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NON-KINETIC AND NON-TRADITIONAL WARFARE: EVOLUTION, HYBRID THREATS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the history of Non-Kinetic and Non-Traditional warfare and the inter interplay of the two and the implications on the national security of Pakistan. Though the traditional military threats remain as a security challenge, technology, globalization, cyber warfare, information warfare, economic coercion, climate change, pandemics, demographic pressures, transnational crime and human insecurity have greatly evolved the security landscape today. Preexisting literature tends to treat non-kinetic and non-traditional threats as unrelated threats and approaches, and fails to provide a good understanding of the interaction and combination of these two threats. This article relies on a qualitative exploratory research design using secondary literature, policy documents and historical analysis to explore the history of both types of threats from the ancient civilizations through the post-Cold War and digital eras. The analysis shows that non-kinetic instruments are gaining more and more importance as a complement to military force, and non-traditional security threats reduce national resilience, as they impact on governance, economic stability, social cohesion and human security. The study suggests that the national security policy of Pakistan should change from military-centric towards a comprehensive national security policy. It should include diplomatic, informational, economic, technological, environmental and societal aspects. It also points to the need for better institutional coordination, strategic communication and regional cooperation and evidence-based policies for effective hybrid security management. The article contributes in both theoretical and policy dimensions as it provides a complete story line on non-kinetic and non-traditional threats and attempts to bring them in a single analytical framework for policy making in Pakistan's security environment in the context of evolving security challenges.

Keywords: *Non-kinetic warfare; Non-traditional security; Hybrid warfare; National security; Pakistan; Cyber warfare; Information warfare; Human security; Strategic studies; Comprehensive security.*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, warfare has evolved from being a kinetic, state-centric military struggle to being a multidimensional battle where military force is balanced and sometimes replaced by non-kinetic and non-traditional means of power (Freedman, 2013; Hoffman, 2007). States and non-state actors have the ability to achieve political and strategic goals through the use of non-conventional armed conflict (Gray, 2010; Nye, 2004) thanks to the development of information and communication technologies, cyber capacities, artificial intelligence, economic interdependence, strategic communication and

globalization. At the same time, non-traditional security issues like climate change, pandemics, food and water insecurity, transnational crime, terrorism, irregular migration, demographic pressures, energy insecurity and so on are increasingly impacting national security, governance, economic stability and human security (Buzan et al., 1998; United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 1994; World Economic Forum, 2024).

This evolution has shifted the Pakistani national security equation away from the defence of the country and into a broader one. Non-kinetic and non-traditional threats are intricately linked by their strategic location, changing regional dynamics, digitalization, socio-economic pressures and exposure to information manipulation, which necessitates an integrated understanding of how they intersect (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). While traditional military readiness is still crucial, the outcomes of security vary now more than ever due to cyber operations, disinformation, economic pressure, diplomatic rivalry, environmental pressure and institutional resistance (Galeotti, 2019; Rid, 2020).

Previous work has tended to explore non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security separately (Hoffman, 2007; Kaldor, 2012). Thus, there has been hardly any scholarly focus on their intersectionality and synergistic impact on Pakistan's national security. In this article, I will fill that void and examine how both ideas and concepts have changed over time, as well as how they are intertwined in a complete security model.

The study has four objectives: first, it aims to look at the evolution of non-kinetic warfare historically; second, it aims to analyse the non-traditional nature of security threats; third, it aims to understand the interaction of these threats in creating hybrid security threats for Pakistan; and fourth, it aims to come up with policy recommendations for enhancing national security. The study has three research questions. What kind of threats have there been in the past that were not of kinetic or traditional origin? How do they both impact on Pakistan's national security? What policy measures must be taken to respond to their hybrid effects?

The method used in this research is qualitative exploratory research using historical and documentary analysis method with secondary data sources (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Yin, 2018). It makes a contribution to the literature of strategic studies because it brings together two strands of scholarship that heretofore were kept apart, in an integrated analytical point of view. The results of the report will help researchers, policy makers, defence planners and security practitioners to gain a more complex and holistic understanding of the current security landscape. The rest of the article summarizes the literature, lays out the theoretical framework and methodology, examines the evolution of non-kinetic and non-traditional warfare, explores the implications for Pakistan, and suggests policy options.

