

What are the best policy options to deal with asymmetrical warfare?

### 1) Introduction:

As asymmetrical warfare is a strategy employed by belligerents that are unequal in terms of economic, political and military capabilities and operating primarily on the tool of "not to be identified". So, dealing with it requires a comprehensive strategy keeping in view the political, economic and military capabilities of state. Law enforcement using domestic institutions, diplomacy tools and if necessary military intervention can be used. But, dealing with

asymmetrical warfare requires a lot of prudence and strategy. A slight misinterpretation and miscalculation can lead to a Lavoc. State ~~must~~ pursue non-violent and if necessary violent strategy and policies to effectively deal with it.

## 2-) Non-violent end of spectrum:

Policies to deal with asymmetrical warfare can be described in terms of use of more or less force.

The policies at non-violent end of spectrum are:

### a-) Socio-economic development:

The major driving force for insurgency and militancy is socio-economic deprivation of community. The state should

focus on the socioeconomic development of the areas where the militants and insurgents breed and nurture - Baloch Liberation Army which is mainly operating in Balochistan, for example, ~~Quetta~~ Quetta the capital of Balochistan got Sui Gas in 1984, ~~in~~ in the contrary Sui Gas is provided to major parts of country in 1952. Moreover, the PSDP of whole province in 1997 was 130 million while that of Lahore alone was 180 million.

### b-) Negotiations with militants:

The state should not negate the option of negotiation of peace with militants - Bringing the insurgents

to the table of negotiation after a limited war can be a best strategy. For instance, after almost 20 years of war in Afghanistan the US finally negotiated with Afghan Taliban on peace agreement in "Doha accords" 2020. After investing so much in war,

### C-) Coercive Diplomacy:

The use of threat or limited armed force to persuade the adversary to alter its approach should be employed. The state can also use some diplomatic tools such as sealing the border, as Pakistan is doing now a days for exert pressure on Afghan Taliban ~~to~~, as

according to the interior ministry of Pakistan, the TTP is operating in Afghanistan and using Afghan-Pak border as a launch pad of attack in Pakistan.

#### d-) Monetary and transaction surveillance.

The state should keep an eye on every transaction occurring in the banking and online systems. As, according to William Lind, constant financial assistance is required for a proxy war to be successful and most of the insurgents and militants are actually supported by the rivals of state. For instance, Kalbuslan Yadav, in his

confessionary statement, admitted that RAW supports BLA and TTP in Pakistan.

### e-) Dewatering of society:

The then interior minister of Pakistan, Rahman Malik, said in 2013, that his ministry issued more than 95 000 prohibited bore arms license from 2008-2012.

In, 2019 the government of Pakistan lifted ban on issuance of these licenses to nine categories of individuals and in 2021

government extended the list of beneficiaries. As reported by Naeem Sadiq in his article in

Dawn - The state government should dewater the society.

and restrict further issuance of weapons and license - The state should

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adapt a policy of "buying back".

### 3-) Violent end of Spectrum:

State must also be ready to adopt violent policies if non-violent end of spectrum fails.

#### a-) Intelligence based operations:

Intelligence based operations instead of full scale military operation should be preferred first, as these operations are cost effective, displacement of masses is minimum and maximum benefit is obtained.

As, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shalbaz Sharif has recently announced

"Azam-i-Istekham" recently.  
The President of US, John  
F. Kennedy once said,

"It is unfortunate that ~~we~~ can  
only secure peace, by preparing  
for war"

### b-) Law enforcement through Police:

The government of state  
should focus on the  
police reforms and should  
mend the flaws in  
the existing law enforcement  
and use this tool in  
fighting militants.



### C-) Preeminence:

If a state has suffered more than its capability then state must be prepared for pre-eminence - Decision regarding this is very crucial and all the stakeholders must be involved. It can have severe consequences. So a critical cost benefit analysis must be made before opting this. A classical example of this is "Bush Doctrine", the then president of US George Bush said,

"It is the responsibility of the US to protect itself."

And, the world has seen that the greatest military of the world, suffered a huge loss.

#### 4) Conclusion:

As it argued whether to use more force or less force in dealing in asymmetrical warfare, both of these strategies have their own merits and demerits.

Diplomatic tools, coercive strategy, Deterrence and negotiation might be helpful in some circumstances while use of force ~~is~~ in other.

Nevertheless, the state must devise policies according to its economic capabilities, political clout and social circumstances.