



Sixth generation wars and their impact on the national security of states

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Introduction

The sixth generation is considered the latest generation of modern warfare generations, and although it is still in the process of becoming and integrating, its features seemed to crystallize gradually, as its essence is based on the idea of remote warfare with different means and renewed goals. It is that generation that aims to manage wars remotely by employing tools. It is very modern and does not only target regular armies and their structures, but also extends to targeting society itself and trying to control its choices or push it to influence the nature and shape of its political system as well as targeting the political, societal and intellectual values and structures themselves through special media, cultural and intellectual tools:

Research problem:

It can be summarized as follows: Does the development of modern warfare tools affect the national security of states? What is the nature and level of that effect? What is the role of the sixth generation wars in this field?

Research hypothesis:

It is summarized as follows (there is a significant impact of the development of the tools of sixth generation wars on the national security of states, as the national security of states is facing unprecedented challenges and threats in light of the modern types of wars, especially including sixth generation wars, which are mainly concentrated in exposing political and social stability and the unity of states to grave dangers. Unprecedented .





Research Methodology:

The deductive reason was employed in the research, as we started from the general, which is wars in general, to the specific, which is the sixth generation, as a model of these wars.

The first Axis: The concept of wars and the evolution of their generations

The first Requirement: The concept of war;

War is defined linguistically, as stated in the dictionary of **Waseet**, that it is fighting and a fight between two factions, and thus it is the opposite of peace¹.

As for idiomatically, it is the most common and well-known type of violence in international conflicts, and there are some disagreements and agreement on setting an accurate and comprehensive definition of the concept of war.

Clausewitz defines war as: an act of force to force the enemy to do our will².

While war was known, according to "Hegel", as something necessary and inevitable, and it is necessary for the state to be able to continue and maintain its entity, as well as it is considered necessary in the life of the people³.

War is defined in the international terminology as "an armed conflict between two states or two groups of states that break out to achieve national interests, and war in terms of reality is a legal situation, the possibility of which is recognized."⁴

Through the above, it is also possible to distinguish between war as a concept and war as a process. War as a concept is⁵ :

- 1- A legal case, as it entails the need for its parties to abide by the rules set by international law.
- 2- It is a state of enmity between two or more groups
- 3- Or that war is the continuation of conflict between groups using armed force.

As for war as a process, it refers to the connection and interaction between four basic features that include: military





activity or operations, a high level of tension, an unusual law, and a high degree of political integration.

War is one of the oldest phenomena known to human societies. It first materialized at the level of individual conflicts as defined by organized groups, starting with the family, passing through the tribe, and ending with the most complex institution, which is the state⁶.

Of course, war is organized violence run by political units against each other, and violence is not considered war unless it takes place in the name of a political unit. Violence that takes place in the name of a political unit is not considered a war unless it is directed against another political unit⁷.

Some believe that wars carry out functions in societies that are still necessary until now, but the truth is that the main function of armed war is destruction, oppression and achieving certain goals through violence⁸.

As for us, as researchers, we believe more and more that war is nothing but a continuation of politics, but in more violent ways, its ultimate goal is to achieve the goals of various foreign policy, and that war has many images and meanings that are no longer limited to the military aspects, but rather extended to the economic, technological, media, cultural and other fields.

War, like other phenomena, is in continuous development and transformation in some of its contents through a change in some of its forms, features, functions and mechanisms. Therefore, we clearly notice the change of generations of wars over time.

The second requirement: types of war

The concept of war no longer refers only to the military aspect when talking about its basic types. Rather, the types of war extended in terms of their basic contents, objectives, and means of implementation to other diverse and specialized fields. After many international transformations, including the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the control of the forces of globalization,





the development of means of communication and transportation, and successive technological revolutions We are facing new fields in which the pace of international conflict intensifies and wars are waged through it between opponents and competitors. Among the most important of these fields is the economic field, where economic wars have become one of the most important modern wars and the most effective and influential in the positions of countries. Trade wars exist between countries strongly despite the regulatory and legal frameworks. International countries that sponsor global commercial activities. Countries also entered into a technological war to control the means of modern technology and artificial intelligence, which have become a huge measure of strength. The capabilities of countries in the field of cyber warfare, cyber security and cyber deterrence are an extension of their technological capabilities that they employ in the military, economic and political fields⁹.

