

"Hybrid Warfare is a Challenge for Pakistan's Security"

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Essay

The cadence of modern warfare has gotten sophisticated due to the emergence of new-fangled techniques. In this unprecedented times, states are not facing a single generation of warfare, but a combination of numerous conducts of war. This amalgamation of warfare is uniquely termed as "Hybrid Warfare". Today, Pakistan has encountered myriad challenge variegated in nature, due to the onset of hybrid warfare. Among them, disseminating of disinformation; terror spread by violent non-state actors; sub-nationalism among Balochistan; political isolation of Pakistan and rampant cyber attacks are posing substantial challenges to the national security of Pakistan. Whereas such challenges are looming, it is imperative to undertake apt measures. In particular, building robust economy that is self-sustaining and harnessing the positive reversion of CPEC are pre-emptory to ensure the security of Islamabad. Also, deeming that internal peace is

pivotal against any hybrid warfare. In short, in contemporary affairs, Pakistan has encountered the challenges sprouted by hybrid warfare which should be addressed by ^{adapting} pragmatic and staunch internal and external policy.

Hybrid warfare is the blend of several generations of warfare. The first ~~and~~ ^{two} generations were more related to kinetic military action employed in the past. The third generation is more of advanced form of military action by leveraging speed known as "Blitzkrieg". It was initially used by German forces in World War II. The fourth generation war is synonymous to political warfare. It undermines a state through political instruments. Last but not the least, the fifth generation warfare is primarily known as non-kinetic military action that is social engineering, spread of propaganda, and cyber attacks. When a state utilises all generations of warfare against another state then it is regarded as 'Hybrid Warfare'.

In the twenty first century, Pak

is facing plethora of challenges due to hybrid warfare. A number of them will be discussed in the subsequent paragraphs.

To commence with, Pakistan has been politically isolated by certain states in the world. The global leaders have turned blind eye on many issues enumerated by Pakistan. Also, they do not take Pakistan in consideration of world affairs. For instance, the New Zealand cricket team left Pakistan in ²⁰²¹ ~~last year~~ and furnished no tangible reason. This was one of the lowest points of Pakistan's cricket. At time, the country and the people felt disgruntled and dishearted. Such abysmal isolation of Pakistan in world affairs is due to exclusive hybrid warfare against Pakistan. Thus, it is evident that in modern times, Pakistan will come up with the menace of hybrid warfare.

Along political isolation, spread of engineered information against Pakistan is another challenge to the national security. Enemy states are concocting propaganda against Pakistan

which can spread chaos in the society. Moreover, these misinformations undermine the confidence of populace in state's institutions. As a result, the institutions of politics feel under pressure. For example European Union (EU) disinfo lab evinced that there are 757 platforms installed by India to spread false information against Pakistan. When such enormous misinformation is circulating, the national security will be indubitably undermined. Therefore, hybrid warfare in the form of disinformation is a formidable challenge for Pakistan.

In addition, violent non-state actors are ^{prevailing} providing fear and terror as well as becoming threat to national security of Pakistan. Terror groups employ completely unique military tactics to damage the country. The enemy state support these groups in order to cascade terror in Pakistan. Also, terrorism significantly drain the military resources deviously benefits the enemy state. In particular Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is bolstered by finances from India. Along TTP, Daesh is

used by other major powers to corrode the ability of Pakistan. In this way hybrid warfare is striking national security of Pakistan.

Moreover, subnationalism is also prevailing in the province of Balochistan, which is threatening the national security of Pakistan. The region is prone to sub-nationalist groups backed by Research Analysis Wing (RAW) of India. These sub-nationalist groups want freedom from Pakistan and they claim to be the state representative of all people of Balochistan. Among them, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) are already launching attacks and onslaught on Pakistan Army. According to Kalbhushan Yadav, a RAW agent, India has been both financially and tactically supporting BLA and BLF since early 21st Century. This depicts that an outsider is promoting the rhetoric of subnationalism in Pakistan. That is why hybrid warfare is creating a challenge for Pakistan's national security.

