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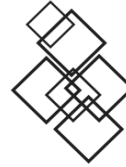
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### TOPIC

**HYBRID WARFARE CREATING TIERS IN PAKISTANI CULTURE AND  
SOCIO-POLITICAL NORMS DURING 2010-2020**

### AUTHORS

**Jahan Bakht**

Department of Political Science,  
Lahore College for Women University, Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.  
jbakht0@gmail.com

**Maleeka Zafar**

Department of Political Science,  
Lahore College for Women University, Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

**Muhammad Tariq**

Department of Political Science,  
The Islamia University Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan.

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## HYBRID WARFARE CREATING TIERS IN PAKISTANI CULTURE AND SOCIO-POLITICAL NORMS DURING 2010-2020

**Jahan Bakht**

Department of Political Science,  
Lahore College for Women University, Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.  
jbakht0@gmail.com

**Maleeka Zafar**

Department of Political Science,  
Lahore College for Women University, Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

**Muhammad Tariq**

Department of Political Science,  
The Islamia University Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan.

### **Abstract**

The geo-strategic positioning of nations holds a profound influence on their identity, foreign relations, and overall development trajectory. Pakistan, situated at the confluence of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, occupies a pivotal geo-strategic crossroads. This unique positioning has rippled effects that permeate the core ethos of the country. This paper delves into the untwined nature of Pakistan's geo-strategic position and its far-reaching implications. Pakistan's geo-strategic significance emanates from its proximity to major regional players and crucial sea routes. This positioning, while offering opportunities, subjects the nation to regional conflicts and power dynamics. It has molded foreign relations, notably with India, and underscored security imperatives, particularly in light of the War on Terror and the volatile situation in Afghanistan. Economically, Pakistan's untwined geo-strategic location holds promise through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, it also poses challenges concerning border security and trade routes. Moreover, the cultural and identity complexities of Pakistan are influenced by its geo-strategic position, contributing to debates on national cohesion and diversity management. Internally, the impacts of Pakistan's geo-strategic position are keenly felt. Balancing the interests of diverse ethnic, religious, and political groups poses a governance challenge amidst regional conflicts. As the country charts its course, understanding its geo-strategic dynamics becomes paramount in crafting policies that align with its identity and aspirations. In conclusion, Pakistan's untwined geo-strategic position generates ripples that extend across various dimensions of its existence. Acknowledging this influence empowers the nation to navigate regional complexities and global challenges while preserving its core values and ethics.

**Keywords:** Hybrid Warfare, Socio-Political Norms, CPEC, Nation, Global, Challenges.

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## **Introduction**

The term “hybrid warfare” refers to a strategy that employs conventional military force supported by irregular and cyber warfare tactics. It is a mode of non-linear combat. As the term suggests, it is a union of conventional military deterrence and insurgent tactics. Owing to the incompatibility old war tactics, 21<sup>st</sup> century bears witness how deep-rooted the aftermath of such war tactic is. It is fundamentally misaligned with the realities of conflict in present day, and has gained much popularity as an advanced form of combat (Holmes., 2012).

In the modern era, the landscape of conflict has undergone a significant transformation, marked by the emergence of hybrid warfare as a potent strategy. This form of warfare blurs the traditional boundaries between conventional and unconventional tactics, utilizing a diverse array of tools that encompass military, economic, informational, and technological spheres. Against this backdrop, the impact of hybrid warfare on societies has become a subject of substantial concern and exploration. During the decade spanning 2010 to 2020, Pakistan found itself enmeshed in a complex web of social, political, and cultural dynamics, significantly influenced by the evolving strategies of hybrid warfare. The era witnessed a subtle yet profound reshaping of traditional norms, values, and power structures, leading to the emergence of discernible tiers within Pakistani society. This interplay of hybrid warfare and socio-cultural transformation raises crucial questions about the intricate connections between conflict strategies and societal fabrics (Lorge., 2022).

This study delves into the multifaceted interplay between hybrid warfare and Pakistani culture, particularly within the socio-political sphere, during the pivotal years of 2010 to 2020. Singh, A. K. in *Expanding the Turbulent Maritime Periphery* explains that seeks to unravel the mechanisms through which hybrid warfare strategies have infiltrated cultural and political domains, consequently shaping hierarchies and divisions within the society. By examining the transformation of socio-political norms, the study aims to shed light on the underlying forces that have sculpted distinct tiers within Pakistani culture. This exploration is rooted in the recognition that hybrid warfare's arsenal extends beyond conventional military tactics, encompassing information warfare, economic manipulation, cyber espionage, and more. Such multifarious strategies have the potential to not only disrupt political stability but also create ripple effects throughout society, fostering a sense of uncertainty, mistrust, and division. Thus, understanding how these strategies interact with cultural norms becomes paramount in comprehending the broader implications of hybrid warfare on a nation's identity and social fabric (Nadeem et al., 2021).

