

GRAND STRATEGY AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF NEW RUSSIA'S MILITARY DOCTRINE IN 21ST CENTURY: GEOSTRATEGIC ASPECTS OF HYBRID WARFARE STRATEGY AGAINST GEORGIA AND UKRAINE

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Abstract: *A paper reflects new dimensions of New Cold War geostrategic balance implications at pan-regional (European) and regional (Black Sea) levels that already has been transformed into classical hybrid warfare between the Russian Federation and NATO due to the Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Currently adopted military doctrine of the Russian Federation envisages engagement into two military conflicts simultaneously and constructed its strategic operational framework founded on incorporation of three combat elements: military, non-military and information warfare measures and proper concepts. Hence, it means that Russia can begin war-game scenarios at the same time against two neighboring nations as it occurs at time being against Ukraine and Georgia. At that respect, the incumbent Russian military leadership in aegis of so-called "Gerasimov Doctrine" is promoting hybrid warfare as a key dominant grand strategy with relevant theater strategy and operational art elements (for instance, operational – strategic command HQ "South" and 5 Army Corp HQs). The military "muscle" could easily skew and twist European security environment that is much unprepared to the geostrategic challenge – Crimea occupation and annexation in 2014, war with Georgia in 2008, hybrid attack to Estonia in 2007 and very recently large-scale military intervention in Azov Sea and pending regional hegemony conditions in Caspian Basin. These military asymmetric challenges and risks deriving from the arms race derailed by the Russia's incumbent authority, and security dilemma embroiled with by the elements of WMD are sufficient indications why the European security is plausible fragile against such challenges. From academic standpoint, the thesis deals in analyzing with the most dangerous threat targeting the European security architecture – asymmetric military challenge and realization of which is pursued in waggging hybrid war against Georgia and Ukraine. The new type of warfare is a probe stone perfected against these two post-Soviet nations indicates and poses real menace, mainly geostrategic origin, easily targeted NATO member-states, including Poland. The article predisposes reflection and understanding true meaning of so-called "Gerasimov Doctrine" and the whole new version of Military Doctrine of Russia and how it is implemented at the stage. A shift transformation takes place in realms of contemporary century warfare doctrinal planning and the transformation has already implicated of identifying new type of warfare strategy – asymmetric war with representation of hybrid warfare that contributing in re-shaping a grand strategy that allows policymakers to steer through the uncertainties of a complex international security environment; Elaboration real content and new definition of "hybrid war" and its dualfold implications how to quell and deal with asymmetric military challenges and risks and how to cause the challenges on its matter. Moreover, it describes and review reformatting modality in planning and waggging war due to the military technology development that contributed to a far more complicated strategic environment for war than that of previous century. In that respect is to be identified new style of warfare – **Urbanistic warfare** presented in 2008 August Russia-Georgia war as well as in war in Ukraine (Mariupol battle) new definition of the warfare in general matter.*

Keywords: *military conflict; "Gerasimov Doctrine"; hybrid war; urbanistic warfare; Russia, Georgia; Ukraine; asymmetric military challenges.*

Introduction

The modern security environment and one of its components - the course of military conflicts - have changed dramatically in the modern era. The development of such conflicts has been greatly influenced by military-technical revolutions, which in the 21st century have radically changed the dynamics of their production, operational management and the scale of involvement of new technologies. Especially this factor increases significantly in conditions of war or war. Today, when the so-called the factor of the "fourth generation" strategy in the

conditions of the international security system, which includes its constituent elements, such as the so-called The doctrine of "asymmetric warfare" (hybrid warfare, cyber warfare, contactless warfare, high-maneuver warfare, low-intensity warfare, jihadist warfare, information-warfare war) when the phase of hostilities, even at the level of grand strategy, does not coincide with the conditions of conventional or "symmetrical" warfare, and as it did in the context of limited military conflict in August 2008 (and not war, which by military strategy standards did not match the classic war scenario), Even during the "Crimean scenario". At present, there are to indicate the following type of the military conflicts that are:

- 1) Low intensity military conflict;
- 2) Hybrid warfare;
- 3) Local war;
- 4) Full-pledge conventional war;
- 5) Coalition war;
- 6) Strategic Instability military confrontation (nuclear triad threat perception).

