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# Hybrid Warfare in Pakistan: How it's Effecting CPEC

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### **ARTICLE INFO**

#### ABSTRACT

Revised:June 19, 2023Accepted:June 20, 2023	This study explains the challenges linked with Hybrid Warfare that affect CPEC's projects in Pakistan. This work also weighs the hybrid warfare implications on CPEC and the steps required to counter threats. In the existing literature, the definitions of fifth- generation warfare and hybrid warfare are overlapping. In simple
<i>Keywords:</i> Hybrid Warfare 5th Generation Warfare Fighting 5GW Fighting Hybrid Threats Hybrid Threats Technology and Warfare CPEC	terms, Hybrid warfare is a form of warfare that targets the enemy country by targeting its culture, social fabric, and economy. Hybrid warfare is a post-9/11 phenomenon that becoming lethal day by day. This study only focuses on Military analysts, and researchers' analysis that how India had used hybrid war tactics to "destabilize Pakistan" regarding CPEC. This paper aims to study the various facets of 5th Generation Warfare and hybrid warfare regarding CPEC in its contemporary context. This too will analyze
<b>Funding:</b> This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.	<ul> <li>what can be done to combat the challenges that lay ahead to sabotage CPEC.</li> <li>© 2023 The Authors, Published by iRASD. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License</li> </ul>

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### 1. Introduction

From the beginning of the war human history continuously evolved. 1GW did evolve for hundreds of years. In the 100 years between "Waterloo and Verdun", 2GW grew and peaked, changing the emphasis from a large number of men to more powerful firepower. Third GW evolved and reached maturity in less than 25 years. At its conception, 4GW was implemented in China, but at the same time frame "3GW" had been introduced in European countries. Warfare changed into a different form that was not about nations or states fighting against other states or armies. The 5GW has been the result of the steady move of political and social devotion to causes rather than the nations. So it is defined by the rising influence of insignificant organizations. At its conception, 4-generation warfare was executed in China, at almost the same time as the 3-generation war was executed in Europe. Warfare changed into a different form that was not about nations or states fighting against other states or armies. The 5GW has been the result of the constant stir in political allegiances that affect states. "The beginning of the social media age has hosted different developments in traditional warfare. The new alternative social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp have introduced new trends in warfare. These platforms are breading false news, misleading media reports, and propaganda against opponents (Azad, 2020).

The Study of warfare and its ensuing ordering into 5 key phases/generations has attracted researchers' understanding of the societal and academic behavior of how states wage wars in modern times and how those possible dangers can be averted. Although, the past warfare tactics consisted of conventional approaches, a paradigm shift was noted when the new generation emerged in the world. It was categorized as a parting from conventional tactics which depends on large manpower, huge piles of ammunition, and bodily contact with the enemy on the battlefield. These kinds of wars were fought discretely and spread throughout the enemy's state

and society. The preferred mode of fighting in such combat trusts flexibility, adaptableness, and quickness rather than large manpower and weapons. The only objectives of such attacks were to destroy the adversary states in the most damaging manners, be it social, communal, political, or physical polity. The main difference between the end of the earlier modes of generations is that new generation warfare does not target manpower but other segments as well. It also aims, for ideas, culture, international agencies, market activities, media, and even the minds of the citizens. Finally, the objective of such tactics is to exploit the enemy's weakness to influence their policymakers so that they are not prepared to achieve their objectives against their opponent.

## 2. Fifth Generation Warfare

Because 5th-generation war is a new phenomenon, therefore there is a lack of consensus to map it. As one writer believes that "5<sup>th</sup>-generation warfare, uses communication and information tools as means of war between states (Tahir & Afridi, 2019). It is a more advanced type of fourth-generation warfare and can be explained as a war between non-state and state actors meant at sabotaging the prevailing system. While the origin of hybrid warfare remains uncertain, when measured according to the above-said definition, it can be traced to the 9/11 attacks in the United States. Which was planned and executed by the terrorist organization 'Al-Qaeda'. To achieve their goals techniques of attack have expanded ranging from, social, economic, and political to air, space, and cyberspace. Fifth Generation Warfare does not need a huge army nor does it feature concrete ideas to get its objectives. As one US Army intelligence officer sums up, it is a twister of ferocity, which is driven by deep-seated frustration lessening from the poor segments of society. The exponents of 5th-generation warfare combine conventional battlefield tactics with modern technologies. Thus the battlefield expands from cyberspace to a state's electricity supply to the banking system of a country. The utter goals of the perpetrators remain to instill fear and weaken the entire national framework to the core to shatter people's faith in state functions.