In light of the transformation of the goals and means of states and other entities, media wars have played a major role in today's world to put pressure on their opponents or promote their goals and projects and score points against their opponents by penetrating the opponent's society and delivering various messages or trying to push society to turn against its government and political system as a form of punishment by dumping it with a huge amount From conflicting information and messages and weakening the prestige and position of the political system and its institutions and tools through propaganda and misleading methods and pushing the factors of doubt, confusion and confusion to the heart and parties of the political system itself.

Among the other types of wars in light of the escalation of the role of soft and smart tools are the cultural and civilizational wars in light of the clash of civilizations based on the idea that





every civilization has a political project that it tries to impose or promote globally¹⁰. It is like a real war in which major means are used to achieve victory or stop the progress of competing projects.

Theird Requirement: Generations of War

Generations of wars are not defined by time and number of years. Rather, they depend on the nature of war itself and its development, which usually accompanies the intellectual and technical development of nations and peoples. Thus, wars were divided into specific generations, the last of which was the fifth generation, which became famous recently. We will discuss each generation of wars in its sequence:

First: First Generation War (conventional and regular wars)

These are the wars that take place between two regular armies on one land and in a specific field, in which direct confrontations take place between the two opponents on one front in a confrontational manner. During the wars of the first generation, a limited number of military operations were carried out, and great successes were achieved, such as maneuvering and circumvention operations to surround the opponent and strike him in his wings to eliminate and destroy him. This type of war started early and was known to mankind and continued until the period before the Second World War¹¹.

The wars of the first generation are distinguished by a number of descriptions that apply to all their manifestations¹²:

- 1- Dress: that is, the clear difference between the forms of combatants, for each of the two teams has a distinctive dress to remove confusion about the identity of each of them.
- 2- The system: the army is ranks, positions, and highly specific discipline relations between these ranks and positions, and it is a permanent and apparent commitment to discipline and adherence to the





instructions and laws prevailing within the military institution.

- 3- The basic and clear distinction between the civil and military sectors
- 4- A culture of regularity and discipline: This means waiting for orders and certainly refraining from taking initiatives except within very narrow limits.

Second: Second Generation Wars (Guerrilla warfare)

It is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants, such as armed paramilitaries and civilians or irregulars, employ military tactics including ambushes, sabotage, raids, small warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to combat a larger and less mobile conventional army.

Although the term "guerrilla warfare" was coined in the nineteenth century, tactical methods of guerrilla warfare have been in use for a long time. In the sixth century BC, Sun Tzu proposed the use of guerrilla-style tactics in his book *The Art of War*. Guerrilla warfare has been waged by different factions throughout history and is particularly linked to revolutionary movements and popular resistance against invading or occupying armies¹³.

Guerrilla tactics focus on avoiding direct confrontations with enemy armies, usually due to low weapons or troop levels, and instead engage in limited skirmishes with the goal of wearing down opponents and forcing them to withdraw. As a result, guerrilla tactics are rarely used for anything other than defense. Organized guerrilla groups often rely on the support of the local population¹⁴.

Third: Third Generation Wars (Maneuver War)

The third generation war combines strategic wars, including (nuclear wars or those that use strategic weapons), blitzkrieg wars, or maneuver warfare. In the attack and in terms of the tactical aspect, the third generation army seeks to enter the depth





of the enemy and overthrow it from the back to the front, instead of "closing and destroying", as the motto of the third generation wars is "turn around and destroy", and then the enemy army is divided. In defense, the tactic is to withdraw the enemy and cut off its supplies, while another aspect of this generation devotes itself to pre-emptive and pre-emptive war to destroy the enemy's preparations¹⁵.

