

Strategies of Gradual (Soft) Influence

Union of Saints

As we witness.

Probing

A limited, cautious action used to test defenses, observe reactions, identify vulnerabilities, or gather information without committing to a major operation. Probing allows decision makers to assess conditions before determining whether additional action is warranted.

Shaping Operations

Actions conducted before or alongside larger operations to gradually influence the operational environment. Shaping operations are intended to prepare favorable conditions rather than achieve an immediate decisive outcome.

Gray Zone Operations

Activities that remain below the threshold of conventional armed conflict. These may include political pressure, economic measures, cyber activities, information campaigns, diplomatic influence, or other indirect methods designed to achieve strategic objectives while avoiding open warfare.

Salami Slicing

A strategy in which significant objectives are achieved through numerous small, incremental actions rather than a single dramatic event. Each individual action may appear too minor to justify a strong response, while the cumulative effect gradually changes the strategic landscape.

Soft Power

The ability to influence others through attraction, diplomacy, culture, values, education, or economic relationships rather than through military force or coercion.

Hearts and Minds

A strategy commonly associated with counterinsurgency that seeks to gain the support, trust, and cooperation of civilian populations through security, assistance, governance, and relationship building rather than intimidation or force.

Fabian Strategy

A strategy of avoiding decisive battles while relying on delay, maneuver, harassment, and gradual attrition to weaken an opponent over time. It is named after Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus.

Economy of Force

The principle of applying only the minimum force necessary in one area while preserving greater resources for higher-priority objectives elsewhere.

Gentle Grazing

A conceptual model developed by the Union of Saints.

Definition

Gentle Grazing describes a gradual strategy in which small, measured, and seemingly insignificant actions are applied over time rather than through a single direct or overwhelming effort. Each individual action may appear harmless or inconsequential in isolation, yet the cumulative effect can influence perceptions, shape conditions, test boundaries, or slowly erode resistance.

Gentle Grazing can produce significant harm over time through the cumulative effect of multiple exposures, stressors, or adverse conditions. Rather than a single catastrophic event, the damage may result from numerous small factors acting together over months or years. These factors may include environmental contaminants, occupational exposures, chronic psychological stress, repeated physical strain, substance use, certain medications, infectious diseases, poor nutrition, sleep deprivation, or other health challenges. In military or disaster settings, prolonged attrition, sustained stress, disrupted healthcare, and environmental hazards may further compound these effects. Individually, each exposure may appear limited, but together they may contribute to an increased risk of illness, injury, or, in some cases, premature death.

The concept draws inspiration from several metaphors.

Like **grazing**, only a little is taken at a time.

Like a **brush fire**, a small spark or light pass may spread gradually as conditions allow, with the surrounding environment carrying its effects beyond the original point of contact.

Like a **brush with death**, repeated close encounters stop just short of a decisive event, creating continual pressure without immediate resolution.

Gentle Grazing is often combined with **probing**, where each small action also serves to observe reactions, identify vulnerabilities, gather information, and determine whether additional actions are likely to succeed. In this way, every incremental action not only produces a small effect but also provides intelligence for future decisions.

Characteristics

- Small, incremental actions.
- Limited immediate visibility or impact.
- Deliberate observation of responses after each action.

- Continuous adjustment based on feedback.
- Gradual accumulation of effects over time.
- Frequently paired with probing or other shaping activities.
- Emphasizes persistence rather than overwhelming force.
- Allows conditions to evolve naturally before further action is taken.

Illustrative Metaphor

Rather than cutting down an entire forest in a single day, Gentle Grazing removes only a few leaves at a time, allowing the wind to carry them away until, almost unnoticed, the landscape has changed.

Like a slow brush fire moving through dry grass, each individual spark appears insignificant, yet together they gradually reshape the terrain.

Purpose

Gentle Grazing provides a model for understanding how gradual, cumulative actions can influence an environment over time. The concept may be applied to military, political, organizational, economic, psychological, or social settings where change occurs through many small actions rather than a single decisive event. Depending on the context, those actions may be cooperative, competitive, or adversarial.

Author's Note

Gentle Grazing is an original conceptual model developed by the Union of Saints. It is presented as a descriptive model for understanding gradual patterns of influence and is not an established military doctrine or official strategic term.

Difficult to detect, even more difficult to contain, mitigate, interrupt or recover from.

- Bolsheviks, Trotskyists, anarchists, skinheads, Antifa, Chicanos, Zapatistas, BLM, the Black Israelite movement, the Israeli and Russian left, Tren de Aragua, Black liberationists, Native Mob, Hispanic political PACs, liberation armies, and the LGBT movement (large movement, many factions).
- Using looting, robbery, theft, violence, as well as trafficking, as sources of political revenue.
- Influence campaigns.
- Sabotage campaigns.
- American suppression campaigns.
- Political movements have unfortunately taken a big swing at the American people.
- “Grass Whip” → “Razor” → Sickle
- Makes Americans Sick – Goal Is Destabilization, Blackmail, Sabotage, Power, Foreign Influence & Civil War

Thank you
American
Patriots!

APPEARANCE

