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THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND THEORETICAL VIEWS ON ENSURING THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF BUSINESS ENTITIES

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Abstract: The article develops the author's own approach on the basis of an analysis of the scientific and theoretical views of Western, Russian and Uzbek scholars on ensuring the economic security of business entities.
Keywords: business entities, economic security, destructive factors, state, threat, hazard, counteraction, subject, competitiveness, functional components, institutional environment.

The problems of the economic security of business entities and their connection with economic growth and social progress have attracted the attention of economists since ancient times. Economic security has always been studied with respect to subjective and objective relations at various levels: the region, the enterprise and the individual. At the same time, the study of the economic security of business entities has always held a priority place in the scholarly works of researchers.

One of the founders of research on the theoretical foundations of the concept of economic security is the Russian scholar Academician L.I. Abalkin. He defined economic security as a set of conditions and factors that ensure the sustainable development of the national economy as well as its ability to effectively resist internal and external threats, and he identified three main elements within it: economic independence, the stability of the economy and its capacity for self-development [1]. In the scholarly works of the Russian scholars A.I. Tatarkin, E.A. Oleynikov, V.V. Krivorotov [2] and others, the term "security" denotes the protection of an object from negative influences, or its state of being protected, which allows us to speak of the similarity of these authors' approaches to the research topic. Negative influences are understood as a set of processes and phenomena that, with varying degrees of probability, may cause a certain degree of harm to the object of protection. On the basis of this view, many researchers propose differentiating such influences, which enables us to form a general idea of what exactly the object of protection must be protected from.

Among the scholars of our Republic who have conducted in-depth research on economic security, Professor H.P. Abulqosimov states: "On the basis of these considerations, the concept of 'economic security' may be defined as the totality of conditions and factors that ensure the independence of the national economy, its stability and resilience, and its capacity for continuous renewal and self-improvement"[3]. Another textbook published in our Republic gives the same assessment, describing economic security as "the totality of conditions and factors that ensure the independence of the national economy, its stability and resilience, and its capacity for continuous renewal and self-improvement"[4].

Economic security is shaped under the influence of numerous destructive factors that have a systemic effect. Today, the following types of destructive factors affecting the economic security of business entities can be distinguished.

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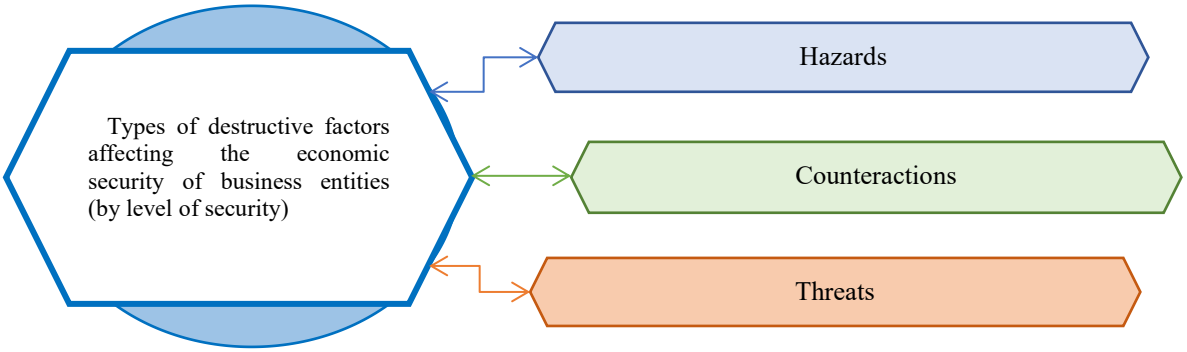


Figure 1. Types of destructive factors affecting the economic security of business entities [5]

A threat is the highest degree of danger, in which not only a clear intention but also the ability and readiness to cause direct harm to the object of security are manifested. A threat is an intention to cause harm; it is the form that danger takes once it becomes acute in the course of realizing its potential. A threat is a direct danger whose source may be identified to a greater or lesser extent. It requires a rapid response from those against whom it is directed. The objects of a threat include organizational structures, natural persons and legal entities that may be affected by the source of the threat, as well as the accounting units of the tangible and intangible assets of a business entity (technical and infrastructure facilities, real estate, goods and material assets, cash, securities, documented obligations, information resources and so on).

One of the most important links of national economic security is the economic security of business entities. This is because ensuring the economic security of business entities lays the foundation for ensuring economic security at the national level and for sustainable economic growth. The economic security of business entities depends largely on their socio-economic potential, which in turn determines their competitive advantages and opportunities for sustainable development.

Ensuring the economic security of business entities is one of the key factors in the sustainable development of the state, as is evident from the direct relationship between the level of its economic security and the stability of its socio-economic development. The dynamics of the world economy, the volatility of global markets, technological innovations and other factors give rise to entirely new challenges and threats. This makes ensuring the economic security of business entities one of the most important areas of the state's economic policy.

Among Uzbek scholars, A. Qodirov, N. Juraev and D. Tojiboyeva define ensuring the economic security of business entities as "the ability to combine economic resources efficiently and to make new economic decisions" [6]. In the development of business entities, the system of financial support, the availability of financial sources for business entities and the opportunity to use them have a direct impact on the growth of entrepreneurial potential and, consequently, on ensuring their economic security. P.Z. Xoshimov offers the following definition: "The security of entrepreneurial activity should be understood as the protection of the subject of entrepreneurial activity, at all stages of its operation, from internal and external threats that lead, first of all, to economic, legal and other negative consequences" [7]. The economic security of business entities, based on an optimal ratio of all their property, enables an entity to operate steadily, to respond adequately to difficulties and threats, and to develop and improve. The goals and objectives of the entity make it possible to establish priority areas for ensuring the economic security

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of entrepreneurship. We also believe that the main functional components of ensuring the economic security of business entities can be identified by assessing the following:

- the significant impact of factors on the functional components;
- the impact of the key processes affecting the provision of the functional components of economic security;
- the economic indicators used in ensuring the functional components of economic security.

In our view, the economic security of business entities can be defined as the set of economic relations, associated with their protection from dangers and threats, that determine the consistent development of their economic potential and ensure a steady rise in the well-being of all members of the economy. Its object may be a country with defined historical, geographical, ethnic, spiritual, political and economic boundaries, together with the socio-economic system of its business entities. At the same time, from the standpoint of its influence, the institutional environment should form a clearly structured, systematically functioning, orderly and adaptable environment. Such an environment makes it possible to ensure the level of stability and development required both by the economic system itself and by its components. The specific features of business entities and the differences between them are associated with the considerable diversity of natural, material and technical resources, the level of development of communication systems and infrastructure, the level of development of innovative and industrial potential, and other factors.

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