In the subsequent sections, this study will delve into the specific manifestations of hybrid warfare's impact on Pakistani culture and socio-political norms. By analyzing shifts in narratives, power dynamics, and public perceptions, the research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the forces at play in the evolution of social tiers during the defined timeframe. Ultimately, this investigation contributes to a deeper grasp of the intricate relationship between contemporary conflict strategies and cultural transformation within a complex society like Pakistan.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of the study is to find the hybrid warfare creating tiers in Pakistani culture and socio-political norms during 2010-2020

### **Review of Literature**

In the present era, wars are not declared or waged conventionally; instead, conflicts are instigated by clandestine agents using military, nonmilitary, media, cyber tools, information operations, NGOs, non-state actors, intelligence agencies, economic tools, propaganda, ambiguity, terrorism and insurgency or rebel movements. In hybrid warfare, the contours between peacetime and wartime are blurred. The threat posed by hybrid warfare is real and employs a great array of power tools e.g. political, economic, military, asymmetric, and civil. Additionally, it uses the tool of misinformation. Such planned and organized way of slowly injecting poison, corrodes the viable diplomatic solutions (BBC report., 2017).

Hybrid warfare uses terrorism, proxies, and economic attacks to persuade populations or to divide societies. It majorly targets the vulnerable sections of society by deliberately exploiting them, and avoiding the ambiguity of detection. It is usually detected only when it is fully functional and capable of inflicting harm. By contrast, hybrid warfare operations are employed by nations around the world. Presently, the most notable effects of hybrid wars can be seen in Syria, Ukraine, and Hong Kong. There are a number of cases where an aggressor using warfare has either admitted its involvement in the hybrid operations (Dawn report, 2017).

Pakistan, itself is a victim of hybrid warfare. It is pertinent that Pakistan timely understands, hybrid warfare and how the dynamics of such war tactic operate. As the event of 9/11 has changed the overall image of terrorism and incited religious attacks particularly on Muslims, it's high time our leaders understand the veracity of the issue. By, comprehending hybrid warfare, Pakistan could grasp the challenges faced on international arena and possible way outs to counter future skirmishes. As a response to hybrid warfare, nations should follow three easy steps *Detect, Deter and Respond!*

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**Strategic theory – decoding the aspirations and challenges of modern warfare tactic:**

The notion of Strategic Theory as a method of analysis has permeated into the wider domain of International Relations and Political Studies via the work of scholars like Bernard Brodie and Thomas Schelling, and has been increasingly employed as a tool to assist in the comprehension of decision-making, particularly with respect to the use of military power. Harry Yarger states:

*“Strategic theory opens the mind to all the possibilities and forces at play, prompting us to consider the costs and risks of our decisions and weigh the consequences of those of our adversaries, allies, and others”.*

Strategic theory assumes that all wars throughout history have shared certain common characteristics, which if not a litmus test are able to comprehend the basic doctrines of tussles and their consequences. For instance, the “comprehensive approach”, which was initially developed by the UK Ministry of Defense at the beginning of the 2000s and later recognized by all NATO members, is not different in its essence form “the grand strategy”, which has been well known for more than a century (Khan et al., 2012).

Interestingly, hybrid warfare, the term adopted by NATO shares many common aspects with the grand strategy as well. A holistic look of the current problems shows, this type of warfare is unique mixture of different war tactics. The most interesting weapon of such war method is ‘false propaganda’. Moreover, such kind enmity towards the opposing party is a slow, steady yet a swift way. Such methods fail to have historical continuity as the advent of globalization, has greatly they usually concentrate on some dimensions of strategy and suggest that the success can be gained through these particular dimensions.

