



CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS

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Annotation: The article discusses key trends that may shape the nature of future military conflicts, exploring how these trends could influence the concept of foreign armies' application within armed forces and alter the procedures for conducting operations in various regions.

Keywords: military conflict, geopolitics, special operation, information security system, concept of unconventional warfare, contactless methods, strategy, operational level.

Historically, the First World War was primarily characterized by infantry and cavalry engagements, while the Second World War saw the deployment of tanks, artillery, anti-air defenses, and aircraft. In the modern era, warfare has evolved to encompass new, unconventional models – including fire-and-electronic systems, robotic operations, and engagements across land, air, and space, alongside underground combat. Consequently, it remains imperative that a nation's military capability includes the ability to apply forces capable of effectively countering threats and dangers to national security in the military sphere.

If we look back at history, according to military scientific analyses, humanity's existence has been punctuated by over 15,000 wars spanning more than 5,500 years. During that time, we have only experienced periods of peace and humanitarianism for a mere 300 years. Billions of people have perished in these conflicts. Examining these figures allows us to draw relevant conclusions. Consequently, the necessity for military force appears to remain a constant throughout human history.

When examining the characteristics of modern military conflicts, the concept of "armed conflicts" emerges in military terminology. Definitions of armed conflicts vary across different sources. Some sources define an armed conflict as a method of resolving disputes between states, peoples, or large social groups through the application of military force, involving any armed clashes or confrontations.

To provide context for the military conflict, in accordance with the initiatives of our nation's leader, the Defense Doctrine was developed and approved—the primary document defining our country's military policy. As stated therein, a military conflict is a form of resolving disputes between states or internal conflicts within a state through the application of military force, encompassing all forms of armed struggle, including wars and armed conflicts.

In the current era of globalization and amidst a rapidly changing international relations landscape, the global military-political situation presents escalating risks, threats, and dangers to international and regional security. Considering the intensification of geopolitical rivalries, the tendency to resolve conflicts and crises through force, including the potential use of weapons of mass destruction, the rise of militarization, international terrorism, and extremism, and the increasing competition in the information and cyber spheres, we can say that future military conflicts will be characterized by the following traits.

Characteristics of Future Military Conflicts:

the necessity of using military force to resolve conflicts, coupled with pre-emptive information and psychological operations to shape international public opinion;

active utilization of non-military measures (political, economic, information and psychological, and others) alongside military force;

deployment of high-precision weaponry, radio-electronic warfare systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and robotic complexes, along with networked, automated control systems;

the capability to target specific points within the entire territory of opposing forces;

high maneuverability and sufficient logistical support for troop formations;

the involvement of special operations forces, illegal armed formations, private military companies, and other mercenaries in armed conflicts using disruptive and terrorist tactics;

the deployment of weapon systems with new characteristics;

a reduction in the time required for preparing for and conducting combat operations;

the widespread use of troops and equipment in combat operations in air and space;

the broad involvement of the local population in armed conflicts and their extreme vulnerability;

targeted strikes against critical state infrastructure objects, which could lead to large-scale emergencies, including transboundary emergencies, designed to disrupt their operations;

a high probability of one type of armed conflict rapidly transforming into another.

Given the aforementioned circumstances, there is a growing tendency for the generally recognized principles and norms of international law to be selectively interpreted and applied. These concerning trends risk exacerbating existing conflicts on a global scale and fostering new ones. Consequently, the international situation becomes increasingly complex, acquiring characteristics that are difficult to predict.

