

Module 10 Journal Entry

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Reading the Beskow and Charley article shows the shift in how conflict is not just started on land or sea but within the information sector. They define social cybersecurity as a scientific discipline focused on characterizing, forecasting, and responding to cyber-mediated changes in human behavior, culture, and political systems. Its mission is to secure social character in an environment shaped by fast-moving informational threats.

Information operations now stand on equal strategic footing with conventional military power. There has never been a time in history where information and data has been held at such a high level. The authors describe an “information blitzkrieg” where adversaries deploy narratives to disrupt, divide, and undermine our public's trust in certain institutions and values globally. The social media farms have become huge more recently supporting the dead internet theory that believes most of the online interactions are between real people and bots rather than between two real people.

This article pushed me to reflect on how I may have been affected by this so-called information war. Personally I don't post much on social media or interact with its features at all (commenting) but I have seen comments from so-called accounts with just such outrageous takes that are only meant to stir people up into outrage. While our country is fighting about who is or isn't right, other countries like Russia or China are developing massive fighting power that may one day rival the United States. I don't know how we fix this problem but something needs to be done before it's too late.

References

Beskow, D. M., & Carley, K. M. (2019, March–April). Social Cybersecurity: An Emerging National Security Requirement. *Military Review*, 99(2), 117–130. Retrieved from <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/Mar-Apr-2019/117-Cybersecurity/b/>