

WHY DON'T WE WIN MORE WARS?

Forget what you know—wars of the future
will look nothing like the past.

THE **NEW** RULES OF WAR

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Why don't we win more wars?



"Americans play to win all of the time. That's why Americans have never lost nor will ever lose a war, for the very idea of losing is hateful to an American."

George S. Patton's speech to troops before D-Day



Not a Democrat versus Republican problem
Not a White House versus Congress problem
Not only a US problem



Has the “West” forgotten how to win war?

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

We have the best troops, training, technology, equipment, and resources



Answer #1: **Double down on core strengths**

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again
and expecting different results.”



Answer #2: Denial

Did you achieve the objectives you set at the beginning?
If not, then you can't claim victory.



Answer #3: Faith in International Law

Kindhearted solutions to war just get more people killed.



Answer #4: *War Is Unknowable, So Why Try?*

It's unknowable to some.

We lose because of

STRATEGIC ATROPHY

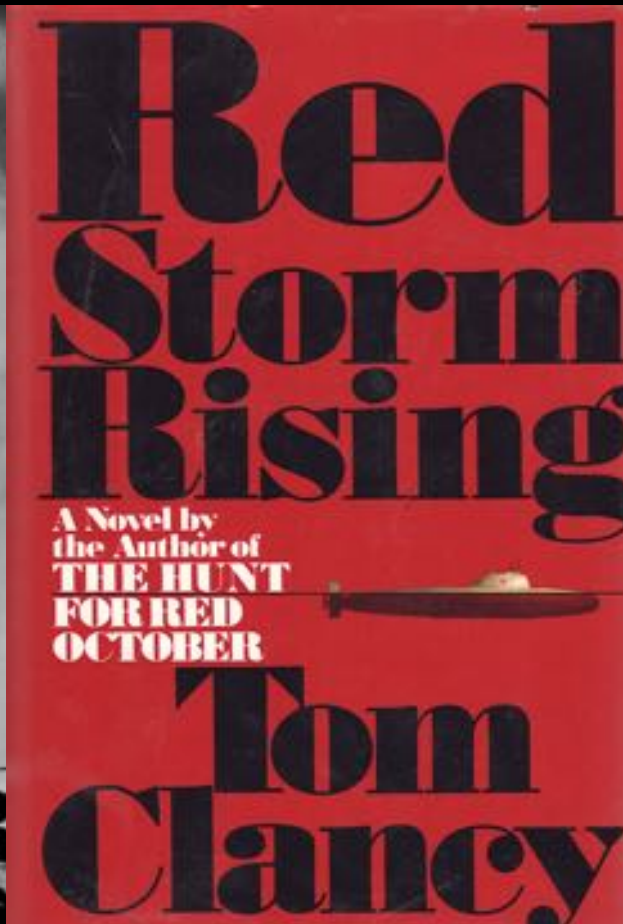
“Generals always fight the last [successful] war.”

This truism happens to be true

WWII remains our Strategic Paradigm



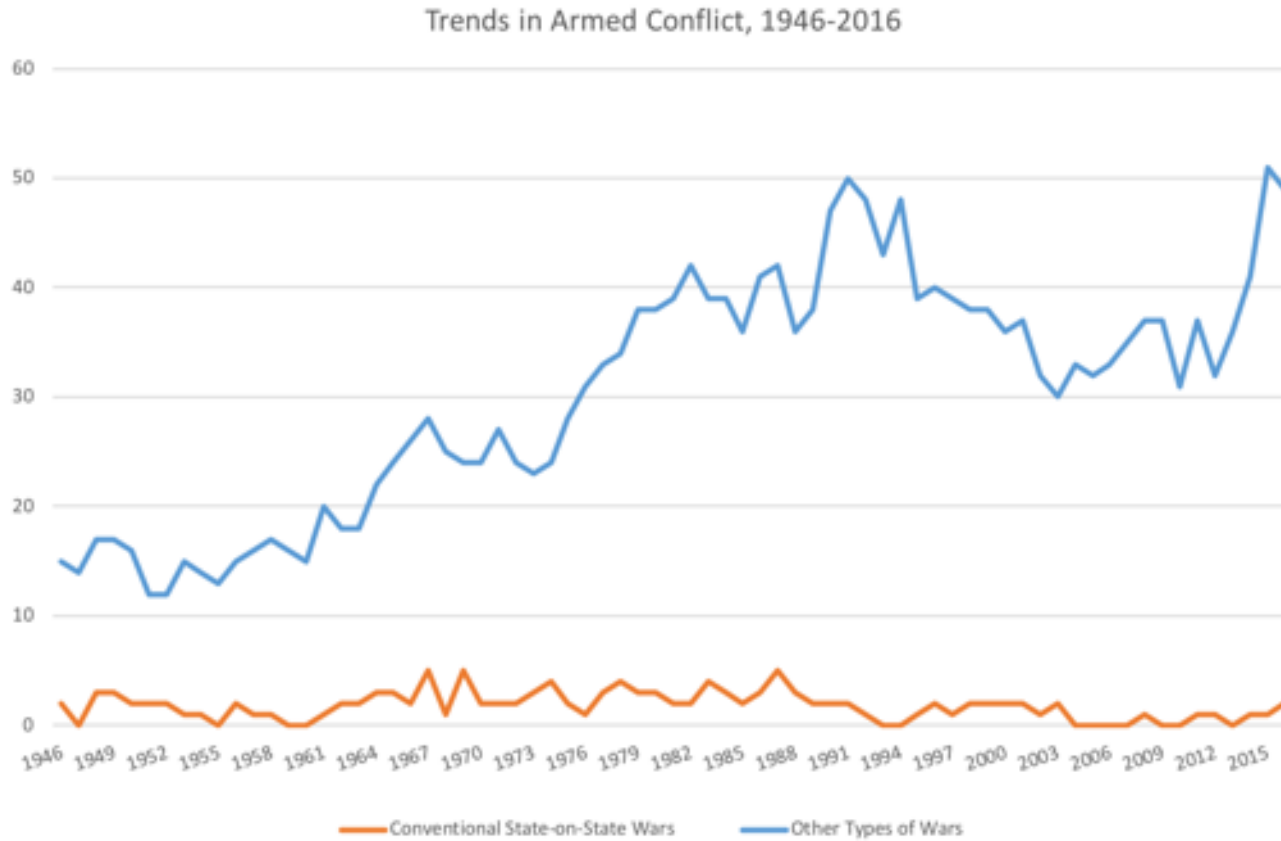
Most think the future of war is WW2 with better technology