Hence, the modern military conflicts, one example of which is the military aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which began on February 24 of 2022, are a clear example of how they affect the vulnerability of world stability and the resilience of the international security system.

The aim of the paper is to identify what is military conflict at present and what kind classification is applicable for outlining dynamics and tendency of the military conflicts.

Research Questions – the thesis draft consists some research questions more qualified the subject and mission of the thesis. The questions imply the following:

- 1) What are main aspects of developing new Russia's military strategy in aegis of the contemporary international security and its geostrategic implications?
- 2) What is Hybrid warfare and why its emergence is so important for the contemporary international security, namely in developing the military conflicts?

Hypothesis (H1): *when bipolar system dissolved in transitional world order phase have emerged new types of actors became powerful enough to be dominant factor in contemporary international security system with new military strategy indoctrination folded in Fourth Warfare Generation (4GW) that is stipulated by the Russia's military-political leadership;*

Methodological and Theoretical background: In that regard, it is interesting to stress that the Fourth Generation Warfare includes elements of Asymmetric Warfare doctrine that is very plausible for waging wars in the 21st century. According to some academic sources, there are many different definitions of the doctrine, but one of them: **Asymmetric Warfare** – *is war between belligerents whose relative military power differs significantly from or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly* (Bator 2014). This is contrast to symmetric warfare, where two powers have similar military power and resources and rely on strategy that are similar overall, differing only in details and execution (I. Arrenguin-Toft 2001). A popularity of new war theory in strategic studies, labeled as "hybrid war" is being determined by the importance of globalization effect on global security and contemporary international relations system.

In a separate context, we can consider the phenomenon of hybrid warfare as a "case study" of a variety of modern military conflicts. Hybrid warfare is a new phenomenon, and its nature has become more widespread in the 21st century international security system. The military aspects of its dimension equate to the concept of fourth-generation wars, where priority is given to fighting to neutralize asymmetric military threats and defeat the will of the adversary rather than physically destroying the adversary himself. A concrete manifestation of

hybrid warfare in this era is the occupation by the Russian Federation of the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine's sovereign territory carried out by units of the Rapid Reaction Command HQ and its subsequent annexation in 2014. In addition, hostilities under hybrid warfare have been observed in the Syrian regional war. The production of virtual warfare in cyberspace is also a type of hybrid warfare called "cybeware". In general, the general directions of the military strategic parameters of the hybrid war can be presented as follows: - Not physical, but moral and political defeat of the opponent - Use of combined military tactical elements - Production of information-propaganda struggle – Cybeware – Cultural expansion – Partisan warfare. Therefore, in waging this type of war, one must assume that its consequences will not be as devastating as they were in previous generations, but will be more serious consequences for the world community. That's why it's so important today to find out what a hybrid war is. In this respect there is no unified approach to the definition of expression and its real identification is not yet certain. The Georgian researchers have taken some steps in this direction, for example, Professor Besik Aladashvili from Georgia, gives one of the most interesting definitions of hybrid war: "Hybrid war is a war through managed chaos. One of the main components of which is the information war in order to completely demoralize the opponent". The existence of the information war component is the so-called Part of the concept of the "fourth generation war" (Besik, Aladashvili 2018). In turn, one of the forms of information warfare is the theory of psychological warfare, which is carried out to achieve military goals.

In the same context, one can consider the production of a propaganda campaign as an essential component of a hybrid war, because propaganda is information intended to mislead people. The propaganda is a component of military deception and is the most important tool of hybrid warfare.

