Asymmetric Warfare
Thematic Bibliography no. 10/10

Les guerres asymétriques
Bibliographie thématique no. 10/10
How to borrow items from the list below:

As a member of the NATO HQ staff you can borrow books (Type: M) for one month, journals (Type: ART) and reference works (Type: REF) for one week. Individuals not belonging to NATO staff can borrow books through their local library via the interlibrary loan system.

How to obtain the Multimedia Library publications:

All Library publications are available both on the NATO Intranet and Internet websites.

Comment emprunter les documents cités ci-dessous:

En tant que membre du personnel de l’OTAN vous pouvez emprunter les livres (Type: M) pour un mois, les revues (Type: ART) et les ouvrages de référence (Type: REF) pour une semaine. Les personnes n’appartenant pas au personnel de l’OTAN peuvent s’adresser à leur bibliothèque locale et emprunter les livres via le système de prêt interbibliothèques.

Comment obtenir les publications de la Bibliothèque multimédia:

Toutes les publications de la Bibliothèque sont disponibles sur les sites Intranet et Internet de l’OTAN.

Author(s):
1. Gross, Michael L., 1954-

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
2. MILITARY ETHICS--USA
3. WAR--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS

Notes:

'Asymmetric conflict is changing the way that we practice and think about war. Torture, rendition, assassination, blackmail, extortion, direct attacks on civilians, and chemical weapons are all finding their way to the battlefield despite long-standing prohibitions. This book offers a practical guide for policymakers, military officers, lawyers, students, journalists, and others who ask how to adapt the laws and conventions of war to the changing demands of asymmetric conflict. As war wages between state and nonstate parties, difficult questions arise about the status of guerrillas, the methods each side may use to disable the other, and the means necessary to identify and protect civilians caught in the crossfire. Answering these questions while providing each side a reasonable chance to press its claims by force of arms requires us to reevaluate the principle of noncombatant immunity, adjust the standards of proportionality, and redefine the limits of unnecessary suffering and superfluous injury. In doing so, many practices that conventional war prohibits are slowly evolving into new norms of asymmetric conflict.'

ID number: 80023353
Year: 2010
Type: M

* This list contains material received as of October 25th, 2010.—Cette liste est arrêtée au 25 octobre 2010.
This book examines the local and international dynamics and strategies that have come to define the often violent relationship between Israel and Lebanon. Since the end of the Cold War, academic debate over the nature of war in the contemporary world has focused upon the asymmetric nature of conflict among a raft of failed or failing states, often held together by only a fragile notion of a shared communal destiny. Little scholarly attention has been paid, however, to one such conflict that predates the ending of the Cold War, yet still appears as intractable as ever: Israel's hostile relationship with Lebanon and in particular, its standoff with the Lebanese Shi'a militia group, Hizbollah. As events surrounding the 'Second Lebanon War' in the summer of 2006 demonstrate, the clear potential for further cross-border violence as well as the potential for a wider regional conflagration that embraces Damascus and Tehran remains as acute as ever. This book focuses on the historical background of the conflict, while also considering the role that other external actors, most notably Syria, Iran ad the United Nations, play in influencing the conduct and outcomes of the Israeli–Lebanese conflict. In addition, it also looks at Hizbollah's increasing sway in Lebanese domestic politics, its increased military cooperation with Iran and Syria and the implications of such developments.'

This book argues that two intimately connected trends are putting modern armies under huge pressure to adapt: the rise of insurgencies and the rise of the Web. Both in cyberspace and in warfare, a public dimension has assumed increasing importance in only a few years. The book traces the contrasting ways in
which insurgents and counterinsurgents have adapted irregular conflict to novel media platforms. It examines the public affairs policies of the US land forces, the British Army, and the Israel Defense Forces. Then, it compares the media-related counterinsurgency methods of these conventional armies with the methods devised by their irregular adversaries, showing how such organizations as al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Hezbollah use the Web, not merely to advertise their political agenda and influence public opinion, but to mobilize a following and put violent ideas into action. But the same technology that tends to level the operational playing field in irregular warfare also incurs heavy costs on insurgents, and even heavier costs on terrorists.'

ID number: 80022660
Year: 2009
Type: M

2009

355.1 /00059
Ethics Education for Irregular Warfare - Farnham, UK : Ashgate.
xviii, 165 p.; 24 cm.
(Military and Defence Ethics)
ISBN: 9780754677000
Subject(s):
  1. MILITARY ETHICS
  2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
  3. COUNTERINSURGENCY--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
  4. LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICTS (MILITARY SCIENCE)--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
Added entry(s):
  1. Carrick, Don, ed.
  2. Connelly, James, ed.
Notes:
  Includes index.
'this volume considers the extent to which the theory and practice of educating soldiers, sailors and airmen in the ethics of 'old fashioned' warfaring is adequate to prepare members of the military to meet the more complex ethical challenges faced when engaging in irregular warfare in the 21st century. Authors address issues of major and ongoing importance for military personnel of Western states. In recent years, events in Iraq and Afghanistan have highlighted the requirement that such personnel, drawn from the armed forces of many different countries, should behave in an ethical manner at all times. Public and political interest in such matters is intense, and the behaviour of armed forces personnel is the subject of unrelenting media scrutiny. Consequently, efforts to improve the ethical education of military personnel have acquired a high priority.'

