National Security Definitions

"The distinctive meaning of national security means freedom from foreign dictation."
(Harold Lasswell, Political Scientist (1950))

"National security objectively means the absence of threats to acquired values and subjectively, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked."
(Arnold Wolfers, Renowned International Relations Expert (1960))

"National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders."
(Dr. Harold Brown, U.S. Secretary of Defense (1977-1981))

"National security... is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and wellbeing."
(Charles Maier, Harvard University History Professor)

“The measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance, that can be indexed by computation, empirically or otherwise, and is extendable to global security by variables external to it."
(Prabhakaran Paleri, Author of National Security, Imperatives and Challenges)

"National security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might."
(National Defence College of India (1996))

“A collective term encompassing both national defense and foreign relations of the United States. Specifically, the condition provided by: a) a military or defense advantage over any foreign nation or group of nations; b) a favorable foreign relations position; or c) a defense posture capable of successfully resisting hostile or destructive action from within or without, overt or covert."
(Current U.S. government definition from the Department of Defense (DOD).)

“the ability to safeguard U.S. national interests, including human physical and psychological well-being by defensive and/or proactive actions capable of successfully resisting, defeating, avoiding and/or preventing hostile and/or destructive action from within or outside the United States”
(Paul Lubliner, The Merits of (Re)defining U.S. National Security)
“National security can be most fruitfully defined as the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats”

“National security is the safekeeping of the nation as a whole”
(Kim R. Holmes, PhD, *What is National Security?*)