Within the framework of the wars of this generation, a measure of liberation from formal concepts of regularity occurred, in favor of focusing more on results (content). Achieving victory may require moving flexibly and violating some leadership instructions in favor of responding to new developments in the field¹⁶.

One of the most important characteristics of the third generation wars is that it seeks surprise instead of confrontation, and it constantly adjusts the front line and lures the opponent to pre-prepared sites with the intention of surprise, and then defeats and collapses in the field.

Fourth: Fourth Generation Wars (Asymmetric War)

It is an unconventional war, which can be called an "evolving form of rebellion", which is the opposite of the traditional concept of war, and represents the most radical changes in the patterns of confrontation. There are specific battlefields or fronts according to the traditional concept of the battlefield, and the distinction between "civilians" and "combatants" disappears in them. The conflict is strong¹⁷.

This generation grew up when countries faced an entity that does not depend on a homeland or a regular army, but rather an organization that bears a religious or political character with a specific ideology that spreads around the world and has the capabilities to strike the vital interests of other countries to weaken them in front of global public opinion. An example of these organizations: Al Qaeda in its various branches, the





organization ISIS, and in this generation of wars, exploits modern and traditional media, as well as intelligence operations, to play a major role in weakening and influencing the opponent¹⁸.

One of the most important characteristics of the fourth generation wars is the confrontation between one or more legitimate states and an organization that cannot be classified as a state and is illegitimate. An example of this is what happened with the American forces in Iraq by waging a war that established the ground for the applications of the fourth generation war after the destruction of the initial invasion of the Iraqi state, which a culture was born among people to wage a war of liberation, which was afflicted with the establishment of armed groups, including foreign terrorist groups¹⁹.

As for the second feature, it rejects the battle that its opponent is trying to lure into, and it does not confront its opponent in the field except when it is sure that it controls the conditions for its success, while the third feature is that the fourth generation wars cross the borders of the state²⁰.

Fifth: Fifth Generation Wars (Hybrid War)

It is called hybrid war, and it is a distinct type of war in which the regular army is unable to overthrow the opponent who is believed to be unprofessional, which he usually is, but he wages irregular war with innovative ideas that are a mixture of the concept of popular war, revolutionary war, guerrilla warfare, and modern means of war that have technology superior that is not subject to a specific form and fixed rules, starting from leadership and ending with the operations taking place during it²¹, the concept of the fifth generation of wars really translates the meaning of “the power of the weak” that force that embodies and multiplies its effectiveness with goals, means and methods that reality has proven successful and effective in confronting strong and asymmetrical forces, but Operations of the fifth





generation of wars may become an open field for conflict that arises between governments and armies that carry out their operations without moral restrictions and use all available armed and unarmed means of force to force opponents to submit to the will of those waging war, even if that includes unjustly casualties with the encroachment that accompanies war operations. And injustice and tyranny, as there is no way to achieve the goals except through destruction and killing²².

In this generation, political actions are combined with a disinformation campaign, including state-level denial, limited but rapid military operations, and a mixture of means to increase the burden on enemy command and control, and to exploit differences and divisions in society.

From the foregoing, it is clear that there is a difference between the fifth generation wars from others, as the first and second generation wars were fought on land and sea, while the third generation wars relied on economic and technological development in the era of the industrial revolution, and resulted in great material losses, then the fourth generation wars As the war itself became a struggle of political will, with the devising of moral and legal justifications, to serve interests such as the Human Rights Organization, as for the fifth generation wars, it is a modern model for the war of states and non-state entities, waged inside and outside the state, using a mixture of advanced tools²³.





Sixth: Sixth generation wars (the generation of remote wars).

