asia. She has also been on the governing bodies of several institutions in India and internationally, and has served as a specialist for various Meetings of the United Nations. She writes extensively in Journals and newspapers on international relations, gender and social issues.

Though I'm not crazy about the forty dollar price tag attached to the book, one cannot sue the textbook publishers for false advertising. It is a comprehensive introduction to the concept of human security and the debates that occur within the concept. I must warn everyone that this is not Saturday afternoon leisure reading, the chapters may take two-three readings to make sure that the major concepts stay firmly wedged in the brain. I had to read this for a graduate seminar and it gave me fits at times. If I could sum up the text in one sentence it would probably read "Human security is both independent of, and yet related to human development, human rights, states, humanitarian intervention, and international aid. That makes it as clear as mud, but there's a lengthy chapter that defines the concept and its' rationale. I'm going middle of the road because this is one of the best in a shallow field of human security texts.

I had to use this book for a course I took in Human Security. While the concept of Human Security

can be confusing at times, the authors manage to explain and break down the topic with ease. I would definitely recommend this book for students who are interested in, or are looking to study, Human Security. The language is clear and simple, and everything you need to know concerning who agrees with the concept, (and who doesn't) is in here. Real world examples drawn from situations where Human Security is threatened also helped mould my understanding.

Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy have given us an exceptional book on an important set of issues in these times--the central saliency of human security. This topic can be difficult to clarify or define. It sometimes seems elusive, yet when one reads and absorbs the authors' insights and knowledge, and realizes that they often speak from field-informed first hand experience from their work in some of the world's most daunting places, the book takes on added significance. It is truly one of the most authoritative sources for clarity on this complex subject. Preoccupations with national security must not be allowed to crowd out the central importance of human security--it is a basic building block in the quest for peace. Corky

The book is great. It covers all different perspectives and extensive bibliography on the subject with clarity and in short. I use it all the time as my reference book.

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