

(6) Challenges of hybrid warfare and regional dynamics.

Outline

(1) Introduction:

"The challenges South Asian Region is facing now are the most lethal ever in the regional history in the context of Hybrid warfare. However, proper measures need to be address to counter the challenges of the hybrid warfare.

2- Regional Dynamics and Hybrid Warfare.

3- Challenges of Hybrid warfare in the region

a- Challenge to the peace and security; involvement of non-state actors.

b- Worsening of Relationships of the neighbouring countries without serious reasons.

c- Manipulation of regional states by outsider world Powers-

e- Increasing enmity of the civilians of one regional country to the other and vice-versa

f- Use of various International Forums against each others-

4- Hybrid warfare is a tool for causing unrest and chaos in internal affairs of the regional countries.

- a- Increasing Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan
 - b- Weaknesses of the Afghan security Forces
 - c- Minorities' Movements and a Slogan for the sep creation of Khalistan in India.
 - d- Rise and supports to the separatist movements in Pakistan
 - e- Increasing Dissent between civilian and military in Pakistan.
 - f- Increasing Ethnic and Religious Tensions in India.
- 5- Way Forward to counter the challenges of Hybrid warfare in the Region.**
- a- Need of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) among the regional countries in the hybrid warfare context.
 - b- Strengthening of Cyber Security to counter external attacks.
 - c- Re-conciliation between Pakistan and Afghanistan to start a new era of friendship.
 - d- Effective utilization of SAARC to Promote regional harmony.
 - f- Economic and political stability's Efforts.
- 6- Conclusion:**

Essay

South Asian region has never failed to surprise the world. The region has witnessed unprecedented changes not only in the history but in the near past as well. Two great powers the USSR and the United States fought for about fourteen years in the first phase — Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, and then the American declaration of war against the Afghan Taliban after the tragic incident of 9/11. In the present climate the region is the victim of another form of war, the most lethal and the most dangerous one; hybrid wars. The regional countries now fighting against one another using the hybrid war games. They use different tools such as ideological attacks, spreading disinformation, supporting various terrorist groups and shaking hands with other separatist movements to weaken one another. Moreover, the increasing ethnic and religious tensions, increasing dissents of the civilians with their respective militaries and the rise of separatist movements clearly displays the the presence of hybrid war tools.

The challenges South Asian region is facing now are the more lethal fever in the history of the region in the context of hybrid warfare. However, proper measures need to be address address to counter the challenges of hybrid warfare.

The changes that occurs in the region are obvious. South Asian region faces another front of war among the great power rivalries. On one side America withdrew from Afghanistan letting the country to various social, political and economic challenges and on the other hand signing various strategic agreements to with India to have a presence in the region. South Asian region lies at the heart for America to counter the growing influence of China and Russia. For this purpose the region is not only the victim of hybrid warfare but also a play ground for the western and communist blocs. Instability in the region especially in India, Afghanistan and Pakistan provides a favourable environment to these powers to play and fight freely. For this purpose they always try to keep the region instable especially by the western

bloc. The use various tools of the hybrid warfare such as supporting opponents within the region. Spreading disinformation, propaganda, and providing help to various separatists or terrorist groups are the main tools.

Non-state actors such as terrorist organizations mainly cause challenges to the peace and security of the region. South Asian region is the most affected region from terrorism. According to the statistics Pakistan lost more than a ninety thousand lives in the war against terrorism. NACTA declared 78 organizations as illegal that are on one way or another providing supports to the anti-states terrorist organization. The resurgence of Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP) alarms the entire region to take proper measure. Various blasts on civilians and on police men in peshawar, blasts in Quetta and a recent blast on Islamiya Jamiat-e-Tulba convention recorded more than 40 lives shows the level of threat to the security and stability of Pakistan — a direct threat to the regional peace and security. Providing support to

the TTP is a potent tool of the hybrid wars or 5th generation warfare.

These attacks directly worsen the relationship of neighbouring countries. Pakistan believes that TTP is an umbrella organization having linkages with the Afghan Taliban and ISK. They provide support and their land against Pakistan. The Bannu incident clearly indicates that Afghanistan is a safe haven.

According to the words of the US secretary of state that "Afghanistan is a safe heaven for terrorist organizations" is also the stance of the Pakistani officials.

Taking the responsibility of terrorist attacks causing thousand of deaths, to damages to the infrastructures and recording thousands of casualties will obviously put fingers on Afghan's government from where it operating.

Such claims will ultimately results in worsening of the situation. The same applies on the eastern boarder of Pakistan. A terrorist attack in India such as Palwama attack raised various claims on Pakistan for conducting and facilitating worsen and further contributed

to the rivalry of the two nations.

Now such types of instability and a favourable situation could be by the support of outsider western world powers. History has witnessed it. For example, after the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, America supported and contributed a lot to the rise of the Mujahideen — the Holy warriors. Americans fought against the Soviet with the help of these local mujahideen and after fulfilling her aim they blackmailed them for attacking on world trade centre and ^{the} Pentagon. The point is America is not new in these tools of war. They taught the world how to use organizations like Al-Qaida and many more for its greater national interest. They taught the world how to create fear, chaos and unrest in developing or under developing countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Now, it is evident that great powers do not support ^{directly} or involve in a ~~war~~ direct conventional war. Instead they support regional powers such as India to create unrest in a country like Pakistan with the help of such groups to counter the Russian