

## Asymmetric Warfare

Thematic Bibliography no. 10/10

## Les guerres asymétriques

Bibliographie thématique no. 10/10



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# Books

## Livres\*

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### 2010

355.1 /00058

Moral Dilemmas of Modern War : Torture, Assassination, and Blackmail in an Age of Asymmetric Conflict - Cambridge, UK : Cambridge University Press.

xiii, 321 p.; 24 cm.

ISBN: 9780521866156

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:

Bibliography: p. 301-309. Includes index.

'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

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\* This list contains material received as of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.– Cette liste est arrêtée au 25 octobre 2010.

355.4 /01655

Israel and Hizbollah : An Asymmetric Conflict in Historical and Comparative Perspective - Abingdon, UK : Routledge.

ix, 202 p.; 24 cm.

(Middle Eastern Military Studies)

ISBN: 9780415449106

Subject(s):

1. ISRAEL--MILITARY RELATIONS--LEBANON
2. LEBANON--MILITARY RELATIONS--ISRAEL
3. HIZBALLAH (LEBANON)
4. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--LEBANON

Added entry(s):

1. Jones, Clive, 1965- , ed.
2. Catignani, Sergio, ed.

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 193-198. Includes index.

'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 and 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.'

ID number: 80023225

Year: 2010

Type: M

355.4 /01606

War 2.0 : Irregular Warfare in the Information Age - Westport, CT :

Praeger Security International.

ix, 280 p.; 25 cm.

ISBN: 9780313364709

Author(s):

1. Rid, Thomas, 1975-
2. Hecker, Marc

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. COUNTERINSURGENCY
3. MASS MEDIA AND WAR
4. DIGITAL MEDIA
5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 264-273. Includes index.

'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.
3. Robinson, Paul, 1966- , 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

The Moral Dimension of Asymmetrical Warfare : Counter-terrorism,  
Democratic Values and Military Ethics - Leiden : Nijhoff.

xi, 529 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

ISBN: 9789004171299

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:

Bibliography: p. 153-157.

'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 parait de plus en plus se situer dans les opinions publiques, 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

Assessing Irregular Warfare: A Framework for Intelligence Analysis -

Santa Monica, CA : Rand Corporation.

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:

Bibliography: p. 63-67.

'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

Asymmetric Warfare : Threat and Response in the Twenty-first Century -  
Cambridge, UK : Polity.

viii, 241 p. ; 24 cm.

ISBN: 0745633641

Author(s):

1. Thornton, Rod

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 218-233. Includes index.

'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

Insurgents, Terrorists, and Militias : The Warriors of Contemporary Combat - New York : Columbia University Press.

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: 80020970

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:

Bibliography: p. 235-242. Includes index.

'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

war (1979-1989). 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.'

ID number: 80020670

Year: 2005

Type: M

355.4 /01454

Conflict in Afghanistan : Studies in Asymmetric Warfare - Abingdon, UK : Routledge.

viii, 198 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

ISBN: 0415341604

Author(s):

1. Ewans, Martin

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--AFGHANISTAN

2. AFGHANISTAN--HISTORY

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 190-192. Includes index.

'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.'

ID number: 80020175

Year: 2005

Type: M

## 2003

355.4 /01384

Asymmetrical Warfare : Today's Challenge to U.S. Military Power - Washington : Brassey's.

vii, 183 p. ; 23 cm.

ISBN: 1574885634

Author(s):

1. Barnett, Roger W.

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

2. USA--MILITARY POLICY

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 157-172. Includes index.

'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.'

ID number: 80018882

Year: 2003

Type: M

355.4 /01385

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.'

ID number: 80018895

Year: 2003

Type: M

355.4 /01360

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:

Bibliography: p. 273-284.

'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 imposes 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 proliférer les guerres asymetriques ne se trouve pas dans l'acquisition de nouveaux engins de guerre, cela ayant meme pour objet d'exacerber davantage la rancoeur 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 adversaire pour parvenir a un degre de nuisance disproportionne : voila ce que peut faire l'acteur asymetrique determine.'

ID number: 80022748

Year: 2002

Type: M

355.4 /01365

Asymmetries of Conflict : War Without Death - London : Frank Cass.

xix, 220 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

ISBN: 0714652989

Author(s):

1. Leech, John, 1925-

Subject(s):

1. SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL

2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:

Bibliography: p. 203-206. Includes index.

'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

327.8 /00138

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?pubid=217>

ID number: 80023061

Year: 2002

Type: M

## 2001

355.4 /01303

Internal Wars : Rethinking Problem and Response - Carlisle Barracks, PA :

US Army War College.

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

355.4 /01287

Asymmetry and U.S. Military Strategy : Definition, Background, and

Strategic Concepts - Carlisle Barracks, PA : US Army War College.

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.'

ID number: 80017012

Year: 2001

Type: M

## 2000

355.4 /01488

The Revenge of the Melians : Asymmetric Threats and the Next QDR -  
Washington : National Defense University.

xi, 104 p. ; 23 cm.

(McNair Paper ; 62)

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: 80020841

Year: 2000

Type: M

341.2 /00260

Asymmetric Threats to British Military Intervention Operations - London :  
Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies.

x, 99 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

(Whitehall Paper Series ; 49)

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: 80016443

Year: 2000

Type: M

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# Journal Articles

## Articles de revues\*

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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

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\* This list contains material received as of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.- Cette liste est arrêtée au 25 octobre 2010.



