Copenhagen School

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MEB401 Teorie bezpečnosti a metodologie / MEB427 Bezpečnost: teorie a koncepty

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Outline

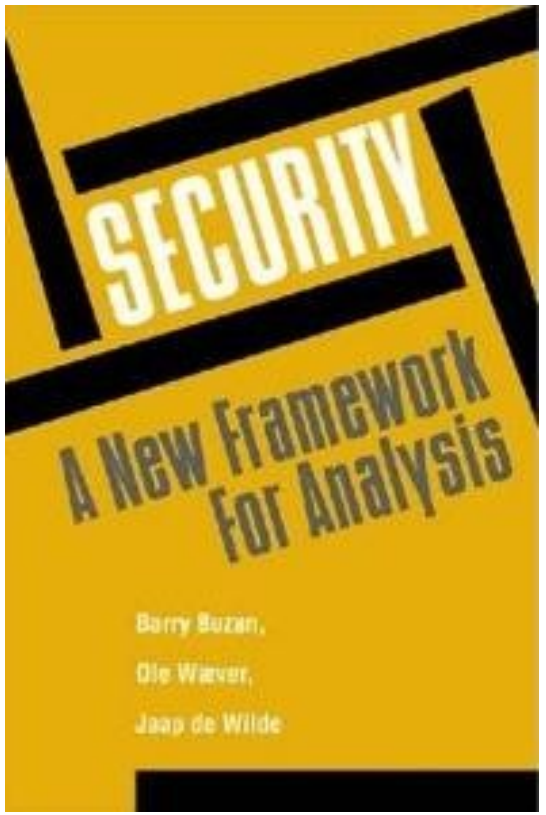
- Assumptions

- Securitization
- Security sectors
- Regional security complex

Copenhagen school

- **Context:** traditionalists vs. revisionists
- Analytical framework for study of international security
- **Currently:** mainstream approach in security studies

- Based on:
  - (“radically”) idealist ontology
  - interpretative epistemology (discourse analysis)
  - “residual traditionalism”



Security as a social construct

- There is **no "essence"**, no universal feature of security
- Security is **socially constructed** and intersubjectively shared
- Security is **a self-referential practice:** an issue becomes a security issue only by being labeled as one

→ Focus on **discursive construction** of security issues

Securitization

- Framing
    - standard (depoliticized)
    - politicized
    - securitized

- Audience acceptance
- Extraordinary measures
- Linkages

Securitization

- **Securitization actors:** ones that declare – via illocutionary speech act – existential threat towards a particular referent object

- **Functional actors:** ones that significantly affect the dynamic of the security environment (sector)

Speech acts

- **Constative act:** the literal meaning of the utterance
- **Appellative act:** the social function of the utterance, for what purpose it is used in a given context
- **Performative act:** the effect of the utterance in a given context

"*I warn you, the oil is running out!*"

