GENESIS AND EVOLUTION OF MILITARY STRATEGY

Ion MITULEȚU*, Marian HOGEA**

*Academy of National Security Sciences, Bucharest, Romania

**“Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy, Sibiu, Romania
mituletuion@yahoo.com, marianhogeal@gmail.com

Abstract: *It cannot be a strategy without technical determinations. Technique is the most dynamic element of the action. In general, the technical component answers a sharp question: with what? The ancient warrior used the spear, the bow and arrow, the sword and the shield. These means allowed nothing but close combat and, eventually, hitting the enemy from a distance with an arrow or a spear. The historical evolution of peoples was obviously based on the art of political-military leadership. In the distant past, there was no theoretical system of general notions, principles and laws of this art, although, intuitively, great army commanders, some of them true geniuses of war politics, masterfully applied it.*

Keywords: genesis, evolution, perpetual war, strategic space, unrestricted war

1. The fundamentals of genesis and the evolution of military strategy

Starting from the definition of genesis, “process of birth and development of a thing or a being” [1], military strategy is the superior component of military art that is oriented by the political level, which in turn, directs the operational and tactical levels.

In this sense, we can say that military strategy is the consequence of a political decision. Thus, genesis is equally the source, the inner pressure, the specific difference by which a strategy is identified and justified, the impulse that gives it meaning, the direction of movement, the lines of effort, the connection systems and the favoring ability. These coordinates have durability and persistence in all strategic action.

In order to achieve the established political goal, materialized in the desired final state, the rule of genesis has a special importance

in strategy, as it explains the meaning of the strategy, the physiognomy, more precisely the foreshadowing of its identity.

Military strategy is a generic name given to the planning and conduct of war. The term “strategy” comes from the Greek word “*strategos*”(general).

The foundations of the current military strategy have their origins in the past, are shaped in the present and are destined for the future.

As stated earlier, military strategy is a component part of military art and science and can be defined as a system of knowledge about the laws and principles of armed combat, namely the conduct of war as a whole and large-scale military actions. So, respecting the logic of the previous reasoning, the military strategy includes two sides: a theoretical one and a practical one.

The theoretical side of military strategy includes knowledge on: leading war and

large-scale military actions; the modalities of using the forces and means participating in the war; principles, norms and rules for the preparation and conduct of large-scale military actions.

The practical-applicative side of the military strategy is expressed through concrete activities carried out for the preparation of the country (the alliance) and the army for war, as well as through the direct management of large-scale actions. In Romanian and universal military theory and practice, two concepts are used: the strategy of war and the strategy of military action, and both form the content of military strategy.

Military strategy operates both with the general concepts of military science and with a series of its own notions and operational phrases. Among the general concepts used both in military science and in military strategy we can mention: war, military action, armed combat, the laws and principles of armed combat, defense, offensive.

In this context, the strategy is defined by some authors as a set of ways (modalities) and options on them in time (under the historical meaning) and space (under the national, regional or greater extension meaning) for the use of all tools (forces, methods and procedures) and the interdependencies between them, in order to achieve the established objectives and purposes [2]. Other authors consider that, in this framework, military strategy can be defined as a way of managing complex systems, in a certain perspective, aiming at achieving the final goal of the action and linking the successive operations necessary to achieve this goal.

The specific notions of military strategy are those fundamental elements on which its theoretical and scientific content is based. Through these particular concepts, the military strategy reveals its character and content and is clearly delimited from the other components of military art and science. These include: strategic principles,

strategic operation, offensive and strategic operation, strategic counteroffensive, strategic space, theater of war, theater of military action, operational theater, strategic resources, military power, laws of war, periodization of war, strategic values, military potential, strategic leadership, strategic cooperation, strategic deployment, strategic armament, etc.

The content of the military strategy is highlighted by:

- The theoretical side:
 - a. the problems of leading the war and of military actions;
 - b. the modalities of using the forces and means participating in the war;
 - c. substantiation of the principles, rules, procedures and norms of preparation and conduct of military actions.
- The practical-applicative side:
 - a. directs the activities carried out in order to prepare the country and the army for war;
 - b. direct management of large-scale actions.

Basically, war has two strategic dimensions; a general/main one and another operational strategic dimension [3]:

- the strategic dimension: the need for complex actions, prepared in advance, according to a political doctrine (developed in the broader framework of a competition constantly fed, sustained, updated, diversified, activated and always reactivated), leading to the domination of the opponent;
- the operational strategic dimension: conquering and maintaining the political and strategic initiative.

