

SPECIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Our duties and responsibilities against it



Throughout history, wars have not only been fought with weapons. The motivation to win has always been a dominant factor. For this reason, every possible means and method has been tried to break or weaken the opponent's will to fight. Winning a war without fighting requires a strategic and expert approach. We know from history how armies have been defeated by creating a sense of fear and dread. In recent times, ISIS has conducted a rapid campaign using similar methods. However, once the military and societal resistance in Rojava was actively and organizationally mobilized, this perception began to break, and from that point on, all forces started to fight against ISIS.

Psychological warfare is a type of war that targets emotions, the psyche, and, as its name suggests, human psychology. This type of war is often underestimated. However, in modern warfare, armed struggle constitutes only about twenty percent of the conflict. Psychological warfare, on the other hand, operates twenty-four hours a day, almost every second of the war, focusing on psychological assault. Unlike armed conflict, where significant time is spent retreating, resting, preparing, or making strategists, psychological warfare operates incessantly and relentlessly. Whether in wartime or peacetime, the life systems being shaped are built upon special and psychological warfare. Therefore, those who aim to establish a new way of life and the people themselves have significant responsibilities in terms of organization and duty.

Due to the exhausting, dispersive, and demoralizing impact of psychological warfare, those who claim to fight for a free life must focus heavily on organization, propaganda, and agitation efforts. The belief of the people in their cause, values, common goals, and shared unity of thought and spirit increases the responsibilities of those who aspire to freedom.

The war on societies psychology

Psychological warfare is one of the most ruthless types of war. Despite its ruthlessness, it does not aim to kill physically. Instead, it targets the spirit, morale, and mental state, aiming to destroy them. Consequently, psychological warfare seeks to capture minds through fear, taking control of human and societal behavior to steer them in the desired direction. For this reason, it is known as the most poisonous, insidious, and dirty type of warfare. This necessitates extraordinary measures to counteract it.

Psychological warfare generally relies on lies and baseless claims. It shows things that do not exist as if they do, creates the illusion of being justified despite being wrong, and portrays weakness as strength. It projects courage where there is none and manipulates consciousness to form perceptions based on falsehoods. This type of warfare attacks the weakest points of societies and individuals. History has shown that societies with organized resistance and readiness have succeeded against psychological warfare. In contrast, unorganized and ill-prepared societies have often fallen victim to it. Panic and disarray in such societies are direct results of psychological propaganda. For example, the Syrian army's collapse and inability to resist in the face of attacks in Aleppo and Damascus were not due to a military offensive but to an overwhelming psychological assault. The Syrian regime's lack of preparation and discipline, coupled with the absence of common ideals, were the primary reasons for this disintegration.



In today's world, where mass communication tools and digital media play a significant role, the psychological and perceptual dimensions of warfare have become decisive alongside physical conflict. Strategies of winning without fighting involve techniques like creating perceptions, spreading disinformation, and manipulating minds to influence both the masses and warring parties. This process is not limited to military forces but affects the minds of entire societies, using psychological warfare as a tool to win before the physical conflict even begins.

Disinformation in media distorts reality or constructs a new reality, steering public opinion and weakening the society's morale and motivation. In this sense, the psychological dimension of war can often be more effective than physical confrontation. This demonstrates that wars are no longer won solely by physical force but also through information and perception management. Digital tools have made it easier than ever to shape societal perceptions, demoralize opponents, and garner international support. Wars are now won in the mind before they are fought on the battlefield. This new face of war transcends traditional definitions and has become a cornerstone of modern strategies.

Turkeys usage of special warfare against the Rojava Revolution

To effectively counter the Turkish state's policies, a strategy that neutralizes the enemy's arguments must be pursued with full coordination. The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria represents a new model where Kurds, Arabs, Syriacs, and other ethnic and religious groups coexist and govern together. Making this reality visible to the world, exposing the Turkish state's sinister plans in the region, and ensuring transparency are of great importance.

The Turkish state's manipulation of Syria's rich, diverse social fabric by aligning with jihadist factions like ISIS and Al-Nusra has been falsely portrayed as a "revolution." This narrative, constructed entirely through special and psychological warfare, has no connection to truth or reality. Instead, it represents a period darker than the Middle Ages. These groups, hostile to humanity, society, culture, ethics, women, belief systems, freedom, and equality, have been depicted as nearly angelic figures through intense propaganda efforts. Psychological warfare primarily aims to manipulate consciousness by distorting reality, attempting to make inhuman entities appear palatable through superficial means.



Fear hides from the truth because lies are most afraid of reality. The first revolutionary spark in these lands was ignited in 2004 by the Kurds in Qamishlo. If one speaks of a genuine revolution, it must be correctly identified from its beginning. Accurate information leads to accurate perspectives, accurate policies, and effective organization. Providing truthful information is the greatest threat to lies. Therefore, the revolution initiated in 2004 by the Kurds has continued, and in 2011, this revolutionary spirit forced the Ba'ath regime out of Rojava. Together with Arabs, Syriacs, Armenians, and Turkmens, the revolutionary flame spread across the region, successfully expelling Turkish state-backed ISIS, Al-Nusra, and other militias from northern and eastern Syria.



Counter psychological warfare!

This revolution has brought forth a unique system ensuring the safety and freedom of identity, faith, culture, women, and ways of life. The people of North and East Syria have tasted the fruits of freedom and have governed themselves democratically for 13 years. However, current developments threaten to hand Syria back to dark forces. Far from despair, the people of North and East Syria must aim to expand the democratic and free culture they have cultivated, spreading this revolutionary spirit across all of Syria. It is critical to recognize that the Turkish state's actions, through groups like HTS and SNA, aim to destroy this revolutionary achievement. This represents not a revolution but a counter-revolution, as their true target is not the Ba'ath regime but the democratic revolution of North and East Syria.

The responsibility lies with Kurds, Arabs, Armenians, Syriacs, Circassians, Druze, Alevis, Turkmens, and women to unite under a shared democratic culture and spread this vision across Syria. Psychological warfare must be countered with truth, factual arguments, and credible tools. Lies can be defeated through truth, and organizing society to counter misinformation is essential.

In conclusion, everyone must leverage digital media and communication tools effectively to counteract psychological warfare and propagate the message of freedom. This effort requires no significant cost but simply better organization and commitment. Every phone, every communication device, and every social media platform must be used as a tool of resistance. While those who cannot be physically present in Rojava may lack weapons, they have powerful tools at their disposal—tools that can be wielded in homes, streets, and public spaces to fight the enemy's lies. It is time to mobilize these tools widely and effectively.

This text was written by the Abdullah Öcalan Social Sciences Academy, North and East Syria

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