

# Copenhagen School

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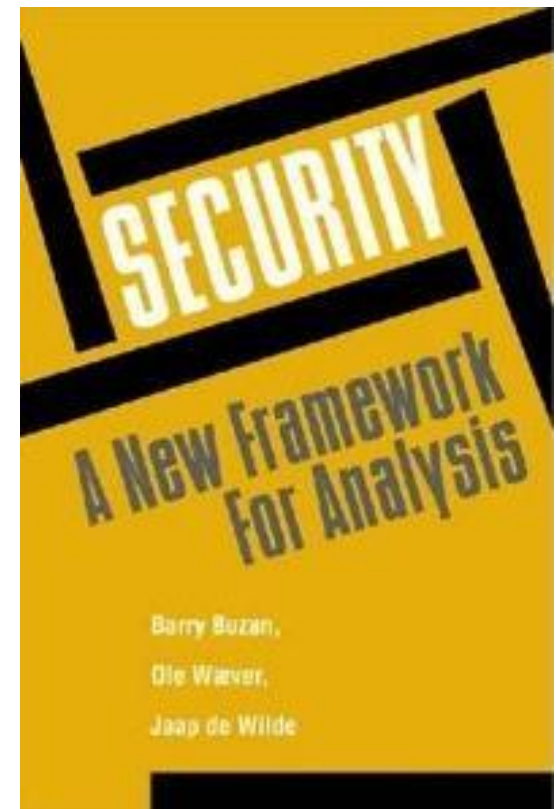
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# Outline

- 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

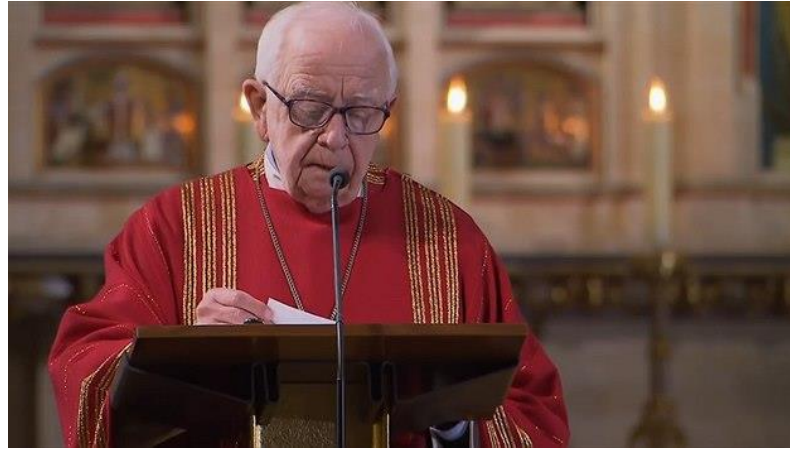


- Audience acceptance
- Extraordinary measures
- Linkages



# Securitization

- **Securitization actors**: declare – via appellative speech act – existential threat towards a particular referent object
- **Functional actors**: 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)

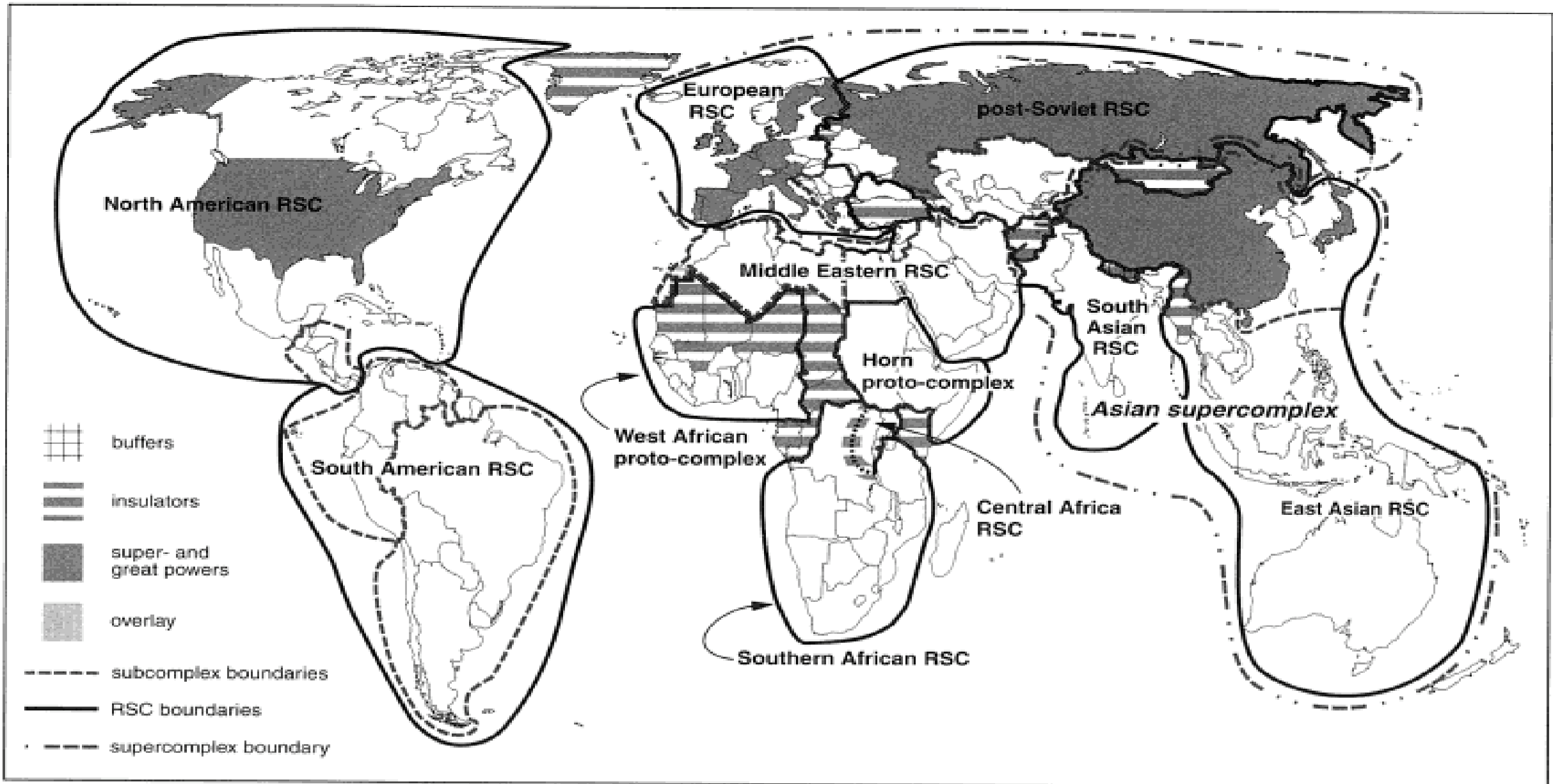


degree of widening	modes of widening <span style="float: right;">(modified Weisová 2004)</span>			
	horizontal (sectors)	vertical (referent objects)	values	threat sources
narrow concept	military-political	state	sovereignty, territorial integrity	other states, (non-state actors)
widened concept	societal	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)