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ABSTRACT

1. The thin line separating the states of war and peace has faded. The distinction between soldier and civilian has emaciated. Every street is a possible battlefield and no sanctuary is safe. Nation state is losing its monopoly over loyalties of its citizens. New words are defining combatants to deny previously recognized undisputed rights under Geneva conventions. War is being waged through other means and politics through war. This is being called Fifth Generation Warfare (5 GW), similar to previous generations of warfare in many aspects, yet phenomenally different. It still is the "contest of opposing wills" being extension of politics by other means. The aim is to break the political will of adversary, to deter him from seeking the intended goals and to change the political position of adversary. The fundamental precept remains that the superior political will when applied suitably can defeat the political will of adversary even with superior force structure. It is similar to previous generations of warfare in employment of violence and in reflecting the society as a whole. It is the response of weaker and technologically backward adversary against professional militaries. It evolved unnoticed from the lap of fourth generation warfare with still an unclear and ambiguous statement.

2. Nuclearisation of Subcontinent, global war on terror and regional dynamics specially presence of extra regional forces in Afghanistan present a complex scenario, which although does not preclude the possibility of a conventional high intensity conflict but do profess a long term commitment of Pakistan Army in sophisticated and complex low intensity conflict. Although the prevalent and future challenges for Pakistan Army are multifarious, this monograph focuses on expounding the contours of fifth generation warfare; and brings to light some essential elements of successful way forward.

3. In these defining moments, Pakistan remains crucial to the war on terrorism, an honorable US exit strategy and the main gateway to elusive Central Asia. Pakistan's present crisis has to be fought on multiple fronts. We have to come to terms with our Islamic Identity and achieve national integration with a reliable and stable political economy manifested in visible social and political development. Although at national and military strategy level our future strategy formulation must

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take into account all forms of threat, remaining cognizant of the fact that our ultimate strength lies in our internal stability and harmony. It is the threat from within, which forms the linchpin. Pakistan's internal situation is the biggest exploitable commodity even providing justification for outside power's intervention. Defence is to be understood in the context of national security countering all direct as well as indirect threats. Political and military leadership should pursue winning the peace instead of winning the war, thus paralyzing the fifth generation of warfare