The concept of Modern Warfare Generations (MWG) had been formally introduced "in 1989" by military strategists of the "United States". International academia and military thinkers around the globe have defined five generations of warfare and explained it further. Worldwide security-related research led to the recognition of yet another generational warfare "Hybrid warfare". World researchers have believed to "Hybrid Warfare" has demonstrated its appearance, and continues to evolve. Different scholars and security analysts have defined hybrid in different ways. The concepts of "5th Generation Warfare (5GW) and Hybrid Warfare" required dissimilar standpoints as we have to apply them to other types of generations and forms of warfare to date. There has been no definition that is commonly accepted as either "5GW or Hybrid Warfare". Few view 5GW as a de-centralized kind of warfare that is differentiated by blurring lines among "war and politics, fighters and civilians", due to the complexity and long-term phenomenon of warfare. Hybrid Warfare another side is a strategy of the military that blends "conventional, irregular and cyber warfare, bio-warfare and is the product of new technologies such as nanotechnology", tied with an indirect political and social approach. It has been logical to accept that "5GW" transformed itself into Hybrid Warfare, given the rate at which change in warfare is accelerated. These two kinds of threats had multifaceted dimensions and massive changes would have to be made to the security arrangements against them. Modern world armies would need to take systematic approaches to combat both 5GW and the Hybrid Warfare threats.

## 3. Hybrid Warfare

Hybrid warfare, a fairly recent concept that does not in the first place required a widely accepted definition; is often used as a catchall word to define some type of hidden "non-military" deterioration efforts. The idea of a Hybrid War is as old as warfare itself. But its composition has stretched beyond traditional methods to other means and ways, including publicity operations. There may be propaganda dissemination, economic collapse or, all of these tactics had been used for ages, and nowadays that has been nothing, apart from how these techniques had been adapted to incorporate modern times technologies (Bachmann, 2015). Therefore, the phrase got highly politicized and intended to express hidden inferences, rendering the word "Hybrid Warfare" which is thereby a type of "Hybrid War". The idea of "Hybrid warfare" is unusual from many other things that are debated in the West, and it is much more realistic because it is not meant to be a propaganda weapon as the word itself has sadly become. "Currently, social media forums like the internet and other social media platforms introduced new trends in warfare. IWhichthe battle has been changed between information and perception (Nadeem, Mustafa, &

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Kakar, 2021). Alternatively, US-owned state-of-the-art strategy strategies are used to create the original model that explains how and why the US is the one that is currently fighting asymmetric conflicts worldwide through the combined use of a diversity of proxy forces. That model, however, allows for predicting where the next Hybrid Wars will be launched and provides lists of indicators of what to expect in the run-up to any about-to-happen event undermining operation (Ali, Rasheed, Muhammad, & Yousaf, 2018).

The emergence of "Hybrid warfare "also poses challenges for the U. S. Army, the emphasis remained on obsolete differences among forms of warfare. However, new warfare convergence "Hybrid warfare" claims show that the future cannot be detained with a single defense strategy. It will be more likely the mixture of modes and the actors of warfare demands that the US change and extend its traditional mentality. The current national strategies of the nation, principles of warfare, and systems of power are unfit for this new mixture of warfare. Intellectually, the country and army remain institutionally ill-equipped for the changes in the war (Bachmann, 2015). The US will resolve this disparity by re-looking at these three "national security" areas the better align its method to growing threats and war characters. To combat competitors who aim to use the full spectrum of strategies to fight U. S. goals and capabilities, the government at the top levels must combine better all the elements of "national power in the strategic plans" of the government and actions (Gray Colin, 2005). The leadership of the country must foster funding to a complete government strategy to deter conflicts through statecraft, but at the same movement recruit and keep a huge army capability for the protection of our important interests.

National leadership needs to promote and finance complete governmental policy to counter all types of threats through a policy of national leadership, while simultaneously having and maintaining a strong par-military capacity to defend our national interests. The first step would be to restore its prestige and integrity to the State Department and the U. S. It will help to isolate the challenge by seeking to form, control, and stabilize the global environment through cooperation and dedication. The hybrid hazard model has gained momentum over the past two years. In addition, that has been highlighted with the new "Joint Capstone Concept" for combined Operations (Bartkowski, 2015) in "Joint Forces Command's Joint Operational Environment 2008". Does the "hybrid threat" discussed in the United States National Military Strategy 2015 by General Marty Dempsey make logical sense? General Marty Dempsey, describes the risk assessment process for national security threats, discusses the most important US security threats, and studies the hybrid threat. Does the "hybrid threat" address in the United States National Military Strategy 2015 by General Marty Dempsey, explains the risk assessment process for national security threats desceribles the most important US security threats, and studies the hybrid threat, and studies the hybrid threat, and studies the hybrid threat, and studies the hybrid threats, and studies the hybrid threat, and studies the hybrid threats, and studies the risk assessment process for national security threats addresses the most important US security threats, and studies the hybrid threats,