ID number: 80023399
Year: 2009
Type: M
355.1  /00055
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
2. COUNTERINSURGENCY--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
3. TERRORISM--PREVENTION--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
4. LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICTS (MILITARY SCIENCE)--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
5. MILITARY ETHICS
Added entry(s):
1. Baarda, Ted van, ed.
2. Verweij, Desiree, ed.
3. Netherlands Defence Academy (NL)
4. Netherlands Institute for Military Ethics (NL)
5. Ministry of Defence (NL)
Notes:
Includes index.
'This collection of essays links the medieval traditions of jus in bello, codified by Saint Thomas Aquinas in the Christian Church nearly eight centuries ago, to examination of modern challenges and moral dilemmas relating to the ethics and laws of conflict and crises of all types in the twenty-first century, and in a global context among people of many different faiths and beliefs, and none.'
ID number: 80022830
Year: 2009
Type: M

2008
623    /01079
Kalashnikov Culture: Small Arms Proliferation and Irregular Warfare – Westport, CT: Praeger Security International. xiv, 185 p.; 25 cm. (PSI reports)
ISBN: 9780313346149
Author(s):
1. Carr, Christopher, 1947-
Subject(s):
1. FIREARMS
2. ILLEGAL ARMS TRANSFERS
3. WEAPONS PROLIFERATION
4. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
Bibliography: p. 169-175. Includes index.
'In the late 1980s, officials in Pakistan began to refer to a condition they called 'Kalashnikov culture'. The reference was to an amalgam of problems that were contributing to chronic insecurity within Pakistan centering on the proliferation of small arms. Yet, the condition itself prevailed elsewhere and in earlier times. Kalashnikov cultures have proliferated without regard for geography or even for levels of development. This cultural dynamic has a direct and deadly impact on issues such as arms control, illegal and illicit trading, gun cultures, the nexus between criminality and militia warfare and the social impact of arms proliferation, and the struggle for weak states that attempt to govern. The author investigates the cultural impact of the availability of these easy-to-come-by weapons. The work takes the form of alternating chapters in which elements of Kalashnikov enculturation, for example the peculiar forms of aberrant economic activity that exist within Kalashnikov cultures, are paired with chapter-length, mini-case
studies, such as that dealing with armed gang movements in Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, and Brazil. The whole work is bounded by the contention that, under certain conditions, heavily weaponized societies create their own milieu, which in turn gives rise to communities that find ways to survive (and sometimes thrive) within an ambiance of chronic insecurity.'

ID number: 80022515
Year: 2008
Type: M

355.4 /01607
Le nouvel art de la guerre : essai - Paris : L'Archipel.
156 p.; 23 cm.
ISBN: 9782809800661

Author(s):
1. Chaliand, Gerard, 1934-

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICTS (MILITARY SCIENCE)
3. MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

Notes:

'On ne peut dire que les guerres d'Irak et d'Afghanistan aient ete engagees avec une vraie connaissance culturelle de l'adversaire. Aussi grave, mais plus paradoxal : les societes occidentales, croyant bien se connaitre, mesurent mal leurs propres transformations et les consequences militaires qui en decoulent. Ainsi, depuis plusieurs decennies, l'hemisphere Nord accuse un recul demographique, tandis que l'epicentre des conflits paraît de plus en plus se situer dans les opinions publques, qui les veulent brefs et victorieux. La sensibilite d'une population vieillissante supporte mal les pertes militaires. Or, les guerres dites asymetriques sont, par nature, des guerres d'usure ... Des troupes occidentales peuvent-elles, aujourd'hui, gagner des guerres irregulieres ? Ont-elles encore interet a intervenir massivement ? De nouvelles strategies prevaudront-elles demain ? Autant de questions que pose cet essai pour repenser l'art eternel de la guerre.'

ID number: 80022669
Year: 2008
Type: M

355.4 /01593
xviii, 67 p. : ill.; 23 cm.
ISBN: 9780833043221

Subject(s):
1. LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICTS (MILITARY SCIENCE)--USA
2. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE--USA
3. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--USA

Added entry(s):
1. Rand Corporation (US)

Notes:

'The objective of this study was to provide an analytic framework for intelligence analysis of irregular warfare environments that could be used as the basis for a subsequent IW intelligence analysis curriculum development effort. The authors conducted a review of recent policy, strategy, doctrinal, and other materials pertaining to IW, concluding that although the term irregular warfare remains somewhat
nebulous, situations considered within the realm of IW generally can be thought of in terms of two main stylized types: (1) population-centric IW situations, which include such missions as counterinsurgency, foreign internal defense, and support to insurgency, where the indigenous population is the center of gravity; and (2) counterterrorism operations, whether conducted as one element of a theater commander's campaign or as part of the US Special Operations Command-led global war on terrorism, where a cellular network is being targeted. The authors identify the intelligence and analytic requirements associated with each of these two stylized forms of IW and describe a top-down framework, or analytic procedure, that can be used for assessing IW environments. Also included is a list of references to IW-relevant doctrinal publications.'

ID number: 80022498
Year: 2008
Type: M

2007

355.4 /01510
Author(s):
1. Thornton, Rod
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
  'In recent years, the nature of conflict has changed. Through 'asymmetric warfare', radical groups and weak state actors are using unexpected means to deal stunning blows to more powerful opponents in the West. From terrorism to information warfare, the West's air power, sea power and land power are open to attack from clever, but much weaker, enemies. The author unpacks the meaning and significance of asymmetric warfare, in both civilian and military realms, and examines why it has become such an important subject for study. He seeks to provide answers to key questions, such as how weaker opponents apply asymmetric techniques against the Western world, and shows how the West's military superiority can be seriously undermined by asymmetric threats. The book concludes by looking at the ways in which the US, the state most vulnerable to asymmetric attack, is attempting to cope with some new battlefield realities.'

