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SIX LEVELS OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN MODERN MILITARY CONFLICTS

Abstract. Six levels of armed violence are described and distinguished by the types and intensity of the weapons used, as well as by the size of the territories affected by the fighting. Examples of armed conflicts of different levels that took place at the end of the XX century and at the beginning of the XXI century are given.

Keywords: *war, weapons, armed conflict, artillery, tanks, missiles, military aviation, nuclear weapons*

The usual names for actual military actions after the Second World War contain the following words: nouns – «mission» or «operation» and adjectives – «military», «special», «peacekeeping», «humanitarian». In general, calling military actions against a state is not called war, but calling them military actions emphasizes the peacekeeping or humanitarian aspect of armed violence.

Because of this, it is often unclear what is happening – is this already war or still peace?

Now war merges with peace, and peace merges with war - something similar happened at the beginning of our era and earlier - then the means of communication were not developed, and the war began without an official announcement, but “in fact”, so any world always carried war within it.

Remark. All wars, based on the number of mobilized soldiers from the total population, can be divided into three types: small conflict (0,05%), conventional war (0,5-1%) and bloody war (8-15%, rarely up to 20-25%) [1].

Peacetime or peace

At this level, opposing countries do not use military force at all - only threats to use the army periodically appear in the media.

Levels of armed violence

1. Level zero of armed violence

At this level, opposing states do not use weapons: the maximum that can happen is shooting in the air. Maneuvers and exercises are used as a military threat.

2. Low levels of armed violence

At this level of confrontation, countries use firearms and light artillery (with a caliber of up to 80-100 mm) to a limited extent (with low intensity and in a clearly

localized area). The spot (episodic) use of military aircraft and long-range missiles is possible.

3. Average level of armed violence

At this level, hostile countries engage in low-intensity warfare using heavy artillery, tanks, multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) and aircraft over a limited area (often disputed territory). The professional part of the army and volunteers are involved in the fighting.

4. High levels of armed violence

At this level of struggle, the parties engage in high-intensity hostilities, affecting not only the disputed territory, but also the lands of the warring countries that were not disputed before the conflict began. The opposing armies widely use almost the entire available range of weapons (missiles, artillery, aviation). Replenishment of the armies of the warring parties comes through mobilization. Cities that have become the scene of hostilities turn into ruins.

5. Extreme levels of armed violence

At this level of warfare, a country (or countries) possessing nuclear weapons begins to systematically use tactical nuclear weapons.

6. Catastrophic levels of armed violence

At this level of combat, a country (or countries) possessing nuclear weapons begins to systematically use strategic nuclear weapons.

Table. Levels of armed violence in modern armed conflict

Types of weapons used	Levels of armed violence in modern armed conflict					
	Null	Low	Average	High	Extreme	Catastrophic
Automatic small arms	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Light artillery	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Artillery of all calibers	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tanks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Combat aviation	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MLRS and missile weapons with a range of up to 100 km	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missile weapons with any range	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tactical nuclear weapons	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Strategic nuclear weapons	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
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Conventional wars of the past—pre-19th century and earlier—correspond to the high levels of armed violence described above (adjusted for the presence or absence of certain types of weapons at the historical time in question).

Examples of conflicts after World War II

A. Conflicts with low levels of armed violence: usually these are years conflicts going on within one state between the central government and its opponents, desiring autonomy, independence, certain rights, and so on. Examples of this kind of conflicts: the Kachin conflict in Myanmar (the first - 1961-1994 and the second - from 2011 to the present), the Moro conflict in the Philippines 1968-2019, the Turkish-Kurdish conflict - from 1984 to the present, the conflict in the Niger Delta - from the late 1990s to the present, the conflict in Waziristan - from 2004 to the present, and so on. Examples of conflicts with low levels of military violence include two conflicts between Peru and Ecuador: the Paquisha War in 1981 and the Alto Cenepa War in 1995.

B. Conflicts with a medium level of armed violence: the Hungarian uprising of 1956, the First Karabakh War of 1992-1994, the Second Karabakh War of 2020, the war in South Ossetia in 2008.

C. Conflicts with high levels of armed violence: Korean War, Vietnam War, Arab-Israeli wars, Afghanistan wars 1979-1989 and 2001, Gulf War 1991, Bosnian War 1992-1995, US invasion to Iraq in 2003.

D. Conflict with extreme levels of armed violence: the only war in history is the US-Japanese War of 1941-1945 (then the Americans used nuclear weapons against the Japanese in 1945).

E. There has not been a conflict with a catastrophic level of armed violence in the history of mankind until today, but an example is a hypothetical nuclear war between the USSR and the USA, which could have occurred in the second half of the twentieth century.

Conclusions:

1. Six levels of armed violence are described and identified according to the types and intensity of weapons used, as well as the size of the areas affected by the fighting.

2. Examples of armed conflicts of different levels that occurred at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century are given.

References

1. Shchemelinin K. S. Money. Simferopol: IT "Arial", 2014 P. 223-226 (on Russian).