Military-Technical Revolution Transformation and Russia's Military Doctrinal Shifts

The 21st century has been determined with development of revolution in military affairs that drastically changed the content of war concept by large. Initially is important define true content of the definition. By description stipulated by the author of the paper, Revolution in Military Affairs – occurs when new technologies combine with innovative organization concepts and doctrinal adaptation in a way that fundamentally alters the character and conduct of war. The trend and conceptual frame include the following geostrategic components:

- ***“The Computer Revolution”*** – *electronic sensing surveillance of VC and NVA in 1970s by the Pentagon;*
- ***“Weaponization of High Technology”;***
- ***Precision Delivery Munitions;***
- ***Reconnaissance and Precision Delivery*** – *satellite reconnaissance grouping and space shuttle survey;*
- ***New Airpower Technology*** – *Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAE) intensive usage in combat operations;*
- ***Non-Contact Combat Strategy*** – *massive air and naval strikes with modern missile and aircraft technologies and computer-modeling management of combat forces;*
- ***RMA and current military operations*** – *Iraq war in 1990-1991, Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns (2001 and 2003).*

The revolution certainly has great impact on military operational planning process and also made it different with classical military theory. The shifts absolutely prioritized the

notion that war is a continuation of politics by other means (Peter Hough, Shahin Malik, Andrew Moran and Bruce Pilbeam 2015).

The trend demonstrated the revolution shift contributes in promulgation of variety of combat interactions. Hence, the process of war waging is being determined in special dimensions and there are identified, at the stage, the following warfare types:

- **LAND WARFARE** – *Attrition, Revolutionary insurgency and Maneuver*;
- **MARITIME WARFARE STRATEGY** – “*Gunboat Diplomacy*”, Mahen’s formula: $SP=N+MM+NG$;
- **AIRPOWER WARFARE** – *Julio Douhet doctrine, massive reassured conception*;
- **SPACE WARFARE** – “*Star War*” program, “*Shield and Sword*” (*uuum u meч*) project or “*Diamond*” program, GPS and GLONASS;
- **CYBERSPACE WARFARE (INFORMATION WARFARE)** – *information technology, PR campaign, ideology war, cyber-terrorism*.

The tendency prone in forward formulation of transformation of war generation. This is very interesting passage considering realities how is possible to define generation provision in war theory and fit it with realpolitik. The generations of warfare described by some American authors (William S. Lind, Colonel Keith Nightengale (USA), Captain John F. Schmitt (USMC), Colonel Joseph W. Sutton (USA), and Lieutenant Colonel Gary I. Wilson (USMCR)) are:

- 1st Generation: tactics of line and column; which developed in the age of the smoothbore musket;
- 2nd Generation: tactics of linear fire and movement, with reliance on indirect fire;
- 3rd Generation: tactics of infiltration to bypass and collapse the enemy's combat forces rather than seeking to close with and destroy them; and defense in depth (William Lind, Keith Nightengale, John Schmidt, Joseph Sutton and Gray Wilson 1998).

Having concluded from the above-mentioned is more easy task mentioned about how is to configure the fourth generation war perspective. It is important due to the dynamics of contemporary combat operations and specifics of battle zones encompasses all physical and special dimensions. In this respect is interesting to formulate those characteristics are being codified in aegis of modern warfare. These characteristics are to be as follow:

- *Physical geography defines tactical identities of Armed Forces*;
- *Escalatory dynamics of modern war games*;
- *Intercombination and interdependence of all types of warfare*;
- *Conduct of a war in different physical environment*.

Theory of the Fourth War Generation (4GW) contains new approaches in gaining decisive battle victory with technological privileges. There are many transformation in developing and understanding of true content of Military Strategy and new realities have delivered fresh trends in analyzing, planning, performing and reviewing combat operations contemporary period of time. The transformation in Military Strategic Thoughts is affiliated with new conception of Fourth Generation Warfare, exactly adopted in on edge of 20 and 21st centuries. According to some academician formulations – Fourth Generation Warfare is defined as military conflicts which involve the following elements:

- High Technology;
- Terrorism;
- A non-national or transitional base;
- A direct attack on enemy’s culture;
- Highly sophisticated psychological warfare, especially through manipulation of the media;
- Deliver a high-intensity, short duration attack and create in the enemy a sense of vulnerability, debilitation and abasement (Lind William 2004).