ID number: 80021134
Year: 2007
Type: M
2006

355.4 /01495
316 p. : ill.; 24 cm.
ISBN: 0231129823
Author(s):
  1. Shultz, Richard H., 1947-
  2. Dew, Andrea J.
Subject(s):
  1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
  2. INSURGENCY
  3. MILITIA
  4. PARAMILITARY FORCES
  5. ARMED FORCES
Notes:
  Includes index.
'Since the end of the Cold War, conventional militaries and their political leaders have confronted a new, brutal type of warfare in which non-state armed groups use asymmetrical tactics to successfully fight larger, technologically superior forces. In order to prevent further bloodshed and political chaos, it is crucial to understand how these unconventional armed groups think and to adapt to their methods of combat. The authors investigate the history and politics of modern asymmetrical warfare. By focusing on four specific hotbeds of instability - Somalia, Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Iraq - they conduct a careful analysis of tribal culture and the value of clan associations. They examine why these 'traditional' or 'tribal' warriors fight, how they recruit, where they find sanctuary, and what is behind their strategy. Traveling across two centuries and several continents, the authors examine the doctrinal, tactical, and strategic advantages and consider the historical, cultural and anthropological factors behind the motivation and success of the warriors of contemporary combat.'
ID number: B0020970
Year: 2006
Type: M

2005

355.4 /01481
How the Weak Win Wars : A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict - Cambridge, UK : Cambridge University Press.
xv, 250 p. : ill.; 24 cm.
(Cambridge Studies in International Relations ; 99)
ISBN: 0521839769
Author(s):
  1. Arreguin-Toft, Ivan
Subject(s):
  1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
'How do the weak win wars? The likelihood of victory and defeat in asymmetric conflicts depends on the interaction of the strategies weak and strong actors use. Using statistical and in-depth historical analyses of conflicts spanning two hundred years, the author shows that, independent of regime type and weapons technology, the interaction of similar strategic approaches favors strong actors, while opposite strategic approaches favor the weak. This new approach to understanding asymmetric conflicts allows us to make sense of how the United States was able to win its war in Afghanistan (2002) in a few months, while the Soviet Union lost after a decade of brutal
The author's strategic interaction theory has implications not only for international relations theory, but for policymakers grappling with interstate and civil wars, as well as terrorism.

This book provides a timely discussion of the concept of asymmetric warfare which has become one of the main issues of the day in the wake of the attacks of 9/11 and the ensuing invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Laying emphasis on contemporary documents and drawing on material from Soviet archives, it centers on wars conducted in Afghanistan which have been of the asymmetric type. Subjects examined include: five wars conducted in Afghanistan by an external invader over the past two centuries; the decisions and actions of politicians and the military involved in the wars in question; the successes and failures of diplomatic endeavours during the wars.

In this concise and penetrating study, the author illuminates the effect of the operational, organizational, legal and moral constraints on the ability of the United States to use military force. As the tragic events of September 11 demonstrated, potential adversaries can take advantage of these limitations, thus spawning 'asymmetrical warfare'. Professor Barnett defines asymmetrical warfare as not simply a case of pitting one's strength against another's weakness but rather of taking the calculated risk to exploit an adversary's inability or unwillingness to prevent, or defend against, certain actions. This reluctance to retaliate in 'an eye for an eye' fashion complicates the dilemma of American policymakers who seek to wield power and influence on the world stage while simultaneously projecting a peaceful and benign image.
Rethinking Asymmetric Threats - Carlisle Barracks, PA : US Army War College.
vi, 63 p.; 23 cm.
ISBN: 1584871393
Author(s):
1. Blank, Stephen J.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. USA--MILITARY POLICY
Added entry(s):
1. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute (US)
Notes:
'Assessment of the threat environment is a critical element in the formulation of any state's strategy and defense doctrine. It also should be an inherently critical process that seeks to free policymakers from incorrect, antiquated, or misconceived perceptions about the threat. Consequently, the nature of the threat(s) to the United States or any other government faces is the subject of a never-ending debate. For several years US policymakers, officials and writers on defense have employed the terms 'asymmetric' or 'asymmetry' to characterize everything from the nature of the threats we face to the nature of war and beyond. This monograph challenges the utility of using those terms to characterize the threats we face, one element of the broader debate over the nature of war, US strategy, and the threats confronting us. As a work of critique, it aims to make an important contribution to the threat debate. A correct assessment of the nature of the threat environment is essential to any sound defense doctrine for the US Army and the military as a whole. That correct assessment can only be reached through a process of critique and debate.'

Russia in Afghanistan and Chechnya : Military Strategic Culture and the Paradoxes of Asymmetric Conflict - Carlisle Barracks, PA : US Army War College.
v, 75 p.; 23 cm.
ISBN: 1584871105
Author(s):
1. Cassidy, Robert M.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. AFGHANISTAN--HISTORY--SOVIET OCCUPATION, 1979-1989
3. CHECHNYA (RUSSIA)--HISTORY--CIVIL WAR, 1994-
4. RUSSIA (FEDERATION)--MILITARY POLICY
Added entry(s):
1. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute (US)
Notes:
'Asymmetric warfare poses some of the most pressing and complex challenges faced by the United States today. As American defense leaders and strategic thinkers adapt to this era of asymmetry, it is important that we learn both from our own experience and from that of other nations which have faced asymmetric enemies. In this monograph, Major Cassidy uses a detailed assessment of the Russian experience in Afghanistan
and Chechnya to draw important conclusions about asymmetric warfare. He then uses this to provide recommendations for the US military, particularly the Army. Major Cassidy points out that small wars are difficult for every great power, yet are the most common kind. Even in this era of asymmetry, the US Army exhibits a cultural preference for the 'big war' paradigm. He suggests that the US military in general, including the Army, needs a cultural transformation to master the challenge of asymmetry fully. From this will grow doctrine and organizational change.'

