

ZRÍNYI MIKLÓS
NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
PhD Faculty of Art of War

VERONIKA KARÁCSONY

THE PRIVATISATION OF SECURITY

**International experiences and their impact on the
Hungarian Army**

PhD thesis leaflet

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Extract of contents

When setting the research objectives, the following have played a significant role: clarifying the basic concepts of privatised security, presenting and comparing the theories and typologies of researchers experienced in the topic and analysing the foreign specific literature. Surveying the Hungarian experiences and possibilities often faced difficulties because of the low number of available documents in Hungarian and owing to obtaining the Ministry of Defence permits necessary for the quantitative research. In spite of the expected and real difficulties, the highlighted aim of this thesis was to objectively present the Hungarian conditions of the field, free of daily political processes. As a basis of organisation sociology and army organisation approach, objectivity was the key element of the research all the way long, aiding to achieve my objectives and to prove my hypotheses. The research objectives have been formulated as follows:

- Revealing and analysing the laws by way of developing theoretical work and by processing international and national experiences as well as pointing out correlations between management of change and army organisation.
- Researching into the private military and security companies in international relations to the extent necessary to understand the topic, their impact on and application by the regions and countries determining from our country's aspect (e.g. the Balkan, Iraq, Afghanistan).
- Presenting privatisation and outsourcing in the military organisation as army organisational and not only military logistics task and justifying the importance of the research into it.
- Examining the privatisation of the security sector taking place in Hungary – especially concerning the Hungarian Army –, however, without discussing the police duties filled by non-state players (security guards, private investigators).
- Carrying out my own quantitative research by interviews with soldiers having taken part in missions, who can supplement my work with their personal experiences by responding and after analysing the data can give help in decision preparation and decision making in progress at the Hungarian Army.

- Finally, analysing the risks and benefits of outsourcing the military duties, particularly in the case of the Hungarian Army where society is less open to changes like this due to the negative Hungarian privatisation experiences.

My research was constructed in order to prove and justify the following theories:

- (1) In general, it can be stated that due to the political, social and cultural changes the society has become a less active player in the army than before, people feel it less their duty to participate in the defence activity and in preparation in it, in conflicts and in tackling them. Thus, owing to political, economic and army organisation reasons the state is forced to purchase some strategic tasks (consultancy, duties concerning peace-keeping, etc.) from the market.
- (2) Due to restricting the strengthening of companies formed by outsourcing, it has become necessary for the state to establish the proper legal framework, with the help of which its “power over violence” will gain strength again – with a special view to its activity carried out by the PMSC-s in the operational field. Due to forcing the private military and security companies into the legal framework the state will regain the society’s trust and support.
- (3) The staffs of the Hungarian Army, in spite of their operational experience, do not know thoroughly and do not prepare for cooperation with the private military and security companies’ employees in the operational field, before foreign deployment.

Research methods

During the research my aim was to reveal the social, political, economic and legal reasons and conditions restricting/promoting the operation of the private military and security companies. Its basic precondition is an analysis carried out on the basis of army organisation and organisation sociology aspects, with which a topic less known so far in Hungary can be processed and with which the interpretation of international experiences can be promoted in relation to the Hungarian Army. In order to successfully achieve the research objectives, inductive (proceeding from the particular event towards the general principles, from the facts towards the theory) and deductive (proceeding from the general towards the particular, applying the theory for the particular event) reasoning have been applied during the development of the topic to gain knowledge. This was justified by the processing of the topic on the basis of the approach chosen and by my research objectives, which require the

application of widespread analysis, comparison of proper depth and descriptive nature. In order to substantiate the research and to understand the information generated during the procession consulting was held with experts having experience in the topic and the preliminary research had been conducted as a grade thesis at the Department of Sociology of the Eötvös Lóránd University, Faculty of Social Sciences (ELTE TÁTK), titled “Privatising security” and I defended it in 2006. Composition of the thesis was preceded by detailed qualitative and quantitative data collection.

Scientific results

- (1) The research carried out in the PRT-4 is deemed as my own research result, i.e. I was the first to examine the contact kept with the environs by the Hungarian soldiers performing duty in foreign missions, covering not only the soldiers of the other NATO armies, the non-governmental organisations’ (NGO) employees or the civil inhabitants but also the private military and security companies (PMSC) providing for the second largest staff of the operational field.

According to what is composed in the hypothesis:

- (2) It has been proved that due to the political, social and cultural changes the society, as being a less active player in the army, accepts the state’s solution to purchase the military services in the market. A so called social agreement is done where the tax payers redeem by money their military duties forming part of the citizens’ obligations, at the political management, and in return they close their eyes to potential abuses and the risks of outsourcing.
- (3) It has been stated that the power-monopoly weakened due to outsourcing can be strengthened by legal measures and the private military and security companies operated by the market can only be kept under state supervision in the conflict zones by coordinated regulation of the regional and international laws.
- (4) It has been presented that the staff of the Hungarian Army – in spite of their operational experiences – should be more thoroughly prepared for cooperation with the employees of private military and security companies and with the other entities of the operational field before foreign deployment.

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2. Gyimesi Gyula – Karácsony Veronika: Nők a haderőben 2008 – kutatási zárójelentés (SVKI kutatás a HM megrendelésére)
3. Dobai Pál – Karácsony Veronika: Afganisztáni missziós tapasztalatok felmérése – kutatás 2008. 09.01-12.15. – kutatási zárójelentés (SVKI kutatás)