The second axis: Sixth generation wars, basic concepts and features

The first requirement: the concept of the sixth generation of war

There is not yet a clear and integrated concept of the sixth generation, as it is still in the stage of becoming and forming, but a simplified concept can be given to it as that generation that refers to modern wars that are run remotely and rely on artificial intelligence and high cognitive capabilities, targeting mainly within the state and its political and social stability and its national identity and tries to undermine its basic pillars and fragment its unity, secretly or publicly²⁴.

The goal of the sixth generation wars is to destabilize and stir up internal strife in countries without the need for external aggression. The informatics that these wars rely on is the backbone of future wars, as the sixth generation wars do not aim to destroy military capabilities, but to destroy the state with all its parts and institutions²⁵.

The goal of the sixth generation warfare technologies is to be able to penetrate the strongest potential defenses by adopting anti-air weapons, through which it can penetrate into the enemy's airspace bypassing sensor platforms and radars, and it is clear through these wars that the confrontation platform has moved with all its contents and means to wars Space possesses stealth tactics in directing operations from the infrared spectrum and the electromagnetic spectrum, and the sixth generation warfare tactics suppress the enemy's air defense systems with electronic warfare tools by launching swarms of viruses directed at computer data in the platforms of military bases to disable guided missiles, combat aircraft and drones²⁶.





Sixth generation wars use a new type of high-precision weapons and defensive weapons from different bases, based on informatics, forces and means of electronic warfare managed remotely, and its aim is to destroy the military potential of any country, at any distance from the aggressor and cause minimal damage to its social infrastructure. Which thus constitutes the transitional period for the wars of a new generation whose main theater of military operations will be space, and it also targets the societal structure itself by pushing society to destroy the system or enter into a contradiction with its institutions, meaning that it aims to achieve the goals of war with the least possible losses by blowing up the enemy from within and pushing him to destroy himself By very advanced means, including the media and cultural and propaganda distortion²⁷.

The second requirement: the basic features of the sixth generation wars:

- 1- Avoid waging a direct war, as the sixth generation wars are indirect wars that are managed remotely through the use of electronic means, and the media as a catalyst for war and targeting.
- 2- The cost: The cost of these wars is less compared to previous wars, and the means of transporting them and pushing them away to their goal across continents, developing and concealing them, their aim is to disrupt the human mind that thinks for society²⁸.
- 3- Danger: Sixth generation wars are considered more deadly to the opponent's capabilities in the absence of indications of the occurrence of war, as it is a (surprising, mysterious, and perhaps unknown source and direction) war²⁹.
- 4- Responsibility: The most important feature of this war is the evasion of international responsibility, to get rid of





- legal accountability, whether launching the attack or assembling the particles of war.
- 5- Excessive reliance on modern technology and artificial intelligence, by employing the geophysical weapon system, the blue ray weapon, the Harv weapon, and very modern spy systems and climate influence systems.
 - 6- It deals with Harv's weapon to ensure advanced control capabilities, whether to cause phenomena of a manufactured nature such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and climate, or to target people with electromagnetic waves.
 - 7- A modern system with high accuracy in espionage, targeting, and cooperation with other institutions, effective remote weapon systems, and it has important goals other than the mission of espionage and space.
 - 8- The attackers can use highly accurate strikes to destroy the enemy anywhere, with the possibility of evading the second strike, with the aim of minimal physical engagement³⁰.
 - 9- Employing national capabilities in an integrated manner to carry out remote operations, in order to achieve a quick decisive victory by disabling and destroying the capabilities of the enemy in a state that enjoys the development and technological progress represented in the use of control and control systems, and precision weapons: remotely guided missiles, anti-missile systems, drones pilots, monitoring and tracking submarines, as well as controlling forecasting and weather systems, sensor robots, as the effectiveness of these technologies was chosen in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Ukraine³¹.
 - 10- These wars depend on the "space gen system", which is a highly developed technology similar to the "fortified





imagination”, as it depends on about a million and a half small satellites scattered around the earth, as it depends on scanning the magnetic activity of man, and then directing electromagnetic waves that may control in a manner Certainly called, "biopiracy"³².

