

## *Information as a Weapon*

An ever-increasing part of people's lives is taking place in the information space, adding informational and human dimensions to the battlespace. Globally networked and information-enabled populations now react to viral versions of events and ideas moving at the speed of the internet, complicating our ability to gain and maintain an accurate, up-to-date, intelligence-driven understanding of conflicts. Today's adversaries already leverage every type of information as an arm of both "hard" and "soft" power to mask their actions, mislead unwitting publics, and undermine the legitimacy of their opponents. Threat organizations routinely exploit intentional violence and collateral damage and disseminate their narrative through a wide range of outlets. With greater connectivity, competing arguments fueled by identity politics, economic grievances, and extremist causes will continue to produce turbulence and confusion.