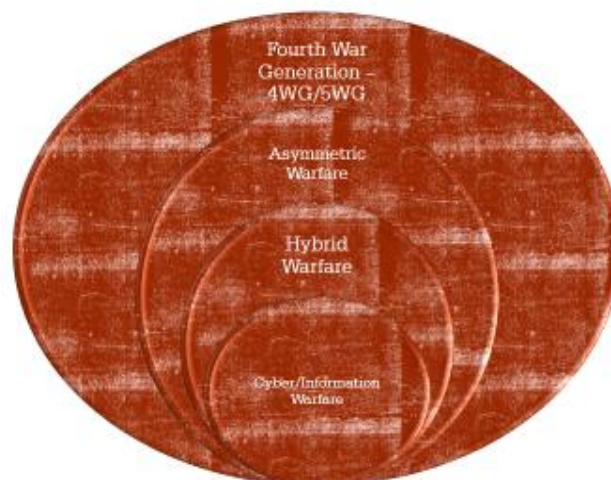
There is quite new approach what are to be formulating in waging a war and what kind of criteria for the Fourth Generation Warfare are to be considering. How far the Military Strategy has been shifting since classical period of its origination since 18th century till 21st century. In that regard, it is interesting to stress that inside of the Fourth Generation Warfare includes elements of Asymmetric Warfare doctrine that is very plausible for waging wars in 21st century. According to some academic sources, there are many different definitions of the doctrine, but one of them: *Asymmetric Warfare – is war between belligerents whose relative military power differs significantly from or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly* (Batorn 2014). This is contrast to symmetric warfare, where two powers have similar military power and resources and rely on tactics that are similar overall, differing only in details and execution (Arrenguín-Toft I. 2001). The concrete cases of waging Asymmetric wars are seen in Central Asia and in Caucasus Regions.

In midst April of 2016 in Afghanistan, “Taliban” movement reshuffled its local political and military structures and began coordinating its operations with the ISIS-sponsored “Khorasan” Vilayat and the “Haqqani” Jihadist grouping. With these new forces at its disposal, it began to launch a massive strategic operation, called “OMAR”, in various parts of the country. “Taliban” this strategic operation met with initial success in Kunduz and Badakhshan Provinces. On the back of this, the “Haqqani” element launched three large asymmetric warfare urban strikes in Kabul – against Spanish, Russian and American Embassies and the Ministry of Defense and National Intelligence Agency buildings in which over 64 people were killed and 350 injured (“The Georgian Times” 2016).

The below chart illustrates how the modern war concept has been transformed with military revolution development:



MODERN GROSS-STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF WARFARE CONCEPT



In this respect, it is possible to more down step and specialized more wargame scenarios taken places in 21st century and troublemaking contemporary international security system. The process is prone toward so-called “asymmetric warfare” concept upon it could be classified three modalities of asymmetric strategies:

- Hybrid war;
- Cyberwar;
- Ideothincretism/ New Terrorism.

Certainly the revolution in military affairs had influence on contemporary Russia's military strategic approaches toward world politics. As soon as Army General Valery Gerasimov was appointed to the position of the Head of the General Staff of the AF of Russian Federation, he ordered in secret manner to set up a classified military analyst group led by Army General Mahmud Gareev in order to scrutiny war game scenario with Georgia, modernize the army and conduct reform in defense policy and adjust new type of military strategy. The group has conducted the "lessoned learned" research and based on the one, the modernization and reformation of Russian AF began. Due to accumulation of around 5400 billion up to 1.5 trillion \$ the process implemented in 4 year period.

In 2006, the American think-tank "Center for Strategic and International Studies" (CSIS) launched a bipartisan Commission on "Smart Power" to develop a vision to guide America's global engagement (CSIS Commission 2007). Backed on the criteria composed up and set up by the Commission later in 2010, then the U.S. Barak Obama endorsed "Smart Power" strategy in order to pursuit the national interests at any world place. However it is interesting to underpin on what criteria are founded the power implications and what additional one has been attached by the Russian Federation incumbent political leadership in pursuing its own interests how their jargon implies in "World Ocean":

- Alliances, partnerships and institutions;
- Technology and innovation;
- Global development;
- Public diplomacy;
- Economic integration (Военная доктрина Российской Федерации в «россической газете» 2014).

