



The Challenges of the “Now” and Their Implications for the U.S. Army

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More than a decade’s worth of experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has honed the Army’s ability to fight irregular adversaries, but these may not be the adversaries of the future. The author reviews the military adversaries and challenges that this nation and others currently face and draws lessons for the battles the United States has not yet fought but likely will in the future.



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What lessons can the U.S. Army draw from its own recent combat experience and that of other countries facing similar challenges that can help it prepare for the full range of adversaries it is likely to face in the future?
- What are the Army’s critical capability gaps relative to potential adversaries?



KEY FINDINGS

Potential adversaries know U.S. military capabilities and vulnerabilities:

- These adversaries are adapting.
- The Army needs to prepare for the full range of adversaries it is likely to confront, some of whom will be armed with weapons that are now superior to some of its own.



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