



ESTONIAN NATIONAL
DEFENCE COLLEGE

**RUSSIAN INFORMATION
OPERATIONS AGAINST UKRAINIAN
ARMED FORCES AND UKRAINIAN
COUNTERMEASURES (2014–2015)**

EDITED BY

**VLADIMIR SAZONOV, HOLGER MÖLDER,
KRISTIINA MÜÜR AND ANDRES SAUMETS**

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"HYBRID WARFARE" – THE MILITARY SECURITY DOMAIN'S CONSIDERATIONS

*Zdzislaw Sliwa*¹



The term “hybrid warfare” became salient after the annexation of Crimea and as a result of the ongoing war in Ukraine. It is often used to denote the modernization of Russia’s armed forces as it sought to develop ‘muscles’ using methods other than military in order to challenge the West. The concept was also a demonstration that Russian military theory continues to develop and has moved away from the former Cold War type, force-on-force concepts that had aimed to exploit mass and the concentration of forces. The last decade has shown that the country is ready to use all available tools, both conventional and nonconventional, in a well-coordinated and sequential way, in order to achieve a desired end state. The topic has become very popular among military and academics who deal with security issues and the term ‘hybrid warfare’ is now commonplace. This paper covers the theoretical background of the term, establishes its origins, and offers some interpretations. This will be followed by a consideration of the conventional aspects of the concept in the context of Russia’s current activities, and their new means of conducting warfare.

The Perception of ‘hybrid war’ as a security threat

The ‘hybrid warfare’ concept is not new as nations have utilized a variety of tools, and every available option in order to achieve their desired aims and challenge their opponents. Frank Hoffman discusses hybrid warfare in his paper published in *Joint Forces Quarterly* by introducing a historical case study of the wars between Sparta and Athens. He recognizes that wars have always been complex and are more than a simple struggle between armed forces. He adds, however, that these present hybrid wars are quite different in nature and recognizes that:

¹ Opinions expressed by the author are his own views and they do not reflect in any way the official policy or position of the Baltic Defence College, or the governments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.