JOURNAL OF POLITICAL STABILITY ARCHIVE

Online ISSN: 3006-5879 Print ISSN: 3006-5860
DOI: https://doi.org/10.63468/jpsa.4.1.42
Vol. 4 No. 1 (2026)
https://journalpsa.com.pk/index.php/JPSA/about

Recognized by: Higher Education Commission (HEC), Government of Pakistan

AI-Driven Warfare: Cyber and Moral Predicaments in Modern Conflict

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ABSTRACT

War has always been dynamic. The paper begins by looking at the historical trajectory that led to the current state of warfare, emphasizing the transition from conventional, state-centric fights to an era defined by asymmetric warfare, cyber operations, and the fusion of conventional and unconventional tactics. Technological developments, geopolitical upheavals, and strategic thought have all had an impact on warfare's evolution. It also has an impact on the global, political, social, and economic order, which is further complicated by terrorism and cyber warfare. Information and Communicational Technological breakthroughs such as artificial intelligence, autonomous weaponry, and cyber capabilities raise questions about human decision-making. The advent of space warfare and state sovereignty calls into question traditional conceptions of combat. The study looks at the ethical quandaries raised by autonomous weapons, civilian targeting in the digital age, and the risk of irreversible environmental damage. As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into military applications, concerns about accountability and decision-making responsibility grow. It also investigates the effectiveness of current international rules and norms in addressing these new disputes. The Arms Traffic Treaty was adopted in 2014 with the goal of reducing civilian harm by limiting the transfer of weapons to conflict zones. Several case studies are presented to provide a well-rounded perspective, including conflicts in the Middle East, hybrid warfare, and cyber warfare in the US-Russia rivalry. To summarize, a thorough understanding of modern warfare and its far-reaching consequences will enable policymakers, strategists, and the general public to navigate the complexities of a changing global security landscape. Research is conducted using qualitative and analytical methodologies.

Keywords: Cyber Conflicts, Asymmetrical warfare, Artificial Intelligence, Irregular tactics, Information and Communication technology.

INTRODUCTION

War has always been a dynamic occurrence. Modern advancements in technology, communication, and military techniques have fundamentally altered the character of battle. Modern warfare dynamics have far-reaching implications, affecting not only the form of armed conflicts but also the global political, social, and economic landscape. In recent years, new threats such as terrorism and cyberwarfare have changed the dynamics of modern warfare. (Anand, 2008)

Technological Advancement

The rapid growth of technology and its application in military operations is one of modern warfare's distinguishing features. The development of modern weaponry, unmanned systems, cyber capabilities, and artificial intelligence has altered the nature of conflict. Not only have these technologies enhanced the lethality and accuracy of military operations, but they have also introduced new problems and ethical quandaries. The use of armed drones in targeted killings, for example, has prompted issues about accountability, legality, and civilian fatalities (Sprarrow, 2020). Furthermore, the emergence of cyber warfare capabilities has given a new dimension to combat, with states increasingly engaging in cyber-attacks and information warfare.
(Schmitt, 2017).

Asymmetric Warfare

In addition to technological developments, modern combat has seen a shift in military plans and tactics. Asymmetric warfare and non-state actors have been added to the classic definition of conventional warfare, which involves large-scale battles involving identified state entities. Guerrilla warfare, insurgency, and terrorism have become common tactics, posing a danger to traditional military formations (Boserup, 2021). Furthermore, the notion of "hybrid warfare" has evolved, in which governments use both conventional and unconventional methods, such as cyberattacks, propaganda, and proxy warfare (Qureshi, 2020; Uddin, 2025). These shifting policies need new approaches to counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, and information collecting, emphasizing the military's need for ongoing adaptation.

Balance of Power

Modern warfare dynamics have also had an impact on state relations, transforming geopolitical landscapes and altering power balances. The rise of new military powers, such as China's expanding prominence and Russia's revival, has transformed the global power dynamic (Mead, 2014). The prospect of nuclear proliferation, as well as territorial disputes and proxy battles in numerous locations, have created significant diplomatic and cooperation issues (Bukhari et al., 2024; Noreen et al., 2023). Furthermore, the interconnection of modern economies and cultures necessitates the inclusion of economic considerations in conflict (Khan et al.,

2025; Shabbir et al., 2021). Economic sanctions, cyberattacks on essential infrastructure, and the weaponization of economic interdependence have become widespread techniques, blurring the barrier between the military and economic domains (Volkov, 2020; Bukhari & Mujaddid, 2025).