Developments in the strategic concepts of warfare, the increasing complexity of the modern battlefield and technological development require the military to be able to carry out military actions in a united conception (of the inter-categories of army forces) at strategic and operational level. In

some situations, especially in terms of participation in multinational operations, this principle may also apply at the level of tactical steps. In order to fulfill these missions, the principles of: allied solidarity, strategic unity, equitable sharing of roles, risks and responsibilities, collective effort for defense, multinational funding remain paramount.

The new type of war - the integral war or the perpetual war - is shaped by a system of integral strategies, in which the political, economic, social, cultural, moral, informational and military components of the strategy (political, economic, informational, cultural and military) inter-condition each other, integrate into the same system, which becomes a system of systems.

In addition to these concepts, we must consider another aspect, namely that forces and means are a product of strategy - namely of genetic or generative strategy - which is also a product, more precisely, a method of implementing a policy, a political decision.

This comprehensive approach to specific concepts takes into account the fact that the genesis of military strategy is of considerable antiquity corresponding to the ancient period, and its evolution has been manifested continuously, through the integration over time of modern weapons technologies and systems.

In this sense, the current military strategies of the states include principles on the basis of which the use of the military instrument for the fulfillment of the political-military objectives established by the political decision-maker is based.

2. Fundamental principles of military strategy

In order to motivate the evolution of the military strategy, we will highlight its fundamental principles, promoted by some states and international bodies in the context of the existence of a fluid, unstable, dynamic and unpredictable security environment.

In this sense, the fundamental principles of the *US military strategy*, based on multidimensional, multifaceted, composite warfare, are the following [4]:

- the principle of permanent strategic action;
- the principle of strategic initiative;
- the principle of strategic dominance;
- the principle of adequate multidimensional action;
- the principle of ubiquity and strategic discouragement;
- the principle of rapid action and reaction;
- the principle of special action and reaction;
- the principle of prevention (of preemptive strikes);
- high tech principle;
- the principle of the network;
- the principle of strategic simplicity.

NATO, as a political-military organization with a global vocation, bases its strategy on the following principles (strategic concepts):

- discouragement;
- collective defense;
- partnership and cooperation;
- counteracting hybrid and cyber threats.

To this end, efforts are being made at Alliance level to operationalize complex, credible and effective capabilities to ensure that potential challenges and threats to Member States are addressed.

The priority of the EU strategy is, in a first stage, the achievement of all the conditions that allow the *de facto* unity of the continent, the resolution of internal economic, political, social, ethnic problems, the management of crises and conflicts such as those in the ex-Yugoslav space and Black Sea (Ukraine, Crimea, Caucasus). This strategy, which aims at crisis management and conflict prevention, in all its forms, is based on the following principles:

- the principle of unity;
- the principle of prioritizing preferences;
- the principle of flexible and complex actions and reactions;
- the principle of prevention;

- the principle of dynamic interior construction;
- the principle of adequate flexible reaction;
- the principle of integrity;
- high tech and IT principle;
- the principle of simplicity.

It should also be noted that cooperation between EU Member States in the framework of PESCO, the Common Security and Defense Policy and the development of joint action procedures for the conduct of a high-intensity operation, based on the mutual assistance clause, should be stepped up [5].

The Russian strategic school has not given up and will never give up its main lines of force, which result from the character of Eurasian power of Russia and the special determinations of territory and resources.

Russia's military strategy on war, including hybrid, non-military and preventive warfare, includes the following principles:

- the principle of political and strategic flexibility;
- the principle of strategic mobility;
- the principle of strategic firmness;
- the principle of strategic maneuver;
- the principle of strategic nuclear deterrence;
- the principle of appropriate strategic action;
- the principle of strategic perseverance;
- the principle of strategic threat;
- the principle of simplicity.

Thus, the diversity and complexity of the military strategy of the Russian Federation is noticeable, which attests to its aggressive character in the areas of strategic interest.

The Chinese strategic school, which comes from antiquity, from Sun Tzi, knows an unprecedented dynamic, especially in terms of potential strategies. China wants to be a regional power, with a decisive role in shaping a stable security environment in the East and the Pacific.

China's current military strategy envisages the so-called "unrestricted war". This unrestricted war is based on the concept that if a conflict in a country threatens

China's security, it can intervene. This intervention can be located on two levels:

- either China intervenes and ends the conflict through mediation or peace-building actions;
- either China intervenes, determines the gravity of the conflict so that it can be consumed as soon as possible and reach its end.

