

Quiz 2 - Pak Affairs (Security Issues)

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Ans=> Introduction

Hybrid warfare is defined as the amalgamation of various tactics and techniques, both kinetic and non-kinetic in nature, to inflict physical as well as psychological damage to a state. This form of warfare includes direct action, cyber warfare, information warfare, proxy warfare, economic warfare, and psychological warfare. In today's world, Pakistan is facing an increasing threat of hybrid warfare, which threatens its national security. These hybrid warfare threats include:

- 1) The use of violent non-state actors
- 2) Propaganda and perception management
- 3) Diplomatic Isolation
- 4) Economic strangulation
- 5) Threats within the cyberspace

=> The Use of Violent Non-State Actors

To stay below the kinetic threshold of conflicts, adversaries employ violent non state actors to inflict damage onto a state. As wars are costly, risk escalation and indicate direct involvement, states resort to using proxy warfare as a tool. In the case of Pakistan, three primary proxies are seen at play,

which include the TTP, BLA, and ISIS-KP. Having similar motivations, these proxies are being used by hostile foreign security agencies to induce and maintain turmoil in Pakistan. The Dasu Power Project Attack or the multiple attacks in Gwadar indicate the use of these proxies to hinder economic development and to worsen the security situation of the country.

⇒ Propaganda and Perception Management

Another tool of hybrid warfare being used against Pakistan is propaganda, and the creation of false narratives.

Propaganda is a tool of disinformation campaigns which aim to mislead the public or global population. Propaganda is also used to form and groom certain anti-state narratives, that serve to psychologically harm the general population of a country. This leads to the management of perception where the perception of the population is groomed and managed to create a rift ~~bad~~ between the state and its people. India has been pushing several false narratives with the help of social media with the aim to distance the population from the state institutions.

⇒ Diplomatic Isolation

The use of propaganda leads to efforts of diplomatic isolation, which is a significant threat to Pakistan. Diplomatic isolation serves to corner a state in the international arena with the aim to deteriorate its relations with other states.

and to portray a false image of the state. This tool has been used multiple times by Pakistan's arch-nemesis, India. India's narrative of labeling Pakistan as a terror sponsoring state is an effort to diplomatically isolate Pakistan. This is also done to portray a false image of the country which would affect its diplomatic relations and people-to-people contact with other countries.

⇒ Economic Strangulation

In addition to diplomatic isolation, economic strangulation is also a significant threat Pakistan faces. This aims to weaken Pakistan's economy and to prevent it from economic recovery. Economic strangulation and diplomatic isolation work in tandem to cut off a country's economic and diplomatic support. For example, India's constant efforts to get Pakistan included in the FATF blacklist shows how it tried to diplomatically, and economically weaken Pakistan, as being in the blacklist would further threaten foreign direct investment and tourism, both negatively impacting the economy.

⇒ Threats Within The Cyber Space

With the advent of web 3.0 technologies, Pakistan faces an increasing threat in the cyber space as well. These cyber threats include cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, cyber exploitation of the general public, and to spread propaganda. Critical infrastructure such as water management

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Systems, power grids, and nuclear facilities are ~~sets~~ susceptible to cyber attack by hostile nations such as India. These attacks would aim to internally weaken the state in times of internal economic and political crises. An example is how Israel used Stuxnet worm to attack Iran's nuclear facility in Natanz, disrupting its operations for 2 hours.

⇒ Conclusion

Pakistan is facing threats of hybrid warfare which threaten its national security and national cohesion. The aforementioned tools of hybrid warfare are being employed by hostile nations and pose a significant threat to the internal and external security of Pakistan. Pakistan is battling several threats which include violent non-state actors, false narratives, threats of diplomatic and economic strangulation, as well as cyber warfare. Pakistan's security institutions are tirelessly making efforts to fight the menace of hybrid warfare in order to maintain the structural integrity of the country.