Humanitarian Implications

The dynamics of modern warfare have severe humanitarian implications, with civilian populations frequently carrying the brunt of armed conflicts. The enhanced precision of weapons has not eliminated collateral damage, and the prevalence of urban warfare has led to an increase in civilian's causalities (Oliver P. Richmond, 2018; Waqas et al., 2024). In addition, the use of information warfare and propaganda has raised the psychological impact on civilian populations, influencing public opinion and exacerbating social divisions (Ali & Uddin, 2025; Brian David Johnson, 2019). Targeting vital infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and essential services has further compounded the distress of civilian population (Durhin, 2016). To lessen the human cost of modern warfare, policymakers and humanitarian organizations are understanding the implications of the civilians. (Boserup, 2021; Huang et al., 2024)

Theoretical Application

Realism emphasizes power dynamics and self-interest as key drivers of conflict, whereas liberalism prioritizes collaboration aided by institutional frameworks. The constructivist perspective emphasizes the importance of common standards, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, in shaping the dynamics of international interactions. Critical theory is an academic paradigm that studies the interaction between power dynamics and the influence of ideology. This is demonstrated by Edward Said's contributions, which offer vital insights into how media representations impact our perspective of the world. The Geneva Conventions provide as examples of just war theory's ethical principles. Collectively, these perspectives provide a thorough understanding of the complex complexities of modern warfare and its implications for global politics and culture.

Hypothesis Statement

The advancement in technology has significantly changed the dynamics of modern warfare, resulting in shifts in state and non-state actor's strategies, tactics, and power dynamics.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. **Constructivism** is a theoretical perspective that emphasizes the role of ideas, conventions, and social constructs in shaping the dynamics of international relations. When applied to contemporary conflict, constructivist theory would examine how prevailing beliefs and traditions about combat impose and affect state behavior. The purpose of this research is to examine the impact of perceptions, identities, and narratives on wartime conduct and its effects. Constructivists may also investigate the role of social movements and public opinion in affecting behavior. There is also conflict resolution.

2. **Just War theory** provides a set of ethical standards that can be used to evaluate the moral consequences of involvement in armed combat. The Just ad Bellum concept includes features such as just cause, right intention, and the principle of last resort. The concept of Jus in Bello revolves around the ethical standards that regulate the conduct of combat, with a focus on the concepts of proportionality and discrimination in the use of force. The concept of just post bellum refers to the fundamental rules that govern the period following a war, such as right intention and proportional use of force. When applied to contemporary warfare, this approach assesses the legitimacy and moral implications of military operations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

(Rangarajan, 1992) L.N Rangarajan's translation, editing, and introduction of Chankiya Kautilya's masterpiece "Arthashastra" delves into the legal and ethical issues of combat and defense. It emphasizes the King's role in war and the importance of a strong army. Furthermore, the role of intelligence collecting, diplomacy, and alliances in battle is discussed. It highlights the importance of civilian protection during wars, as well as humanitarian considerations. The Treatise has implications for statecraft, economic policy, and military strategy, as well as legal and ethical considerations in modern conflict. Determine the applicability and produce insights into military strategy and conflict, with a particular emphasis on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism.

(Yin-Ch'ueh-shan, 1993) Sun Tzu's treatise, which is nearly 2000 years old, provides insights into the dynamics of modern combat and its relevance. It examined modern combat techniques, emphasizing the need of intelligence gathering, diplomacy, and alliances in achieving victory. Sun Tzu argues in his writings that the most effective strategy in combat is to win without fighting. The book's six concepts have been applied to current conflicts and military operations (Hsu et al., 2025). These include winning without fighting, avoiding strength and attacking weakness, deception and foresight, speed and preparedness, influencing the opponent, and character-driven leadership.