The landscape of warfare has evolved dramatically over the past century, driven by technological advancements, geopolitical shifts, and changes in global dynamics. Amid this evolution, the concept of strategic theory has emerged as a critical framework for understanding the aspirations and challenges of modern warfare tactics. Strategic theory navigates the complex interplay of political objectives, military capabilities, and socio-cultural factors that shape contemporary conflicts. In the context of modern warfare, strategic theory serves as a compass, guiding military planners, policymakers, and theorists as they navigate a multifaceted and dynamic battlefield. At its core, strategic theory seeks to decipher the intricate balance between achieving national objectives and the realities of conflict. It is rooted in a nuanced comprehension of both the tangible and intangible elements that influence decision-making on and off the battlefield (Iqbal., 2018).

Aspirations in modern warfare are no longer confined solely to territorial gains or military victories. Today's strategic thinkers recognize the importance of information warfare, economic pressures, and psychological operations as crucial components of achieving strategic goals. Beyond military might, the art of modern warfare involves leveraging technology to gain competitive advantages in domains such as cyber warfare, space, and asymmetric tactics. Challenges, however, abound in the pursuit of these aspirations. The interconnectedness of the modern world has given rise to the notion that conflicts are not isolated events but rather interconnected nodes in a broader network. This complexity introduces challenges of attribution, escalation management, and the potential for unintended consequences. Moreover, the asymmetric nature of modern warfare tactics blurs traditional distinctions between combatants and civilians, underscoring ethical and legal dilemmas.

Hybrid warfare, which amalgamates conventional and unconventional tactics, exemplifies the contemporary challenges of strategic theory. The ability to manipulate information, wage cyber campaigns, and exploit socio-political fault lines challenges the traditional frameworks upon which strategic thought has been built. As technological innovation accelerates, so do the opportunities and vulnerabilities for both offensive and defensive actions. In this context, a nuanced understanding of strategic theory is essential. It requires an interdisciplinary approach that merges military science, political analysis, sociology, and psychology. Beyond the theater of war, strategic theory extends to the realm of diplomacy, economic sanctions, and international alliances. Decoding the aspirations and challenges of modern warfare tactics necessitates a holistic view that accounts for the complex interactions of a globalized world.

### **Horizontal and Vertical Growth of Hybrid Warfare Regime**

The evolution of warfare in the modern era has witnessed the emergence of hybrid warfare as a distinctive and complex strategy. Hybrid warfare transcends traditional boundaries, encompassing a broad spectrum of tactics that blend conventional military actions with unconventional tools such as information warfare, cyberattacks, economic coercion, and political subversion. This intricate approach to conflict has given rise to both horizontal and vertical growth within the hybrid warfare regime, fundamentally transforming the dynamics of contemporary geopolitical landscapes (Mustafa et al., 2020).

### **Horizontal Growth: Adaptation and Diversification**

Horizontal growth within the hybrid warfare regime refers to the widening spectrum of tools and tactics employed by state and non-state actors. Traditionally distinct domains, such as military, economic, and informational, are now interconnected through hybrid strategies. This

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evolution is driven by the recognition that diverse tools, employed simultaneously, can generate synergistic effects that amplify the overall impact of hybrid warfare. Information warfare exemplifies the horizontal expansion of the hybrid warfare regime. Manipulating social media, spreading disinformation, and influencing public opinion have become integral components of modern conflict. This approach exploits the interconnectedness of today's digitally connected world, enabling hybrid actors to blur the lines between fact and fiction, effectively eroding trust in institutions and sowing discord within target societies. Moreover, horizontal growth extends beyond the realm of technology. Economic coercion, trade disruptions, and financial subversion are leveraged to weaken adversaries' economies and gain strategic advantages. This interconnectedness across domains forces military strategists, intelligence agencies, diplomats, and economic experts to collaborate closely, creating a complex network of interdisciplinary efforts (Danielsen., 2023).

### **Vertical Growth: Escalation and Asymmetry**

Vertical growth, on the other hand, pertains to the increasing intensity and sophistication of tactics within each domain of hybrid warfare. As actors refine their strategies, they delve deeper into unconventional methods and invest in advanced technologies. This vertical progression escalates the potency of hybrid warfare, raising concerns about the potential for conflict escalation. The use of cyber weapons illustrates vertical growth within the hybrid warfare regime. State-sponsored hackers develop increasingly sophisticated malware, exploiting vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, communication networks, and military systems. Such attacks demonstrate the ability to cripple adversaries' capabilities without resorting to traditional kinetic warfare. Asymmetry is another facet of vertical growth, whereby weaker actors employ hybrid tactics to offset their conventional military disadvantages. Non-state actors, terrorist organizations, and even individuals can now wield outsized influence through strategic misinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and economic disruptions (Lovelace., 2016).