The Chinese strategy is based on the following principles:

- the principle of the measure;
- the principle of strategic unity;
- the principle of strategic conceptual permanence;
- the principle of resource economy;
- the principle of devotion, of human value;
- the principle of strategic inflexibility;
- the principle of nuclear deterrence;
- the principle of strategic surprise;
- the principle of proportionate reaction;
- the principle of simplicity.

The Japanese concept of behavior in crisis, conflict and war highlights the following principles that underpinned their military strategy:

- the principle of predominance of potential strategies;
- the principle of active waiting;
- the principle of dynamic interior construction;
- the principle of perseverance;
- the principle of modesty, learning and obedience;
- the principle of intelligent action;
- the principle of resource economy (of limited and strictly self-controlled consumption);
- the principle of permanent responsibility;
- the high tech principle, of the technological and informational revolution (IT);
- the principle of morality;
- the principle of simplicity.

The Indian Strategic School promotes a series of principles strongly influenced by the mentalities and values of its own culture

and also by modern military trends, theories and practices, especially the British and American ones. The most common principles that can be deduced from the practice of the Indian strategic school are the following:

- the principle of regional nuclear deterrence;
- the principle of area strategic dominance;
- the principle of strategic control of internal dissensions;
- the principle of categorical response;
- the principle of value.

The Arab strategic school is neither unitary, nor flexible, nor conciliatory. But that does not mean it does not exist. It is based on a contradictory concept, sometimes bizarre, sometimes preserving great values, which determines the highlighting of the following principles:

- the principle of submission to authority;
- the principle of sacrifice;
- the principle of justice;
- the principle of inflexibility, of intolerance;
- the principle of morality and the sacred;
- the principle of revenge;
- the principle of intelligent action;
- the principle of simplicity.

Romania's military strategy is an integral part of NATO's strategy for preserving security in the area of strategic interest. In this sense, the military strategy contains the concepts on which the use of the armed forces in national defense, deterrence and collective defense is based.

Credible defensive ability. The military must maintain its ability to respond effectively and adequately to the risks posed by the security environment. The gradual and flexible response, comprising a combination of simultaneous or successive actions, through the use of surveillance and early warning forces, of action in crisis situations, main and reserve, ensures an adequate response to risks.

Early warning. Specialized peacetime forces with immediate response

capabilities, located near border areas and in the depths of the national territory, ensure the ability to monitor and warn early. Their purpose is to participate in the prevention of strategic surprise, to discover and monitor indications regarding the appearance and evolution of crisis and conflict states or the danger of triggering an armed aggression against Romania [6].

Fast reaction. It is achieved through the prompt initiation of the specific procedures provided for in the agreements on confidence-building measures, arms limitation and control, regional cooperation, consultations within the Partnership for Peace and the mechanisms provided for in the UN Charter. If the risks increase in intensity, highlighting the imminent danger of triggering hostile actions, the deployment of forces must be carried out immediately and appropriately. The army will have immediate zonal engagement forces and a fast reaction force, able to respond promptly against any type of military aggression. Their action will be based on special action agility and will have an opportune, selective, dynamic and flexible character. Depending on the magnitude of the threat, some of the main forces may be called upon to support the actions of the Rapid Reaction Force. In well-defined situations, in accordance with the foreign policy objectives and international commitments of the state, the Romanian army must be able to prepare, deploy and support the participation of forces in actions in support of peace, with the aim of resolving crisis situations that affects the national interests of Romania or the international community.

Generalized military defense. In extreme situations, generalized military defense will be adopted. Within the generalized armed defense, the armed forces must be able to defeat the military aggression, at strategic and operative level, carried out on the national territory. The enemy will be engaged at full depth to reduce his offensive fighting potential. Operations

outside the national territory will be carried out in order to prevent the continuation of the aggression and not to allow the aggressor to resume the offensive action immediately.

Restructuring and modernization. The main orientation in this field is, on the one hand, the creation of new management, combat, combat support and logistical structures, modern in terms of organization, mobile, maneuverable and flexible, with a great capacity for deployment, protection and support, with increased firepower and able to perform multiple missions, and on the other hand, endow the military body with adequate equipment. We must reconsider the role of the informational component compared to the energetic one in case of an armed confrontation. The purpose of modernization is to ensure an efficient and smaller military force, active, strong, adequate to the new security environment and able to give a timely response.

