

INI-00.01.002

Strategy

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Contributors

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Dissemination

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1. The Need for a Coordinated Strategy

Many have agonized over the question, what do we do now? There are a number of different ideas and opinions about what to do and what will work, but if anything will succeed, groups of dedicated people will have to coordinate their actions and push forward in largely the same direction. If every prepper group, homesteader, militia, and concerned citizen go their own way, the likely result is liberty will continue to diminish at the hands of highly coordinated and well-resourced governments. Coordination ensures all of us are working towards the same goals, and not undermining each other's efforts.

To complicate matters, centralization, typically the way most organizations achieve coordination, comes with extreme negative consequences. Centralization creates organizations that are brittle and reliant on key leadership. A centralized movement can coordinate its actions quite easily, but it is also very easy to disrupt. Remove a key leader, or create dissent between leadership and group members, and the organization fractures and degrades.

If a coordinated grand strategy is desirable, it must be compatible with many small, decentralized groups. We require coordinated decentralization: A way to coordinate our actions but still maintain a high degree of autonomy between all the different concerned parties. Fortunately, there is a well-established model for how to accomplish this seemingly paradoxical feat. We just have to look to the elites.

Decentralized Coordination

Every year billionaire CEOs, high-level politicians, academics, think tank experts and other elites gather in Davos for a meeting of the World Economic Forum. There are panels on topics like global systems, central bank digital currencies, surveillance systems and climate change. At the end of this conference, all the attendees board their jets and fly back to their mansions and penthouses, seemingly accomplishing nothing: The World Economic Forum (WEF) does not make any laws or run any businesses; it has no direct influence on the world.

However, something strange happens in the months and years that follow. Those same CEOs begin to implement new strategies in their businesses and new policies in line with these strategies. Influential think tanks create new legislation for politicians, who then push those new regulations forward. This is decentralized coordination. There is no direct leadership structure to order and demand everyone involved comply, but most members of the WEF comply voluntarily, because they realize it is in their best interest to do so.

The CFR, Council on Foreign Relations, is a similar organization. Its purpose is to achieve a consensus among elites. Once there is a consensus, all participants begin executing strategies and aligning tactics with the consensus view. The problem for the liberty-minded is we have no WEF or CFR to generate consensus. It's time to change that. We need to create our own networks and conferences to discuss and establish consensus.

In this model, coordination is accomplished through decentralized adoption. Ideas are generated, circulated, and then accepted by different groups. Not everyone has to get on board with any strategy or set of standards, but the more that interested groups and people can reach agreement, the greater the level of coordination and the greater the chance of implementing successful strategy.

Leadership

In this model, leadership is effectively by vote, just not in a ballot box. Groups and people vote with their actions. For example, people will either adopt this strategy manual, or they won't. That is their vote. In that sense the document or idea being adopted is the leader: We are led and coordinated through good ideas, not through any individual person. If we rely on people to coordinate our actions between smaller teams and groups, those people are the weak link.

Individual leaders can make mistakes that damage relationships and degrade effectiveness. Threat actors can also target human leaders, disrupting their ability to coordinate. But if we coordinate through ideas, those ideas cannot be destroyed once they are disseminated. The best an enemy could do is to shut down our ability to communicate new ideas and establish consensus. That may be possible, but it is also very difficult; far more difficult than targeting a human leader.

2. Anonymity and Communication

The Value of Anonymity

Anonymity should be highly valued. Threat groups will target those of us they can easily identify first, so protecting identities is of great importance. However, it is a luxury not everyone can afford. Leaders and influencers who openly criticize authoritarian government will by necessity have to identify themselves or leave themselves vulnerable to identification at the very least. Nevertheless, most participants in mutual aid groups, training, emergency response, homestead, and prepper groups, have no need to expose their personal details.