### **Modern Warfare's Require Modern Solution**

The shifting landscape of warfare in the contemporary era demands a paradigm shift in how conflicts are understood and approached. The traditional notions of armed confrontation have been significantly disrupted by the emergence of new technologies, tactics, and actors. As such, modern warfare necessitates modern solutions that are adaptive, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive in addressing the multifaceted challenges presented by these evolving dynamics.

### **Technological Advancements and Hybrid Threats**

The rapid advancement of technology has permeated all aspects of modern society, including the realm of warfare. Modern conflicts are characterized by the fusion of conventional and

unconventional tactics, resulting in hybrid threats that transcend geographical boundaries. As state and non-state actors leverage cyberspace, information warfare, and economic pressure alongside traditional military force, the toolbox of warfare has expanded dramatically.

### **Adaptability and Flexibility**

In response, modern solutions must embrace adaptability and flexibility as core tenets. Conventional strategies rooted solely in military might fall short in addressing the complexities of hybrid warfare. Instead, a multifaceted approach is required, one that harnesses the power of intelligence, diplomacy, economic measures, and technology to effectively counter hybrid threats. This demands the ability to pivot swiftly between different modes of operation as circumstances evolve (Murray et al., 2012).

### **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

Modern solutions in warfare require interdisciplinary collaboration that transcends the boundaries of military doctrine. The integration of expertise from diverse fields, including cyber defense, psychology, economics, and international relations, is essential. The interconnectedness of modern conflict necessitates a unified response that can anticipate and counteract hybrid tactics in a holistic manner.

### **Information Warfare and Strategic Narratives**

Central to modern warfare is the realm of information warfare. The ability to shape narratives and influence public opinion through digital platforms has become a potent weapon. Modern solutions must include strategies to counter disinformation, promote accurate information, and bolster societal resilience against the psychological impacts of hybrid tactics.

### **Ethical Considerations and Norms**

Modern solutions must also grapple with ethical considerations and the adherence to international norms. As warfare diversifies, the lines between combatant and civilian blur, necessitating a renewed commitment to minimizing collateral damage and respecting humanitarian principles. Striking a balance between innovation and ethical conduct is a hallmark of modern approaches to warfare.

### **Embracing Complexity**

In conclusion, the adage "modern warfare requires modern solutions" encapsulates the imperative to acknowledge and adapt to the intricate and rapidly evolving nature of contemporary conflict. The fusion of technology, tactics, and actors demands a comprehensive and dynamic response that goes beyond traditional military approaches. By embracing complexity, interdisciplinarity, and a forward-thinking mindset, societies and nations can



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effectively confront the challenges posed by modern warfare while fostering stability, security, and resilience in an ever-changing world.

### **Pakistan and Its Untwined Position Geo-Strategically- Ripples Effect on The Basic Ethos of Country**

In the prism of Pakistan's political culture and norms of how the politics is practiced, it's not shocking at all to witness propaganda and insurgent activities. In 21st century, war and warzones have changed their meanings drastically. The conflicts seen arising in Pakistan in the last decade, have been instigated by clandestine agents. The instigator of war stirs things up by creating false flag attacks on a targeted state or on itself, and blames other countries for either materially supporting, orchestrating, or letting its territory be used for these attacks. Such a false flag attack was **2014's Army Public School (APS) Attack**, bringing chills to the masses and converging all the blame onto the state. Even though, the biggest loss was to the few army personal's, in the form of loss of their innocent kids.

In the similar manner, a number of targeted activities in the country were later blamed upon the state in different timelines. All such illusion and attack from an unknown yet very physically existent, helps war instigator from gaining strategic goals and benefitting financially from the attacks. The strategic goals can range from stopping the progress of our country, majorly the CPEC and Pakistan's tilt towards the **Communist side i.e. China**. This is true as the West is fearful, and spreading a false narrative of "*China-the next East India Company in making.*" Moreover, the clear stance of Pakistan and her covert diplomacy shows where her loyalties are. The following mentioned war tactics have seen a surge in the sociopolitical atmosphere of Pakistan in the last decade:

- The use military, nonmilitary, media and cyber tools
- Information operations, NGOs, intelligence agencies and their inherent propaganda
- Ambiguity in the system
- Hike in terrorism
- Surge in insurgency or rebel movements
- Systemic aggression is imposed on the targeted state using gray zones,
- The use of nonlinear warfare and unrestricted warfare.
- Unconventional warfare and color revolutions to avoid attribution and possible retribution against the aggressor.