Literature Review

In the last 30 years, there has been a definite paradigm shift in the study of security. The traditional views on security which focused mainly on territorial defence, military power and interstate conflict have slowly developed to include political, economic, societal, environmental, technological and human aspects of security. In the post-Cold War security world, worldly events have begun to disrupt the military-centric paradigm of the study of today's conflict, given the emergence of transnational threats, digital connectivity, rapid technological developments and globalization. As such, current security studies increasingly call for a broader concept of security that incorporates both the kinetic and non-kinetic means of national power (Buzan et al., 1998; Freedman, 2013).

In this general security context, non-kinetic war has become one of the most dynamic research fields in the field of strategic studies. The non-kinetic operations, which do not rely heavily on the use of physical force, involve the use of cyber capabilities, the conduct of information operations, economic coercion, diplomatic pressure, artificial intelligence, strategic communication, psychological operations and electronic warfare in order to impact an adversary. Ducheine (2014) makes a case for non-kinetic capabilities as an addition to, not a replacement for, conventional military operations as they place an operational and

strategic impact outside the battlefield. Similarly, Blackwell (2011) highlights the importance of non-kinetic deterrence and Hussain (2019) elucidates on the development of non-kinetic warfare in Pakistan's strategic landscape in terms of its objectives, means and applications. Moreover, cyber warfare is one of the major non-kinetic threats facing the national security of Pakistan which is identified by Khan (2019).

There is, however, a much greater knowledge of this now in the recent scholarship. Azad, Haider and Sadiq (2023) suggest that the nature of modern conflict has shifted to a "gray zone" area where the use of ambiguity, hybridity and soft power have emerged as the new tools of conflict. In the same way, Mumford and Carlucci (2023) argue that hybrid warfare should not be viewed as a new type of warfare, but as a political tool that is using a mix of kinetic and non-kinetic weapons to take advantage of the ambiguity of warfare below the threshold of conventional armed conflict.

As well as advances in non-kinetic warfare, there has been a huge growth in the area of non-traditional security. Based on the extensive definition of security by Barry Buzan and subsequent human security scholarship, researchers have increasingly pointed to the threats of climate change, pandemics, food insecurity, water scarcity, demographic pressure, environmental degradation, terrorism, organized crime, migration, and energy insecurity as strategic issues that can impact national security without the direct intervention of conventional military force (Buzan et al. 1998, UNDP 1994). All of these threats have direct impact on governance capacity, economic resilience, social cohesion and institutional effectiveness.

In the context of Pakistan, Abdul Rauf (2020) names climate change, water crisis, food crisis and energy crisis as major challenges for a sustainable national development. Mansoor and Mukhtar (2021) expand the discussion to include human security components, while Ahmad and Aftab (2020) point out population growth, infectious diseases, environmental degradation, and socio-economic vulnerabilities are the principle non-traditional security issues that need coordinated national responses.

Further, recent international literature shows that the non-traditional security threats are increasingly becoming entangled with the non-kinetic conflict. From a human security lens, Denov (2025) notes that “hybrid threats” are not only military but also aim to affect civilians via cyber, information, economic and social means, and require a whole-of-society approach to resilience. Recent research in the field of digital hybrid warfare also highlights the concurrent use of cyber weapons, artificial intelligence, disinformation operations and strategic communication alongside traditional military means, which completely transformed the nature of national security planning.

These research areas have come together to create an increased focus on the phenomenon of hybrid warfare. Current scholars have begun to acknowledge that war is just one if the few elements of the modern strategic competition.Today, scholars have come to realize that war is but one of the few elements of the modern strategic competition (Hoffman, 2007; Kaldor, 2012). Today, both State and non-State actors use coordinated force, cyber, diplomatic, economic, information, technological, and political tactics to accomplish strategic aims without resorting to the declaration of war. This multi-dimensional nature of the conflict testifies the need for a multi-dimensional approach to national security response and the blurring of the lines between war and peace.