ID number: 80018505
Year: 2003
Type: M

2002

355.4 /01367
Les guerres asymetriques : conflits d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, terrorisme et nouvelles menaces - Paris : IRIS.
287 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
(Enjeux Strategiques)
ISBN: 2913395120
Author(s):
1. Courmont, Barthelemy
2. Ribnikar, Darko
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Added entry(s):
1. Institut de Relations Internationales et Strategiques (FR)
Notes:
'Tandis que le puissant se doit de respecter des regles et mise totalement sur sa superiorite technique et militaire, le faible est celui qui peut tout se permettre. Les exemples historiques dans lesquels les acteurs disposant de moyens limites se sont imposés sont aussi nombreux que ceux ou la technique offrait l'avantage. Les guerres asymetriques, a savoir l'opposition de deux adversaires aux forces desequilibrees, existaient deja au temps de Sun Tzu, et font meme l'objet d'un des plus celebres episodes de la Bible : David contre Goliath. Les attentats du 11 septembre 2001 ont fait la demonstration qu'avec des moyens infimes, il est possible d'obtenir des resultats totalement disproportionnes et de terroriser la premiere puissance mondiale. La reponse a ce danger de voir proliferer les guerres asymetriques ne se trouve pas dans l'acquisition de nouveaux engins de guerre, cela ayant meme pour objet d'exacerber davantage la rancioeur et de pousser plus loin l'imagination de ceux qui contestent l'autorite du plus fort. Faire de sa faiblesse un avantage et contourner la puissance de son adverse pour parvenir a un degré de nuisance disproportionne : voila ce que peut faire l'acteur asymetrique determine.'

ID number: 80022748
Year: 2002
Type: M
xix, 220 p. : ill.; 24 cm.
ISBN: 0714652989

Author(s):
  1. Leech, John, 1925-

Subject(s):
  1. SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL
  2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:
'This book aims to give both the voter and the decision-maker a
new vision of how to manage crises and avert hostilities
through non-traditional means. Most of today's challenges come
from those unwilling to adjust to a global society. Even though
small groups of men have access to huge destructive forces if
they couple small material resources to their ferocious
ingenuity, future threats to security are likely to concern not
our immediate safety but the proper management of the world in
which we have an interest. For that we need soft power, but
always with a hard edge. Warfare must remain the last resort.'

ID number: 80018530
Year: 2002
Type: M

The New Craft of Intelligence: Achieving Asymmetric Advantage in the
Face of Nontraditional Threats - Carlisle Barracks, PA: US Army War
College.
vi, 53 p. : ill.; 30 cm.
ISBN: 1584870834

Author(s):
  1. Steele, Robert D.

Subject(s):
  1. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE--USA
  2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Added entry(s):
  1. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute (US)

Notes:
'Since the mid-1990s, the concept of strategic asymmetry has been
receiving serious attention from the US Department of Defense.
This monograph examines two paradigm shifts—one in relation
to the threat and a second in relation to intelligence methods.
The author offers new models for threat analysis and for
intelligence operations in support of policy, acquisition, and
command of forces engaged in non-traditional asymmetric
warfare. He concludes with an examination of the Revolution in
Military Affairs and the need for a Revolution in Intelligence
Affairs.'

URI:
http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pub
id=217
ID number: 80023061
Year: 2002
Type: M
xiv, 41 p.; 23 cm.
(Studies in Asymmetry)
ISBN: 1584870680
Author(s):
1. Manwaring, Max G.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. INSURGENCY
3. COUNTERINSURGENCY
4. GUERRILLA WARFARE
5. USA--MILITARY POLICY
Added entry(s):
1. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute (US)
Notes:
'The author wrote this monograph in response to the fact that today over half the countries in the global community are faced with one variation or another of asymmetric guerrilla war. Insurgencies, internal wars, and other small-scale contingencies (SSCs) are the most pervasive and likely type of conflict in the post-Cold War era. That the United States will become involved directly or indirectly in some of these conflicts is almost certain. Yet, little or no recognition and application of the strategic-level lessons of the Vietnam War and the hundreds of other smaller conflicts that have taken place over the past several years are evident. The purpose of this monograph is to draw from the lessons of the recent past to better prepare today's civilian and military leaders to meet the unconventional and asymmetric warfare challenges that face the United States and the rest of the international community.'
ID number: 80017445
Year: 2001
Type: M

iv, 25 p.; 23 cm.
ISBN: 1584870419
Author(s):
1. Metz, Steven
2. Johnson, Douglas V.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. USA--MILITARY POLICY
Added entry(s):
1. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute (US)
Notes:
'In this special report, the authors recommend a definition of strategic asymmetry that is both simple and comprehensive, reflecting the need for military doctrine that transcends the specific issues of today. They then assess the strategic situation of the United States in terms of both positive asymmetry - that which gives US forces an advantage over opponents - and negative asymmetry that might be used to counter US forces. Finally, they offer five strategic concepts as part of the response to asymmetry: maximum conceptual and organizational adaptability, focused intelligence, minimal vulnerability, full spectrum precision, and an integrated homeland security strategy.'
**2000**

355.4 /01488


Author(s):
1. MacKenzie, Kenneth F.