To gain the support of "Russian speakers" in their foreign policy activities at home and abroad, the Kremlin wants state-sponsored media to be supportive. This research paper examined how the "Kremlin" had developed its capacity over the past decade to armament digital news media in the Russian language. The using "quantitative and qualitative" content analysis, examined digital news articles in the language of Russia which was published by "Pro-Kremlin media" outlet during two events-the Russian/Georgian War of 2008 also the 2014 Crimean annexation (Brown & Brown, 2011). The result showed from "2008 to 2014 Moscow" enhanced its capability to capitalize on the unlimited publication space that digital news affords, in the year 2014 content samples were much more thematically sophisticated and also potentially many persuasive (Gray Colin, 2005).

### 4. Pakistan and Hybrid Warfare

Pakistan is a victim of Indian ill intentions since its inception because of its rivalry with its hegemonic neighbor India. The bitterness that haunted both nation-states was inculcated in their foundation. This enmity increased manifold after Pakistan declared itself a nuclear state in 1998. For almost the last two decades the Pakistani state is under the veil of a Hybrid War between its arch-foe India and its Western powers. It is further aggravated since Pakistan tested devices that started a nuclear race Sub-continent (Munir Akram, 2021). But with the commencement of the hybrid war, Pakistan has to face threats internally as well externally because of its structural problems. On internal grounds, Pakistan is immersed with terrorism and extremism that is destroying its social fabric. Similarly, on external fronts, India and Afghanistan are the bleeding wounds that had consistent pressures. Indian being a big and powerful country is a real threat to Pakistan's existence. This situation is further deteriorated by the hybrid warfare in which India

has more capacity to harm Pakistan. The 5<sup>th</sup> Generation War is the most debated topic in Pakistan. It is because the country found itself under the spotlight of Indian aggression against Pakistan's interests (Shams, 2022).

Pakistan has solid reasons to consider India as its arch-rival because of its chequered history. They both fought wars in 1948, 1965, 1971, and 1999. In today's world India has excelled in every field of life. Its stature in global politics has given her a prominent role. Now India's voice is stronger and it can suppress Pakistan's complaint when it wages a hybrid war against Pakistan. "the state of India has often utilized its existing means to hurt Pakistan. That affected Pakistan, domestically psychologically, economically, globally, and militarily,". (Mirza & Babar, 2020). Modern military conflicts have sometimes been referred to as "new irregular" or "asymmetric labels" intended to discriminate the structures of existing conflict from those of the past. However, the vocabulary of asymmetry has not merely a handily ambiguous sheen for a different conflict, which also has provided a normative scheme that moralizes and depoliticizes the disparity amongst "states and non-state actors" (Gompert, 2007). That definition asymmetric of contemporary conflicts enables states to be depicted as targets of "non-state actors" as exposed to the strategic assemblage that they theoretically cannot win. Presently Pakistan is facing numerous challenges including conventional and sub-conventional. It means its enemy knows that it cannot beat it with fair means. Thus they have subjected Pakistan to cruel, evil, and protracted hybrid warfare means (Syed, 2018).

"Asymmetry" has the idiom for differentiating between civilized and inhumane warfare today, an idiom that converts ostensibly technological or strategic differences between "state and non-state actors" into hierarchies of morals and civilization. In addition, the argument that such kind of violence has new is used to validate attempts to update and rewrite armed conflict global norms. Although these efforts in the institutional arena are unlikely to be successful, privately, a restructuring of the international social order is already underway. How States view an integral key element of international human rights law at the heart of the whole transformation: the concept of discrimination between combatants and civilians. Enemies of Pakistan are dining their best to hatch conspiracies against it to sabotage it economically. They are operating through their proxies and changed conventional warfare, through a combination of military and paramilitary tools. They are using radicalized militant groups and ethnic separatists to destabilize Pakistan's geographical unity. Cyber tools, and dis-information operations through proxies are the instrumental weapons against Pakistan (Jaspal, 2018).

