

**THE ADVENT OF HYBRID WARFARE: AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL
SECURITY**

A Cross Country Empirical Analysis

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the research by presenting the background, establishing the study's relevance, outlining its key objectives, and providing an overview that will guide the entire study.

1.1 Overview

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, global interdependence, and shifting geopolitical dynamics, the nature of warfare has undergone a profound transformation. No longer confined to conventional battlefields or defined solely by military engagements, modern conflict has expanded into a multidimensional arena where cyberattacks, disinformation, economic coercion, and proxy violence operate alongside traditional armed force. The Russia–Ukraine conflict, and more recently, the India–Pakistan conflict, stand as testimony to this fact. This emerging phenomenon, widely referred to as hybrid warfare, represents one of the most

pressing challenges to contemporary national security. Unlike conventional threats, hybrid tactics exploit a nation's internal vulnerabilities targeting public perception, critical infrastructure, and political cohesion often without crossing the threshold of open war. As such, the rise of hybrid warfare is not simply a military concern; it signals a fundamental shift in how security must be understood and protected in the 21st century.

1.1.1 Evolving Dimensions of National Security in the 21st Century

National security, once narrowly defined in terms of military defense and the protection of borders, has undergone a profound transformation. Today, it encompasses a broad spectrum of interdependent dimensions; social, economic, political, and environmental all of which are crucial to a nation's stability and resilience. Modern threats are no longer confined to external aggression; they often arise from internal vulnerabilities and global systemic pressures (Miryukova & Sokolova, 2023; Toimbek, 2022; Khan, 2022). This shift reflects a growing recognition that safeguarding a nation's security requires integrated and adaptive frameworks capable of addressing both traditional and non-traditional threats (Kondratenko & Dobryansky, 2023; Stukalo et al., 2018; Rotaru, 2009).

Among the pillars of national security, economic security has emerged as a foundational element. A strong economy sustains the capacity of governments to ensure public welfare, support technological innovation, and invest in defense and environmental protection (Kondratenko & Dobryansky, 2023; Hapieieva et al., 2023; Zub, 2024). Conversely, economic instability can erode institutional legitimacy, fuel social unrest, and expose states to greater geopolitical vulnerabilities. The close interconnection between economic and other security domains is evident in how financial crises can cascade into broader systemic instability weakening political authority, inflaming social tensions, and diminishing state capacity to respond to external threats (Miryukova & Sokolova, 2023; Kondratenko & Dobryansky,

2023; Kadala et al., 2023) Therefore, establishing robust economic security systems at the national level is indispensable for protecting national interests and ensuring the sustainability of development efforts.

Social security, in turn, is deeply tied to economic well-being. Issues such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to healthcare and education can fracture social cohesion and make societies more susceptible to both internal and external destabilization (Miryukova & Sokolova, 2023; Stukalo et al., 2018; Bondaruk & Bondaruk, 2018). From this perspective, the social dimension of economic security calls for comprehensive welfare systems, public health infrastructure, and inclusive development policies, all of which are essential for maintaining state legitimacy and long-term stability. Political security also plays a central role, ensuring the rule of law, democratic governance, and institutional stability, elements necessary for the coherent implementation of national security strategies and the protection of human rights (Slawotsky, 2024; Khan, 2022; Toimbek, 2022).