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE 
2. USA--MILITARY POLICY

Added entry(s):
1. National Defense University. Institute for National Strategic Studies (US)

Notes:
'The central thesis of this essay is that the ability of the Department of Defense to execute its portion of US national policy in the near to mid-term is based on the ability to maintain clear and unambiguous conventional military superiority in the face of emerging asymmetric threats, coupled with the ability to defend the homeland. Today, the interest of the defense establishment in asymmetric threats is nothing more than a modern recognition of an enduring truth : weaker powers, both state and nonstate, will relentlessly seek ways to mitigate the dominance of the strong. This analysis adopts a three-part approach to analyzing asymmetric threats : What is asymmetric warfare ? What are the asymmetric threats we face ? What can we do to counter asymmetric threats ?'

ID number: 80017012
Year: 2001
Type: M

341.2 /00260


ISBN: 0855161264

Author(s):
1. Newman, Nicholas J.

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE 
2. INTERVENTION (INTERNATIONAL LAW)--GREAT BRITAIN

Added entry(s):
1. Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (GB)

Notes:
'The aim of this paper is to analyse the full spectrum of potential asymmetric approaches in order to determine Britain's vulnerability to specific challenges prior to, and during, a future military intervention.'

ID number: 80020841
Year: 2000
Type: M
2010

Damned If You Do, Damned If You Don't: Performative Power and the Strategy of Conventional and Nuclear Defusing.

(SECURITY STUDIES, vol. 19, no. 2, April - June 2010, p. 199-229.)

Author(s):
1. Adler, Emmanuel

Subject(s):
1. TERRORISM--PREVENTION
2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
3. STRATEGY

Notes:
This article seeks to initiate a new round of strategic intellectual innovation in an era when threats posed by non-state terrorist organizations and their state supporters do not resemble Cold War threats. Based on an interpretative sociological reading of the concepts of power, security, and rationality, it argues that a 'damned if you do, damned if you don't' dilemma is to the post-Cold War era what the danger of surprise attack or unintended nuclear war was to the Cold War: the defining structural threat of international politics. The dilemma leaves states confronting asymmetrical warfare with the choice of reacting with force to a terrorist act or practicing appeasement. Neither approach, however, can achieve the goal of putting an end to terrorism. Deterrence sustains the dilemma by providing a rationale for why force should be used and why self-restraint is irrational. This article proposes a third option, defusing, which may be accomplished by denial (preventing provocateurs from dragging states into the use of force) and restructuration (transforming the structure and rules of the situation). Defusing relies on 'performative power' - the capacity to project a dramatic and credible performance on the world stage and to decouple social actors, their audiences, and their most deeply held strategic beliefs. The force of the argument is illustrated by examples from the global 'war on terror', the 2006 Lebanon War, the 2008-09 operation 'Cast Lead' in Gaza, and the Iranian nuclear crisis.

ID Number: JA026979
Year: 2010
Language: English
Type: ART

* This list contains material received as of October 25th, 2010.– Cette liste est arrêtée au 25 octobre 2010.
In the post-Cold War and post-9/11 era, the need for broadening the focus of military transformation to include asymmetric warfare capabilities has been given lip service. The US military did not feel the necessity to widen the scope, if not to change the focus, of transformation to include asymmetric warfare until 2003 and 2004. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqi insurgency emerged as a potent force. It was only then that the US Army and US Marine Corps deemed it vital to come up with a new doctrine, which was to become the chief driver for America's asymmetric war against terrorism and the insurgency in Iraq. Since politics remain central to the resolution of an asymmetric conflict, the US military is likely to become involved in quagmire-like situations in future warfare of this nature. That is true in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recognising that some strategic analysts question the value of these two concepts and argue that where one has utility and the other does not and that they represent entirely incompatible views of the world, the author argues that neither should be simply dismissed out of hand for those reasons. By exploring both concepts and their utility in understanding contemporary conflict, the author is able to demonstrate that each helps to clarify the meaning and applicability of the other. The author concludes that both concepts have value, the more so when they are bought together.
Dissuasion, asymetrie et contournement.
(DEFENSE NATIONALE ET SECURITE COLLECTIVE, 65e annee, no. 721, juillet 2009, p. 139-148.)

Author(s):
1. Savoyant, Luc

Subject(s):
1. NUCLEAR DETERRENCE
2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:
Les nouvelles formes de terrorisme, par leurs modes d'action et leurs effets destructeurs comparables a ceux d'action de guerre, sont souvent qualifiees de menaces asymetriques car susceptibles de prendre en defaut les systemes de securite de temps de paix, generalement non dimensionnes contre des actions de telle ampleur, comme les systemes de defense militaire dont l'emploi est contraint par le cadre legal du temps de paix. Le Livre blanc sur la defense et la securite nationale prend en compte ces nouvelles formes de menaces et formule des recommandations pour limiter les effets de telles actions a defaut de pouvoir les prevenir en totalite. Parmi les cibles potentielles que l'on pourrait qualifier de cibles 'a tres haut rendement' figurent les installations presentant des risques majeurs pour l'environnement en cas d'agression dite 'hors dimensionnement' dont les systemes militaires nucleaires de dissuasion. Les nouvelles menaces asymetriques pourraient, si l'on n'y prenait garde, contourner de tels systemes, la plupart du temps concus pour contrer des menaces de nature militaire.