However, there are three crucial gaps in the current literature. First, even though there is an increasing convergence of non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security in current strategic settings, most studies remain to date largely confined to the study of non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security as two distinct areas of research. Secondly, the research conducted specifically on Pakistan tends to study each threat separately, such as cyber warfare, climate change, information warfare, terrorism or human security but not how these threats interact and produce a cumulative impact on the strategic environment. Thirdly, there was little historical scholarship that examined non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security in a single analytical framework that could explain the implications

of these two aspects of security as a whole for Pakistan's national security policy.

To this end, this study aims to fill these gaps by combining the historical evolution of non-kinetic warfare and the evolution of non-traditional security threats. The article is not meant to be taken as separate ideas, but rather points to complementary dimensions that are part of a developing hybrid security environment. The study provides an historical analysis, strategic studies and exhaustive security views, which add to the existing literature on hybrid security and offer a policy-relevant framework for comprehending the current Pakistan's national security conundrums.

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on an interdisciplinary theoretical approach that combines three theories: Barry Buzan's Securitization Theory (Buzan et al., 1998), Constructivism (Wendt, 1999) and Hybrid Warfare Theory (Hoffman, 2007). Each of these viewpoints has its own dimension of contemporary security, combined they offer a comprehensive analytical framework to understand the development and dynamics of non-kinetic and non-traditional security threats to Pakistan's national security.

Barry Buzan's Securitization Theory extends the definition of security from military to political, economic, social, environmental and military sectors (Buzan et al., 1998). From this viewpoint, if the political leaders, state institutions or influential actors can manage to make the issue seem like an existential threat, which requires extraordinary policy responses, then it is a security issue.In this sense, an issue becomes a security issue when it can be successfully made to seem like an existential threat, which requires extraordinary policy responses, by political leaders, state institutions or influential actors (Buzan et al., 1998). This approach is of particular importance in the context of the current shift in the nature of threats to national security, such as cyberattacks, information warfare, climate change, pandemics, terrorism, economic coercion, and others.

Constructivism adds to this point by highlighting the social nature of security threats, as they are not just a product of material strength; they are formed of ideas, identities, perceptions and narratives. (Wendt, 1999). It provides an understanding of the role of strategic communication, propaganda, disinformation campaigns, psychological operations and digital media in influencing public opinion, institutional legitimacy and policy responses. As a result, non-kinetic instruments have become more and more central to national security, impacting the cognitive and informational aspects of conflict.

The operational aspect of this research is provided by the Hybrid Warfare Theory, which describes the merging of military and non-military means of national power (Hoffman, 2007; Mumford & Carlucci, 2023). Modern war is a war of all the peoples, all the weapons, all the means, and every technology. This allows the possibility for state and non-state actors to act on strategic goals without the official declaration of conventional warfare. These traits are quite present in the current security scenario of Pakistan, making the Hybrid Warfare Theory quite suitable in analysing multiple security threats.

The combination of these three theoretical approaches makes it possible to study the co-evolution and current intermingling of non-kinetic and non-traditional threats. Non-kinetic threats (including cyber warfare, information warfare, psychological operations, economic coercion, and diplomatic influence) are examined together with non-traditional security issues (climate change, pandemics, food insecurity, water insecurity, energy insecurity, terrorism, demographic pressures, irregular migration and transnational crime). The framework elucidates the interlinkages of these threats and their impacts on governance, state resilience, institutional capacity, social cohesion, economic stability and national security in Pakistan. The study integrates comprehensive security theory, constructivist thinking and hybrid warfare concepts into an analytical basis that allows for a comprehensive understanding of the security challenges of the twenty-first century and the empirical results that follow.

