Should Airport Security Checks Be So Detailed?

Due to intensive technological progress during the recent two centuries, humanity has achieved a lot of what has been considered impossible in earlier epochs; flight is one of them. Today, if you have enough money to afford an airplane ticket, you can travel far distances in almost no time. Although statistically being the safest type of public transport, airplanes are vulnerable to the threat of terrorism. Because of this, airline companies implement strict security rules and checks, and force passengers to submit to them, thus causing frustration and discontent; sometimes these checks may seem excessive and even humiliating, even though they are mandatory.

One of the security measures that often causes misunderstanding and questions is having to take off shoes and to place them on an X-Ray belt. Before, bins were used to check if there were something hidden inside a shoe, but today, scanners are being used more and more often. The reason for this is that bins are usually cluttered with the articles passengers take out of their bags, or take off themselves, so scanners allow faster, more thorough, and stress-free checking for airport staff (Transportation Security Administration). Besides, X-Ray scanning can detect objects that might be hidden, for example, within a shoe's sole (IFR). Thus, checking one's shoes is a necessary measure directly connected to security.

Security measures in airports—even the weirdest—have a strong rationale behind them. For example, the requirement to take off shoes and placing them in an X-Ray scanner is connected to the detection of hidden items, and for a more thorough and fast check. Quantities of liquids allowed on board are limited because it is possible to make a liquid bomb, or use liquids as components for bombs, and electronics are checked for discrepancies within their inner components. Therefore, measures that are often considered excessive or humiliating are necessary for preventing terror acts or violence on board.