Over and above, the intensity of cyber attacks against Pakistan is profoundly upticking. Pakistan possesses a number of enemies such as India and Israel. Both of them are capable of initiating a formidable cyber attacks against Pakistan. To give an illustration, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was cyberly attacked in 2021 by anonymous hackers who took most of the data and then sold it out on black market. There are numerous other evidences vindicate cyber attacks against Pakistan. Thus, Cyber attacks are posing another challenge to Pakistan's national security.

Besides cyber warfare, some of the entities are deliberately creating socially-engineered propaganda on social media to defame the institutions of Pakistan. These doctored news and digitally derived movements on social media are specifically launched in chaotic times. The enemy states first exploit the political faultlines and then distend fake news and

propaganda against the country. In particular in 2009, foreign involvements changed - the regime followed by twitter (now X) trend against the chief of Pakistan Army. In this concurrent attack, the institutions of state of Pakistan were potentially sabotaged. Therefore, hybrid war are compromises the national security.

Last but not the least, on economic front, the international institutions augment the proclivities of hybrid warfare. From past experiences it is understood that most of the supra-national institutions are mere political instruments for the rich countries. They, on the basis of vested interests further deteriorate the condition of state. For instance, Pakistan had been grey listed by FATF since 2018, even though Pakistan had completed all its compliances. This delineates that such institutions become tools of hybrid warfare against the country. Hence, the challenge

of hybrid warfare will be encountered by Pakistan in the 21st century.

There are always certain remedial measures to counter any problem. Therefore, hybrid warfare can also be dismantled through some pragmatic steps. First, internal peace is necessary to keep outside forces at bay. In peace situation the institutions of state work in collaboration which halt major attack on national security. In this way peace is pre-emptory for countering hybrid warfare.

Second, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has the tendency to promote soft image of Pakistan which will deviously weaken the forces of hybrid warfare. CPEC is a flagship project, it connects Belt and Road initiative (BRI) with its sister project Maritime Silk Route (MSR). This will connect South Asia with Central Asia and Middle East. As a result, Pakistan's role in advocating liberal commercialism will be acknowledged because

Pakistan provides its Gwadar port for CPEC which is a jewel of crown for BRI. Also, it will enable the world powers to keep their interest with Pakistan. Moreover, it will make Pakistan capable of countering any non-traditional attacks. Hence a soft image disseminated by CPEC will subvert the factions of hybrid warfare.

In addition to CPEC, building a robust economy is also necessary for tackling hybrid warfare. An affluent economy will not only begot soft-image but also it will make Pakistan capable of building systematic measures to deal with hybrid warfare. In particular, Pakistan can equip its departments such as National Response Center for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) with new fangled technologies. The states institutions will also have the ability to cope with hybrid warfare.

warfare employing more resources. Moreover, Pakistan can build their own satellite network to avoid the U.S.' influence over Pakistan's Space Corporation. That is why, strong economy is the vivid solution to all sorts of warfare.

Lastly, enhancing the tendencies of cyber security institution can obstruct the propagation of cyber attacks and digital propaganda. Pakistan's nation is considered the fourth most intelligent nation in the world. The government can hire more intelligent hackers to counter outside cyber attacks. To give an illustration, Pakistan's Computer Emergency Response Team (PAK CERT) should be provided with ethical hackers and modern computer systems. Likewise BNR3C should be involved with the state's institution in order to cope up collectively. Thus the cyber warfare can be demotivated through staunch policies of ^{the} government.

To conclude, Pakistan

is facing numerous challenges
sourced by outside factors through
hybrid warfare. Hybrid warfare
is like a salad bowl which
includes multiple ingredients to
halt the enemy country's peace.
Pakistan's enemies are also
active in jeopardizing the national
security of the country through
political isolation, propaganda of
disinformation, promotion of sub-
nationalism in Balochistan, prevalence
of cyber attacks and undermining
the state institutions. All these
factors contribute in aggrandizing
chaos and instability inside and
isolation and defamation outside
of Pakistan. However, to eradicate
such disastrous warfare Pakistan
needs to take prudent steps like
fortifying its institutions, presenting
its soft image through projects like
CPEC, multiplying economy and
bringing internal peace. In such a
way, the proxies should be
country and spring can be
brought in the gardens of

dear homeland-