Group leadership and influencers should therefore take steps to protect the identities of group members. The best way to do this is to never collect personal information like:

Name

Home Address

Personal Email Addresses

Personal Phone Number

Birthday

Birthdate

Vehicle Information

Social Security Numbers

Employment History

Certification/Qualification History

Score/Performance History

Further, groups engaged in personal data collection or background checks should not be trusted. It would be very easy for government agents to create a fake prepper group or militia and entice people to join. They can use that pretext to collect detailed information for surveillance and even entrapment operations. Even groups that are legitimate in founding, but collect personal information, can be infiltrated, and have this personal information exposed, thereby exposing all the members of that group. Personal data collection of any type is very dangerous.

As a community, we should identify and expose any groups engaged in this dangerous practice. First, offending groups should be contacted and provided with an explanation of the dangers of personal data collection. If they continue collection practices despite warnings, those groups should be publicly identified and exposed for their practices. In this way the public can be alerted to potentially dangerous practices carried out by specific groups.

It should go without saying that participants who choose to expose their identities should be free to do so, and groups should not be held responsible for this individual choice: But all groups should strive to provide anonymous attendance and training opportunities.

Alert and Information Networks

To make communication between groups more resilient, and thereby harder to shut down or otherwise disrupt, communication networks should follow some guidelines:

- Communication networks should be kept free of political discussions and news commentary. These items distract from the purpose of communication networks, and devalue the messages sent. Participants need to know that everything being shared on a network is of high value and related to intelligence, strategy, and standard operating procedures.
- Networks should be redundant. A network can be built on a social media platform like MeWe, but another, mirror network, can be built on the Fediverse, or through an email list. There should be multiple networks sharing the same information, so if one goes down, others are still operational.
- Public networks should not be used to share sensitive or damaging information and ideas. Private, restricted networks should be established for this information. Alternatively, encryption can be used to share sensitive information through unsecured networks, as long as the encryption keys are shared securely.

Another use case is establishing alert networks to alert participants of a local group to current events or action steps. There is a compelling need for groups to collect contact information to share useful updates and communicate. There are multiple ways to handle this communication without unnecessarily exposing personal information:

1. Create a central point where information is disseminated like MeWe. Create a backup too in case the platform goes down or the account is disabled. With this method participants can find the desired information without having to disclose personal details.
2. Encourage the use of secure, specialty email addresses. Ask participants to create a new email account for communication and make sure it is completely different in name from any other email accounts. Do not use this email account for personal matters. Do not use a name or identifying information in the email account.
3. Have participants buy a burner phone or set up a separate VOIP phone number. You can generally set these up to forward calls and texts to your actual phone. This is not ideal because it can still expose regular phone numbers through a government subpoena, but it makes it much harder to identify people.
4. Encourage limited information sharing between small groups, but no large, unified rosters. Decentralizing information to create smaller networks limits how much information can be exposed. This is not ideal, but it is a better option than widespread personal data collection and sharing.

3. Strategy and Framework

Many ideas have been spoken and written about what should be done to battle authoritarianism, to combat technocracy, to beat back communism and the like. These ideas, or alternative strategies are captured in the eight general strategies below:

The 8 General Strategies

1. Comply
Adherents of the comply strategy will not fight or resist authoritarianism in any meaningful way. Includes those who are true-believer cult members, and those who go along with authoritarian policies because resistance will lead to personal consequences like job loss, reduced income, ostracization, hindered career progression, etc.
2. Work Within the System
Vote in new leaders and vote out the swamp creatures. Push the corrupt bureaucrats out and replace them with more competent leaders. This is the strategy that is popularly preferred in democracies and republics. But there are problems with this strategy: What do you do when the corrupt leaders and bureaucrats don't want to leave? This is a strategy that has been tried for decades and got us exactly to this point in history. Why would it work now after decades of failure?
3. Directly Overthrow the System
Overthrow the federal government with guns and blood. If you want a hot civil war, this is a sure way to get it. Mass famine and disease will follow. The winner of this battle may be an even more radical authoritarian. Be careful what you wish for.
4. Eject
Get out of your authoritarian country, state, or region. Go somewhere that appreciates more freedom and has a larger population of people who won't stand by idly as authoritarianism grows. Network with like minds and figure out the next steps.
5. Marginalize and Build
Push the government out of your state and out of your life. Build alternative infrastructure through local politics and small business. This is a form of secession, although a softer form than simply pushing state governments to declare independence.
6. Camouflage and Subvert
Blend into the cult by day, recruit, and fight tyranny at night. This is a good contingency strategy if other options fail and you find yourself trapped under an increasingly authoritarian government.