The Russia's leadership actively began adopting its version of the "Smart Power" and it became clear that the Russia's MoD General Staff launched practical realization of the strategy. There are concrete examples of the Russia's "Smart Power "Military and Hybrid Warfare Strategy Exercised Facts in aegis of the Military Doctrine of 2014. Here is examples of the "Smart Power" cases:

1) War in Syria

- *Russian militaries used in 2015 in Latakia province combat robots "Argo" and Platform M types against DAESH units*
- *Russian AF used first its drones as strike force in 2014*

2) 2014 Conflict in Ukraine (Russia's invasion in Donbas regions in Ukraine)

- *Russian military company began its activities to gain support to separatist forces*
- *Russian modest radio-electronic systems "KRASUKHA" begins operational missions*

3) Venezuela Turbulence

- *Russia's MoD secretly dispatched its hacker special destination cyber squadron in 2017*
- *Dispatched private para-military groups operated in aegis of the Russian merger "ROSNEFT"*

Having experienced with the realities with "Smart Power" strategy provision, the Russian political leadership starts to launch massive strike toward Ukraine. As it is known, in modern period of time, war is being waged quite different than that of previous period of time. The war preliminary, preparatory and exact stages are transformed through several important phases in aegis of the asymmetric warfare doctrine (or at least, hybrid warfare one) that includes the following phases:

Political escalation phase – Economic wargame phase – Psychological-propaganda war phase – Military-political declamation “flexes muscles” phase – Military confrontation phase (Guguli Magradze and Vakhtang Maisaia in Georgian 2020).

The below chart perfectly explained how Russia invaded into Ukraine and how the actor has been preparing for running the war scenario against sovereign and independent Ukraine:



This is one of the interesting explanation how in modern era any kind of combat conflict or war scenario is being developed and how it inflames step by step condition and why is important to review hybrid war theory in real life.

Hybrid War

In the context of the modern international security, the content of threats and challenges has acquired an entirely different purpose. Unlike the classic "Cold War", when threats and challenges were calculated and predicted perfectly and logically possible, apart from the concept of strategic nuclear policy and strategic intimidation, the geopolitical processes in the early 21st century took on a different dimension. Against this backdrop, the term asymmetric threat and also hybrid threat emerged as a major threat to the international community. Therefore, asymmetric threats, especially non-military ones, are more vulnerable than direct military asymmetric threats, because when using it, it makes easier to manipulate and misinform the enemy combat units. One such set of actions is, for example, psychological warfare.

The notion of security has undergone changed for years, not even the twenty-first century has been the exception. It is precisely that twenty-first century has coined the term asymmetry; its notion within the theory of security is linked to such a concept as "asymmetric threat. " The new term, asymmetric, contains signs of terrorism, natural cataclysms and hybrid warfare, as well as no military or political hassle (“Asymmetric Warfare: Definition, Tactics & Examples“. The form of asymmetric warfare is called warfare, when the military power of the warring parties differs sharply from one another. Basically, the term asymmetric warfare is often used to describe military actions such as guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and insurgency. In

the seventies of the last century, American researcher Andrew Mack published an article entitled "Why Great States Build Small Wars" in which he first spoke of the use of asymmetric force. He also explained that during the "asymmetric war" there was a significant disruption of the balance of power between the parties to the conflict ("Asymmetric Warfare: Definition, Tactics & Examples"). The situation in the Middle East is a clear example of the asymmetric war, the battles between Israel and Palestine.

Hybrid warfare is a new phenomenon, and its significance has become more widespread in the 21st century international security system. The military aspects of its dimension are equivalent to the concept of Fourth Generation wars, where priority is given to the fight to neutralize asymmetric military threats and defeat the will of the adversary, not the physical destruction of the adversary. Concrete hybrid warfare in this era is considered by the Russian Federation to occupy the Crimean peninsula of the Ukrainian sovereign territory of the Crimea, carried out by parts of the Rapid Response Command and then annexed in 2014. In addition, hostilities in the context of hybrid warfare are observed in the regional war in Syria.