ID Number: JA026031
Year: 2009
Language: French
Type: ART

The Future of War and American Military Strategy.
(ORBIS, vol. 53, no. 2, Spring 2009, p. 300-318.)

Author(s):
1. Horowitz, Michael C.
2. Shalmon, Dan A.

Subject(s):
1. USA--STRATEGIC ASPECTS
2. COUNTERINSURGENCY--USA
3. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--USA
4. LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICTS (MILITARY SCIENCE)--USA

Notes:
The outcome of ongoing debates over the future of American military strategy will play a critical role in shaping the foreign and military policies of the United States over the next decade. Traditionalists worry about the shift towards emphasizing counterinsurgency operations and irregular warfare, believing that the use of force is often ineffective in COIN situations and the American military should concentrate on planning for conventional war. In contrast, COIN advocates argue that the United States must focus its efforts on preparing for the wars it is most likely to fight, irregular wars. However, both schools of thought rely on assumptions about the future security environment that may reveal another path forward. First, although it seems intuitive to view irregular warfare as the dominant future concern, it is exceedingly difficult to predict accurately the future security environment, as the last 20 years have clearly shown. Second, and perhaps most importantly, the character of emergent threats
will depend on how the United States focuses its resources. Paradoxically, no matter what it emphasizes, the military threats the United States is or will be most capable of defeating are the ones it is least likely to face, since potential adversaries will be deterred and seek other ways of confrontation. However, with some smart and careful investments, including the recognition that not all parts of the military have to be optimized for the same task, the United States military can both lock in its conventional dominance and continue to improve its ability to succeed in the irregular wars most likely to dominate the landscape in the short to medium term.

ID Number: JA025694
Year: 2009
Language: English
Type: ART

2008

The Folly of 'Asymmetric War'.
(WASHINGTON QUARTERLY, vol. 31, no. 3, Summer 2008, p. 33-52.)
Author(s):
1. Nazarr, Michael J.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. USA--MILITARY POLICY
Notes:
Shifting U.S. defense policy to focus on asymmetric threats would distort defense priorities for years to come and trap U.S. armed forces in endless conflicts that military power cannot win.

ID Number: JA024963
Year: 2008
Language: English
Type: ART

Kriegswerkzeug Massenkommunikation : Medien als ein zentraler Faktor im asymmetrischen Konflikt.
(OSTERREICHISCHE MILITARISCHE ZEITSCHRIFT, 65. Jg., Heft 5, September - Oktober 2008, S. 585-594.)
Author(s):
1. Reeb, Hans-Joachim
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. MASS MEDIA
ID Number: JA025359
Year: 2008
Language: German
Type: ART
According to an increasingly popular argument, the nuclear era sounded the death knell for the conventional conflicts between countries that have been the rule for many centuries. We have now entered a period of asymmetrical warfare involving rebel groups and other non-state players. Faced with these new threats, our defense forces are ill-adapted, or so the argument goes. The truth, however, is a little more complicated. First, although asymmetrical wars do exist, they can often be won by conventional means. Secondly, conventional conflicts haven't really disappeared. Within the next few years, the Western world will be confronted with the rise of potentially aggressive and powerfully armed states. Only by focusing on superior firepower and conventional destruction capabilities will the West be able to prevent this type of risk. Instead of dropping its guard, the West should in fact continue to build up modern, high-performance defense forces.

ID Number: JA024238
Year: 2007
Language: French
Type: ART

Dans les engagements à venir des forces, le national le cèdera sans doute au multinational, le militaire au civilo-militaire et le matériel à l'humain. Ces glissements, déjà largement perceptibles aujourd'hui, contraignent à imaginer une profonde mutation dans la finalité, les moyens et les formes de l'action militaire. Ce qui comptera demain, autant que la supériorité technologique et la taille des forces, c'est leur souplesse et leur capacité d'adaptation à un environnement très changeant.

ID Number: JA022971
Year: 2006
Language: French
Type: ART
Conflits asymetriques et stabilisation, l'illusion de la bataille decisive.
(DEFENSE NATIONALE ET SECURITE COLLECTIVE, 62e annee, no. 3, mars 2006, p. 125-140.)
Author(s):
1. Rola, Yves F.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. IRAQ WAR, 2003-
Notes:
Les situations auxquelles font face les forces americaines dans le 'Triangle sunnite' irakien, la force francaise Licorne en Cote-d'Ivoire ou l'armee israelienne dans les 'Territoires occupes' illustrent bien le type de conflits auxquels nous continuerons vraisemblablement a etre confrontes dans un avenir previsible. Il s'agit d'engagements essentiellement non-conventionnels, avec des adversaires 'asymetriques' cherchant a atteindre nos vulnerabilites plutot qu'a s'engager dans un affrontement direct. Sans prejuger de l'issue des conflits en cours, les difficultes rencontres, notamment en Irak, doivent nous inciter a nous interroger sur la façon d'aborder cette sorte d'operations et tout particulierement la phase de stabilisation dont depend le retour a la normale.

