

## Chapter 9

# Jihadist Hybrid War as an Asymmetric Military Threat to the Euro– Atlantic Security System: Fourth War Generation Doctrine, Asymmetric Warfare Strategy, Hybrid War Concept

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### **ABSTRACT**

*There are many transformations in developing and understanding military strategy, and new realities have delivered fresh trends in analyzing, planning, performing, and reviewing combat operations. The transformation in military strategic thoughts is affiliated with the new conception of the Fourth Generation Warfare, adopted at the turn of 20th and the 21st centuries. According to some academic conceptualizations, Fourth Generation Warfare is defined as military conflicts that 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 of a high-intensity, short duration attack and creating a sense of vulnerability, debilitation, and abasement in the enemy.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

For the time being, security is a concern of global dimensions determined by the Globalization phenomenon and acceleration of integration processes. Due to massive effect of threats and risks for global politics, a new definition of global security emerged in vocabularies of international relations

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and security studies. According to them, **Global Security** - is a security model that is implemented by the international and intergovernmental organizations and based on principles of international law principles and norms and backed on this background, the states, as international political actors, are obliged to comply with these ones, by keeping sovereignty untouchable and in case of its violation take offshot (Magradze & Maisaia, 2017, 14). Meanwhile, the global threat may emanate not only from states, but also from such subjects yet to be identified as international actors. Even international law is useless in the eradication of those like “DAESH” and even the COVID-19 virus. Such precedents need more precise and deliberate approaches and analysis.

The geopolitical realities of post-Cold War period regional security agendas have focused precious attention to the Caucasus region. The Caucasus regional security environment draws concrete interests from by the global powers competing for formulating their favorite current world order. It is clear why the Caucasus region attracts the interests from such global powers such as the USA, China’s People Republic (CPR) and the Russian Federation. However, bipolar engagement is a keen reference of implications arranged by realities of a new Cold War - a staggering struggle of national interests between Russia and the USA. The Americans increased engagement into regional security affairs due to geopolitical consequences of the 9/11 tragedy. They became decisively engaged with a “Global War against Terrorism” and shifted some attention toward deterring Russia’s aggressiveness to the area. The Russian incumbent authority has been trying to maintain its military, political and economic presence in the independent states of the Caucasus region and these states are trapped between zones and geopolitical trajectories of colluding completing geopolitical interests - that of new cold war global power (Hough *et al.*, 2015, 351). The Caucasus region is recognized with non-specific labels such as “*Geostrategic Gateway*” and “*Rim of Instability*” determined by the intense cases of military conflicts: latent vs. open. The confrontation dilemma is not easy to defuse and transform into peaceful resilience. Promoting dialogue and cooperation remains a sole option to transform the Caucasus region from a confrontation area into peaceful island as it is perceived by the geopolitical concept “*Caucasus Geostrata*” - as a geo-strata, the Caucasus is the region where geopolitical projects are either synchronized or clash. this is one of the leading theory of modern Georgian geopolitical school (Maisaia, 2020, 167).

## **FOURTH WAR GENERATION DOCTRINE – ASYMMETRIC WARFARE STRATEGY –**

### **Hybrid War Concept**

As it is known, the Fourth War Generation originated in 1980s, in the previous century, and the modality reflected post-Westphalia Peace realities and further shaping when the world order was re-shaped after the “Cold War” period. A close examination of the of the Fourth War Generation provides an opportunity to expose fallacies common about war – past, present and future (Echevarria, 2005, 1-2). Even though this is very short description of differences between generation of warfare categories. First generation is affiliated with massed manpower, second generation with firepower, third generation with manoeuvre strategy and tactics priority, and the fourth with insurgency form combat operations (Echevarria, 2005, 5). The concrete cases of waging asymmetric warfare are seen in Central Asia and in the Caucasus. Due to transformation of military strategy modalities into modern realities, the new dimension of Fourth Warfare Generation play a very important role. In the aegis of the military concept, asymmetric warfare is now

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