Virtual warfare in cyberspace also represents a type of hybrid warfare called cyberwar. In general, the general directions of the military strategic parameters of the hybrid war can be presented as follows: –not physical, but moral and political defeat of the outcome – Combined military tactical elements – use of information and propaganda on the production – cyber-cultural expansion – a guerrilla-type warfare campaign that's why this type of warfare campaign to assume that the results will not be as shattering as it did in previous generations period, but will be more serious consequences to the world society. That is why it is becoming increasingly important today to find out what a hybrid war is. In this respect, there is no single definition of the expression and there is no definite identification. From the point of view of NATO analysts, there are several interesting options that can be used to determine what a hybrid war is. For example, NATO Parliamentary Reporter Lord Jobling (UK) gives the following definition of a hybrid war: "Hybrid warfare - this is an asymmetric tactic designed to test and identify enemy weakness through non-military means (in particular, political, information and economic intimidation and manipulation), which goes back to conventional through non-conventional military means" (Lord 2018). Exactly the component of the information war is the so-called "proxy war" which is its on turn is an integral part of the concept of the "fourth generation war". In turn, one of the features of information warfare is the theory of psychological warfare that is being used to achieve military goals. In the same context, we can consider propaganda campaigns as a necessary component of a hybrid war, as propaganda is information that is intended to mislead people (Gopin Marc 2000). Propaganda is an integral component of military deception and is an essential means of hybrid warfare. At the same time, from the point of view of military analysis, one of the constituent elements of the hybrid war is the so-called. "Kinetic operation" (Swedish Defense University 2018). This notion implies the use of professional military personnel without the so-called military rank. The effect of "green peoples". In almost the same context, the involvement of fighters hired by private military companies in various types of military conflicts is also discussed, for example Wagner groups work in Syria and Libya, which is personally overseen by the personal friend of Russian President Vladimir Putin, oligarch Eugene Prigozhin. In this situation, it is quite possible to provide already specific answers to the inevitable questions in the introduction of the monograph, which were revealed in the framework of this study:

- 1) The phenomenon of "hybrid warfare" has had a profound impact on contemporary international security systems, which has been characterized by two specific factors: theoretical-conceptual and realistic approaches. The theoretical-conceptual approach is that the existing international order actors have already recognized the importance of the "hybrid war" and the magnitude of its impact and have made relevant reservations in their strategic documents - In 2014, for example, Russian President Vladimir Putin

endorsed a military doctrine of the country outlining key parameters of a Russian hybrid war strategy - for example, under Article 32 of the new military doctrine adopted on December 28, 2014, one of the main tasks of the Russian Armed Forces in peace time is to protect economic security interests and strategic communication transport nodes (Военная Доктрина Российской Федерации 2014). As for NATO – already at the 2014 Wales Summit, the Alliance leadership has outlined four specific military challenges in the context of an asymmetric threat, presented as follows:

- Cybercrime or cyberthreat – The asymmetric threat of this kind has already been equated with the response to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and will be answered appropriately;
- Energy security – stable supply of energy, security of critical infrastructure and security of energy reserve potential in the Euro-Atlantic area is a major concern for the member states of the Alliance and its proper use of its military potential in this regard;
- Terrorism – the asymmetric threat of terrorism in the Declaration document is quite broad and has a specific geographical area (Afghanistan and the Middle East) as well as organizations;
- Hybrid War – identification of the threat is new and first appeared in the NATO Dictionary. This asymmetric threat implies what is currently happening in Ukraine – that is, the fight against military separatism that may have a global scale (www.nato.int).