Rule 1: Conventional War is Dead



Nothing is more unconventional than “Conventional War”



Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program / Peace Research Institute Oslo Armed Conflict Dataset version 17.2

No wonder we struggle.



What are today's biggest **threats**?



While these threats are bad, they are not the worst.

Durable Disorder

An emerging global system that contains rather than solves problems

A systemic threat

Not new

World will not collapse in anarchy but simmer in perpetual conflict and entropy



Disturbing Facts

- 50% of peace agreements fail in 5 years
- Majority of countries are “fragile” or “failed”
- Number of armed conflicts has doubled since WWII
- Half the world’s countries are experiencing some form of armed conflict
- Armed conflicts today rarely end but smolder in “Forever Wars”
- The “rules-based order” is being replaced by something more organic and wild

Those who grasp durable disorder can win

Those who do not will lose



U.S. Foreign Policy?



New kind of world order

New kind of warfare

Why does everyone assume a war with China or Russia will be conventional?



Are we already at war with Russia and/or China?

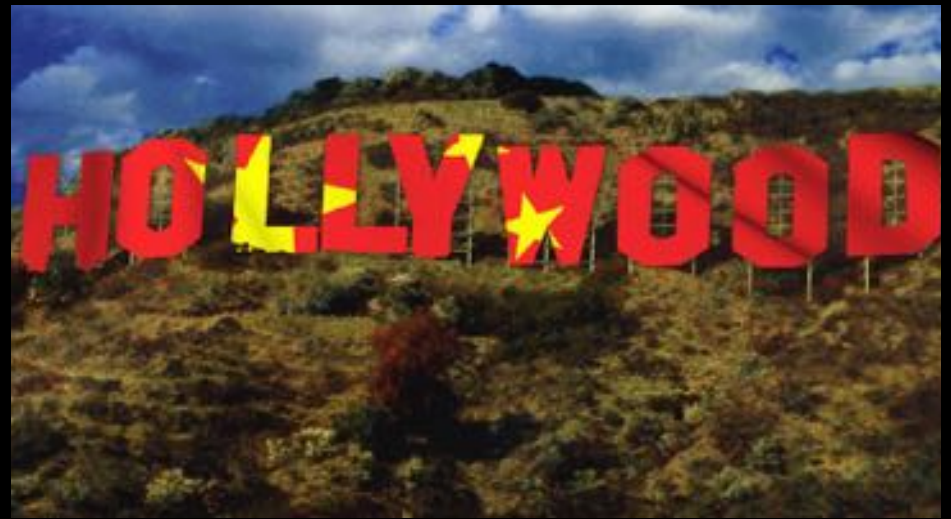
War is getting **Sneakier**





Victory will belong to the
cunning
not the strong





War has moved on
and we must move on too



Even an undefeated military
can lose a war

We must learn how to **win** in an age of **durable disorder**

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VICTORY IN THE AGE OF
DURABLE DISORDER

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AUTHOR OF *SHADOW WAR*
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Foreword by Gen Stanley McChrystal (Ret.)

RULE 1: CONVENTIONAL WAR IS DEAD

RULE 2: TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT SAVE US

RULE 3: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS WAR OR PEACE

RULE 4: HEARTS AND MINDS DO NOT MATTER

RULE 5: THE BEST WEAPONS DO NOT FIRE BULLETS

RULE 6: MERCENARIES WILL RETURN

RULE 7: NEW TYPES OF WORLD POWERS WILL RULE

RULE 8: THERE WILL BE WARS WITHOUT STATES

RULE 9: SHADOW WARS WILL DOMINATE

RULE 10: VICTORY IS FUNGIBLE

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