

6. Challenges of hybrid warfare and regional dynamics.

OUTLINE:

1. Introduction

Hybrid warfare has been an increasing problem in 21st century within whole world specially Pakistan. Because of multiple reasons: poverty, bad governance, politics etc. Serious measures are needed to counter hybrid warfare.

2. Challenges faced by Pakistan due to hybrid warfare and regional dynamics.

3. Effects of hybrid warfare on Pakistan

i. Security crisis of Pakistan

ii. War on terror

iii. Institutional breakdown

iv. Economic suffering

v. Social impacts of hybrid warfare.

4. Causes of hybrid warfare

i. Bad Governance

ii. Unstable Economy

iii. Diplomatic maneuvering to isolate Pakistan

iv. Propaganda warfare

v. Cyber space

5. Measures to Effectively counter Threat of Hybrid warfare

- i. Pakistan's Response against Threat of Hybrid Warfare
- ii. Suggestive Measures to counter Hybrid Warfare

o. Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

The nature of wars and threats are considerably reshaped in the aftermath of cold war. In the 21st century traditional methods are no longer used to fight war; Instead, covert operatives, using military, non-military, media, cyber tools, information operations, NGOs, non-state actors, intelligence agencies, economic tools, propaganda, terrorism and insurgency or rebel movements. Hybrid warfare uses a wide range of power tools, including, political, economic, military, civil. Additionally, it includes, information tools such as: diplomacy, terrorism, proxy, and economic attacks to persuade populations or to divide societies. Consequently, national security in today's world has transformed, which is not subjected to traditional threats only but to numerous non traditional threats as well. Pakistan being a victim of warfare is an indicator of this growing assorted war in South Asian region. Pakistan's vulnera-

bility to the dangers of hybrid war is being exacerbated by a number of factors, including on going political crisis that contributes to the nations inherent political instability, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity that exists at odds with one another, state institutions that are unable to deal with the terrifying tactics of hybrid warfare, outside forces that take advantage of the nations extreme poverty, and the country's poor governance and accountability system.

Challenges faced by Pakistan due to hybrid warfare and Regional dynamics

The nuclearization of south Asia gave a new impetus to proxy wars in our region. However, the employment of elements of warfare of Hybrid warfare is growing in the region. In Hybrid warfare systematic aggression is imposed on the targeted state using gray zones, nonlinear warfare, unrestricted warfare, and unconventional warfare to avoid attribution and possible retribution against the aggressor. Pakistan being a victim of Hybrid warfare. The 2009 attack on Sri Lankan team in Lahore resulted in the cancellation of future international cricket competitions in the country. The morale of the nation was severely damaged by terrorist attacks on numerous important military facilities including AQIP,

Mehran Naval air base, and Kamra Air Base. The Indian Intelligence Agency RAW remain involved in terrorist attacks in Karachi and Balochistan which deteriorated the security situation of the country and also sparked the political and economic unrest. which is alarming situation for Pakistan and needs measure to counter hybrid warfare in Pakistan.

Effects of Hybrid Warfare on Pakistan

The threats emanating from hybrid warfare has bogged Pakistan into internal and external security threats. The Geostrategic transit provinces of Balochistan and KPK have seen an ongoing cycle of violence against some communities as a result of a number of externally sparked identity conflicts. For instance, the prolonged persecution of Hazara tribe of Balochistan has long caused resentment among the aggrieved locals as they have been questioning about the measures state is taking to protect their cognats. India's involvement is making it worse. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are two terrorist organizations that India continues to support financially and materially. Kulbushen Yadav, an Indian spy who was arrested in Pakistan, recently admitted to the devil that RAW sponsors BLA.

The global war on terror in Afghanistan also pushed Pakistan into the war on its western front. Terrorism in Pakistan is predominantly the base of poverty, poor education, unemployment and inadequate infrastructure, thus exposing to instigators of Hybrid Warfare.

Pakistan's present economic situation does not match its potential. All national institutions like Pakistan International Airline (PIA), Railways, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Pakistan Steel Mills have become a burden instead of earning for the country. Additionally Pakistan's foreign policies are influenced by its security issues and domestic challenges. Traditionally, the political forces have had friction with the military as well as judiciary. The separation of power between state institutions is not well structured, which creates problems in smooth functioning.

Due to the war against terrorism, the Pakistani economy suffered a significant impact. Although the current economic meltdown can not be solely blamed on the menace of terrorism, yet it is the overarching factor. Although Pakistan remained a frontline state with the US during Global war against terrorism and has suffered a large number of economic and human losses. Yet the image of Pakistan has been deliberately

magnified at the international level by India, Afghanistan and United States. Pakistan is being projected as a country that breeds and funds terrorists.

