
“Targeted Partnership” and Beyond: An Additional Theoretical Layer

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Abstract

Jihadist terror is a multidimensional challenge that compels unique difficulties on compatibility between the military campaign and the political goal. Compatibility between military campaigns and political goal requires a deeper understanding about the Jihadi terrorism phenomenon that could be achieved by a strategic and diagnostic learning process. Such learning requires certain characteristics, which enable the creation of open discourse. This article introduced definitions of closed and open discourse, characterized the required conditions for creating open discourse, and explained the linkage between strategic learning and open discourse. This article aims to add another theoretical layer to Rebecca Schiff's “targeted partnership” concept by elaborating on the essence of the encounter and discourse between the political and the military echelons in the context of terrorism in the Middle East, using examples from the American and Israeli experience. The concepts of “Discourse Space” and “Diagnostic Learning” are corresponding with Schiff's concept and accomplish it.

Keywords

Jihadi terror, civil–military relations, strategy, strategic learning, civil control, counterterrorism, targeted partnership

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