Research Methodology

This study is qualitative in nature and is aimed at analysis of the historical development of non-

kinetic and non-traditional warfare, and its impact on the national security of Pakistan. The themes of this research are related to complex security phenomena, historical developments, policy responses, and strategic interactions, which cannot be fully understood and explained through quantitative measurement. Research using a qualitative approach is appropriate for this type of research (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

The design of the research used is exploratory and descriptive. The exploratory component highlights the emergence and development of the threats which are not kinetic in nature and non-traditional in nature while the descriptive component is used for analyzing the characteristics of the identified threats, their interaction and implications in Pakistan's security environment. This design allows a holistic view to be developed of how these threats have transformed from historical perspective to present day security hybrid threats (Yin, 2018).

Secondary data was the primary focus of the study and was obtained from peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, official reports, policy documents, etc., strategic studies publications, government documents and credible reports from international organisations. The historical record and literature is used to illuminate the evolution of related concepts and security and conflict trends. Data is analysed through the qualitative thematic and content analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The gathered literature is structured around themes that have been repeated across the various chapters, such as non-kinetic warfare, non-traditional security, hybrid warfare, cyber security, information operations, economic coercion, human security and comprehensive national security. These themes are critically compared and synthesized to look for relationship, trends and policy implications for Pakistan. The unit of analysis is the state and Pakistan is the main case. Where necessary, illustrations from history and international experience are used to explain more general theoretical developments and to offer comparative perspectives. The study is not aimed at statistical generalisation but rather, it is designed to draw analytical explanations that are applicable to Pakistan's strategic environment.

In order to increase the believability of the results, evidence is triangulated from several academic and policy-based resources (Denzin, 1978). Peer-reviewed publications and important institutional reports are given preference. Some limitations include reliance on secondary data and the changing nature of today's security issues. However, the wide range of documentary sources offers an adequate foundation for examining the relationship between the non-kinetic and non-traditional threats. The methodology relates with research objectives and theoretical frame and allows systematic examination of the historical evolution, convergence and strategic implications of non-kinetic and non-traditional warfare for the national security of Pakistan.

Historical Evolution of Non-Kinetic Warfare

The history of warfare has shown that the use of force has never formed the sole means of statecraft. In the history of warfare, political influence, diplomacy, deception, economic pressure, gathering intelligence and psychological manipulation have worked hand in hand with conventional warfare (Clausewitz, 1976; Freedman, 2013). These actions were not traditionally categorized as non-kinetic warfare, but are viewed as the intellectual roots of it.

Diplomacy, propaganda, religious symbolism, espionage, and strategic communication were used by rulers of the Greek and Roman Empires to consolidate political power and to weaken rivals (Sun Tzu, 2005; Freedman, 2013). These non-military tools were used to influence perceptions and minimise resistance in military campaigns. From the medieval era onward, intelligence networks, secret diplomacy and political alliances were vital methods of gaining territory without constant warfare (Freedman, 2013).

As the Industrial Revolution developed and modern nation-state systems came into being, the significance of economic power, diplomacy, and strategic communication increased even more. Propaganda, psychological warfare, intelligence and economics, code-breaking and blockade were all important components of national strategy during the First and Second World Wars (Keegan, 1993; Gray, 2010).

Governments saw that good command of information and economic resources could have a tremendous effect on military operations.

A significant milestone in the development of non-kinetic warfare was the Cold War. Ideological rivalry, proxy wars, intelligence operations, diplomatic competition, economic assistance programmes, sanctions and information warfare were key elements of strategic competition between the USA and the USSR (Gaddis, 2005; Nye, 2004). The threat of MAD kept the superpowers from engaging in direct conventional conflict and thus further increased the need to use indirect and non-kinetic methods to attain geopolitical goals.

In the post-Cold War era, globalization and the rapid development of technology led to new and unparalleled developments in non-kinetic capabilities. Cyberspace now has become a new strategic domain due to the widespread use of the internet, digital communication, satellite technologies, artificial intelligence and social media (Rid, 2020; Galeotti, 2019). Cyber operations, digital espionage, disinformation and influence operations, election interference and ransomware attacks became relevant tools of state and non-state actors. Economic sanctions, financial limitations, technological competition and strategic investments were increasingly emerging as weapons of geopolitical competition (Nye, 2004).