The social impacts of the Hybrid war being waged against Pakistan are enormous. Perception management techniques being employed in Hybrid domains have played a more significant role in creating challenges in the social domain. Pakistan has been subjected to nationalism in the hatred domain where people have the feeling of being Balochi, Punjabi, Pathan or Sindhi but not Pakistanis. This type of nationalism is fragile and prone to be hijacked by the perpetrators of Hybrid warfare to incite the identity crisis in the country.

Causes of Hybrid Warfare

Poor law and order situation, corruption and higher crime rates make any country and easy to fall prey to external hands. Few of the aspects which Pakistani citizens faces include economic hardships, injustice, unemployment, and poor rich discrimination. The inadequacy of quality education, coupled with the slackness of the Government, has rendered our country incapable of dealing with the challenges

of 21st century, thus making our youth an ideal target to be exploited. The political instability also exacerbating the governance situation as the government is unable to focus on the basic issues due to other distractions.

India has been trying for a long to isolate Pakistan from the international community and has synchronized various tools of international relations, including lobbying but is unable to achieve the desired results in this domain. India has tried to get Pakistan blacklisted on the financial watchdog Financial Action Task Force FATE, ~~grey list~~ but the objective could not be materialized, and Pakistan has successfully managed to get out from FATE grey list. India is putting all out efforts to portray Pakistan as a rogue state which is funding and breeding terrorists but is failing miserably. The recent example is remarks by of India's external affairs minister successfully countered by foreign minister of Pakistan.

To isolate Pakistan within United Nations and the European Union, India initiated a 15 year information warfare and propaganda warfare. In 2020, EU DISINFORM LAB exposed this hidden plot in its investigative study titled "The Indian chronicles" which claimed that India

has used 750 plus websites in 119 states to defame and desert Pakistan globally. Adding insult to injury is the diplomatic isolation of Pakistan being played upon by US as a pressure tactic to coerce the country in following Uncle Sam's policy directions in certain matters. For instance, the gratuitous placement of Pakistan on FATF's grey list even after complying with all the action points recommended by the financial watchdog was all but a vicious agenda of certain lobbies to undermine Pakistan's economic security.

The increasing strength of cyberattacks launched against Pakistani state institutions is also exacerbating the nation's security issues. Cyberattacks and data breaching are more than capable of upsetting the regular operations of the state, which might be as disastrous as other hybrid warfare tactics. ~~may be~~ In 2021, a horrifying string of cyberattacks on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) messed up Pakistan's financial security system and put millions of people's private information in danger of being compromised.

Methods to Effectively Counter Threat of Hybrid Warfare

Pakistan has enacted requisite legislations to hamper terrorist financing within its vicinity - establishment of Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in FIA, Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has marked out a protective security methodology to counter the atrocious attacks on state institutions and national assets. It works on the principle of Deter, Detect, Delay, Mitigate and Respond under the ambit of a comprehensive security plan, which helps to disrupt any fortuitous intervention via hybrid means. The deradicalization programme of the state named by "Sabaaon Centre for Rehabilitation and Monitoring" in the conflict ridden areas of country was a huge success in sawat in terms of imparting corrective religious education to former violent extremists and meticulously reintegrating them into the social canvas.

Pakistan must quicken its responsive measures with a practical attitude in order to stop the enigma of hybrid warfare from moving forward. Capacity building of the security institutions and law enforcement agencies by incorporating the modern set of mistakes

dition learning programs like "Virtual Reality Training Simulator" would facilitate in counterpoising the intentions of Pakistan's security officials. Pakistan has already passed the necessary legislations - creating the Financial Intelligence (Unit) (FIU) under (FIA) - to thwart terrorist financing within its borders, but for it to be implemented effectively, political leaders and state institutions must work together. State policies must be socially inclusive in a country as diversified as Pakistan. Pakistan must apply its renowned Sabqam centre for Rehabilitation and Monitoring" de-radicalization programs in the state's conflict ridden regions.

CONCLUSION

Multiple instruments of Hybrid warfare are employed in synchronization to achieve multiple objectives ranging from political disturbance to building anti Pakistan narratives at international fronts. A large number of terrorist attacks, the protracted conflict for more than two decades, target killings, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) attacks are few of the manifestations of Hybrid warfare. A diverse range of actors including states, state sponsored groups, non-state actors and self funded groups employed Hybrid Warfare strategies against Pakistan over last two decades. The realization of this aspect came only during the last couple of years. Pakistan needs to adopt immediate measures to understand the dynamics of Hybrid

warfare as Pakistan is the only country which is facing the full spectrum of Hybrid warfare.

The better comprehension of these dynamics of Hybrid warfare will play a crucial role in developing strategies to counter existing and future challenges being faced by Pakistan to achieve the objective of sustainable peace.