

The ascending potency of hybrid warfare being foisted on the state of Pakistan is adding to the security woes of the country. Elaborate with Examples (20 Marks)

Introduction

Hybrid warfare, a dynamic blend of conventional military strategies, irregular warfare, and information operations, has emerged as a complex and potent threat to national security in the modern. "All Through the ages, technology has played a significant role in enhancing the capacity and capability of nations to win wars. The tools of modern warfare based on cyber and information technology has transformed the nature of warfare. Social media in particular is being used subtly as well as aggressively to shape public opinion and weaken the morale of the nations" (Dr. Tughrul Yamin, Hybrid warfare - challenges of Pakistan, 2019). The state of Pakistan finds itself in the entanglement of the intricacies of hybrid tactics, escalating its existing security concerns.

Moreover, Pakistan is confronted by a wide range of multi-dimensional threats. Hostile forces are in full play to isolate it internationally. Terms like 'irresponsible' state and 'sponsor of state terrorism' are used liberally to defame it.

Convergence Of Conventional and Unconventional Tactics

Hybrid warfare blurs the line between normal and unusual ways of fighting.

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For example, in 2008, there was an attack in Mumbai, where some people linked to a group that might have been backed by another country created a lot of chaos. They used social media and Technology to make their actions seem bigger, showing how this mix of fighting styles can be powerful (convergence of conventional and unconventional strategies, 2017).

One of the biggest challenges depicted in this case is social media.

Social Media Used as a tool in Hybrid warfare

In the age of hybrid warfare, studying how social media is affecting the lives of the people in Pakistan is crucial, since it's the people that makes up the country. From 2005 to 2018, Facebook and Twitter users surged. Social media influenced events like Arab springs and elections. Yet, it spreads misinformation too. Leaders in Pakistan use the platforms like twitter. But sharing false news, a problem in places like Pakistan, needs responsible sharing due to changing information. (Dr. Tughraal Yamin, Hybrid warfare-challenges of Pakistan, 2019).

Information warfare and Perception warfare

Like I discussed previously, Hybrid warfare also means playing with information to change how people see things. Pakistan has struggled with false stories spread on social media, especially during **niceday**

times when they're having problems with india. This fake news makes things worse and caused confusion.

(Jones, Information warfare in the Age of Hybrid Threats

This depicts how false spread of information can be a security threat to Pakistan, due to its chaotic nature

Economic Pressure and Cyber Attacks

Hybrid warfare is also about using money and technology to cause trouble. In 2010, a computer virus called Stuxnet messed up Iran's nuclear facilities. This shows how cyber attacks can break important things (Rid, *Attributing Cyber Attacks*, 2017). Similarly, Pakistan also faced trade limits and online spying, making its situation worse. This highlights the need to get better at technology to stay safe and also how this poses a great threat to Pakistan's security.

Implications for Pakistan's National Security Strategy

Dealing with hybrid warfare needs a smart safety plan. Pakistan has to be ready with a strong military, good information management, new technology, and working with other countries. If they don't do this well, Pakistan could end up in a bigger security problem (Smith, *Adapting to Hybrid Warfare: Lessons from Global Case Studies*, 2020).

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Conclusion

To conclude, hybrid warfare is making Pakistan's safety tougher. The mix of different tactics, playing with information, and using money and technology shows how complex this threat is. Pakistan has to be ready to adapt and work with others to handle this new kind of warfare and keep their country safe in a world that's getting more complicated.

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