

PS114. International Security in a Changing World¹

Cheat Sheet on the Changing Character of War

Conventional War versus Asymmetric War		
	Regular Wars	Irregular Wars
AKA:	interstate war, conventional war, old war	asymmetric war, civil war, guerrilla warfare, insurgent war, intrastate war, extrastate war, new war
Participants:	State Actor vs State Actor	State Actor vs Non-State Actor
Relative Power between Participants:	Symmetric	Asymmetric
Motivation for War:	Territory, policy change, regime change, status quo	Ideology, religious extremism, ethnic separatism, colonialism, culture, regime change
War of ...	Blitzkrieg	Attrition
Overall Strategy:	Offensive: orchestrate military offensives to eliminate the enemy	Defensive: undermine the enemy's will to fight
Tactics:	military battles, fire power, troops, offensive weaponry	guerrilla tactics, terrorism, propaganda, civilian spies, fight on own turf
Civilian Participation:	Limited: Provide resources and support off the front lines	Active: fight, targeted, and wooed on the front lines
Financed:	Taxation, debt, inflation	Ransom, black markets, donations, conflict minerals, e.g. diamonds
Casualties:	High	Low to Moderate
How is War Changing in the 21st Century?	Drones, WMDs, field medicine, mechanization	Internet, cell phones, "twit-plomacy," new techniques to finance insurgency (oil, minerals)
Outcome:	Stronger power wins	Stronger power <i>or</i> weaker power wins conditional on other factors
Examples:	World War I, World War II, Gulf War, War in Iraq (early)	Vietnam War, Bosnia, War in Iraq (late), ISIL

Reference Definitions:

- **State:** Members of the international system who are able to exert influence on other members, possess territory, and have a central government (COW)
- **Non-State Actor:** An organization, group, or collection who live within the borders of another state, but are not integrated into the metropole, e.g. insurgency, guerrillas, terrorists (COW)

¹ 2016. Iris Malone. Please do not cite or share without author's permission