

Summary

The subject of the research of this dissertation is the militarization of cyberspace and related legal and international issues. Understood as the growing and comprehensive use of virtual digital space for combat purposes, it affects modern countries, international relations and the behavior of non-state actors, provoking discussion on the evolution of the means of conducting military activities and the social effects of that. This impact is bi-directional and has a feedback nature, because processes in cyberspace are affected by forces of a technological, social, political or legislative nature.

The militarization of digital space affects the perception of armed conflicts, which evolve in a relatively short time into new forms having some historical analogies but with a completely different quality, and scale of the impact. The most important of them - cyberwar - treated as a non-kinetic form of the use of force, also producing effects in the physical world, has become a fact. This is evidenced not only by the use of specific cyberspace functionalities in existing armed conflicts, mainly as support for kinetic activities, but also attempts to subject it to the rules of the humanitarian law. The aim of the author of the study is to try to determine the nature of this new form of war.

The hypothesis adopted in this study assumes that the progressive militarization of the digital sphere and military activities conducted within it generate global, low-intensity conflict in the cyberspace, which is a part of the hybrid war and autonomously having the same nature *per se*, in the context of changes in the current international order. Networked and asymmetrical, having the hallmarks of the proxy war, is a prelude to changing the global balance of power, based on high technologies. It engages the civil sphere, affecting other areas of state's security and is kept below the threshold of the open confrontation.

The re-interpreted *ius in bello* and *ius ad bellum* norms are inadequate to activities in cyberspace, and the law isn't keeping pace with the nature and scale of the contemporary conflicts. Such a situation will take place until the development, adoption and enforcement of appropriate multilateral treaties regarding conflicts in the digital space.

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