(DAVID JORDAN, 2016) This book offers a thorough introduction to the concerns, ideas, concepts, and background essential to comprehend the theory and practice of warfare in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It provides insight into contemporary and future combat, the land, sea, and air environment, drones, cyber warfare, and hybrid warfare. It also discusses the techniques used during current events in Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine (Pandit et al., 2025). According to it, strategic theory is actionable theory, and understanding the com Significant global geopolitical, social, technological, economic, and military forces that drive combat today and are expected to continue to do so in the future. According to it, there are considerable concerns about the future of warfare, such as China's and other countries' roles in expanding combat technology in the cyber domain, robotics, autonomous weapon systems, and artificial intelligence. It also investigates paradigm-shifting advancements such as quantum computing, general artificial

intelligence, anti-ballistic systems, nuclear deterrence, killer robots, and nuclear negotiations.plexity of modern warfare is vital for conducting it successfully. (Schmertzing, 2018)

Modern Warfare

Modern warfare differs greatly from earlier military conceptions, methods, and technology, with a focus on the need for fighters to modernize in order to remain combat successful. Modern warfare emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a result of industrialization and rapid technological improvement. The First World War brought industrial weapon production, mechanized transportation, and chemical warfare into combat (Shah et al., 2025). During WWII, new technology such as radar, cryptography, and the first operational use of nuclear weapons were introduced. The Cold War helped shape modern warfare by emphasizing strategic deterrence, the nuclear arms race, and proxy conflicts. (TOWNSHEND, 1997).

"Modern" means "of or relating to the present and recent times" or "existing at the present time" (htt1). Michael Sheehan defines modern warfare as "the Forms of warfare shaped by and reflective of modern human history." The essence of warfare evolves in cycle with societal progress. It highlights the fact that warfare evolved and took on new dimensions, reflecting the current state of human affairs (Sheehan, 2019).

Postmodern warfare stresses the blurring of traditional lines between combatants and noncombatants, leading in more intricate moral and legal quandaries. Fourth-generation warfare includes non-state actors who use media, propaganda, and psychological tactics in addition to military strategies (Thiele 2015). Hybrid warfare is the blend of conventional and unconventional tactics that can involve both state and non-state actors, resulting in multidimensional confrontations. As combat increasingly involves engaging with civilian populations and resolving socioeconomic concerns, "War among the people" emphasises the significance of winning hearts and minds. (Nagl, 2005)

Technological Advancement:

Technological advancement refers to progress and development in the sphere of technology. The transition from traditional to contemporary warfare has been heavily impacted by technological advances. The advancement of firearms, artillery, and specialized weaponry has considerably enhanced the capabilities and efficacy of armed forces. (Annand, 2008) The development of new nuclear weapons during World War II marked a significant shift in the technological realm of armed conflict. The enormous destructive powers of nuclear weapons have given rise to the notion of mutually assured destruction (MAD), radically changing the nature of global conflict (COL ALAN J. PARRINGTON, 1997). Precision-guided munitions (PGMs) have greatly improved the accuracy and effectiveness of aerial bombardments. Modern armament, such as guided bombs and missiles, may hit designated military targets accurately and selectively, decreasing inadvertent harm to adjacent areas and

increasing the effectiveness of military operations (D.WATTS, 2013). Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), sometimes known as drones, have transformed the realm of reconnaissance, surveillance, and military operations. UAVs, often known as drones, are capable of undertaking real-time airborne surveillance, intelligence collection, and targeted strikes. This technology reduces the possible risks experienced by human pilots while also improving operational capabilities (Wagner).

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The emergence of data and communication technology ICT has had a substantial and far-reaching influence on current warfare. The initiation of digitization in military operation and the subsequent integration of networks have brought about significant transformations in the operational methodologies of military forces (Jaleel & Sarmad, 2022). The integration of real-time data sharing and communication systems has considerably improved command and control capabilities, allowing for faster decision-making and coordination among military units and branches. Satellite communication systems are critical in enabling safe and rapid transfer of information across military networks, hence improving real-time coordination and decision-making capabilities (Fatima et al., 2025). Cyber warfare is a relatively new type of conflict. The use of state-sponsored hacking, disruptive cyberattacks, and information warfare tactics has the potential to disrupt critical infrastructure, compromise sensitive data, and alter public attitude. The Stuxnet cyberattack on Iranian nuclear facilities, as well as Russia's alleged involvement in the 2016 US presidential election, are notable examples of cyber warfare. (BROWN 2011)

Evolving threat Landscape

The development of non-state groups, such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS, has led to an increase in the occurrence of asymmetric warfare. These organizations use techniques such as suicide bombings, insurgencies, and terrorism to disrupt regions and combat conventional armed forces (Schneckener, 2011). In reaction to non-traditional challenges, armed forces have been forced to change their strategy and tactics. This adaptation involves the integration of conventional military operations with counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which has necessitated a shift away from traditional methods of warfare and toward strategies that prioritize the well-being and support of the local population (Khan, 2024). These population-centric approaches encompass a range of measures, such as the cultivation of positive attitudes and trust through winning hearts and minds, the establishment and promotion of effective local governance structures, and the provision of assistance for reconstruction endeavors (Choo, 2011)