The geo-strategic positioning of a nation often serves as a pivotal determinant of its foreign policy, security considerations, and overall development trajectory. Pakistan, nestled at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, finds itself in a geo-strategic confluence that has profoundly shaped its history, identity, and global interactions. The untwined nature of Pakistan's geo-strategic position has rippled effects on the fundamental ethos of the country, influencing its internal dynamics, foreign relations, and national aspirations.

### **Geo-Strategic Significance**

Pakistan's location bestows it with immense geo-strategic significance. Its proximity to key players like India, China, Afghanistan, and Iran, along with its access to vital sea routes, has rendered it a central player in regional and global affairs. This positioning, while offering opportunities for economic cooperation and diplomatic leverage, also exposes Pakistan to regional conflicts and power dynamics.

### **Foreign Relations and Security Imperatives**

The untwined geo-strategic position of Pakistan has profound implications for its foreign relations and security imperatives. Historical rivalries and tensions with neighboring India have shaped the country's security posture, leading to military build-up and a focus on defense. Additionally, its alliance with the United States during the Cold War, coupled with its geographical proximity to Afghanistan, has made Pakistan a key player in the War on Terror and regional stability efforts.

### **Economic Opportunities and Challenges**

The untwined geo-strategic location of Pakistan offers economic opportunities, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its connection to China's Belt and Road Initiative. However, it also presents challenges related to border security, trade routes, and balancing relations with regional powers. The volatile situation in Afghanistan further impacts Pakistan's economic prospects, given its potential to disrupt trade and regional stability.

### **Cultural and Identity Complexities**

Pakistan's geo-strategic position has also influenced its cultural and identity complexities. The diverse cultural heritage of the region, along with its religious and linguistic diversity, is both a source of strength and a challenge. The untwined geo-strategic position of Pakistan, sandwiched between various ethnic and cultural influences, contributes to ongoing debates about national identity and cohesion.

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## **Internal Stability and Governance**

The untwined geo-strategic position of Pakistan, with its implications for regional conflicts and security challenges, directly impacts its internal stability and governance. Balancing the interests of various ethnic groups, religious sects, and political factions becomes a delicate task, as the country seeks to manage both internal cohesion and external pressures (James., 2016).

## **Conclusion**

In the context of South Asian regional stability, the current security situation indicates the use of hybrid warfare against Pakistan. Throughout the last two decades, especially since it became a nuclear power, Pakistan is in the midst of hybrid warfare. When Pakistan demonstrated its nuclear capability in 1998, along with powerful conventional military preparedness, her immediate neighbor India, found it difficult to coerce through direct conflict. So India shifted its policy towards hybrid tactics against Pakistan. Since then, India has been exploiting socio-ethnic and religious fault lines in Pakistan while propagating against every effort leading towards national cohesion. Along with the sinister plans of India, her allies have been nothing but sincere to India. During the latest exposure of the spy network following the arrest of RAW agent Kulbhushan Yadav by Pakistani security agencies reveals that rules of engagement have been changed. Whereas, the primary purpose of Pakistan-specific land warfare doctrine – declassified by the Indian Army in 2018 – was to initiate the hybrid nature of wars through modernization and integration of the armed forces. The continuance of the terrorist attacks in Baluchistan, with emerging military strategies of India are proofs that how swiftly they are penetrating in the political sphere of the country.

Even though our state is aware of the threat of Indian Hybrid warfare and taking appropriate safeguard, yet its nature is obscure and quite unawareness regarding such war tactic is widely present in masses. It is pertinent for Pakistan's policymakers to adopt a more practical and proactive approach for the formulation of a cohesive strategy to counter hybrid tactics. The government of Pakistan ought to conduct a self-evaluation of critical functions and weaknesses across all segments, especially related to international narrative building, and maintain it regularly.

There is a dire need to coordinate on multiple dimensions in formulating a national approach of self-assessment and threat analysis. The Military leadership already acknowledges that Pakistan confronts a hybrid war as the adversary tries to manipulate many of its financial, economic and political fault lines. In the changing dynamics of hybrid warfare, Pakistan must prepare itself at all levels of strategical, political and operational improvements.

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