Modernization is based on four main elements:

Restructuring the force. The commands and forces will be made up of meticulously designed, compact, high-performance, efficient, flexible structures, compatible with NATO standards and interoperable with Alliance forces. Operational units will be maintained at a high level of combat capability. The forces destined for strategic defense will be staffed, trained and maintained at a level of action capacity adequate to the needs of ensuring national defense and mobilization. In our security environment, the quality of the forces, the speed in action, the decisive character of the response and their adaptability are much more important than their size.

Personnel management. This requires the identification and definition of each function by degree, specialty and technique required. Personnel, equipment and infrastructure, located outside the structures, will be managed in accordance with the legislation and personnel and endowment policies. By resizing the

military body, excess infrastructure elements will result and, depending on the situation, the legal measures taken to capitalize on them will be presented to the national authorities.

Professionalization of force. The main generating element of power and strength of the army is the human factor. The native fighting skills of the Romanian people represent a guarantee for the short-term professionalization of the army. The current system of fulfilling the military internship through the obligatory and the alternative military service represents an expensive way of supplementing with troops. Surveillance and early warning and action units in crisis situations, having the first degree of priority, must include professional military.

Acquisitions of military equipment. The endowment program must be rational and selective. Only those acquisitions that are necessary to maintain an adequate endowment of forces will be made.

In this sense, the main directions of action of the army are the following:

- progressive amplification of the participation in the common structures and actions, especially in the fields of strategic and operational planning, command, control, communications and informatics systems, airspace management and defense, training and infrastructure systems, as well as movement coordination;
- ensuring real capabilities for collective defense;
- achieving standardization and interoperability.

Arms control. An important role in our integration strategy is played by arms control. Romania is a party to several international arms control treaties, which have significantly contributed to reducing tensions in Europe and limiting the proliferation of conventional and mass destruction weapons.

Highlighting these principles demonstrates the evolution of the military strategy of various states and international bodies by

integrating and interconnecting advanced technologies, building and developing military capabilities that provide an effective and credible response to the full range of potential security challenges *and threats*.

3. Conclusions

The analysis of the security environment in the context of intensifying potential risks and threats, diversifying state and non-state actors, requires a reassessment of military strategies to integrate and interconnect new forms of conflict, as well as the capabilities needed for an effective and credible response. In this context, we appreciate the fact that the role of strategic analysis in substantiating the response options, typology, characteristics and

physiognomy of military operations, which ensures success across the spectrum of potential risks and threats, becomes very important.

The assessment of these issues suggests that the evolution of military strategy is an ongoing process, which will have to constantly adapt to changes in the security environment.

In the end, we appreciate the fact that it is necessary to develop the resilient and assertive capacity of the leading staff at the politico-military level in order to notice the changes produced in the security environment and to permanently adapt the military strategy to the new operational conditions.

References List

- [1] ****Dicționarul explicativ al limbii române* –Academia Română, Institutul de lingvistică “Iorgu Iordan-Al Rosseti”, Ed. a 2-a rev., București, 2012, p. 433.
- [2] Habian L, “*Eseu despre strategii și tactica militară*”, Editura Academiei Forțelor Terestre, Sibiu, 2000, p. 13.
- [3] *** “*Elemente de strategie militară*”, Editura Militară, București, 1975, p. 19.
- [4] *The National Military Strategy of the USA*, 2004, p. 7.
- [5] *National Strategy for National Defence for the period 2020-2024*, Bucharest, 2020;
- [6] *Romanian Military Strategy*, Bucharest, 2016, p. 13.
- [7] Bădălan E., Arsenie V., Văduva Gh., “*Eseu despre arta strategică*”, Editura Militară, București, 2005.
- [8] Mureșan M., Văduva Gh., “*Războiul viitorului, viitorul războiului*”, Editura U.N.Ap. “Carol I”, București, 2004.
- [9] Mureșan M., Văduva Gh., “*Strategia de parteneriat, parteneriatul strategic*”, Editura U.N.Ap. “Carol I”, București, 2006.
- [10] Onișor C., “*Teoria strategiei militare*”, Editura A.I.S.M., București, 1999.
- [11] Mureșan M., Stăncilă L., Enache D., “*Tendințe în evoluția teoriei și practicii războiului*”, Editura U.N.Ap. “Carol I”, București, 2006.
- [12] Beaufre A., “*Introducere în strategie*”, Editura Militară, București, 1974.
- [13] Karl von Clausewitz, “*Despre război*”, Editura Militară, București, 1982.
- [14] Sun Tzî, “*Artă războiului*”, Editura Militară, București, 1977.
- [15] *** “*Tratat de știință militară*”, vol. 1 și 2, Editura Militară, București, 2001.