7. Accelerate

Authoritarian policy designs will fail, especially in the fragile economies of the developed world. Rather than fight them, accelerate the decline by one-upping the authoritarians with more radical policies. This will bring about economic collapse sooner and undermine the elite's attempt to implement their plans.

8. Human Continuity

Every man for himself. Do whatever it takes to survive. Humanity must continue forward. This is an emergency strategy if all else fails.

The PACE Framework

If your plans fail frequently, your planning strategy is to blame. Planning failure often results from poor estimations and measurements, a lack of contingencies, poor training, or plans that are too rigid and do not account for discrepancies on the ground. Military history is filled with precisely laid and executed plans: It is also filled with planning disasters.

This is where the acronym PACE comes in. The acronym stands for Primary, Alternate, Contingency and Emergency. The idea is that one plan alone is not sufficient. Planning should involve multiple levels in case of failure. Alternate, contingency, and emergency plans should be achievable in degraded conditions, with limited resources. A strategy is a type of high-level plan and can utilize this PACE planning framework. Here are the recommended strategies within the PACE framework:

Primary - General Strategy #2: Work Within the System

Alternate - General Strategy #5: Marginalize and Build

Contingency - General Strategy #6: Camouflage and Subvert

Emergency - General Strategy #8: Human Continuity

Has the Primary Strategy Failed?

Under the PACE framework, when the first level of PACE fails the next strategy should be implemented. If the primary strategy is to "work within the system," this raises the question, has this strategy failed? Many in the past have tried to correct the course of the United States and the Western World. Their valiant efforts have mostly failed. In fact, all the efforts to preserve liberty have gotten us precisely to this point in history. Today many in the western world face lockdowns, vaccine mandates and other de facto martial law measures. Working within the federal/national government systems has failed to prevent these authoritarian measures from becoming a reality. Now the federal government in the United States - and many of our core institutions like media, tech, science, health, and education - have been co-opted by radicals who do not respect individualism or liberty. Continuing to pursue the "work within the system" strategy is therefore unlikely to succeed. It is time to move to the alternative strategy, marginalize and build.

Moving Forward with the Marginalize and Build Strategy

The marginalize and build strategy has two prongs: marginalize the federal government and build alternative infrastructure. Marginalization of the federal government is used to weaken federal government power, clearing the way for stronger state governments, new technologies that subvert government control mechanisms, small business expansion, and greater individual freedom. Here are some of the tactics for marginalization of the federal government:

- Use local government power to push out or punish federal government actors operating in your state like OSHA, ATF, IRS, and FBI.
- Reduce your use of big tech and buy less from big businesses who are working with the federal government.
- Homeschool your children.
- Move away from left-wing cities and states.
- Don't work for the federal government or government contractors.
- Support small businesses, alternative platforms, and alternative media.
- Protest federal taxation.

The federal government provides many services that are essential to societal function. Reducing federal government power will also mean reducing federal support structures. We will need to replace those missing federal resources with something else. Here are some of the critical elements of the build strategy:

- Realign local government spending to focus only on essential services like infrastructure, policing, fire, rescue, etc.
- Build resilient communities: Know your neighbors and trade with them.
- Build independence: Start growing food, backup power, emergency communications, etc.
- Start a small business and don't tell the government. This is called a gray market business.
- Build mutual aid and prepper groups and network and promote related groups near your home.

4. Standards

Why do we Need Standards?

Standards are an important form of coordination. Communicated standards are a way to share best practices and lessons learned. In this way, like-minded groups and individuals can use the best information, strategies, and tactics.