The Age of Irregular Warfare : So What ?.  
(JOINT FORCE QUARTERLY, no. 58, 2010, p. 32-38.)  
Author(s):  
1. Gorka, Sebastian L. v.  
Subject(s):  
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE  
2. MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE  
ID Number: JA027112  
Year: 2010  
Language: English  
Type: ART

Transformation of America's Military and Asymmetric War.  
(COMPARATIVE STRATEGY, vol. 29, no. 3, July - August 2010, p. 223-244.)  
Author(s):  
1. Ahrari, Ehsan  
Subject(s):  
1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE--USA  
2. DEFENSE TRANSFORMATION--USA  
Notes:  
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.  
ID Number: JA027035  
Year: 2010  
Language: English  
Type: ART

## 2009

Irresistible Force or Immoveable Object ? The 'Revolution in Military Affairs' and Asymmetric Warfare.  
(DEFENSE & SECURITY ANALYSIS, vol. 25, no. 1, March 2009, p. 21-36.)  
Author(s):  
1. Benbow, Tim  
Subject(s):  
1. REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS  
2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE  
Notes:  
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 brought together.  
ID Number: JA025770  
Year: 2009

Language: English  
Type: ART

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

## 2007

La France et les nouvelles menaces.

(POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE, no. 117, automne 2007, p. 283-296.)

Author(s):

1. Chauprade, Aymeric

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:

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

L'etat de guerre au XXIe siecle.

(COMMENTAIRE, vol. 30, no. 120, hiver 2007 - 2008, p. 927-933.)

Author(s):

1. Joffe, Joseph

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

ID Number: JA024302

Year: 2007

Language: French

Type: ART

## 2006

Combats de demain : le futur est-il previsible ?.

(POLITIQUE ETRANGERE, 71e annee, no. 3, 2006, p. 595-607.)

Author(s):

1. Desportes, Vincent

Subject(s):

1. WARFARE

2. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

3. ARMED FORCES

Notes:

Dans les engagements a venir des forces, le national le cedera sans doute au multinational, le militaire au civilo-militaire et le materiel a l'humain. Ces glissements, deja largement perceptibles aujourd'hui, contraignent a imaginer une profonde mutation dans la finalite, les moyens et les formes de l'action militaire. Ce qui comptera demain, autant que la superiorite technologique et la taille des forces, c'est leur souplesse et leur capacite d'adaptation a un environnement tres 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. Rols, 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 prejurer de l'issue des conflits en cours, les difficultes rencontrees, notamment en Irak, doivent nous inciter a nous interroger sur la facon 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

## 2005

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.

(PARAMETERS, vol. 35, no. 4, Winter 2005 - 2006, p. 16-31.)

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 Kriegfuehrung.

(OSTERREICHISCHE MILITARISCHE ZEITSCHRIFT, 43. Jg., Heft 2, Marz - 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.

ID Number: JA021229  
Year: 2004  
Language: English  
Type: ART

#### Reconsidering Asymmetric Warfare.

(JOINT FORCE QUARTERLY, no. 36, 2004, p. 102-108.)

Author(s):

1. Lambakis, Steven J.

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

ID Number: JA021243

Year: 2004

Language: English

Type: ART

## 2003

#### 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

ID Number: JA019640

Year: 2003

Language: French

Type: ART

#### 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.

ID Number: JA019484

Year: 2003

Language: English

Type: ART

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 asymetrique et l'avenir de l'Occident.

(POLITIQUE ETRANGERE, 68e annee, no. 1, printemps 2003, p. 25-40.)

Author(s):

1. Metz, Steven

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:

Une ere nouvelle s'est substituee a la guerre froide : celle de la guerre asymetrique. Paradoxalement, c'est l'efficacite des puissances occidentales en matiere de guerre conventionnelle qui a pousse leurs adversaires a privilegier des strategies d'asymetrie (la guerilla, l'insurrection, la guerre prolongee), face auxquelles ces memes armees occidentales ne sont ni les plus adaptees ni les plus efficaces. Les Etats occidentaux doivent donc reviser leur approche des questions de securite, revoir la place de l'armee dans l'organisation militaire, creer des structures nouvelles (par exemple pour centraliser les ripostes a des cyber-attaques), adapter le cadre normatif et juridique des conflits armes, et surtout consolider leur foi dans leurs valeurs et leurs modeles politiques. L'asymetrie a deplace l'espace du conflit vers les medias, les manifestations de rue, les Nations unies et autres theatres de la lutte politique et psychologique. A 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.

(PARAMETERS, vol. 33, no. 2, Summer 2003, p. 19-35.)

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.

ID Number: JA018025  
Year: 2002  
Language: English  
Type: ART

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.

ID Number: JA017602  
Year: 2002  
Language: English  
Type: ART

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.

ID Number: JA018491  
Year: 2002  
Language: English  
Type: ART

Morality in Asymmetric War and Intervention Operations.

(RUSI JOURNAL, vol. 147, no. 5, October 2002, p. 40-44.)

Author(s):

1. O'Brien, Mike

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE
2. INTERVENTION (INTERNATIONAL LAW)

Notes:

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.

ID Number: JA018452  
Year: 2002  
Language: English  
Type: ART

## 2001

Asymmetric Threats to the United States.

(COMPARATIVE STRATEGY, vol. 20, no. 3, July - September 2001, p. 277-292.)

Author(s):

1. Kolet, Kristen S.

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

Notes:

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.

ID Number: JA017137  
Year: 2001  
Language: English  
Type: ART

2000

Back to the Future with Asymmetric Warfare.

(PARAMETERS, vol. 30, no. 4, Winter 2000 - 2001, p. 21-30.)

Author(s):

1. Goulding, Vincent J.

Subject(s):

1. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

ID Number: JA015979

Year: 2000

Language: English

Type: ART

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## Previous Issues

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