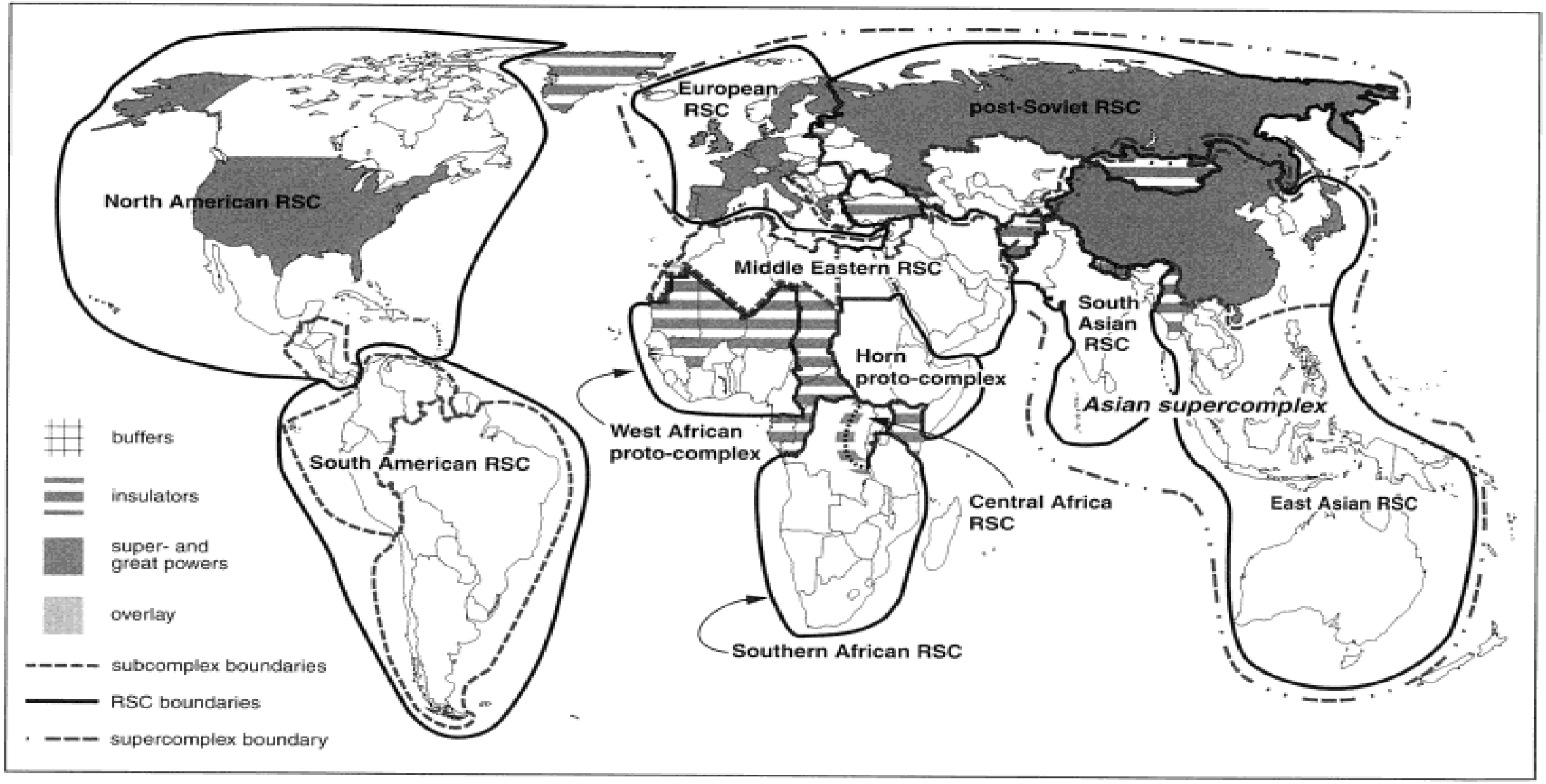
- Constative act: made vocal sounds, said that with a Czech accent
- Appellative act: making a warning about (an existential) threat
- Performative act: made you (audience) feel insecure (or amused)

degree of widening	modes of widening			(modified Weisová 2004)
	horizontal (sectors)	vertical (referent objects)	values	threat sources
narrow concept	military-political	state	sovereignty, territorial integrity	other states, (non-state actors)
widened concept	societal	nation, societal groups	national unity, identity	(states), nations, migrants, hostile cultures
	economic	state, non-state actors, institutions, individuals	development, subsistence	states, market failures
	environmental	environmental systems, humankind	sustainability, survival, quality of life	states, globalization, humankind

Regional security complex

- Brings back **geography** to IR
- Structural characteristics:
  - **Boundaries:** differentiation from the rest of the system
  - **Anarchy:** number of actors in the complex
  - **Polarity:** distribution of power within the complex
  - **Social construction:** relationships of amity and enmity

- **Definition** (Buzan and Waever 2003: 44):
  "...set of units whose major processes of securitization, desecuritization, or both, are so interlinked that their security problems cannot be reasonably analyzed apart from one another."
- **Security constellation:** an aggregate of all four levels of analysis



Map 2. Patterns of Regional Security Post-Cold War

Copenhagen school and energy security

- Energy not considered as "*a distinctive area of security interactions*"
- Typically included in **an economic sector**
- Other options: energy sector as a new (**additional**) one? Energy sector as **a supra-sector**? (Palonkorpi 2008)

→ Let's discuss this ☺

Summary

- **A comprehensive framework** for security analysis
- Esp. theory of securitization now **part of the mainstream**
- **The objective:** desecuritization of the debate
- **Criticism:** state-centric, inconsistent use of constructivist and rationalist concepts, focus mainly on discourse (omits context), conceptual and methodological doubts (audience)