The current nature of non-kinetic warfare is defined by the use of cyber, information operations, electronic warfare, artificial intelligence, strategic communication, diplomatic influence, economic coercion and cognitive operations (Hoffman, 2007; Mumford & Carlucci, 2023). They allow actors to influence political decisions, manipulate public opinion, defuse institutional credibility and to weaken national capacity to withstand armed conflict without resorting to actual fighting. As a result, there is an increasing blurring of the line between peace and war.

The history of non-kinetic warfare in Pakistan has important strategic implications. The unique geopolitical situation, digitalization, the regional security environment, and economic interdependence of the country makes it vulnerable to cyber threats, disinformation campaigns, economic coercion, diplomatic pressure, and information warfare (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). The developments underline the need to work alongside the traditional concepts of military preparedness with cyber resilience, strategic communication, institutional coordination, technological innovation and comprehensive national security policies. A state's national security in the twenty first century has, therefore, evolved beyond military security to the protection of its informational, economic, technological, and cognitive domains as well.

Historical Evolution of Non-Traditional Security

Traditionally the idea of security has been linked with territorial integrity, political sovereignty and military strength (Clausewitz, 1976). In classical and medieval times, security risks were perceived as invasions, inter-state wars and domestic revolts. As a result, national security policies were more concerned with the military capability and the survival of the state. The societies had its own crises of famine and outbreak of epidemics, the natural disasters and economic crisis, however, these challenge was hardly conceptualised as security challenge and to demand coordinated national and international response (Freedman, 2013).

This perception was slowly changed by the industrialization and growth in international trade. As economic interdependence, urbanisation, technology and global mobility increased, so did the new vulnerabilities which spread beyond the traditional military threats (Rosenau, 1990). The role of public health, food production, energy and critical infrastructure grew more significant for state stability and economic growth. But until the end of the Cold War military security remained the primary focus of strategic thinking.

The post-Cold War period was a significant change of the concept of security in the field of security studies. With the end of bipolar military competition, scholars and policy makers expanded the concept of security beyond defence. The work of influential figures such as Barry Buzan and the Human Security approach has shown that environmental deterioration, climate change, pandemics, terrorism, and organised crime, irregular

migration, poverty, water scarcity, energy insecurity, food insecurity, and economic instability, could jeopardise the survival and wellbeing of both states and individuals (Buzan et al., 1998; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1994). The problems became more and more seen as non-traditional security threats.

The spread of non-traditional security issues was further fueled by globalisation. Local crises derived specific regional and/or global implications due to increasing economic integration, digital connections and transnational mobility (Rosenau, 1990). Many of today's security challenges are not limited to specific countries and are not easily solved by military measures alone, as they were seen during the COVID-19 crisis, climate-related disasters, international acts of terror, cybercrime, financial instability and disruption of global supply chains (World Economic Forum, 2024; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2023). It is therefore more important than ever that international organisations and regional cooperation mechanisms play a significant role in the handling of common security problems.

The fast population growth, environmental degradation, water stress, public health issues, political instability, violent extremism and transnational organised crime are the growing non-traditional security threats in South Asian countries (Abdul Rauf, 2020; Ahmad & Aftab, 2020). These interlinked challenges impact economic development, social cohesion, governance capacity and regional stability. As a result, the security policy in the region has shifted from a more military approach to a more holistic one of comprehensive national security has taken root.

The changing face of "non-traditional security" in Pakistan has significant strategic implications. The increasing influence of climate change, water scarcity, food and energy insecurity, demographic pressures, cyber-enabled crime and terrorism, narcotics trafficking, irregular migration and economic vulnerabilities on national resilience is on the rise (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022; Mansoor & Mukhtar, 2021). These challenges undermine institutional capacities, impact human security and provide conditions that could be leveraged by non-kinetic means like disinformation, economic coercion and psychological operations. Consequently, a comprehensive policy framework for the national security of Pakistan must include all the above dimensions, such as defence, economy, environment, technology, human development, and regional cooperation.