Globalization and Interconnectedness

Globalization and the increasing interdependence of nations have had a huge impact on the evolution of modern warfare. Conventional interstate conflicts are becoming less common as nations' economic, political, and social interdependence grows (II, 2003). In modern times, the nature of combat frequently requires the analysis and settlement of multinational issues, as well as the mitigation of global

threats. Terrorism, cyber-attacks, weapons proliferation, and organized crime all require a comprehensive and unified response (Bukhari et al., 2024). This requires tight cooperation with intelligence agencies, law enforcement institutions, and international counterparts to defend collective security and maintain stability. (Rickli, 2007)

Changing Geopolitical Dynamics

Globalization and increased interdependence between states have had a significant impact on the formation of modern warfare. Conventional interstate conflicts are decreasing as nations' economic, political, and social interdependence increases (II, 2003). In the present era, the nature of warfare frequently necessitates the analysis and resolution of multinational concerns, as well as the mitigation of global threats. Terrorism, cyberattacks, weapon proliferation, and organized crime all necessitate a thorough and coordinated response. To sustain collective security and stability, intelligence services, law enforcement institutions, and international counterparts must work closely together.
(Ivanov).

A Case Study- Syrian Civil War

A Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, is a example of modern asymmetric warfare due to its complexity and duration. Civil unrest and protest against the authoritarian power President Bashar Al-Assad led to outbreak of war. However, the conflict rapidly escalated into a complex war involving numerous state and non-states actors, each with their own interest and objectives. The Syrian conflict has been defined as asymmetric warfare, which involves weakened actors employing innovative tactics and strategies against a stronger opponent (M. Mishchuk, 2011). The deployment of non-state entities, such as rebel groups and terrorist organizations, has been an important aspect of asymmetric warfare in the Syrian conflict. These factions, ranging from the Free Syrian Army to extremist organizations like the Islamic State (ISIS), have used innovative techniques to combat the Syrian government's military force. They have used guerilla warfare, hit-and-run operations, and ambushes to target government forces and terrorize people (FORD, 2019). The involvement of foreign forces has also had an impact on Syria's asymmetric warfare. Regional and international entities have offered military help, finance, and training to numerous conflict factions. Iran and Russia, for example, have supported the Syrian government, whilst Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United States have backed various rebel groupings. This external interference has exacerbated the conflict's asymmetries on the ground. In addition, the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict has created serious ethical and humanitarian concerns. The Syrian government has been accused of using chemical weapons on people, underscoring the asymmetrical use of force and the devastation caused to civilian populations.
(Reuters, 2012).

The Syrian civil conflict is a prominent example of asymmetric warfare in the contemporary era. This conflict is extremely complex and difficult to resolve due to

the participation of non-state actors, the use of unconventional tactics, and the support of external powers. Understanding and addressing the dynamics of asymmetric warfare in conflict zones is crucial considering the war's devastating effects on civilian population and its potential to destabilize the region more broadly. Finding a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict remains a daunting task, requiring a nuanced comprehension of the asymmetric nature of the conflict and a comprehensive strategy to address the underlying causes and grievances of all parties (Marc Lynch, 2012).

Cyber warfare and attacks:

Cyberwarfare and attacks: One prominent feature of hybrid warfare is cyberwarfare, which enables disruptive and harmful cyberspace operations. Hybrid actors use cyberattacks to steal sensitive data, conduct espionage, disrupt vital infrastructure, and spread misinformation. Both military capabilities and civilian infrastructure might be significantly impacted by these strikes. Iran's nuclear facilities were the target of Stuxnet, a sophisticated computer virus purportedly developed by the US and Israel in 2010. The worm penetrated centrifuge control systems without direct military engagement, causing physical harm and interfering with Iran's nuclear development. (Zetter, 2014).

