



## **THE INEVITABILITY OF MILITARY CONFLICT IN 2020**

THE CONFLUENCE OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES  
HAS CREATED CIRCUMSTANCES WITH CONSIDERABLE AND DAMAGING  
IMPACT ON AMERICA'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL WELL-BEING

An  
**IA Analytica**  
White Paper

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## THE INEVITABILITY OF MILITARY CONFLICT IN 2020

### INTRODUCTION

In a previous White Paper, [150 Days: America in Jeopardy Approaching Election Day](#), we made the following conclusion:

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*In the next five months, from June to Election Day (November 3), the United States is likely to be confronted with a series of events that would not only bring down the Trump Presidency and significantly alter the American political landscape, but have a decades-long impact on the world.*

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Worsening internal conflicts in the United States and military withdrawals abroad have created unique and historic opportunities for our adversaries. America's foreign antagonists are preparing to seize those opportunities for their own political goals and with the added benefit of influencing our Presidential and Congressional elections. What is being overlooked, if not ignored, by the American media and the U.S. population, is the extent, severity and inevitability of military conflict.

Given the protagonists involved, the timing of these conflicts will be determined specifically to maximize the damage to the United States' power and standing abroad and the Trump presidency at home. Rightly expecting the country to be too distracted with internal crises combined with extreme political partisanship and a presidential election, Russian, China, Iran, terrorists, and other American enemies, will strike using historical and contrived territorial disagreements as excuses.

Our open source intelligence (OSINT) collection and analysis over the last 18-24 months has led U.S. to the conclusion that **war is coming**. Of the potential areas of hostilities below, any one of them could lead to another or ignite historical local/regional animosities elsewhere.

### THE MIDDLE EAST

#### **Iran - Israel**

The Iranians have resolutely declared their highest priority is to erase Israel from the face of the earth. Now that most U.S. and allied troops have left Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Saudi Arabia and the production of Iranian nuclear warheads has accelerated with North Korean and Russian support, an Iranian attack is more likely and imminent than it has been in a generation.

The Israeli Air Force will continue to strike Iranian and Hezbollah forces and bases in neighboring countries. Israel will also attack underground Iranian nuclear weapons facilities within the next couple of years.

**We expect a regional war within the next 1-3 years, which would expand into WWII should Iran employ nuclear weapons as threatened.**

## EURASIA

### **Kashmir: China - India.**

India and China have had limited military border incidents since a war in the area in 1962. But recently, both countries have been mobilizing troops in increased numbers accompanied by greater incendiary rhetoric.

**We expect a regional war within 6-12 months, although we do not believe either will engage nuclear weapons.**

### **Turkey – Greece**

Conflict between long-time regional adversaries Turkey and Greece has intensified recently. The latest tensions were tightened when Turkey declared its rights to a substantial part of the resources of the Mediterranean Sea near Crete, Karpathos and Rhodes. Greece and other countries in the region have rejected those claims. Further, Turkey supports the Libyan government in that country's civil war. According to the New York Times in late May, *"A string of victories by Turkish-backed forces in western Libya this week dealt a heavy blow to the ambitions of the aspiring strongman Khalifa Hifter and signaled the arrival of Turkey as a potentially decisive force among the foreign powers battling for supremacy in the Middle East's biggest proxy war."*

This week, a Greek warship intercepted and captured a Turkish ship reportedly transporting missile systems, armored vehicles, UAVs, defensive electronics and small arms and ammunition to Libya.

As President Erdogan strengthens his relationship with Russia over Syria and becomes a more powerful player in the Eastern Mediterranean, **within the year hostilities between Turkey and Greece will devolve into armed conflict.**

## AFRICA

### **Civil War in Libya**

The domestic war in Libya has already expanded into an international war with the introduction of Russian mercenaries (**the Wagner Group**) and fighter aircraft (officially from Belarus.). Turkey has sent in troops, aircraft and naval ships, and armed forces from Egypt are also in Libya.

**Libya has the potential to become a "Mediterranean Vietnam" – a proxy war between various factions with grave implications for hostilities elsewhere.**

## THE FAR EAST

### **China in the South China Sea**

The Chinese Navy is specifically training to fight the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea. China has spent significant resources on not only building aircraft carriers, but very



### **The Wagner Group**

The Wagner Group is a Russian paramilitary organization. Some have described it as a private military company (or a private military contracting agency), whose contractors have reportedly taken part in various conflicts, including operations in the Syrian Civil War on the side of the Syrian government as well as, from 2014 until 2015, in the War in Donbass in Ukraine aiding the separatist forces of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Others are of the opinion that Wagner is really a unit of the Russian Ministry of Defence in disguise, which is used by the Russian government in conflicts where deniability is called for, as its forces are trained on MoD installations. It is believed to be owned by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman with close links to Russian President Vladimir Putin. [Wikipedia]

specifically anti-satellite and jamming weapons to disable American vessels. **We expect China will initiate limited military engagements** initially as a test of U.S. resolve. However, should exchanges result in loss of life and/or ships, it would be an act of war. Hostilities in the South China Sea would no doubt escalate beyond China and the United States since it is a major world maritime trade route.

### **China - Taiwan**

Beijing has talked about reintegrating Taiwan back into China for the past 70 years, in the same style as Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region). Lately, the tensions have increased, and **China is expected to try to annex Taiwan by force if/when the U.S. is busy elsewhere.**

### **TERRORISM**

#### **ISIS, Europe and the U.S.**

U.S. withdrawals from the Middle East and Afghanistan has enabled ISIS to regroup and expand, with direct support from Iran, Qatar and Pakistan. **We expect new terrorist attacks by ISIS members this Summer in Europe (Paris, Hamburg, Copenhagen, and London) as well as in the U.S. within the next year.** (The CoVid-19 travel restrictions might have delayed their travel plans).

### **SUMMARY**

Most of the hotspots abroad, when ignited, may not immediately require U.S. military engagement, although, in some locations, our armed forces will ultimately become involved.

Whether immediate or delayed, American allies will be the targets of aggression, necessitating a response from Washington, particularly when the attacked countries are members of vital alliances such as NATO.

Russia, China, Iran and terrorist groups believe the United States to be weak and unwilling to fight a shooting war. America's domestic turmoil (COVID-19, racial tensions, economic uncertainties and toxic political divisions) furthers our adversaries' beliefs in that reluctance. In fact, it is likely that social frictions in the United States are being encouraged and supported by elements of foreign governments specifically to distract Washington from their military designs.



## IA ANALYTICA

Our OSINT resources are among the best and largest in the commercial world.

A U.S. corporation with operations registered in the U.S. and the E.U., IA Analytica a unique source of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), as well as information security technology (SIGINT/ ITSEC/ INFOSEC/ COMSEC) consulting services and has both U.S. DoD/GSA and EU/SE approved security storage facilities. With over 40 years of innovation and experience, we are one of the most advanced OSINT research and analysis resources in the world. focused on potential hotspots, military and science.

IAA engages **1,500** polyglot metasearch engines (most custom built) running on over 1,000 processors (30+ computers) to find information with computer translation capabilities of over 100 languages into English.

Searching much more than web pages and public data bases, we also scour chat groups, open email, local papers, SIGs, corporate newsletters, our own databases, social media, blogs, etc.

Downloading exceptionally large amounts of complete documents (Terabytes) and build our own complete document reference data bases – we do not limit ourselves to abstracts only. We DO scan for withdrawn documents and information, since this might indicate that a project has either been discontinued or entered a sensitive production phase.

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