The evolution of non-traditional security over the past two centuries shows that in the twenty-first century the main drivers of insecurity are not coming from the military realm. To ensure effective national security, it is necessary to fortify state institutions, strengthen governance, boost the societal's resilience, and develop comprehensive national security strategies that can tackle interrelated political, economic, technological, environmental and human security issues (Buzan et al., 1998; UNDP, 1994).

Hybrid Effects of Non-Kinetic and Non-Traditional Threats on Pakistan's National Security

Non-kinetic and non-traditional threats are becoming a common reality to the contemporary security challenges. They are not mutually exclusive, but rather they reinforce each other, creating a hybrid security environment that is beyond any simple peace and conflict dichotomy (Hoffman, 2007; Mumford & Carlucci, 2023). The nature of states' national security has been altered by the combination of cyber operations, information warfare, economic coercion, psychological operations, terrorism, climate change, pandemics, organised crime and socio-economic instability, which has necessitated a multifaceted response beyond military capability (Buzan et al., 1998; Freedman, 2013). Combating both types of threats at once is a strategic challenge in Pakistan. Multidimensional security risks are a reality for the country due to its geostrategic position, regional security environment, digitalization, economic fragilities, population pressures, and environmental issues (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). In recent years, non-kinetic actors have been using existing political, economic, and social weaknesses as well as other means to pave the way for national decision-making, undermine institutional legitimacy, create public mistrust,

and limit strategic options without the need for an open armed conflict. (Rid, 2020; Galeotti, 2019)

Cyber warfare is a one of the most important aspects of this hybrid threat landscape. These include critical information infrastructure, financial systems, communication networks, and government databases, all of which can be seen as targets for cyber espionage, ransomware, disinformation campaigns and digital sabotage (Khan, 2019; Rid, 2020). When combined with misinformation, polarisation and low trust, these threats gain in strategic power, and have become significantly more dangerous than they are in the technical realm.

The same is true for non-traditional security threats, which greatly amplify the impact of non-kinetic operations. Climate induced disasters, water scarcity, food insecurity, unemployment, inflation, public health emergency, and energy shortages are societal vulnerabilities, which could be exploited through information manipulation, psychological operations, economic coercion, and external political influences (Abdul Rauf 2020; UNDP 1994; World Economic Forum 2024). This interplay negatively affects the capacity of governance, weakens trust in the state and contributes to the fragility of the country.

The peaceful ones are not limited to the military field. Economic insecurity and uncertainty compels the nation to invest less in defence modernization, and environmental degradation and demographic pressure demand more resources for humanitarian response and economic recovery. Meanwhile, transnational crime, terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and irregular migration pose threats to the border management and internal security institutions (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2023). Together, they pose a threat to the overall resilience of nations and make decision-making more difficult.

The reality of the Pakistan experience shows that no single approach, such as conventional military preparedness, is enough to deal with the current hybrid threats. Coordinated efforts in various sectors such as defence, diplomacy and foreign affairs, intelligence, cyber security, strategic communication, economic governance, environmental management, public health, education, technological innovation and regional cooperation are required for effective national security (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). Hence a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response is crucial to fostering sustainable resilience to multidimensional security threats.

Theoretically, the non-kinetic and non-traditional threats are compatible with the notion that the security of today's world is multidimensional and interdependent (Buzan et al., 1998; Wendt, 1999). Today security problems are not only the result of conflicts between the armies, but are also becoming more and more prevalent in the processes of political, economic, technological, environmental, informational and social connectedness. All of these threats lead to strategic outcomes that are greater than the sum of its parts.

Therefore, Pakistan's national security policy should shift from the state-centric and military-oriented approach to a holistic security approach that includes a national security resilience framework, an efficient institutional framework, technological preparedness, human security framework, economic sustainability, and strategic communication (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). This approach will help build the country's capacity to prepare, prevent and react to hybrid threats and contribute to the overall national stability and sustainable development.