A Case Study-Israel and Arab States

Israel's case is an exceptional example of hybrid warfare and Gray zone conflict, as the country's military priorities shifted significantly towards conventional forces. While conducting covert operations alongside regional neighbors such as Saudi Arabia, Israel's primary targets for hybrid warfare tactics were Arab states such as Syria, Lebanon and Iran, as well as non-state actors such as Hamas and Hezbollah. This regional application of hybrid warfare termed "regional hybridism" was motivated by antagonism with neighboring states, the majority of which did not recognize Israel as a state (Carment, 2018). Israel did not aim to alter the existing regional order of alliances or directly influence the political processes of its neighbors, unlike in other instances.

Rather, the focus was on operational and tactical levels within a limited geographic area. Israel's move away from conventional weaponry can be explained by its increased use of current deterrent strategies and instruments against Arab neighbors. A decrease in the frequency of such conflicts required a reallocation of resources, even though Israel had previously fought and won high-intensity conventional wars with an emphasis on state survival and the use of conventional weapons. Increased investments in counterterrorism, related technologies, and strategies were required when conflict evolved into asymmetric battles against state-backed actors. Israel has emphasized targeted killings and covert intelligence capabilities in order to adjust to the changing operational environment. (Johnson T. M., 2013)

However, the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah conflict exposed weaknesses in Israel's hybrid balancing approach. The battle proved that targeted strikes and clandestine operations alone are ineffective against adversaries who heavily utilize conventional

tactics. The Winograd Commission noted in its findings that weakened conventional, tactical, and operational capabilities as well as poor leadership by the military and political establishment contributed to Hezbollah's inability to be deterred and defeated. Israel reassessed their hybrid warfare approach as a result. Reiterating traditional capabilities while retaining knowledge of clandestine operations. Recognizing the importance of both conventional and non-conventional instruments in solving modern security concerns, the IDF underwent modernization initiatives and revised its tactical training. This case study illustrates the complexities of hybrid warfare and Gray zone conflict, in which a nation like Israel must perpetually adapt its military strategies to address the regions ever changing threats and security dynamics (Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), 1974).

Information warfare is the spread of false or misleading information in an attempt to sway public opinion, confuse people, or damage the reputation of a rival. The Russian Internet research organizations are a prime example. (Miroslav KRC, 2022)

Attacks against critical infrastructure: These attacks have the ability to create widespread disruption and target vital services including electricity, transportation, and healthcare. The vulnerability of vital infrastructure to cyberattacks was demonstrated by the 2015 attack on the Ukrainian power grid, which was ascribed to Russian hackers (DONGHUI PARK, 2017).

Cyber espionage: Cyber reconnaissance is operated by governments and organizations to gather intelligence and acquire competitive advantage. The Chinese hacking group APT 10, also known as Stone Panda, has been linked to multiple cyber espionage movements aimed at different industries (Reed, 2018)

Critical infrastructure attacks: These attacks target essential systems such as energy, transportation and healthcare, and have the potential to cause pervasive disruption. The 2015 attack on the Ukrainian power grid, which was attributed to Russian hackers, exemplified the susceptibility of critical infrastructure to cyberattacks (DONGHUI PARK, 2017).

Case study

Examine the impact of Russia on the 2016 US presidential election. There's an asterisk. Information warfare and cyberwarfare were major factors in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, raising questions about how vulnerable democratic systems are to outside meddling. Several U.S. intelligence services claim that Russia interfered with the election process in a concerted attempt to sway public opinion in favor of a specific candidate. Taking advantage of social media Thousands of fake social media identities were made by Russian actors, such as the Internet Research Agency (IRA), to mimic American people and institutions (ICA, 2017). These accounts were used to spread false and contentious content on a number of social media sites, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Emotionally charged memes, videos, and articles coexisted alongside politically inflammatory posts. The tweets sought to deepen already-existing political and social divides in the US by focusing on specific groups. Russian-backed organizations spread incorrect and misleading information via bots

and fake news websites. Undermining the validity of democratic institutions and candidates was the goal. For instance, in order to sow uncertainty and confusion among the electorate, fake information regarding a candidate's health, criminal activity, or corrupt connections was deliberately created and spread (P.W. Singer, 2014).

Russian agents focused on states where their efforts may have the biggest influence and where the outcome of the election was uncertain. The created information was designed to appeal to local issues and concerns in order to sway these important regions' voting preferences. Email hacking reveals that Russian hackers gained access to the email accounts of well-known political leaders and organizations, including members of a major political party. The public was thereafter given access to the stolen documents through websites like WikiLeaks. Sensitive and occasionally harmful material about political personalities can be found in deleted emails, which can fuel public discussions and erode public trust in particular politicians. There have apparently been attempts to hack voter registration systems in a number of U.S. states. Although there is no evidence that voter data or vote tallies were altered, the attempts have raised concerns about the possibility of future assaults on election infrastructure and the electoral process's integrity (Watts, 2019).

