



**Williamson Murray and Peter Mansoor, eds. *Hybrid Warfare: Fighting Complex Opponents from the Ancient World to the Present*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2012.**

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In *Hybrid Warfare*, military historians Williamson Murray and Peter Mansoor edit a volume that seeks to define and discuss the history of hybrid warfare, the idea that conflict includes combinations of conventional and irregular forces. Williamson Murray is a well-regarded military historian who serves as Professor Emeritus at Ohio State

University and has completed voluminous works involving military transformation, military adaptation, and grand strategy. Peter Mansoor is a highly respected scholar who currently serves as the Raymond E. Mason Chair in Military History at Ohio State University and also a retired Army Colonel who served as the Executive Officer to General David Petraeus in Iraq. The book presents in depth cases studies, while also providing lessons learned that should be applied to future conflict. The contributors to the volume come from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities and include retired military officers, independent researchers, and academics.

The introductory chapter is written by Mansoor, who confronts the concept of hybrid warfare as a new paradigm. Mansoor argues that hybrid warfare is not new, but has been and is a normal part of warfare from ancient times to modern warfare. In the United States, the concept has been discussed by American scholar Frank Hoffman and Retired Marine Corps General James Mattis. The introduction provides a first rate overview of the history of hybrid warfare by highlighting many examples, including the Peloponnesian War, the French and Indian War in North American, the British campaign against Ottoman Turkey in World War I, French involvement in Vietnam and Algeria, and American involvement in Iraq. As documented in the opening chapter, warfare has traditionally been classified as exclusively conventional or irregular, but in reality it often exhibits elements of both simultaneously.

The first case study discussed is the Roman army's effort to destroy the "barbarian" German tribes. The chapter deconstructs many myths associated with the German tribes, such as they were not industrialized and their military tactics were exclusively mob-led raiding parties. In fact, some of the German tribes that served as Roman auxiliaries were able to learn and adapt to Roman tactics. The second case deals with English and Spanish military elements in Ireland and the events known as O'Neill's Rebellion (1594-1603) and the following years. The case study shows the conflict had elements of irregular warfare and a more conventional threat when the Spanish invaded to encourage further rebellion.

The third case written by Williamson Murray on the American Revolution is detailed and one of the strongest chapters. As the text indicates, America was in fact founded in hybrid warfare. The book discusses the diverse military methods employed during the war, with conventional line battles across the Northern colonies and partisan

irregular warfare commonplace in the Southern colonies. The fourth case study discusses the Spanish Peninsular War during the reign of Napoleon. As shown by the case study, Napoleon often diverted resources away to other campaigns, thus creating a crisis requiring more and more resources. The fifth case study is the American Civil War, including an examination of efforts by the Union to counter Confederate guerillas. These guerillas included Confederate Colonel John Mosby in Virginia and Captain William Quantrill's band of raiders across Missouri and Kansas. As the case documents, while the remaining Confederate conventional military threat was nullified when Lt. General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his army in North Carolina, many guerilla fighters would tragically become involved in murder and mayhem during the period of Reconstruction. Some of these Confederate guerillas would later form groups such as the Ku Klux Klan that would go on to commit unspeakable acts of horror across the South.

The sixth case is the German Army in the Franco-Prussian War. It shows that the German military was conventionally minded and suffered from shock as they encountered French resistance. The seventh case study is a broad, almost 300-year long history of the British Empire and its efforts at counter-guerilla activity, examined by Dr. John Ferris of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute. Unfortunately the chapter topic does not fit neatly with the style of the remainder of the book. While other chapters explain one individual conflict, this chapter seems overly ambitious, as it is difficult to cover such a range of imperial conflict in one chapter. Many scholars have dedicated entire volumes to such a feat. Additionally, the book is set in chronological order, yet this chapter covers the British experience over a wide overlapping span of time that intrudes on the time frames of other chapters. The interruption to the chronology is somewhat distracting. The chapter includes the War of 1812, the Boer War, and revolts in India. The chapter title is "Small Wars and Great Games: The British Empire and Hybrid Warfare, 1700-1970," a misnomer as few post-1920s cases are discussed. Curiously there is little mention of the Irish War of Independence, the Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya, or the Malayan Emergency. It is not known whether these conflicts were neglected because the author believes them to be inferior examples of hybrid warfare, or if the author does not believe the conflicts are hybrid warfare at all.

The eighth case study looks at the Japanese military in China before and during World War II. Like for other wars, this study shows a significant difference between what military leaders planned for and anticipated and what the soldiers experienced on the ground. The case study also documents the Japanese failure in attempting to win a conflict with minimum forces and resources, and failing to hold vast amounts of territory while lacking a coherent strategic objective. This study was reminiscent of the American attempt to invade and occupy Iraq by using minimal forces, staying in large bases, and lacking a coherent strategy. The ninth case study includes hybrid warfare in Vietnam. While this chapter does provide some historical background on the conflict in Vietnam, the case study could have been improved with a discussion of hybrid warfare by the Viet Minh during the French-Indochina War. There is a brief mention of this in the introductory chapter and the chapter fails to set up the Vietnam conflict in the context necessary to show how it included hybrid warfare during both French and American involvement.

The final chapter offers many lessons learned based on a review of the case studies. Most of the lessons learned are not entirely novel, but reiterate information from famous classics on military strategy. For example, one of the lessons learned is the importance of understanding enemy culture, values, as well as their approach and tactics used in war. This harkens back to Sun Tzu's guidance of knowing the enemy. The primary lesson developed from the case studies is that resources, manpower, and will are central to winning hybrid conflicts. However, as the text indicates, hybrid conflicts are not easy; they mix conventional and irregular tactics, and they are not to be undertaken half-heartedly. The most modern case study mentioned in the book is the last, American involvement in Vietnam. While more modern conflicts such as the Israeli-Hezbollah War of 2006, Iraq War, and conflict in Afghanistan are listed as examples of hybrid warfare, there are no individual case studies dedicated to those topics in the text.

Hybrid Warfare as a concept is not rare or new; it in fact is a representation of most conflict. The book makes that point clear in a persuasive manner over the course of the nine cases studies. Murray and Mansoor's volume could be more convincing with additional modern case studies such as the Israeli-Hezbollah War of 2006, the Chechen-Russian War, the Sri Lankan Civil War, the Russia-Georgia War of 2008, or the Iraq

War. The book would have benefited from additional diagrams and pictures. It contains only nine images, one per case study, which are maps that provide a basic geographical landscape of the conflict area. The book could be improved with pictures of military and guerilla leaders, additional maps of battlefields, or the use of diagrams to compare and contrast various theories and tactics during hybrid warfare. The volume provides a good overview and defense of the concept of hybrid warfare. Unfortunately, tactical guidance and instructions are not provided and the reader is left with additional questions. For example, based on the historical case studies, is it better for a military commander to first attack the irregular threat or the conventional threat? Should a military leader or national leader attempt simultaneous efforts to confront conventional and irregular tactics?

The book does a great job of explaining how a mixture of conventional and unconventional tactics have been used from ancient times to the present and will likely endure. Hybrid Warfare is a well-researched historical contribution to the study of hybrid warfare that will appeal to military strategists, theorists, and security studies students. Scholars of so-called Fourth Generation Warfare will also find some of the case studies useful. It is not the final word on the concept of hybrid warfare, but it serves as a solid foundational text as the concept and definition of hybrid warfare continues to morph and change.

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