The rivalry between India and Pakistan has varied considerably in strength, both in the time and issue areas. This presents numerous puzzles which cannot be adequately addressed by comparison solely to geopolitics. India has been waging 5th-generation warfare against Pakistan by spreading disinformation and propaganda to damage it socially and financially (Nadeem et al., 2021). There are a few examples, that to be why "India" has been relatively awry towards Pakistan. These reasons are CPEC, the Kashmir issue, Indus water treaty (Ali et al., 2018). Environmental factors cannot be ignored as well. This is another non-traditional threat, where Pakistan's vulnerable position gives it is enemy an upper hand to further exploit the situation. India has control over all water resources flowing from Indian-held and Kashmir. That's why after the Uri attack, PM Modi reiterated the Indian stance over this sensitive issue and said that "Blood and water cannot flow together" (Mohan, 2018, March 30). That competitive environment for security arrangements has never really been zero-sum for states. To some large extent, it depends on the opportunities and challenges that the respective institutions impose on domestic political actors. The Indian hybrid threats against Pakistan have solid reasons that are including political, social, and economic" (Naz, 2021). For much of its history, the enmity between India and Pakistan had been dominated by opposing types of rule in both countries, India has a long history of democracy and Pakistan is mostly ruled by the military. It is suggested here that regime types aggravate or reduce conflicts by the degree to which they have been contentious by maintaining internal stability.

The enmity between "India and Pakistan" has controlled much of its heritage by opposing types of "Indian rule-democracy and Pakistani military authoritarian rule". Indian Intelligence; Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has a long history of abutting with Afghanistan's NDS to attacks on Pakistan's paramilitary, military, and security troops (H. U. Khan & Khalid, 2018). The story of the regional rivalry between "India and Pakistan" has complex and that needed to be

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decreased for the prosperity of the people living in both countries (Ali et al., 2018). It is a troublesome situation for Pakistan to engage with the Modi government in a dialogue that has ultra-nationalist agenda. It would be a tough task to give India an increasing economic and military superiority in the current scenario. This situation is more complex in the context of bilateral disputes like Kashmir and the religiously discriminating biases of the Modi regime against Muslims (I. Khan, 2018, December 7).

If we want to achieve the economic target of Pakistan's "sustainable economic" growth through CPEC logistics preparations, this research paper would describe and analyzes the advantages of CEPC, Nevertheless, the growing Sino-Pak strategic cooperation under CPEC umbrella has been under constant threat from India, which has a reservation on this project (Naz, 2021). it would also discuss and point out the legal system of Pakistan system and its related shortcomings under the circumstances. In addition, it would create a range of legal and policy concerns, thereby generating confusion and conflict of laws at home as well as abroad. Such problems can be tackled and resolved by updating domestic transportation and logistics rules. The "adoption and accession of international conventions" of transport and logistics would also have the most important role to play for fruitful results of CPEC (Deshpande). In its 2019 report, an Indian report exposed an extensive network sponsored by the Indian government to run fake NGO networks and media outlets for spreading propaganda against Pakistan (Machado, Alaphilippe, Adamczyk, & Grégoire, 2020). India had tried to put Pakistan on the blacklist of the FATF to further aggravate Pakistan's economic woes (Chaudhary, 2019).

### 5. Fifth Generation Warfare and CPEC

Currently, Pakistan has facing many existential threats that are messing with the state and society. The instant threat to Pakistan's internal security is confronted by its existing fault lines, India and Afghanistan (Pitafi, 2020, July 31). Hence, these fault lines must get acknowledged and fixed through national security policies. The sectors of, Social Media Activists, Non-state actors Sectarianism, Ethnic Extremism, Non-Governmental Organizations, Disinformation or Fake News, and Propaganda, Socio-economic Problems needed immediate attention to get resolved. (2020, July 31). Tribune newspaper rightly identified it when it says that Pakistan's real fault lines must be put on the right path as soon as possible (Tribune, 2016). In Pakistani's case, the pattern of such fault lines can be recognized easily because Pakistan has been dealing with 5th-generation warfare for a long time. Likewise, Pakistan's geo-strategic position which makes it an important player in China's OBI project, increases its internal faultiness with the application of Hybrid Warfare. All these factors are paving the way for the current internal disorder and vulnerable national security environment in Pakistan. To cope with these challenges immediate strategic methods are needed which rely on a broad range of competencies. Therefore, Pakistan needs to evaluate and adjust its national strategies, goals, and concepts of warfare, and re-vamp the structures of its force. To cope with such threats a nation must be able to integrate contemporary technologies professionally and effectively, to succeed in the ever-evolving nature of war. For this, we need to carry out a comparison between Fifth generation warfare and Hybrid Warfare to analyze their repercussions on Pakistan's national security, mainly on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and also suggest suitable options in various fields.

