



THE CHANGING GAME:
THE PERMEATION OF
WARFARE INTO THE GREY
ZONE

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ORIGINS

UNRESTRICTED WAR AND HYBRID THREATS

GULF WAR (1991) & UNRESTRICTED WARFARE

- PROBLEM: GULF WAR
 - DECIMATION
 - CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE SUPERPOWER
 - LEADS TO THE REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS
- SOLUTION: UNRESTRICTED WARFARE (1999)
 - CHANGE THE RULES OF WAR
 - MAKING THE WEAPONS FIT THE FIGHT
 - NO CLEAR ALLIES, NO CLEAR OPPONENTS
 - CHANGE IN THE DOMAINS OF WAR
 - MILITARY, TRANS-MILITARY, NON-MILITARY

“Using all means including armed force or non-armed force, military and non-military, and lethal and non-lethal to compel the enemy to accept one’s interests.”

HOFFMAN (2007)

“a full range of different modes of warfare including conventional capabilities, irregular tactics and formations, terrorist acts including indiscriminate violence and coercion, and criminal disorder”

- COMBINATION OF IRREGULAR AND CONVENTIONAL
- HEZBOLLAH (2004)
- DOES THIS FIT WITH OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING?

LANOZKA (2016)

- WHY HAS RUSSIA RESORTED TO 'HYBRID WARFARE'?
- PROBLEMS WITH THE DEFINITION
 - BOTH TOO BROAD & TOO VAGUE
 - RUSSIA IN THE CRIMEA SHOWS LACK OF THE CONVENTIONAL ELEMENT
- STRATEGY OVER NEW FORM OF WAR

"Hybrid warfare exploits nationalist identities thereby blurring responsibility and even gaining political support among foreign audiences. [It] incorporates the most potent attributes of an insurgency while minimizing the drawbacks with using conventional force"



CHANGING CHARACTER OF WAR

"WARS ARE NO LONGER DECLARED."

Change in the Character of Warfare

Achievement of Political Goals

The use of military forces

Traditional forms and methods

- initiation of military operations *after strategic deployment*
- frontal clash of large groupings of line-units*, the basis of which consists of ground troops
- the destruction of personnel and weaponry, and the *consequent possession of lines* and areas with the goal of the seizure of territories
- destruction of the enemy*, destruction of the economic potential and possession of his territories
- the conduct of combat operations on the ground, in the air and at sea
- the command-and-control of groupings of line units (forces) *within a framework of a strictly organized hierarchical structure* of command-and-control agencies

The use of political, diplomatic, economic and other nonmilitary measures in combination with the use of military forces

New forms and methods

- initiations of military operations* by groupings of line-units (forces) in peacetime
- highly maneuverable, noncontact* combat operations of inter-branch groupings of line-units
- reduction of the military-economic potential of the state by the *destruction of critically important facilities* of his military and civilian infrastructure in a short time
- the *mass use of high-precision weaponry*, the large-scale use of *special operations forces*, as well as *robotic systems and weapons based on new physical principles* and the participation of a *civil-military component* in combat operations
- simultaneous effects* on line-units and enemy facilities throughout the entire depth of his territories
- warfare simultaneously *in all physical environments and the information space*
- the use of asymmetric and indirect operations
- command-and-control of forces and assets *in a unified information space*

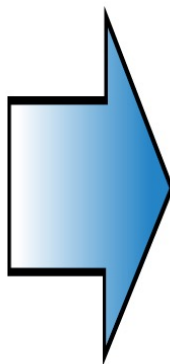


Figure 1. Graphic from Gerasimov article in *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kurier*, 26 February 2013, translated by Charles Bartles

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

- AI
- COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE
- LETHALITY OF WEAPONRY
- CHANGING MEDIAS
- NEW DOMAINS OF WAR

GLOBALIZATION

- INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- INTERCONNECTEDNESS
- NATURE OF ENERGY SECURITY

INTERNATIONAL ORDER

- LOAC
 - CYBER DOMAIN
- INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- RISE OF NON-STATE ACTORS
- CONFLICT IN THE “GREY ZONE”
- WEAPONIZING THE ECONOMY

MODERN LIFE, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT

- AGING & SHRINKING POPULATION
- URBANIZATION
- CLIMATE & NATURE

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

- WAR HAS SHIFTED INTO THE “GREY ZONE”
 - GREATER AMBIGUITY
 - GREATER MANEUVERABILITY
 - WIDER ARRAY OF MEANS/METHODS

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping, multi-layered geometric shapes, primarily triangles and squares, rendered in a golden-brown hue against a dark blue, almost black, background. The lines are thin and densely packed, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The overall effect is reminiscent of a digital or technical design.

GIBRIDNYA VOYNA OR HYBRID WARFARE

RUSSIAN HYBRID WARFARE

ГИБРИДНАЯ ВОЙНА (GIBRIDNAYA VOYNA)

- STRATEGIC APPROACH
- NOT LIMITED TO MILITARY
- EXTERNAL CONTROL MECHANISMS
- CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE AUTONOMOUS GROUPS

HYBRID WARFARE

- OPERATIONAL CONCEPT
- FOCUSED ON MEANS AND METHODS
- ENEMY IS WHO CAN SUPPORT COVERT + INDIRECT MEANS OF ATTACK

Where does Gerasimov fit?

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping, multi-layered geometric shapes, primarily triangles and squares, rendered in a golden-brown hue against a dark blue background. The lines are thin and densely packed, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The overall effect is reminiscent of a woven or layered fabric.

THE NEW COMBINED ARMS?

HYBRID STRATEGY

- CHANGING CHARACTER OF WAR PUSHES CONFLICT INTO “GREY ZONE”
- NOT A NEW FORM OF WAR
- BACK TO UNRESTRICTED WARFARE

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping, multi-layered golden geometric shapes, primarily triangles and squares, set against a dark blue background. The lines are thin and densely packed, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The overall effect is a rich, textured visual field.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA

CHANGED NATURE OF POWER

- HYBRID METHODS ALLOW FOR LESS POWERFUL STATES TO CONFRONT ADVERSARIES
- AVOIDANCE OF DIRECT CONFLICT
- POWER THROUGH INFORMATION AND INFLUENCE OPERATIONS

HOW DO WE CONFRONT THIS? HOW DO WE USE THIS?

- SPECIALIZATION VS. DIVERSIFICATION
- COMBINED/INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONS
- HOLISTIC EDUCATION / TRAINING

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