Standards also ensure a minimum level of quality and help avoid critical mistakes. If standards are upheld, and the standards are well-developed, the results should generally be favorable.

Standards also serve to vet group members. People who question well-established standards should provide considerable evidence that their criticisms are valid. This serves to shield groups from ego-driven people. Unchecked arrogance often leads to poor decision-making and excessive risk taking. In a disaster or wartime scenario, these attitudes can and do cost lives.

In short, if the standards are good, and a person refuses to follow the standards without offering a well-developed reason, that person will be more of a liability than an asset. They should not be considered a reliable group member and may need to be removed, or at least not given any significant responsibilities.

Communicating Standards

Standards can be communicated through a number of media, but the best way is in SOP (standard operating procedure) manuals like this one. Preparedness groups should strive to document their best practices on paper and share those practices with other groups. Through sharing, standards can be improved, and we can all become more effective and efficient.

SOP manuals can be printed and shipped or shared electronically. New groups can acquire common SOP manuals and quickly get up to speed with well-established practices. If a critical team member leaves a group, their knowledge and experience can be retained through these manuals. Finally, SOP manuals serve as a great template for training new and existing members of preparedness groups.

SOP manuals should be publicly accessible and free to read, distribute, and modify. This practice ensures standards are widely circulated. If standards are not widely circulated, then there is little to no coordination, which undermines the decentralized coordination strategy.

5. Operating in a Scarcity Environment

What is a Scarcity Environment?

In most emergency scenarios supplies will be limited and infrastructure failures will be common. Additionally, in the event of a civil war or foreign invasion, most civilian groups will not have advanced support resources like medevac helicopters, artillery support, AC-130 gunships, or re-supply drops with food and ammunition. These support resources enable soldiers to conduct conventional warfare operations. Many preppers read and model their planned wartime operations and tactics from conventional military doctrine. The problem is all these elements are enabled by advanced support operations that are not available to a civilian prepper group or mutual aid group.

Because any wartime operations will be conducted in this scarcity environment - with limited food, medical supplies, communications infrastructure, and ordinance - a radically different fighting strategy is necessary. Those who attempt to implement conventional warfighting doctrine without the conventional support elements will experience high levels of failure.

This means that for successful operations, civilian operators cannot simply run around town in camouflage with AR-15s and body armor. They also cannot simply train in the woods in conventional military patrolling and fighting tactics, and apply those tactics when going to the grocery store during wartime. These tactics fail in a scarcity environment without significant support elements.

Resources and Examples

There are not any well-developed and widely available training or field manuals on operating in a low-intensity conflict or a scarcity environment. There are limited guides on topics like Guerilla warfare that offer some useful information, but many of the tactics are outdated, and discussion of operational administration is non-existent. This is a doctrine that will have to be created from the ground up.

The good news is there are living examples which can be leveraged. One such example is the Combat Application Group (CAG) or Delta Force. Most people know Delta Force for their counter-terrorism missions, but that is only one of their skillsets. Another mission type conducted by Delta is covert reconnaissance. This type of work involves inserting operators behind enemy lines, where they conduct surveillance and reconnaissance with limited support. Oftentimes operators are working solo or in small teams, moving in local vehicles and surrounded by enemy forces. They have no air support, no medevacs and no quick reaction force to bail them out. They must blend in and manage any issues that arise, on their own. For example, retired Delta Force Sergeant-Major John "Shrek" Mcphee earned the nickname the Sheriff of Baghdad, after running hundreds of solo covert reconnaissance operations in Afghanistan. While there is not a lot of information available about these types of missions, a few stories have been shared, and they serve as a useful starting point.

6. Solving Problem 51

What is Problem 51?

Problem 51 is the problem where most people are aware that America and the world are on a path to disaster, but they will not make any major personal changes until danger and destruction comes to their doorstep. This poses a unique challenge for prepper groups and mutual aid groups: What do you do when you are suddenly flooded with a bunch of prospective members who waited until the last minute to act?