So far, 5th-generation warfare remains unclear. There is no agreed definition of 5thgeneration warfare so far. Some defense analysts denoted it as unhindered Warfare or Open Source Warfare. To know When did 5GW start and what were the reasons, we have some theories. The Non-Contact Warfare theory believes that a precise target is devastated without a glimpse of a human being. If such contention could be proved correct then 5<sup>th</sup> gen. It began to use rifled-barrel weapons with long-range artillery and naval gunfire. "The 5<sup>th</sup> generation warfare has been studied since the year 9/11" (Abid & Ashfaq, 2015). It is a multipurpose warfare tactic, which can be described as the use of all available means. It meant involving military power and it meant not involving military power. This also believes in involving fatalities and means that not involving casualties forces the enemy to serve one purpose.

Due to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation war uses the distinctive lines between war and peace have largely been blurred. Hybrid warfare has empowered non-state actors and criminal gangs to work against states. They are stealing the room for conventional conflict against military-to-military and states versus states. Analyzing the Threats connected with hybrid warfare has been the most focused research area for military and security academies around the world. Since its inception,

Pakistan has faced multifaceted challenges. The dominating security agendas developments in the South Asian security environment have changed dramatically. India's aggression in India held in Kashmir, including a recent false flag strike in Pakistan, is a continuous violation of the Line of Control. This misadventure of the Indian submarine has confronted the core of international laws that can be caused a full-fledged war (Abid & Ashfaq, 2015). On its Western border, India's nexus with Afghanistan has empowered Daesh to create unrest in Pakistan. Similarly, India's overt involvement in Baluchistan has created multi-front threats for Pakistani armed forces. India has been invoking hybrid warfare tactics in Pakistan since their inception (Mirza & Babar, 2020).

## 6. Research Methodology

Work being conducted through this research paper is analytical because information and material already available have been used and evaluated. Unlike all other studies of military / non-military topics, this research has not claimed to tackle a problem in depth but aims to include one of the ways forward for policymakers. This work might thus be called applied research. This work is focused on the data obtained from secondary sources, due to the lack of resources to collect it through primary data. There are so many sources that would have been used to collect data, including books, academic magazines, debates and speeches, newspapers, research articles, etc. The data have been analyzed using a critical approach and a qualitative discussion method. The study will also rely on a "mixed-method approach" using both "quantitative and qualitative" data.

### 6.1. Sampling Procedure

Non-probability sampling also "known as "Purposive Sampling" was used in this research. The requirement for this sampling approach is for the deliberate or purposeful collection of different cases of states to establish a very sample representing the people because this study selects such books, journals, and articles by writers in the same area of research. That has been Judgment Sampling the judgment undertaken by the researcher to select items that he considers to represent the population or the cases being studied.

### 6.2. Description of Instruments Used

This work has been focused on the collection of data from almost "secondary sources" because it was not possible due to the non-availability of resources to collect primary data. Different secondary sources have been used to collect data, including numerous "books, journals, discussions and lectures, the internet, newspapers, articles, and newspapers". The data has been analyzed using a critical approach and a qualitative discussion.

### 7. Conclusion

This article identifies the relationship between China's economic partnership with Pakistan in infrastructural development and India's propaganda through hybrid war to sabotage this dream project. The CPEC initiative has been launched successfully to create the Economic Corridor between these two countries but Economic challenges, political security contains policy, uncertainty, and insecurity due to India's perception that both China and Pakistan encircling her slow the CPEC pace. This study determines the challenges related to Hybrid (5GW) Warfare on CPEC from India. This also evaluates hybrid war implications and the measure required to counter future threats. The existing literature overlapped the definitions of fifth-generation warfare and hybrid warfare. When defined in simple terms, it is a form of warfare that aims to destroy the enemy state from within by targeting its culture, societal values, and economy. For this paper, the emergence of fifth-generation warfare is to be considered a post-9/11 phenomenon that is spreading widely. Although the study of this notion is under research throughout the world, it remains to be seen how academics view the onset of fifth-generation warfare (5GW) tactics being used in Pakistan. Military analysts, as well as researchers, suggest that India had used this type of war tactic to "destabilize Pakistan" in the past and continues to do so while USA and Russia remain at loggerheads accusing each other of the use of hybrid warfare to interfere in their political processes. The second peaceful democratic transfer of power in Pakistan in 2018 was marked by accusations of foul play and military involvement in local as well as international media hence foul-play and military involvement in local as well as international media hence leading the nation to bring legitimacy to the incumbent government into question. We study various facets of 5th Generation Warfare and hybrid warfare regarding CPEC in its contemporary context. It is pertinent to analyze what can be done to combat the challenges that lay ahead.

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