

# THE ROLE OF INFORMATION WARFARE IN MODERN WARFARE

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## Abstract

This article analyzes the role, means and strategic importance of information warfare in modern warfare. Information warfare is seen as an important piece of military action, explaining how it works through cybersecurity, psychological impact, and propaganda on social media. The real impact of information warfare is illustrated by the example of the Ukraine-Russia war. The article also discusses the dangers and opportunities of information warfare.

**Keywords:** Information warfare, disinformation, cybersecurity, psychological operations, media strategy, modern warfare.

## Introduction

Modern warfare is not limited to armed conflicts alone. In recent decades, information warfare has played an important role in global security and strategic relations. What is information warfare really? Information warfare is a set of actions aimed at shaping public opinion, weakening adversary infrastructure, or achieving strategic superiority through the collection, dissemination, and manipulation of information [1]. It covers the following key areas:

**Psychological Operations (PSYOPS):** Propaganda and information campaigns to influence public consciousness.

**Cyber Warfare:** Attacking an adversary's information systems, stealing data, or disrupting infrastructure.

**Disinformation:** Creating confusion by disseminating false or misleading information.

**Information Management:** Protect one's own information and limit adversary information [2].

In the modern world, information warfare is widely used not only in the military sphere, but also in the economic, social and political spheres. At this point, **let us dwell on the importance of the Khborot war in modern warfare.**

One of the factors that has changed the nature of modern warfare is the rapid development of information technology. The widespread use of the internet, social media, and artificial intelligence has made information warfare more effective and comprehensive. Below are the main roles of information warfare in modern warfare:

**1. Formation of public opinion.** Information disseminated through social media has the potential to change public opinion nationally and internationally. For example, fake news or manipulated videos are widely used to discredit a particular state or group. This can cause internal unrest or reduce international support [3].

**2. Influence on military strategies.** Through information warfare, enemy commands can make poor decisions. For example, by means of cyber attacks, hostile communications systems can be disrupted or false information can be disseminated. This creates serious problems in the planning and execution of military operations.

**3. Economic and infrastructural damage.** Through cyber attacks, critical infrastructure objects, such as energy networks, banking systems, or transportation infrastructure, are targeted. In the United States, fuel supply disruptions caused significant economic damage as a result of the Colonial Pipeline cyber attack in 2020.

**4. Political instability.** Information warfare aims to interfere in elections, incite internal conflicts, or erode trust in governments. For example, disinformation campaigns on social networks played a major role in interfering in the 2016 US presidential election.

**5. Distortion of Truth:** Public opinion can be misformed as a result of false and manipulative information.

**6. Social instability:** Information manipulation increases mistrust, panic, and conflict in society.

**7. Risk of cyberattacks:** Virtual attacks on infrastructures can derail economic and military potential.

It also allows you to strategically achieve the following advantages:

- **Maximum impact with minimal resources:** Even without the Armed Forces, there is a chance of victory.
- **Attract international cooperation:** Can attract the attention of the international community through the media.
- **Maintain or Lose Domestic Social Stability:** Public Opinion Can Be Manipulated Through National Information Policies.

Various tools are used to carry out information warfare: **Social media:** Information is quickly disseminated through Twitter (X), Facebook, Telegram, and other platforms. **Cyber Attacks: Information** systems are targeted through viruses, malware, and DDoS attacks. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** False information is spread using deepfake technologies and automated bots. **Media and propaganda:** Information manipulation takes place through state-sponsored media [4, 45–60].

The impact of information warfare on global security is extreme, and its main consequences are listed below:

- **Impact on international relations:** Disinformation and cyber attacks increase mistrust between states.
- **Internal instability:** Misinformation and propaganda can breed internal conflicts.
- **Information Security:** States and organizations have to invest significant resources to protect their information systems [5].

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the Khborot war has become an integral part of modern warfare. It is of great importance not only in the military sphere, but also in the social, economic and political spheres. Tools such as social media, cyber attacks, and artificial intelligence have made information warfare more dangerous and effective. Therefore, states and organizations need to develop new

strategies to ensure information security, combat disinformation, and protect public consciousness. Only in this way can global security be ensured and the negative consequences of information warfare can be minimized.

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