The realistic approach is that a new geopolitical era – the "New Cold War" – has already begun with the occupation and annexation of the Ukrainian Peninsula by the Russian Federation in 2014, and the international order changed from a unipolar to a "tripolar" model. Three global impact centers were identified – The People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and the United States;

- 1) Certainly the “hybrid war” strategy implemented by certain types of actors (for instance, US, Turkey, Russian Federation, “Islamic Caliphate”, Taliban, etc.) affects the regional security system, and specific examples of this are the Maghreb region (for example, case of war in Libya), the Middle East (complicated geostrategic situation in Syria and Iraq) and the Caucasus region. The regions have been triggered with hybrid war and in this respect, Georgia is to be a vivid case of how hybrid war been conveyed in the form of a "creeping occupation" wagged by Russia against Georgia. The “creeping occupation” is a verification of the impact of a "hybrid war" on regional security;
- 2) The "information warfare" produced at the national level reflects the development of special media projects and manipulations and misinformation used to create public opinion. By introducing "reflexive control" that is exactly in line with the hybrid war strategy, bringing the desired government to the respective states. The "information war" is characterized by really specific components such as cyberattacks, bots, misinformation, the establishment of formal and informal surrogates, covert subversions, and so on.

On the basis of the above, properly perceived hybrid warfare at the academic level is a prerequisite for timely neutralizing and preventing asymmetric threats. Hybrid wars are, in fact, a kind of "incubator" for generating such threats and should therefore be given due attention and joint efforts, at international, regional and national levels, to prevent them.

Conclusion

The modality of contemporary hybrid war is affiliated with battles in the urban terrain. One of the method of the “fourth generation of war” could be considered “Neo-Urbanic warfare”. The implication of the warfare has been fixed during the battles for Mariupol in Ukraine between Russian and Ukrainian Armed Forces. By definition “*Neo-Urbanic warfare is special type military operation conducted in combination state-non-state actor with local defense territorial units’ involvement and with intentional to impose to enemy’s regular army asymmetric warfare tactical missions*” (the definition prescribed by the author himself). The NEO-URBAN warfare key characteristic are as follow:

- ❑ Asymmetric type of engagement;
- ❑ Maneuvering style of tactical missions;
- ❑ Form of battle: Regular Armed Forces vs. Irregular/Territorial Defense Forces;
- ❑ Massive casualties in peaceful and civilian population (Д., Apac 2000).

The confrontation caused fragmentation geostrategic equilibrium and balance of power between the NATO and the Russian Federation in the Black Sea Region over Ukraine and considering flexing muscles, including with strategic armament, the „New Cold War” scenario ramification could stagger regional geopolitics into the most dramatic wargame arena. Namely, the „New Cold War” geostrategic balance implications at pan-regional (European) and regional (Black Sea) levels. Currently adopted military doctrine of the Russian Federation envisages engagement into two military conflicts simultaneously and constructed its strategic operational framework founded on incorporation of three combat elements: military, non-military and information warfare measures and proper concepts. Moreover, in conjunction with traditional military threats, mentioned above, are coming out on the scene so-called „non-traditional” military threats – international terrorism, drug smuggling and drug cartels activation, aggressive separatism, violent non-state actors, etc. The asymmetric operations became dominant factors in modern warfare doctrine and it is due to the revolution trend in military affairs taken place lately.

In this context, main key phenomena of the research is to respond to those research questions stipulated in introduction and having considered the one the responses on those questions could be as follow based on the research done in aegis of the paper:

- 1) Contemporary Russia’s military strategy has been influenced with namely new revolutionary trend developed in the 21st century and concrete main aspects of the trend could be defined in the following: promoting and devoting attention to asymmetric warfare concept in 2014 adopted so-called “Gerasimov Military Doctrine” with concentration on so-called “Smart Power” instruments. The second aspect could be considered realization of hybrid warfare strategy even for pursuing concrete political missions, like meddling in USA 2016 elections. It seems so that all two aspects are quite enough to describe how Russia has been transformed its military strategic culture recently;
- 2) Hybrid war is part of asymmetric warfare doctrine and attains with less effort in exploiting military means pursue key geopolitical missions. Therefore hybrid war plays enormous great role in shaping up an architecture of contemporary international security system and mostly all wars wagged in the 21st century are having configuration of the hybrid war (main cases are in wars in Syria, in Yemen and even first part of Ukraine war on 24 February-23 March of 2022).

With regard the hypothesis is sought to be positive as namely due to generation war approach criteria, the Fourth War Generation modality is also applicable to modern warfare concepts and Russia’s “Gerasimov Military Doctrine” has been based on the principles.

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