11- Invisible development efforts: One of the characteristics of these wars is that they are invisible (to us) and the creation, development and diversification of information weapons, and the increase in the degree of their immunity in the face of the counter-attack strikes against them³³.

12- As the wars of the sixth generation are fraught with greater pitfalls and caveats than the wars of total destruction, they may paralyze the opponent's ability to confront, and may even make him lose the ability to make decisions that enable him to manage this complex situation and its many possibilities³⁴.

The third axis: The impact of the sixth generation wars on the national security of states

The first requirement: Influence on the political and military level and on the status of states:

The most important effects left by the wars of the sixth generation on the national security of countries, including Iraq, of course, on the political and military level and on the level of the status of the state can be summed up in the following points³⁵:

- 1- Influencing the legitimacy of the political system, as it targets the political system by questioning its legitimacy and prompting the international and local community to attack it and call for its change.
- 2- Ultimately undermining the system through rebellion or protest, or creating a gap between the system and society





in order to undermine the performance of the system and subdue it.

- 3- Making a significant difference in the technological content of military capabilities, especially in the field of hypersonic weapons, geospatial weapons and drones.
- 4- Bringing countries into a circle of internal violence and creating political and social unrest that will negatively affect their reputation in front of the world.
- 5- Pushing countries to bargain negatively and give up some of their goals and interests after bringing them into the circle of doubt and frustration in front of their society.
- 6- Showing the targeted countries as rogue states that oppress their people and thus subject them to certain sanctions that may lead to their disintegration or weak government control over their territories.

As for the effects on the social and economic level, they can also be summarized with a set of basic points, the most important of which are the following³⁶:

- 1- Targeting the national identity.
- 2- Targeting religious, social and national beliefs.
- 3- Attempting to legitimize violence and incite its use by provoking separatist tendencies, reminding of political discrimination, and inciting social and political divisions, etc.
- 4- Encouraging extremist political ideologies or those linked to foreign projects.
- 5- Striking the economic system and economic capabilities by targeting economic, water and production security, etc.
- 6- Targeting social, economic and cultural stability by insulting certain local values and attempting to impose external values, which leads to higher costs of state administration and depletion of its capabilities.





Conclusions

- 1- The sixth generation wars have become one of the biggest challenges facing the national security of countries.
- 2- The sixth generation wars focus on managing the war from a distance and avoiding direct confrontation.
- 3- The enemy, in the framework of the sixth generation wars, is mostly distinguished by concealment and avoiding appearing or taking responsibility
- 4- The sixth generation wars mainly aim at striking countries from within by targeting their economic and political stability and social fabric and attacking the human mind.
- 5- Among the most important targets of the sixth generation wars is striking the political system, delegitimizing it, and attempting to cause a kind of rebellion and rejection of the political system and its institutions.
- 6- Sixth generation wars depend on complete technological superiority in the field of artificial intelligence based on superiority in hypersonic weapons, geo-space weapons, drones, and information and cyber sovereignty.

Recommendations:

- 1- It is necessary to alert the decision-makers in Iraq to the danger of modern wars, especially the wars of the sixth generation
- 2- Developing national means of deterrence against this type of war by making use of the latest technologies and innovative tools.
- 3- One of the most important means of deterrence and protection of national security against the threats of the sixth generation is rebuilding the national identity on the right foundations, strengthening the national social, political and economic immunity, and increasing





society's awareness of the seriousness of these wars, as it is a war that targets the mind before anything else.

4- Directing researchers, whether in various research centers or postgraduate students, to pay double attention to this subject in order to develop proposals for dealing with its threats and presenting constructive alternatives for deterrence.

5- It is necessary to establish a research center on the effects of modern wars and cyber wars, including the sixth generation, linked to the Prime Ministry or the National Security Adviser, and to coordinate directly with the relevant institutions, particularly the information, security and military institutions.

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