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Hybrid Threats — Hybrid Warfare — War A Suggestion to Disentangle Conceptual Confusions

Abstract proposal submitted for presentation in the Working Group
War Studies

Research Topic: Definitions of hybrid threats, warfare and war; analysing examples of already used hybrid tools; countering hybrid threats; comprehensive approaches and countering hybrid threat; whole of nation and whole of system approach to counter hybrid threats.

Abstract:

As a result of an ever increasingly networked structure, our society is becoming ever more vulnerable in nearly all areas of life. The more networked such a structure is the higher and easier is it for adversaries to influence another state actor. This could be done by power projection with different means on several levels within diverse timeframes. At least since the Crimea conflict in 2014 the box for such threat scenarios was opened and it has raised awareness of security policy experts. In the meantime *hybrid threats* have become a regular term in security policy discussions.

There are a lot of options how hybrid power projection could be done. Not every action is a hybrid activity but every hybrid approach is somehow an action for reaching strategic goals. Doing this effectively by soft power activities is the most sophisticated way of guiding a states' behavior into the direction of an aggressors' imagination.

Is it possible to categorize different forms of hybrid activities and is it conceivable to use various terms of capricious activities? What are the possible spectra or tools that could be used especially in the field of soft power? Are there any tools that are not analysed by security policy experts? Are there any useful indicators for analysis?

This presentation is the trying to disentangle the blurring use of terms in the field of hybridity.

Hybrid threats, hybrid warfare as well as wars have to be seen as different concepts of power projection.

Key words: Hybridity, hybrid threat, hybrid warfare, war, comprehensive approach, security policy, soft power, power projection.

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Short CV Anton Dengg

Following a deployment with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights, Anton Dengg enrolled at the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt for officer training. He graduated as infantry officer from the Academy in 1988 and subsequently was stationed in Vienna. Since 1996 he has held different positions in the Austrian Ministry of Defense. Anton Dengg studied political science at the University of Vienna from 1999-2003. Since 2004, he has been working as a research fellow at the Institute of Peace Support and Conflict Management of the Austrian National Defence Academy focusing on terrorism. In 2007 Colonel Dengg became the Austrian representative to the Partnership for Peace – Consortium, Combating Terrorism Working Group. From 2011 – 2013 Mr. Dengg served as Adviser on Anti-Terrorism Issues at the OSCE Transnational Threat Department/Action against Terrorism Unit. Since March 2013 Col. Dengg has been serving again in the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management. His main focus is

on Terrorism Issues, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Hybrid Threats and New Technological Challenges.

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