Discussion

The results of this study have shown that the nature of the current security is not only multidimensional but also is in a new environment of security that contains non-kinetic and non-traditional threats (Buzan et al., 1998; Freedman, 2013). The historical analysis shows that the military force is still a key element of national security but it also reveals that the threats facing the modern state are increasingly broad, ranging from cyber operations and information warfare to economic coercion, technological competition, environmental threats and human security (Hoffman, 2007; Galeotti, 2019). The results of this analysis reinforce the need for full spectrum national security, which must be a

combination of military and non-military means of national power.

The study also shows that non-kinetic and non-traditional threats can only be comprehended if they are not seen as distinct. Instead, they work in reinforcing ways to create hybrid security risks (Mumford & Carlucci, 2023). In politically polar societies, information manipulation is more effective, in cyber attack, the strategic impact is higher when institutional resistance is low, and in an economy with vulnerabilities, there is a high level of vulnerability to external coercion (Rid, 2020). Similarly, climate change, pandemics, food insecurity, energy constraints, irregular patterns of migration, and transnational crime can foster conditions that can be exploited with non-kinetic means to impair governance and confidence in it (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1994; World Economic Forum, 2024).

The results are in line with the theoretical perspective used in this study. The development of the concept of security by Barry Buzan is seen as a logical development because issues that have traditionally been considered developmental or social issues now demand responses in national security (Buzan et al., 1998). Constructivism emphasizes the role of ideas, stories, and interpretations in influencing security outcomes, in the information domain, in particular (Wendt, 1999). The Hybrid Warfare Theory also accounts for the employment of a combination of conventional and unconventional means by both state and non-state actors in order to achieve the strategic goal without the risk of crossing the threshold of conventional armed conflict (Hoffman, 2007; Mumford & Carlucci, 2023). These are the theoretical approaches that have put together a coherent explanation of the emerging character of modern security.

The security landscape is complex, as it has implications for Pakistan's strategic geography, the security environment, digital transformation, economic constraints, demographic pressures, and exposure to climate-related risks (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). The analysis indicates that in building national resilience the focus has to go beyond conventional defence preparedness. The key elements of effective responses are institutional coordination, cyber resilience, strategic communication, economic stability, technological innovation, environmental governance and human development within a single national security framework.

The study also adds to the literature by combining the historical development of non-kinetic warfare with non-traditional security in one overarching analysis. These concepts have been studied previously on a single-case basis, but this research shows that the interaction of these concepts offers a more holistic explanation of the dynamics of today's world of security (Hoffman, 2007; Buzan et al., 1998). The integrated approach provides a more solid foundation for policy crafting and strategy-making, especially for states with multiple and intertwined security issues.

Lastly, the research shows that the future national security policies of the state should focus on anticipation, prevention, resilience, and adaptation in addition to deterrence and military response, instead of solely deterrence and military response (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022; World Economic Forum, 2024). The security landscape continues to be transformed by technological innovation and global inter-dependency, and governments will need to implement comprehensive policies that are able to respond to the synergic impact of political, economic, technological, environmental, informational and societal threats. This is vital for improving the security, stability and sustainable development of Pakistan in the long-term.

Policy Recommendations

According to the study, to deal with the emerging convergence of non-kinetic and non-traditional threats in the national security of Pakistan, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach. The following policy recommendations are suggested to reinforce the national resilience and increase the country's ability to prevent, manage and react to modern hybrid security threats. National security policy must incorporate the following four quadrants of security – military security, political security, economic security, technological security,