The case demonstrated the importance of creating and upholding international standards pertaining to cyberwarfare and information warfare. Global cyber security and stability might be enhanced by promoting international collaboration to address these threats collectively. Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election served as a warning to the world community about the growing dangers of cyberwarfare and information warfare. These types of conflict have the power to sabotage democratic procedures, influence public opinion, and create social unrest. These challenges necessitate a combination of cyber security measures, media literacy efforts, and international cooperation to protect democratic principles, protect vital infrastructure, and maintain the integrity of election processes in the digital age.

(Chertoff, 2018)

Ethical Considerations in Modern Warfare

Just War Theory

The analysis of moral dilemmas in modern combat, which is frequently done using the framework of "just war theory." maintains a delicate balance between the demands of military necessity and the duties of moral obligation. The just war theory offers a methodical framework for evaluating the moral aspects of combat and has its roots in the writings of notable philosophers such as Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. The two main tenets of the theory are as follows:

1. **Jus ad Bellum**: which pertains to the justification for initiating war.
2. **Jus ad Bello**: Concerning ethical conduct during war. (Walzer, 2015)

The principle of just ad bellum underscores the notion that the initiation of war ought to be limited to circumstances that are morally justifiable, such as acts of

self-defense or the safeguarding of innocent lives. And should be carried out with due authority and a righteous motive. The 2003 invasion of Iraq, for example, generated discussions over its adherence to principles of just war, primarily due to the purported absence of a real threat (Orend, 2016). Jus ad Bello pertains to the ethical comportment observed in the context of armed conflict. The prescribed guidelines prohibit the utilization of excessive force, deliberate targeting of non-combatants and infliction of undue harm. The proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) in Modern Warfare. Additionally, the use of remote fighting techniques has raised concerns about accountability and the possible blurring of the lines between combatants and non-combatants. Furthermore, discussions about the need for human supervision in decision-making processes during armed conflict have been triggered by the development of technology advances like autonomous weapons. This raises questions about accountability and moral judgment
(Fritz Allhoff, 2015).

Legal and Political Challenges in Holding Perpetrators Accountable

In order to pursue justice and prevent impunity, it is crucial to hold those accountable for their actions during armed wars. However, the pursuit of accountability faces numerous legal and political challenges that can hinder the effectiveness of administering justice. To deal with serious crimes committed during times of armed conflict, war crime courts have been established. While they make a commendable effort to maintain justice, their effectiveness varies. The convictions obtained by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which operated from 1993 to 2017, can be considered successful. It has, however, also faced criticism about the length of proceedings and accusations of bias in some cases. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICRT), which operated from 1994 to 2015, has garnered significant convictions; nonetheless, the proceedings have been hindered by delays and practical obstacles (Sloane, 2011).

Media, Propaganda, and Perception Management

The media has a significant role in shaping public opinion during armed conflicts, yet it works in a complex environment where distortion and truth often coexist. One noteworthy aspect is the media's role in spreading information about civilian casualties, hence increasing global awareness of the human cost of war. Regarding the Syrian crisis, reporters on the ground have provided firsthand accounts of the suffering of people, particularly emphasizing the dire repercussions of the use of barrel bombs. The disclosures have sparked broad international condemnation and calls for accountability, underscoring the media's ability to shed light on the suffering of civilians (United Nations, 2023) . However, wars have also seen the use of the media as a weapon, including strategies like propaganda, spreading misleading information, and influencing public opinion. Media outlets are used by both state and non-state actors to further their objectives, often creating narratives that depart from objective reality. Both sides in the ongoing battle in Yemen have been accused of deliberately spreading false information to garner support and damage the credibility of their rivals. The public's perception could be

greatly impacted by the strategic use of media, which could hinder efforts to gain a thorough understanding of the war (Al Jazeera Staff, 2022).