Solutions

Try to use these late-comers to create stronger communities and better defenses. Train them, quickly, and integrate them. This will be a challenge because training time will be limited at that point, but it is a challenge that is worth undertaking: It requires a rapid training program that can be implemented on a large scale. This means a high priority for groups should be developing frameworks and testing operational plans for standing up large training environments. To make this feasible, groups will need a pre-established training pipeline: To leverage the late-to-the-party masses, you will have to build the infrastructure for large-scale training events in advance.

7. The Economics of Warfare

War Economics

When rational leaders engage in warfare, they weigh the risks and benefits of actions to choose between competing strategies and operational plans. Actions that are expected to have a higher cost than the potential benefits are discarded in favor of actions with a net positive result. This is called the net benefit framework. This framework is only as good as the people doing the calculation: If leadership underestimates the risk of an action, many unfavorable actions will in fact appear favorable under analysis. This leads to costly mistakes. Similarly, if leaders overestimate risk, potentially beneficial actions will be wrongly declared as unfavorable, leading to safe but ineffective actions. All leadership has biases that will create errors in this economic calculation.

When trying to understand how leadership makes their economic calculations in warfare, realize it is based on a leader's perception of the risk and benefits. Because we all base our decisions on our perceptions of the world, and not the actual world, our perceptions can be manipulated: And since our perceptions can be manipulated our decisions can be manipulated as well.

Hot and Cold Wars

A cold war is a war without direct conflict. There are conflicts happening in the shadows, through proxy forces and organizations. Groups fight each other with spies, propaganda, political warfare, cyber warfare, and every other tool except guns and bombs. In contrast, a hot war is conducted with artillery, soldiers, machine guns, missiles, bombs, and forces directly fighting each other through violent actions.

America has been engaged in a cold civil war for some time. The political left and elite class has weaponized the intelligence community to spy on and punish political rivals. This group engages in information warfare to discredit right-wing politicians, dehumanize opponents, and marginalize any who oppose their radical ideologies.

The establishment left has declared war on anyone who works to undermine their agenda. Whether you like it or not, if you do not support the establishment narrative, you are an enemy combatant and subject to targeting by the intelligence community. This is why peaceful protesters during the January 6th "insurrection" have been punished severely for what many view as perfectly peaceful and legal behavior. The establishment has no interest in justice, this is simply the punishment of their political enemies.

The Cost of a Hot Civil War

A hot civil war should be avoided at all costs. Regardless of who wins, the amount of death and destruction will be incredible. First supply lines will be disrupted. In many regions this will quickly lead to shortages of food and critical medical supplies. Many people will die of starvation and disease. As time passes, with limited supplies, key infrastructure will begin to fail. In the Southwest, water will become seriously limited leading to dehydration deaths and starvation of the population due to failing farming operations. Power grids, internet, sewage, and other infrastructure will be challenged throughout the United States. Road networks will quickly degrade. The quality of life will diminish rapidly as most Americans will struggle just to survive.

In a hot civil war, a few will die from bullets and bombs, but tens of millions will die from starvation, third-world disease, and dehydration. No one really wins in war. One side just loses a bit less than the other, but they will bear the costs of war for decades after.

Avoiding the Hot Civil War

The best way to avoid a hot civil war is to apply the economic framework to raise the cost and decrease the benefit. This discourages aggression and increases the chances of balkanization or a peaceful divorce of the United States. Raising the economic cost of war can be accomplished by training people in unconventional warfare. If a sizable portion of the population is trained and equipped for guerilla warfare, this substantially raises the risk of failure for any invading Army.

To decrease the benefit, first it is important that groups only act in self-defense. Never be the aggressor! This prevents a regime from using aggression as justification for escalation. Next, move to states where a large proportion of the population is like-minded. These liberty-strongholds are difficult to co-opt, decreasing the perceived benefits of war with those regions.

Finally reduce the cost of alternatives like peace. Always provide your enemy with a peaceful exit. In this way, peace becomes significantly less expensive than war and may be the preferred course of action.

We cannot be the aggressor, but we should make it widely known that if the government or other actors come to enslave us, or rob us of our freedoms, we will defend liberty with the fire and fury the likes of which the world has never seen before!