ID Number: JA022316
Year: 2006
Language: French
Type: ART

Les defis de l'asymetrie.
(DEFENSE NATIONALE, 61e annee, no. 2, fevrier 2005, p. 121-130.)
Author(s):
1. Bechon, Jean-Christophe
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
Les armees europeennes doivent relever les defis de l'asymetrie pour remporter un combat qui met en jeu a la fois la stabilite des relations internationales et la cohesion de nos societes. Elles en possedent les capacites, au prix d'un effort d'adaptation et de cooperation plus etroite avec les acteurs civils de ces crises. Apres avoir tente de definir les differents cas d'asymetrie, cet article presente les tactiques possibles pour un outil militaire conventionnel, fondees sur la dissuasion et l'action, avant d'en tirer des pistes de reflexion pour l'armee francaise aujourd'hui.

ID Number: JA021262
Year: 2005
Language: French
Type: ART
Why the Strong Lose.


Author(s):
1. Record, Jeffrey

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:
The author examines the question of how weaker powers are able to impose considerable military and political pain on the strong (especially democracies). The article provides readers with a historical perspective of the general factors common to 'great-power' losses to weaker adversaries, with particular attention given to recent American experiences. The author's analysis of why the weak are capable of defeating (or at least stalemating) the strong leads to the determination that such outcomes are as old as war itself. Experience shows that often it is the side with the superior strength of commitment that overshadows any military inferiority in time of conflict. The author argues that it is the American military's aversion to unconventional warfare that has placed it at a disadvantage against weaker foes. He opines that it is our 'infatuation with the perfection of military means that has caused us to ignore the political purpose on behalf of which those means are being employed'. He determines that it is not a policy question of whether or not the United States should continue to maintain its conventional primacy, but rather, given the current security environment, should it place more emphasis on forces dedicated to performing operations other than war.

ID Number: JA022136
Year: 2005
Language: English
Type: ART

Konfliktkommunikation in Zeiten asymmetrischer Kriegsführung.

(OSTERREICHISCHE MILITARISCHE ZEITSCHRIFT, 43. Jg., Heft 2, März - April 2005, S. 212-216.)

Author(s):
1. Schober, Wolfgang

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. MASS MEDIA AND WAR

ID Number: JA021313
Year: 2005
Language: German
Type: ART

2004

Rethinking the Concept of Asymmetric Threats in US Strategy.

(COMPARATIVE STRATEGY, vol. 23, nos. 4 - 5, 2004, p. 343-367.)

Author(s):
1. Blank, Stephen

Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. USA--STRATEGIC ASPECTS

Notes:
Threat assessment is a critical element in the formulation of any state's strategy, policy, and defense doctrine. It also should be an inherently critical process that liberates policymakers from incorrect, antiquated, or misconceived perceptions. Therefore the US strategic community engages in a never-ending debate over the nature of the threats confronting America. In recent years the term asymmetric threat has become something of a mantra covering every kind of threat even to the degree of
labeling the German offensives of 1918 as asymmetric. This essay is an extended critique of the way in which we think about asymmetric threats and argues for a different way of perceiving and analyzing the threats we face. Even if the kinds of threats we face are serious and real, mislabeling and misconceiving them does a disservice to US strategy and policy. Thus new thinking about the nature of the threat is called for.

Reconsidering Asymmetric Warfare.
(JOINT FORCE QUARTERLY, no. 36, 2004, p. 102-108.)
Author(s):
1. Lambakis, Steven J.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Les conflits asymetriques : l'avenir de la guerre ?.
(REVUE INTERNATIONALE ET STRATEGIQUE, no. 51, automne 2003, p. 81-150 (plusieurs articles).)
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

On Dinosaurs and Hornets : A Critical View on Operational Moulds in Asymmetric Conflicts.
(RUSI JOURNAL, vol. 148, no. 4, August 2003, p. 60-63.)
Author(s):
1. Hirsch, Gal
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
This article focuses on characteristics of asymmetric conflict and challenges to the operational commander. First, the author addresses three central aspects of the operational challenges facing the operational commander in such conflicts: enemy operational moulds; urbanization; sudden shifts and an unstable context. Second, he suggests operational solutions to these challenges. Finally, he touches on the issue of decision in asymmetric conflicts and the key question: can decisive victories be achieved in this kind of conflict.
Unorthodox Thoughts about Asymmetric Warfare.
(PARAMETERS, vol. 33, no. 2, Summer 2003, p. 4-18.)
Author(s):
  1. Meigs, Montgomery C.
Subject(s):
  1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
This article analyzes the combination of asymmetry and the ability of terrorists to devise 'idiosyncratic' means for unorthodox approaches to warfare. The author uses history to demonstrate the distinction between asymmetric and idiosyncratic attack and the resulting impact on the current operational and strategic environments. He concludes that although the concept of asymmetry is important, it is operational idiosyncratic attack and its potential that hold the greatest threat to national and military security.
ID Number: JA019167
Year: 2003
Language: English
Type: ART