Technological and Policy Solutions for a Safer Future

Technological advancements present viable opportunities for mitigating, collateral damage in instances of armed conflict. The development of precision weapons, which have the potential to significantly reduce unintentional damage to infrastructure and non-combatants, is a prime example of military technology improvement. Modern precision guided weapons provide improved accuracy in military strikes aimed at particular targets since they are equipped with advanced targeting systems and GPS technology. Israel used precise weapons in the 2014 Gaza conflict to target Hamas facilities while causing the least amount of damage to civilians (BBC, 2021). In order to provide a more secure environment for civilians who find themselves in violent circumstances, international cooperation and arms control agreements are essential and regulating the global traffic of conventional weapons to hinder their diversion to regions of conflict and individuals or groups engaged in abusive activities. The objective of the ATT is to diminish the likelihood of civilian harm by restricting the transfer of weapons to regions affected by conflict (arms Trade treaty, 2023).

When it comes to offering vital direction for the defense of civilian populations during armed conflicts, policy recommendations are essential. Improving the efficiency of accountability mechanisms for IHL violations is crucial. It is possible to deter future abuses and uphold the concept of accountability by conducting open investigations into such violations. Furthermore, even in the midst of military operations, it is crucial to encourage countries to adopt strict standards of engagement that put the protection of civilian life first. Promoting knowledge and comprehension of civil rights and the fundamentals of international humanitarian law (IHL) is largely dependent on education. Policy recommendations are crucial for providing crucial guidance for the defense of civilian populations during armed conflicts. Enhancing the effectiveness of IHL infraction accountability systems is essential. By conducting open inquiries into such transgressions, it is possible to protect the principle of responsibility and prevent future abuses. Furthermore, it is imperative that nations set stringent standards of engagement that prioritize the preservation of civilian life, even during military operations. Education has a major role in advancing understanding of civil rights and the principles of international humanitarian law (IHL).

Technological trends Shaping Future of Modern Warfare

The evolution of Warfare is undergoing rapid transformation due to the emergence of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, AI, robotics, and nanotechnology, which are significantly altering the dynamics of conflict. The innovations could drastically change military capability. strategy that has significant effects on the nature of armed warfare and the moral issues surrounding its use. AI has the potential to drastically alter data processing and decision-making, making it a crucial component of modern warfare. This technology has several uses, ranging

from autonomous systems with complex information analysis capabilities to predictive models that support strategic planning initiatives. Robotics, which includes both ground-based and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), has greatly transformed the fields of surveillance and reconnaissance by enabling precise and far-off missions. The field of nanotechnology has various possibilities for the development of advanced materials, miniaturized sensors and enhanced medical interventions owing to its ability to modify The integration of these technologies improves military capabilities to previously unheard-of levels. Algorithms based on artificial intelligence (AI) are used to analyze large amounts of data, which enhances comprehension of different scenarios and enables quick responses. The range of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions is expanded by UAVs equipped with advanced sensors, which enable precise target acquisition while reducing potential risks to human soldiers. Soldiers' protection and agility could be enhanced by nanotechnology's power to create materials that are both more robust and lighter. The dual-purpose nature of emerging technologies, which have both military and civilian uses, creates ethical conundrums. AI integration has the potential to significantly change a number of industries, including healthcare and logistics matter at the nanoscale (Trausti, 2022).

But the use of AI in autonomous weapons systems raises concerns about accountability and the potential for unanticipated bad outcomes. The idea of human control and conflict is seriously threatened by the development of deadly autonomous weapons with the capacity for independent decision-making. A comprehensive analysis from an ethical perspective is required (human rights Watch, 2019).

Collaboration of Human-Machine

The use of advanced technology is currently changing the nature of warfare, with a focus on human-machine cooperation. As AI assumes decision-making responsibilities and functions within autonomous systems, significant implications for fighting, ethics, and battlefield dynamics emerge. The ability of AI to effectively process large data sets and render timely decisions demonstrates its revolutionary influence on military decision-making. Artificial intelligence algorithms power autonomous systems, which can perform tasks with a high level of precision and effectiveness. The X-47B drone, which the United States created, is an illustration of the possibilities of AI-driven autonomous systems. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (2016) has demonstrated that this drone is capable of autonomous takeoff, landing, and aerial refueling. The development of autonomous weapons raises complex moral issues. The use of deadly autonomous systems, which have the ability to decide between life and death without human intervention, presents a serious threat to the core ideas of proportionality, accountability, and human dignity. Concerns have spurred support for worldwide bans on these weapons, with a focus on the necessity of maintaining significant human oversight in the application of coercive methods. (Stop Killer Robots Campaign, 2021). By superimposing digital information onto the real world, augmented reality (AR) technologies are drastically

