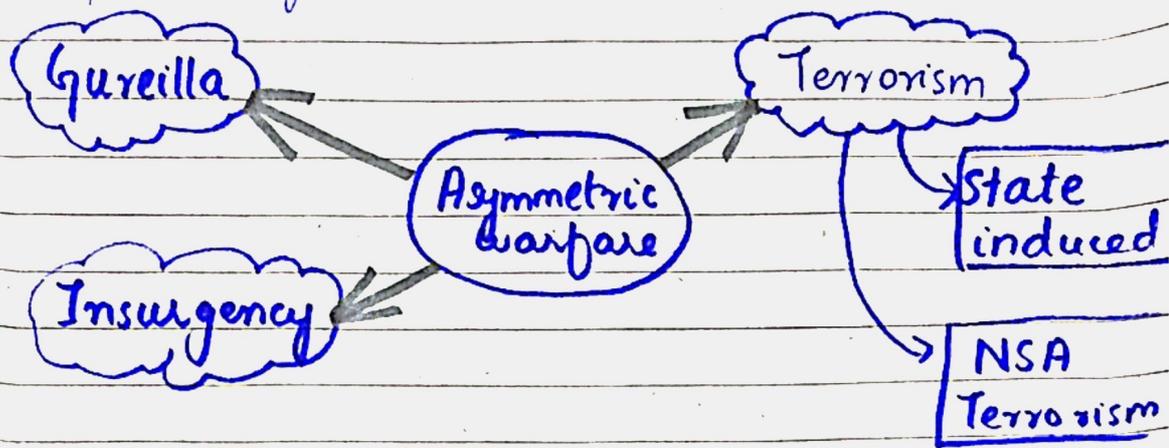


Q: Examine the concept of asymmetric warfare and its application in contemporary conflicts, particularly in the context of Pakistan-India relations. How does asymmetric warfare affect strategic calculations and military strategies in South Asia?

Concept of Asymmetric warfare:

The asymmetric warfare involve the unconventional or unconfined tactics of warfare. Asymmetric warfare mostly occur when the one party is comparatively weaker than the other.



Application of Asymmetric Warfare in contemporary conflicts:

The asymmetric warfare is prevalent in contemporary conflicts. Currently, the war is not confined to the states but also involves other entities, such as non-state actors. Thus, the unequal-strength possession leads to adoption of asymmetric warfare in current global political dimension.

Asymmetric Warfare between Pakistan and India:

Pakistan and India are involved in a long-standing conflict of decades. Both the countries have undergone conventional and unconventional conflict. In this regard, the asymmetric warfare is also conceived.

i- Insurgency:

Pakistan has faced insurgency endorsed by India. The insurgency in Baluchistan has evident through multiple factor that it is induced by India onto the soil of Pakistan. Example: the financing to insurgent groups, RAW agent Kalbhushan Yadav.

ii- Terrorist Attack or Terror Financing:

India alleged multiple times that Pakistan has carried out terrorist activities on the borders or in India. On the other hand, the informal relations of India with Afghan terrorist groups and traces of terror financing shows that India is ~~pe~~ adapting asymmetric warfare against Pakistan.

Implications of Asymmetric Warfare and on military Strategies and Strategic Calculations in South Asia:

i- Escalation of risk - The nuclear factor:

Currently, Pakistan and India are predominantly engaged in asymmetric warfare. However, trivial miscalculation in military strategies may have prudent repercussions on South Asia. This is primarily as both the rivalries are nuclear capable countries. The former representative of Pakistan to UN, Malicha Lodhi in her article "the Nuclear Factor" says that nuclear-capable countries i.e. India and Pakistan and their escalation of conflict has undermined the security of South Asia.

ii- Economic implications - Chinese BRI (CPEC):

In the light of asymmetric warfare of India in Baluchistan hinders the development of CPEC project endorsed by China under BRI. Since, BRI comprises of multi-national development project. Hence, instability

at one end will result in domino effect to other. Thus, it can be said that India-Pakistan's asymmetric warfare have consequences upon the South Asia as well.

iii- Erosion of Stability in South Asia:

The strategic calculation and military strategies are widely hindered by this asymmetric warfare by social, economical and technological factors. The expansionist nationalism by India, economic instability through resource-based coercion and disinformation

Campaigns are one of the examples in this regard. These factors drastically impact the South Asia in broader context.