Chapter 3
Hybrid Warfare:
New Implications for NATO's Deterrence and Defense – Asymmetric Challenge

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ABSTRACT

As NATO systematically addresses new hybrid challenges, the alliance identifies the urgent need of collaborative actions and argues whether hybrid warfare might be beneficial for strategists and decision makers in outlining future plans to deal with the hybrid threats that can emerge from nowhere in our reality. This chapter will review the hybrid warfare not only as the unique combinational threats created particularly to defeat an adversary but also a contemporary feature of global politics which are mostly associated with non-state actors (such as terrorist groups) and also will highlight the aspects that cause asymmetric conflicts.

ASYMMETRIC CHALLENGE

Hybrid war is an extraordinary combination of various military strategies, which is triggered by the result of such dramatic changes as, the globalization process, technological revolution, recent shifts in communicational process, new treats, etc. that leads to asymmetric challenges and conflicts. Asymmetric Challenge is perceived as a political jargon and is identified as a modern international political threat under aegis of transforming world order. The asymmetric challenge is associated with another new dangerous phenomenon – asymmetric warfare. It is a particular type of war between opponents, whose strategy, tactic and armament is significantly different. For several years' policymakers, analysts, critics and officials, as well as writers on defense have used the terms "asymmetric" or "asymmetry" to characterize the nature of the threats we face and the nature of the possible warfare. It should be mentioned that the threat, which is now considered to be multidimensional, can be launched from anywhere on the earth. These threats, both strategic and tactical, comprise traditional anti-access strategies along with proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and potential information warfare. Some foreign

military analysts believe that, in some cases, their countries have already been subjected to these new forms of threats. They also cite the possibility that the new technologies coming into being could lead to innovative. As Webster dictionary defines asymmetry is "not symmetrical" or "incommensurable". Asymmetric threats according to some military magazines derive from threats of not fighting fair or attacking a weak point.(Bitner J.2007)

"This is another type of war, new in its intensity, ancient in its origin—war by guerrillas, subversives, insurgents, assassins, war by ambush instead of by combat; by infiltration, instead of aggression, seeking victory by eroding and exhausting the enemy instead of engaging him. . . It preys on economic unrest and ethnic conflicts. It requires in those situations where we must counter it, and these are the kinds of challenges that will be before us in the next decade if freedom is to be saved, a whole new kind of strategy, a wholly different kind of force, and therefore a new and wholly different kind of military training[1]" . The statement seemed to be strange and different of that time as if it hit the mark, but the speaker was President John F. Kennedy and he was addressing the West Point Class of 1962: "The Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Armed Forces and the head of the U.S. bureaucracy called for evolution—forty years ago and brought out the essence of typical asymmetric warfare" (Buffalo, 2006). Over the decades the terms "asymmetry" and "asymmetric" have become the main topic of American strategic and political science debates and discussions as they refer of contemporary type of war that is becoming more and more actual and turns into one of the central concepts of war affairs. Wars, antagonists, battlefield, strategies, armed conflicts, threats and challenges with many other phenomena that are connected to armed conflicts have been defined and labelled as –asymmetric.

According to Stephen J. Blank in modern era, asymmetric threats refer such transnational challenges as are: terrorism, unconventional or guerrilla tactics or guerrilla warfare as has been attempted in Iraq and Afghanistan, the use of WMD, cyberwarfare, or information war (IW). Furthermore, ballistic missiles have been also considered as asymmetric threats. These definitions may also include weapon systems and technologies dedicated to defeating the accuracy strike and engagement capabilities. Therefore, they are also called counter precision-engagement capabilities or threats. Asymmetry, as critics claim means not only "simply making maximum use of one's advantages" or fighting differently but it also focuses on realized and clarify who is enemy and reassess own forces and strategies (Blank, 2003). "Asymmetric warfare" is a term that emerged in the US strategic and conceptual documents and academic writing in the late 1990s but in 2003 its meaning decreased. The term was meaningful and significant from the 9/11 for scholars and government from bombs to supercomputer viruses to nuclear proliferation. As it meant so many different things it became a useless, ambiguous term (Snow, 2014). Understanding the concept of asymmetric warfare has always been challenging. During the Cold War, the two world superpowers participated in various arms races—each side always in fear of a gap in their capabilities when compared to the other. Peace was secured through mutually assured destruction (MAD). This bipolar order of the world's military forces relied mainly on concepts of symmetry. There are many definitions of the word "security" in different books. According to the authors security is a word that is used for description of personal and collective activities. It is also used to distinguish between: security of our daily activities such as going to work, buying food, using transport, etc., security for desirable, positive conditions like freedom, prosperity, well-being, democracy, a good life, development, etc. In addition, the word security may stand for such negative conditions as war, pollution, terrorism, and all kind of crimes that may occur in real life (Snow, 2014). Some policymakers think that there are three realms or fields for the term" security". The first is, the broadly used in today's everyday reality, that refers to a desire of being safe, secure, protected. Second, is considered to be more political use of the

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