

## **CONCLUSION**

**By Balraj Nagal**

War is pursuing politics by other means is an old dictum so well understood by the world and more so by political leaders and military strategists, but the evolution of politics and war itself has become a challenge to leaders managing international relations and conflicts around the world. India's security environment is the most complex and intricate today by virtue of being in the cross hairs of two inimical and revisionist neighbours and the target of state sponsored non-state actors. The cost of this has been enormous in terms of human lives, economic growth, diversion of resources to security apparatus and quality of life. Notwithstanding the negatives, the Indian state has withstood the collusive threats and attack on its core values, because the military, particularly the Army has kept the state secure and violence under acceptable levels for the state to prosper. The threat envelope has expanded and the conflict spectrum sub divided further in the past decade and the methods employed have undergone a sea change, thus mandating an examination of existing policies, strategies and doctrines the military must adopt and follow, whilst it is well understood that these are not cast in stone or straight jacketed, our endeavor has been to put forward ideas on what are possible options and strategies for the future. Each chapter is focused on one subject which is the author's domain expertise.

Today there is an urgent need to articulate a grand strategy for the country from which will emerge the national security strategy, there is no gainsaying the fact that India must assume the role of a regional leader to ensure regional security, hence must build a good military with regional capabilities, these of course call on the nation to provide resources to build and maintain these capabilities. The military too must build cooperation, train and synergise with friendly forces in the world and learn to operate with other forces in all operations. The nature and character of war are also changing, violence now has means non-kinetic to prosecute war, the attack on the minds of the population and information warfare have changed the frontiers of war, religious fundamentalism is a new tool in the practitioners of terror which is silent and covert till executed. Internal conflicts are foisted on countries by hostile neighbours and big powers in the international power game. The means of conflict in the lower area of spectrum have brought

new challenges for security forces when the enemy is undefined, psychologically controlled through various methods and lives in the neighbourhood of the security forces and acts when directed. The mass of humanity when unarmed but hostile, poses new threats, besides the poisoning of the mind through indoctrination by religious teachers creates a dilemma for security planners. Today we need to continuously adapt our means to confront internal strife. Hybrid warfare now calls for new ideas and forces to prosecute or to defeat the adversary. The social, psychological, information, covert, military hard power capabilities that need to be orchestrated to execute Hybrid war are well understood, however the challenge lies in developing a suitable strategy for each contingency or occasion, the genius is to never repeat the theme, herein lies the test for Indian planners. One critical area long neglected but now addressed in this book is Special Forces, it is time India understood the importance and value of employing Special Forces in peace and war in support of National Objectives. India's future role in the maritime domain in the Indian Ocean is crystal clear, as a regional power we must provide security and ensure a rule based order is followed, and the power of the Navy must be commensurate with the role. Whilst India is still not expeditionary in nature, it is time that the Air Force develops strategy to be able to fulfill the role in future, for that it will have to adopt new thinking on how to conduct operations that fits into the Naval and Army objectives. A force structure based on quantum without a philosophy negates the ability to deter adversaries. The field of Information warfare which includes cyber is the new frontier where static or fixed ideas must be discarded and the quest for new means be a daily requirement, there is no permanent doctrine or strategy but dynamic ideas are needed on regular basis. Space has added a new dimension where India must catch up fast and quick, our adversary has demonstrated advanced capability in space, it is imperative that we took adopt an offensive mindset to develop own capabilities which support our military needs in peace and war. The leadership of the future should be different from the past in thinking and execution, the social and cultural factors may remain the same however the thinking has to be out of the box to lead men who are better educated, more aware and better economically. The nuclear deterrence India needs must address two collusive neighbours and unforeseen contingencies, the danger that the adversaries pose needs a new policy which is not reactive and caters for preservation of the state.

Since change is required in most fields and domains of the military it is but natural that we change our higher defence apparatus and the system that manages it. The archaic organisations that exist in the government and the military require reorganization, restructuring, modification and change. These should be responsive, quick and adaptable to emerging needs and challenges. The resources that are entailed will compete with other demands of the country, however it is the duty of the political leadership not to fail, lest we repeat the past and remain enslaved, subservient and irrelevant, doomed to follow than lead, be subjugated than rule. In the past forecasting a pattern of war or environment has failed, We have to fight a war not visualized but based on trends and hypothesis, it is time to think of new ways and means to win in the future.