environmental security and human security – in an integrated fashion and in a whole of government approach (Buzan et al., 1998; National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). Increase cyber defence capacities, strengthen critical sectors national infrastructure protection, strengthen cyber legislation, invest in indigenous technologies and promote public-private partnership with respect to cyber resilience (Khan, 2019; Rid, 2020). Establish coordinated national counter-disinformation, propaganda and fake news and hostile influence operations mechanisms, based on timely, credible and evidence-based communication (Galeotti, 2019; Wendt, 1999). Enhance coordination between defence institutions, intelligence agencies, civilian ministries, national Disaster Management and provincial governments for timely and effective response to national crises (Government of Pakistan 2022 National Security Division). Ensure investments in education, health and nutrition, food security, water management and social protection are increased to mitigate vulnerabilities that can be exploited by hostile actors (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1994; Mansoor & Mukhtar, 2021). Ensure climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water conservation, and environmental sustainability are incorporated in the national security planning for the long run (World Economic Forum, 2024; Abdul Rauf, 2020). Minimize external economic vulnerabilities through fiscal stability, supply-chain resilience, energy security and technological innovation (Nye, 2004; National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022). Increase regional cooperation on terrorism, cybercrime, border security, climate change, public health and transnational organised crime, both bilaterally and multilaterally (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2023). Facilitate dialogue and partnerships between universities, think tanks, military institutions and policymakers, for the purposes of evidence-based research in relation to new security challenges (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Conduct regular strategic reviews to gauge the new threats in the hybrid warfare paradigm and adjust national security policies accordingly, keeping in mind the changing threat landscape, technological advancements, geopolitical developments and environmental factors (National Security Division, Government of Pakistan, 2022; World Economic Forum, 2024).

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to explore the historical developments of non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security and then explore what implications these two developments have for Pakistan's national security. The outcomes show that the security context in today's world has moved from a military-oriented security model to a multi-dimensional security model, where political, economic, technological, societal, environmental, informational and human security aspects all play a role in national security resilience. While traditional military capability is still essential to a state's security, alone it is no longer enough to mitigate the growing range of hybrid threats facing contemporary states.

The historical comparison shows how non-kinetic tools such as diplomacy, intelligence, psychological operations, information warfare, cyber capabilities, strategic communication and economic coercion have increasingly become part of the national power.The historical comparison demonstrates that non-kinetic instruments like diplomacy, intelligence, psychological operations, information warfare, cyber capabilities, strategic communication and economic coercion are increasingly forming part of the national force. Similarly, new trends in non-traditional security issues like climate change, water-related, food and energy insecurity, pandemics, terrorism, organised crime, demographic pressures, irregular migration, and technological vulnerabilities have become important factors of national stability. The interplay of these two generates a blended security environment where security vulnerabilities in one area will magnify risks in another and where responses to these vulnerabilities must be coordinated and integrated.

The developments in Pakistan highlight the need for a holistic national security framework that will encompass institutional resilience, cyber security, economic stability, environmental sustainability, strategic

communication, technological innovation and human development, besides military preparedness. The study recommends the enhancement of governance, inter-agency cooperation, investment in critical infrastructure and human resources, and cooperation between regions and countries in dealing with new multidimensional threats to build a strong national security.

The main importance of this research is that this research combines the evolution of non-kinetic warfare and non-traditional security into one analysis. This study is unique because it has examined the convergence of these ideas to create hybrid security challenges that have real strategic implications for Pakistan's strategic environment, as opposed to other studies that have considered them separately. These aspects can be explained by Securitization Theory, Constructivism and Hybrid Warfare Theory, which provides a comprehensive theoretical framework.

There are some limitations to the study. It is primarily qualitative in nature, and some of the technologies and geopolitical changes are quickly changing, so new threats to hybridity will continue to emerge. Future studies can benefit from comparative regional analysis, empirical case analysis, quantitative evaluation of threats hybridization and measure of national resilience indicators, which could contribute to the deepening of the knowledge of the current security challenges.

Finally, the nature of warfare is changing and so must be the nature of national security thinking. National security requires a multi-faceted and multifunctional approach that combines the military and non-military dimensions of security, thereby enabling Pakistan to be better prepared to anticipate, mitigate and act on the emerging hybrid threats, and to ensure long-term national stability, sustainable development and strategic resilience.

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