

challenges of Hybrid Warfare and regional dynamics

Outline

1) Introduction

Thesis statement:

Hybrid Warfare is one of the most lethal forms of warfare because the enemy is never in front of you it is lurking behind blurred lines; however it can be countered.

2) How Hybrid Warfare is affecting regional dynamics

3) Tactics of hybrid Warfare

a) Media

b) Disinformation campaigns

c) Diplomacy

d) Economic pressure

e) cyber Warfare

4) changing regional Dynamics

a) Emergence of Taliban Government in Afghanistan

b) India a rising regional power

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Essay

Hybrid Warfare is a military strategy theory that was first proposed by Frank Hoffman. The goal of hybrid warfare is to create multifaceted fronts to achieve strategic goals. This strategy involves both conventional methods of war and unconventional methods of war such as use of media, disinformation campaigns, diplomacy, economic warfare, cyber warfare and military arsenal. Hybrid Warfare is one of the most lethal forms of warfare because the enemy is never

in front of you he is lurking behind blurred lines; however, it can only be countered when you are aware of it

The geo-political significance of the region is immense that is why there are a number of stakeholders acting in the region to the best of their abilities in order to secure its own strategic goals. To achieve its goals Media is being used to spread disinformation regarding other stakeholders to loosen their grip on the region. Similarly diplomacy and economic pressure is being used by major stakeholders in the region to increase their influence in the region, coupled with various other tactics such as use of cyberwarfare to project ideals among masses.

Media has long been used by countries and multinational corporations to project their interests and ideals not only in the countries of their existence but also to propagate their ideals all around the world.

Such as when Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was addressing the United Nations he urged them to use media to show the population of Iran the vision of 2030 so that its population would desire such a society and bring a regime change in the country by itself and no war would have to be waged by its allies.

Disinformation campaigns are a powerful tool employed by countries to put their narrative in order to discredit their enemies and gather support for their own cause. A manifestation of

of this tactic was observed when an Indian media anchor was seen on live tv proclaiming that ISI officials were sitting on the fifth floor of serene hotel in Kabul. However in reality the hotel only had two floors but those that were unaware of the fact believed that it was Pakistan that had facilitated and helped the Afghan Taliban to overthrow the existing government in Afghanistan.

Diplomacy is another tactic which is employed in this modern form of warfare. Through diplomacy and by the use of diplomatic stakeholders are able to propagate and convey their own interests and secure their own strategic goals such as recently China has not only opened a diplomatic office in Afghanistan but also assigned a

a permanent UN diplomat which has clearly stated that no matter who rules over Afghanistan our approach and support will remain with Afghanistan. This stance has allowed them to sign a six billion mining deal in Afghanistan.

Economic pressure is employed by major stakeholders in the region to coerce economically weak nations to be used by major stakeholders for their own benefit. Pakistan is currently facing one of the worst economic crises and in order to secure a deal from IMF it is being forced to ally with the United States of America to ensure its presence in the region, which is evident as recently the US Ambassador to Pakistan was seen to

to visit gawadar port, which is a strategic port important for china as it is the pilot project of Belt and road initiative

Cyberwarfare is another form of hybridwarfare. It is a set of actions by a nation or organizations to attack countries or institutions computer network system such as in January 2021, the Pakistani banking sector suffered a massive cyber attack that resulted in the loss of millions of dollars.

Regional dynamics are ever changing such as the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. This has created a imminent problem for Pakistan as the land of Afghanistan is now being used by various terrorist factions such as TIP

to attack Pakistan Army personnels as well as the civil institutions. As is evident from the recent increase in numbers of attacks inside Pakistan, and consequently the Western border of Pakistan is no longer secure.

On the eastern border India is emerging as a regional power which is using its new found strength to endanger Pakistan's security. As it has support of global powers such as United States of America it has revoked article 370 in Kashmir and has now claimed it as its own. It is also instigating faction inside Pakistan to revolt against Pakistan which is evident as many protests are being observed in Gilgit Baltistan region.

In 2013 china proposed its one belt one road initiative in order to connect its region with Africa and Europe. The pilot project of the Belt and road initiative was spec. However due to use of hybrid warfare techniques the project is lagging behind as insurgencies and political instability in Pakistan has slowed down the process.

The united states of America has left Afghanistan but it had installed a government in the region but it was overthrown by the Afghan Taliban. In order to counter its arch rival china and to stop it from gaining access to new areas it wants to maintain its presence in the region since India has denied united states open support

For its efforts against Russia in Russia - Ukraine war and China is forming diplomatic alliance with Afghanistan, it wants to use Pakistan to keep an eye on China. This is evident from the fact that recently US Ambassador has visited China's possible deep sea port in Gawadar and also requested Pakistan to get it.

As the regional dynamics are always changing many new challenges are formed but with these challenges arise new prospects. Pakistan needs to identify these prospects and cash on them such as since India has not condemned the actions of Russia in the recent G20 summit held in New Delhi. The United States is looking towards its decades old ally to maintain its

presence and ^{propagate} interests in the region Pakistan can use this opportunity to get loans from international organizations by using United States influence. Similarly China has already invested in Pakistan in the form of CPSC and if want Pakistan to ally with itself to secure its interests in the region, ~~then~~ consequently Pakistan can use this moment to request China to forgo its loans.

Pakistan is yet to choose a side. It is not clear which side will Pakistan ally itself with but it is important to ally with the right partner because once it has allied with either side the other side will try to undermine its national interests by employing various tactics one of which could be

Use of hybrid warfare tactics

Pakistan needs to build resilience to these hybrid warfare tactics so that it can ensure its goals are fulfilled in the region in order to do that it can take several steps such as educating its public against use of such tools as media disinformation and cyberwarfare. If the general public is resilient to such attacks the sovereignty of Pakistan can be insured furthermore the IT sector and military of Pakistan needs to be strengthened in order to ensure that no one is able to compromise the security of Pakistan and its strategic goals are met in the region.

Hybrid warfare is a reality and the regional dynamics are everchanging. In these competitive times, Pakistan needs to realise these challenges and formulate a clear foreign policy to ensure that the sovereignty of Pakistan is not compromised and it is able to ensure its strategic goal in the region. In conclusion, Hybrid warfare is one of the most lethal forms of warfare because the enemy is never in front of you; it is lurking behind blurred lines; however, it can only be countered when you are aware of it.