

Information Warfare and the Defense of the United States

Union of Saints

- A smear campaigner on the war front is just as much an enemy. There is no need to step into their ring in order to defend. What are they doing? They are targeting and isolating characteristics of Americans so they can attack them and their character through revolving targeted attacks. They are just the enemy.
- They use targeted smear campaigns to isolate Americans by their characteristics, attack their character, and create conditions that may enable targeted acts of violence. This is their first strategy: identify, isolate, discredit, and target. There is no need to step into their ring in order to defend. A smear campaigner on the war front is just as much an enemy when their actions support a campaign of intimidation or violence. The United States must recognize these warning signs, investigate credible evidence of coordination, protect Americans from targeted threats, and defend the constitutional rights and *safety of its people*.

What Type of Warfare Is This?

What we are describing can be understood as information warfare, psychological warfare, and reputational attacks. When a campaign focuses on identifying people's characteristics, isolating them by those characteristics, and repeatedly attacking their character, several concepts may apply, depending on the evidence and who is responsible.

Information Warfare: Using information, messaging, or propaganda to influence public understanding, undermine trust, or shape perceptions of a country and its people.

Psychological Warfare: Communications intended to influence morale, create fear, weaken confidence, or affect how people perceive an opponent.

Disinformation Campaigns: Deliberately spreading false or misleading information to manipulate public opinion.

Character Assassination and Smear Campaigns: Attacking a person's reputation rather than addressing the substance of their arguments or conduct.

Identity Based Targeting: Singling people out because of characteristics such as nationality, ancestry, culture, or political beliefs. Whether this constitutes unlawful discrimination, harassment, or another offense depends on the circumstances.

Cognitive Warfare: A term used in some security and military discussions for efforts to influence how people think, interpret events, and make decisions.

These categories can overlap. However, repeated criticism or negative portrayals alone do not establish that a coordinated foreign operation or military campaign exists. Evidence of coordination, intent, and attribution matters.

How Should the United States Defend Itself?

1. Strengthen Counterintelligence

Identify and investigate credible evidence of foreign directed influence operations, covert coordination, cyberattacks, and unlawful intimidation. Attribute responsibility based on evidence rather than assumptions.

2. Expose Documented Smear Campaigns

Preserve original posts, messages, dates, account information, and evidence of coordination. Correct false claims with verifiable facts, and report credible threats or criminal conduct to the appropriate authorities.

3. Protect Americans From Identity Based Harassment

Enforce applicable laws against threats, stalking, discrimination, and other unlawful conduct. Protect Americans' civil rights and privacy regardless of their ancestry, nationality, political beliefs, or cultural background.

4. Build Public Resilience

Teach people to recognize manipulation, verify sources, distinguish facts from accusations, and avoid amplifying inflammatory material. Americans can disagree without allowing deceptive campaigns to turn disagreements into hostility.

5. Defend Constitutional Freedoms

Protect freedom of speech, lawful criticism, due process, and equal protection. The government must distinguish hostile foreign operations and unlawful conduct from ordinary dissent, journalism, and peaceful political expression.

The Strategic Principle

There is no need to engage with every provocation or enter an opponent's arena to defend the American people. A strong defense means documenting credible evidence, exposing demonstrable deception, investigating unlawful conduct, protecting Americans from targeted harassment, and preserving national unity without sacrificing constitutional freedoms.

The United States must recognize and address information warfare, psychological manipulation, and coordinated reputational attacks when supported by evidence. National defense must protect Americans from unlawful targeting while preserving individual liberty, constitutional rights, and the integrity of public discourse.