

Abstract:

As the predecessor of the current Special Operation Force, the phrase of 'Ungentlemanly Warfare' is no stranger to those who are familiar with military history of the Second World War. Highly skilled, determined military personnel achieving covert objectives behind enemy line by special reconnaissance, raids, guerrillas, sabotage, espionage, false flag and much more other controversial tactics required professional execution. That was later known as the concept of total war described by Erich Ludendorff and even von Clausewitz earlier on. The disastrous outcome of the Second World War, with the invention of nuclear weapon, it became a revelation in nuclear age, that a total war between two nuclear power will be more destructive than humanity has seen.

Hence on a strategic level, concept of preventing a total war has developed into what is now commonly known as hybrid warfare and unrestricted warfare, these concepts of warfare go way beyond conventional forces with a positive identification. The supporting for friendly guerrillas and partisans is not an uncommon diplomatic manoeuvre, nor it is prohibited in Geneva conventions. However, the active use of illegal combatants not only in warfare but also in our everyday life is another policy matter that is dangerous to the current rule-based international order. Among the violations, China have the utmost blatant attempts blurring the border between combatants and civilians, aiming to lay hold of the advantages for the combatants, sacrificing humanitarian protection of civilians and make moral judgement with the trending political correctness. This is no doubt a dangerous attempt to undermine the current liberal democracy and an audacious approach to the international order. Despite many of our NATO allies have recognised the use of this dangerous tactics, many of them approaching from know-what. In this thesis, I will further develop into the know-why and know-how.