If these guidelines are followed, the cost of a hot civil war would be exceedingly high, and the benefit very low. This is the way to peace: To speak softly and carry a big stick. Be kind and peaceful while cultivating the capacity to inflict extreme violence in defense of yourself, your family, and your freedom.

8. Warfare Asymmetry

How Do You Fight a Superior Enemy?

Some believe it is impossible for ordinary citizens to effectively fight established militaries and win. Militaries have tanks, armored vehicles, attack helicopters, missiles, bombs, artillery and special forces: How can regular people combat this?

America arguably has the strongest military in the modern world. Despite this, we have fought in multiple asymmetric wars, and we have lost every single one of them. From Vietnam to Iraq to Afghanistan to Somalia, and now Africa, we have never won an unconventional war, despite all our military might. Additionally, most of these wars were fought against untrained populations who were equipped with WWII and Cold War era weaponry.

Despite what the naysayers believe, it is actually very difficult for a conventional military to win in a war against an unconventional force. The reason is because of the asymmetrical nature of a conventional military force fighting a popular resistance movement.

Asymmetric Tactics

Conventional militaries are married to conventional tactics. They not only have a history of fighting wars in a specific way, but they are committed to certain doctrines. Militaries are built and organized around specific use-of-force principles and strategies. Due to this reality, militaries tend to operate in big, loud, and slow formations. Even militaries who try to defy convention with faster movements and more dynamic tactics, cannot compete with the speed and flexibility of guerilla forces.

Unconventional or guerilla forces have no established doctrine: They are not constrained by political forces, institutional inbreeding, or established precedent. They can easily engage in hit and run tactics, or at times adopt more conventional tactics. They have far more freedom and creativity of action which aids in targeting weaknesses of conventional forces. They can also move much faster and adapt to conditions on the ground very quickly.

Unconventional forces can readily blend in with the populace, making them incredibly difficult to target. Further, targeting of these blended forces risks civilian casualties which can create political backlash and bolster an unconventional forces' support base.

Asymmetric Costs

Long-term war is restrained by economic realities. Who can continue to fund their operations longer? In the case of conventional military forces, operations are incredibly expensive. Buying, running, and maintaining equipment, and paying frontline and support personnel add up very quickly. Now factor in logistics and deployment costs. A government fighting against a guerilla force can quickly find itself in economic peril.

Unconventional forces typically offer little to no pay for soldiers. Equipment costs are low and a great deal of equipment can be purchased and maintained by the individual operators. This means the cost of continuing guerilla or asymmetric operations is extremely low compared to conventional forces. This huge cost asymmetry can allow unconventional forces to continue operations virtually forever: Guerilla forces simply need to maintain their support base.

Asymmetric Goals

The biggest misconception of asymmetric warfare is that the goals are the same: Conventional and unconventional forces fight it out, battle by battle, and the one with the most decisive victories wins the war. This is not how war works, and it is certainly not how unconventional warfare works.

Again, warfare is about economics: As long as the unconventional forces can continue to recruit, train and equip more soldiers, they can continue fighting. It is irrelevant how many battles the conventional forces win; if the populace continues to support the war effort, then the war will rage on, and the conventional forces and their support base will weaken.

Unconventional forces are decentralized and integrated into the populace. This means conventional forces can seize and secure an area, but guerrilla forces can continue to operate in that area while it is under enemy occupation. Area denial, a key component of conventional military doctrine, is not readily achievable against guerilla forces.

Unconventional forces do not have to win a single battle to win the war. The goal of unconventional forces is to simply outlast the conventional forces. Eventually the money or political will to wage war runs out. People get tired of endless wars fought by their governments. In contrast, unconventional forces are fighting for their homes and their freedom and can stay motivated to continue the fight forever. This is an enormous asymmetry as conventional forces must be able to either win over the local populace, or destroy the ability for unconventional forces to recruit, train, and equip new forces. Either of these tasks are extremely difficult if not impossible to achieve.