

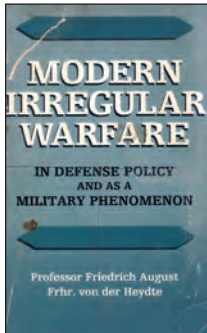
## Modern Irregular Warfare in Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon

English Edition: von der Heydte, Friedrich August Freiherr. *Modern Irregular Warfare in Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon*. New York, NY: New Benjamin Franklin House; 1986. ISBN: 0-933488-49-1. 299 pages.

German Edition: von der Heydte, Friedrich August Freiherr. *Der moderne Kleinkrieg als wehrpolitisches und militärisches Phänomen*. Würzburg, West Germany: Holzner-Verlag; 1986. ISBN-10: 3925725032/ISBN-13: 978-3925725036. 312 pages.

Review by COL (Ret) Warner "Rocky" D. Farr, MD, MPH

Friedrich August Freiherr von der Heydte was a Second World War Luftwaffe paratrooper officer who jumped into Crete, a recipient of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, a professor of West German Constitutional Law after the war, and also a Bundeswehr reserve Brigadier General—clearly someone who had a long and varied career! He was also a cousin of Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, of the anti-Hitler 20 July plot of 1944.



General von der Heydte's book, which is available in either German or English (I have both), was first published in 1972, with a second edition in 1986 when it was updated in light of the leftist German political party, the Greens, who were battling against the peaceful use of nuclear energy in West Germany.



This is one of the few books I have read that views urban guerrilla war as a veiled ideology within the economic and power-political intentions of a super power that uses terrorism as a weapon disguised as environmental concern. General von der Heydte approaches both terrorism and covert warfare in the context of weapons of mass destruction and within the increasing risk of global war. He describes modern guerrilla warfare through a strategic model—a model

of the totality of the state and its people, with unconventional/ guerrilla warfare (UW/GW) as but one tool.

Although the literature on UW/GW is seemingly vast, the literature on urban UW/GW, specifically, is not. We (the Americans) had an urban UW unit in post-war West Berlin (Detachment "A," or the 39th Special Forces Detachment), but most of our doctrine and our shared tribal history is still "rural." When we think of UW/GW, we think Tito's Yugoslavia, France's Marquis, the Philippines with Colonels Fertig and

Volkman, and so on. General von der Heydte approaches terrorism and covert warfare under the cloud of the atomic weapons of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization–Warsaw Pact standoff, the increased risk of total war, and the globalization of the bipolar foreign policy between the Soviets and the United States. He views leftist movements as long-lasting violent confrontations against the regime, which are initially of low intensity but then gradually increase over time as UW/GW movements, which attempt to isolate the enemy (i.e., the government) during the struggle, to then morally wear it down and win. This book was written during the heyday of all the communist "wars of national liberation" that were being victorious throughout the Third World.

Some of the West Germans viewed all domestic terrorism and leftist activity as covert warfare resorted to by the Soviet–East German bloc as an alternative to more traditional warfare, which increased the risk of thermonuclear war. The West Germans were undergoing their post-war "economic miracle," and viewed a globalized foreign policy as increasingly important for people who wanted to expand their "informal empire" and make successful economic policy. The book flyleaf states: "*The study describes the modern guerrilla warfare as a strategic model—as a model of a total, sensing the whole of the state and the people, guided by any means, long-lasting, violent confrontation, which is initially of low military intensity, however, the tendency to gradual increase followed. In such a dispute, the side that succeeds, over time psychologically and physically isolate the enemy during battle and morally to wear down, so that it arrives sooner or later to all conditions required of it prevails . . .*"

So, why should you bother hunting up a 60-year-old German book? Well, because in the back of the book is the best bibliography (for the 1960s) of urban UW/GW that I have ever seen, and because it discusses social political factions as guerrilla movements and attempts to place UW/GW in a total war construct. Used copies are available on Amazon.com for less than \$20.00 and on Amazon.de for less than €5.00. More information on the author can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich\\_August\\_Freiherr\\_von\\_der\\_Heydte](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_August_Freiherr_von_der_Heydte).