changing the battlefield. AR systems have the capacity to provide real-time data, which enhances comprehension of a particular situation and makes decision-making easier. Additionally, advancements in human augmentation technologies, such as brain interfaces and exoskeletons, give warriors better physical and mental capabilities, changing the nature of battle. (2019, U.S. Army). Finding a balance between the benefits of AI and the requirement for human supervision and control is the primary challenge. The notion of human control is designed to uphold the responsibility of individuals for the decision-making process in military operations. The establishment of well-defined lines of duty and the implementation of effective oversight procedures are necessary in order to mitigate the occurrence of unintended consequences and ethical transgressions (Rickli D. J.-M., 2022).

Cyber Warfare and Information Dominance

Conflict has ushered in a unique era where cyberwarfare and information domination play a major role in defining national security, global perspectives, and international dynamics. In order to successfully navigate the complex digital world that lies ahead, it is essential to understand the implications, issues, and solutions of these phenomena given their continuous escalation. The paradigm of national security has been drastically altered by the rise of cyberwarfare. The 2010 Stuxnet attack is a prominent example of how cyber operations can target physical infrastructure explicitly, underscoring the intrinsic interconnectedness of the digital and physical spheres.

The escalation underscores the need for a more comprehensive comprehension of security that extends beyond conventional military aspects. This includes safeguarding important digital infrastructure and sensitive information, (The New York Times, 2012).

To address vulnerabilities resulting from the expanding digital ecosystem, governments are increasingly giving priority to improving their cybersecurity measures. Investments in incident response capabilities, talent acquisition, and cybersecurity technologies have increased. Active cyber defense is a concept that is becoming more and more popular. It allows states to proactively disrupt or eliminate cyber threats before they materialize. This tactic has been used by the US Cyber Command, where it is successfully combined with public attribution to deter future aggressors (Cyber Command, 2018). Future conflict dynamics will continue to be influenced by the growing convergence of information dominance and cyberwarfare. It is impossible to exaggerate how important it is to understand how digital and physical security are interdependent. In order to effectively combat misinformation campaigns, it will be critical to maintain vigilance against information manipulation and the challenges of correctly attributing sources. Strengthening cyber defenses and putting proactive deterrent strategies into place must be given top priority due to the world's growing reliance on digital infrastructure. In a time when the importance of the digital battlefield is comparable to that of the physical world, this is essential for guaranteeing state security and preserving stability (Cummings, 2017).

CONCLUSION

In Conclusion, it can be pragmatic that the nature of warfare has felt ample transformations, transitioning from conservative to contemporary indicators. Technological advancements, changes in geopolitical environments, and the evolution of strategic thinking have been the main drivers of these changes. The utilization of Total War doctrines, technological breakthroughs, and the potential for disastrous consequences are some of the characteristics that set modern combat apart. Numerous causes, including industrialization, globalization, and ideological motivation, have influenced the shift. Due to the challenges in implementing established regulations and procedures, the ramifications for civilian legal and ethical considerations are substantial. The main issues raised by criticism of modern warfare are those related to accountability, legality, and the possible dehumanization of armed conflict. Future breakthroughs in technology and emerging issues, including as cyberwarfare, artificial intelligence, and space wars, are expected to have a major impact on how modern warfare develops. The crucial need to address the legal, ethical and humanitarian dimensions of modern combat persists as the nature of battle undergoes continuous evolution.

Recommendations

- To mitigate the adverse consequences of modern warfare, a few recommendations can be made up:
- Above all, it is important to consider the ecological consequences of armed conflict when analyzing the concept of "waging war" within the broader context of military operations.
- In order to improve global events aimed at reducing the impact of information warfare, there is a need for better perception of the issue, especially among civilians.
- In order to combat the increasing frequency of information warfare (IW) activities, nations must aggressively promote international governance and regulatory frameworks.
- Technology plays a significant role in modern warfare, requiring the development of new tactics and procedures to reduce the benefits of intelligent weaponry and reduce the escalation of armed conflict and population displacement.
- Developing an integrated protective system that provides soldiers with the best possible defense against many threats, including the thermal effects of nuclear weapons, is crucial when it comes to protective gear and equipment.
- Implementing defensive measures against information warfare can reduce the likelihood of conflict and help restore trust in global communication networks.

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