La guerre asymétrique et l'avenir de l'Occident.
(POLITIQUE ETRANGERE, 68e année, no. 1, printemps 2003, p. 25-40.)
Author(s):
  1. Metz, Steven
Subject(s):
  1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
Une ére nouvelle s'est substituée à la guerre froide : celle de la guerre asymétrique. Paradoxalement, c'est l'efficacité des puissances occidentales en matière de guerre conventionnelle qui a poussé leurs adversaires à privilégié des stratégies d'asymétrie (la guérilla, l'insurrection, la guerre prolongée), face auxquelles ces mêmes armées occidentales ne sont ni les plus adaptées ni les plus efficaces. Les états occidentaux doivent donc revoir leur approche des questions de sécurité, revoir la place de l'armée dans l'organisation militaire, créer des structures nouvelles (par exemple pour centraliser les ripostes à des cyber-attaques), adapter le cadre normatif et juridique des conflits armés, et surtout consolider leur foi dans leurs valeurs et leurs modèles politiques. L'asymétrie a déplacé l'espace du conflit vers les médias, les manifestations de rue, les Nations unies et autres théâtres de la lutte politique et psychologique. À l'Occident de se montrer, sur ce terrain mouvant, aussi efficace et convaincant que sur le champ de bataille.
ID Number: JA019075
Year: 2003
Language: French
Type: ART
Logistics Capabilities for a New Era of Asymmetric Threats.
(MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, vol. 27, no. 10, 2003, p. 47-50.)
Author(s):
1. Miles, Philip
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. NATO--LOGISTICS
Notes:
It has been said that the 9/11 events rewrote the script for the role of defence in ensuring the security of a state, particularly concerning the application of military force. How far is this true? And what are its implications for that key enabler to the application of military force - logistics?
ID Number: JA019739
Year: 2003
Language: English
Type: ART

Strategic Leader Readiness and Competencies for Asymmetric Warfare.
Author(s):
1. Williams, Thomas J.
Subject(s):
1. COMMAND OF TROOPS
2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
The author is well aware of the criticism leveled against today's senior military leaders for being too cautious, devoid of creativity, and lacking in the ability to engage in 'out-of-the-box' thinking. He builds his thesis on the premise that the leadership skills, traits, and attributes of today's senior leaders are being redefined by asymmetric warfare. The author contrasts the leadership skills and attributes required of 'conventional warriors' throughout history with those facing asymmetric threats. He then provides a list of selective attributes and competencies required to promote the mental readiness and strategic agility required of today's senior leaders.
ID Number: JA019168
Year: 2003
Language: English
Type: ART

2002

Mediating Asymmetrical Conflict.
(MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS, vol. 7, no. 1, Spring 2002, p. 69-91.)
Author(s):
1. Aggestam, Karin
Subject(s):
1. MEDIATION, INTERNATIONAL
2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
This article examines the characteristics of asymmetrical conflicts and obstacles to negotiation and mediation. Four barriers are elaborated upon: (a) enduring unilateral actions, (b) contested recognition and leadership status, (c) existential and identity-based framing of conflict and (d) conflicting interpretation of implementation. Consequently, intervention in asymmetric conflicts poses a tremendous challenge for international mediators. To gain legitimacy is particularly troublesome since there often exists a huge discrepancy in the expectations of mediation between strong and weak parties. The empirical case of Norwegian and American
mediation is analysed as pure and principal mediation. The conclusion is that the two types of mediation do not directly address the question of the asymmetrical nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In sum, international mediation is a double-edged instrument in asymmetrical conflicts – particularly principal mediation, as it may produce counter-productive results.

Thinking Asymmetrically in Times of Terror.
(PARAMETERS, vol. 32, no. 1, Spring 2002, p. 5-14.)
Author(s):
1. Gray, Colin S.
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
Notes:
The author examines the character of asymmetric threats and cautions that traditional attempts to define such threats have generally been unproductive. The author provides eight basic characteristics of asymmetry and then applies each in the context of terrorism to determine how the United States should react tactically, operationally, and strategically. He cautions American military planners not to become overly focused on asymmetry, thereby ignoring other legitimate threats.

Understanding 'Asymmetric' Threats to the United States.
(COMPARATIVE STRATEGY, vol. 21, no. 4, 2002, p. 241-277.)
Author(s):
1. Lambakis, Steven
2. Kiras, James
3. Kolet, Kristin
Subject(s):
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. USA--NATIONAL SECURITY
Notes:
This article evaluates whether the concept of asymmetry has analytical utility and characterizes the threat environment facing the United States. The concept of asymmetry has come to bear too great a burden, as it is used to explain: different and challenging threats; the United States' position in the world and the security challenges it faces; US legal and political self-imposed constraints; vulnerabilities to new and old threats; and novel approaches designed to offset US strengths. The term does reflect the uncertainty that currently exists in the international security environment, and it does impress upon us that the United States is either vulnerable to some menace or unprepared at some level to cope with a selection of modern-day threats. Yet, can such a concept serve defense planners and policy makers well? This article finds that the utility of the term 'asymmetry' for understanding security matters has diminished since it was introduced in the mid-1990s. Examination of specific uses of the term 'asymmetry' indicates that the frequent references today to threats that are so labeled do little to help order defense priorities. Given the international security realities and the analytical shortcomings of this concept, and given the clear imperative
today to clarify national defense priorities, the relatively young concept of asymmetry will fade from defense jargon in the years ahead.

Parliamentary Under Secretary Mike O'Brien writes that the UK learned the lesson of non-engagement by what happened in Afghanistan under the Taliban. It descended into war, despair, and became a haven for terrorists. The prevention of state failure, he argues, rests on a scarce commodity: international political will. If we are to secure public and international support for action, we need to make the case for early engagement much more strongly.

Asymmetric strategies attempt to circumvent an opponent's advantage in capabilities by avoiding his strengths and exploiting his weaknesses. Through the application of military, political, economic, and technological leverage, asymmetric strategies may undermine an opponent's strengths. Although one contestant may not be able to win on a traditionally framed battlefield, the strategies employed may nullify the adversary's conventional advantages, erode his will to fight, disrupt his ability to operate effectively, or deter him from action entirely.
Back to the Future with Asymmetric Warfare.


Author(s):
   1. Goulding, Vincent J.

Subject(s):
   1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

ID Number: JA015979
Year: 2000
Language: English
Type: ART
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