

A brief survey of changing landscapes of conflict

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THE LANDSCAPE

- **Conflicts abound: Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, and Gaza just to name a few**
- **In the Sahel, political changes have come in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger**
- **More changes may be seen in Niger and, perhaps, Chad**
- **In their place, private groups have stepped in**
- **Then again, in different parts of the world there is the militia problem**
- **Three ingredients are needed to make militias a big headache: a weak state, a conflict, and a dollop of credibility**
- **Haiti has thrown up another issue: gangs**





NEW TECHNOLOGY



- **Peacekeepers may face scenarios where operations are most likely to take place in cities**
- **Megacities with populations of more than 10m are springing up across Americas, Africa, and Asia**
- **They are often ringed by closely packed slums controlled by neighbourhood gangs**
- **Poor governance, high unemployment, and criminality make them fertile territory for violent extremism**
- **Implications of such urban conflict scenarios?**





LESSONS LEARNED



- **Modern conflict zones can be an unsparing place**
- **Dispersal, hide and be mobile are must**
- **Fitness matters**
- **Technology is pushing firepower and intelligence further down the chain of command**
- **Issue of logistics comes up! How to supply dispersed unit**
- **If all parties have technology then cost in blood, metal, and treasure goes up**





CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR



- **Ukraine has shown through first-person view (FPV) drones the combination of precision and abundance**
- **They are small, cheap, explosives-laden aircraft adapted from consumer models, and they are making a soldier's life miserable (peacekeepers will be no exception)**
- **Drone is not a wonder weapon**
- **It matters because it embodies big trends in war: a shift towards small, cheap and disposable weapons; the increasing use of consumer technology (democratization of precision weapons); and the drift towards autonomy in the battlefield**
- **Mass-produced hunter-killer aircraft are already shaping the balance between humans and technology in war**
- **How will it affect peace enforcement?**



THANK YOU

