

Political and Social Collaboration Key to Military Advantage and Strategic Success

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ABSTRACT

Operational research and analysis must extend far beyond the technologies, systems, and doctrine necessary to promote tactical and operational collaboration for military advantage. Renewed emphasis on political and societal variables critical to nation collaboration when confronted with aggressors must be identified, understood, and addressed to ensure a will to win prior to military engagement and to ensure collaborative strategies exist as part of the strategic framework. This applies to governments, the industrial base, major constituencies (including demographics), and populations.

Recent history demonstrates that failures in this area lead to strategic and military defeat caused by an inherently non-collaborative engagement environment not understood by leaders and military planners. Ukraine demonstrates how a misreading of aggressor capability and defender posture can result in a missed opportunity for strategic collaboration to blunt an aggressor quickly and effectively.

A new model of assessment must be developed for continuous evaluation of this domain prior to and during hostilities to determine courses of action that lead to an advantage over any adversary. By integrating political, societal, and military factors, we can enhance our ability to forge strong, resilient alliances and respond effectively to emerging threats.

To address these challenges, this paper will discuss the necessity for enhanced collaboration between different entities, including political, societal, and military organizations. This collaboration is vital for helping military leaders identify and anticipate aggressor plans well in advance. The integration of intelligence from various sectors can provide a comprehensive understanding of the adversary's intentions and capabilities, enabling preemptive and strategic actions.

Throughout this paper, it will be explored the development of a new model of continuous assessment. This model will evaluate the political and societal variables alongside military factors prior to and during hostilities.

The discussion will cover:

Historical Analysis: Detailed examination of past conflicts to highlight the consequences of neglecting political and societal factors in strategic planning.

Case Study of Ukraine: Analysis of recent events in Ukraine to illustrate the importance of accurately reading aggressor capabilities and defender postures.

Collaborative Framework: Proposal for a structured framework that enhances inter-agency and international cooperation to support military strategies.

Continuous Assessment Model: Introduction and explanation of a new model for continuous assessment of political, societal, and military domains to inform strategic decision-making.

Implementation Strategies: Practical recommendations for integrating this model into current operational research and military planning processes.

By integrating political, societal, and military factors, we can enhance our ability to forge strong, resilient alliances and respond effectively to emerging threats. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure that collaboration and strategic foresight are embedded into the fabric of military planning and execution, thereby increasing the likelihood of success in any engagement scenario.