Based on the information provided above, when considering how foreign nations might examine the future development of their Armed Forces:

the effectiveness of intelligence and counterintelligence activities will be increased to monitor and forecast the evolving trends of the military-political situation and to implement timely equivalent measures to neutralize military threats to security;

plans for the strategic, operational, and tactical employment of forces will be reassessed;

methods for the operational-tactical application of forces and assets in space and air will be improved, and the organization of air defense systems will be reevaluated;

measures are being developed to counter biological weapons, including the creation of defense systems against them;

the combat capabilities of tactical forces will be significantly enhanced;

the command and control system of the armed forces will be automated, and the quality of communication equipment will be substantially improved;

the techniques for operational masking of radioelectronic and control equipment will be refined;

an information security system will be established, and methods, techniques, and tools for actively combating through information will be developed;

states will create economic and financial conditions for the development of unified, secure information and communication systems for controlling;

modern operations will see an increased use of high-precision weapons and ground forces, alongside a growing role for air and naval forces;



considering the increased range and effectiveness of weaponry, issues of offensive and defensive operations will be re-evaluated;

the principle of concentrating forces and means on the decisive direction, and the methods for implementing it, will be refined;

the deployment of troops in designated tactical groups, detached from the main force, will be planned;

the existing organizational structure will be reviewed;

troop formations for various combat actions will be created, and their operational deployment will be revised;

troops are organized into combat formations and their operational deployments are reviewed;

the level of moral and psychological stability is enhanced, particularly among command personnel;

systems are improved for states to assign and clarify tasks to their armed forces in a timely manner and to provide comprehensive material and technical support for their operations;

states continuously work to foster patriotism and strengthen a sense of responsibility for the fate of the nation among their military forces and citizens, and effectively prepare the personnel of the Armed Forces morally, ethically, and psychologically.

The key trends in the evolution of military conflicts over the next decade may include:

a reduction in preparation time for combat operations due to the utilization of structures capable of performing tasks without mobilization and able to respond rapidly;

an increase in the speed of engagement in combat operations, facilitated by a decrease in the time required to gather, analyze, and deliver information regarding the enemy and one's own forces, and through the application of fast-moving platforms and weapon systems;

in every new war, in every armed conflict, we observe weapon systems developed on the basis of artificial intelligence and nanotechnology, robotized complexes and armaments based on new natural principles, with the potential for widespread application, capable of reaching levels comparable to weapons of mass destruction in terms of combat effectiveness;

the power and scale of forces and means operating in the space environment will increase significantly;

spacecraft will not only form systems for reconnaissance, communication, and navigation, but will also perform the functions of designating and delivering targets for precision weapons;

the globalization of space-based strike systems will lead.

The potential for "unconventional wars" to be triggered by developed nations and "left-behind countries" cannot be dismissed. Alongside the creation of new weaponry, control systems are also evolving within the framework of the concept of "centralized network warfare." This involves a new method of managing armed forces, leveraging a unified information and communication space organized closer to a real-time scale.

"In armed conflicts, increasingly extensive use of special operations forces is employed to establish a constantly shifting area of active combat deep within enemy territory, forcing them to disperse their forces across multiple fronts.

Modern warfare in the 21st century is characterized by a greater emphasis on information sharing, based on the extensive utilization of rapid reconnaissance, communication, automated control, and electronic warfare systems.

Achieving information superiority over the enemy has become a key condition for the successful conduct of military operations."

Based on the information provided above, we can conclude the following:

military force will continue to be a crucial instrument for states to achieve their political objectives in the foreseeable future;

achieving objectives in future conflicts and operations will remain challenging without securing informational dominance;

future conflicts may be characterized primarily by initial and final phases, with the initial phase potentially playing the role of the main phase;

the primary goals of armed conflict will involve neutralizing the armed forces, organized groups, and economic potential of a country subjected to aggression through "non-contact" methods, and subsequently occupying its territory;

modern armed conflicts are defined by states that have achieved significant advancements in law and regulations, advanced military experience and results, and, importantly, breakthroughs in technology;

future wars will be decisive not for large, organized ground forces, but for weapons based on high-precision damage-dealing systems, new technological principles, and the power and capabilities of countering information warfare;

new forms of military operations can be described as encompassing a large scale and all natural theaters of armed conflict (land, sea, air, space, cyberspace), where electronic, power, and information influence intensifies in time and space.

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