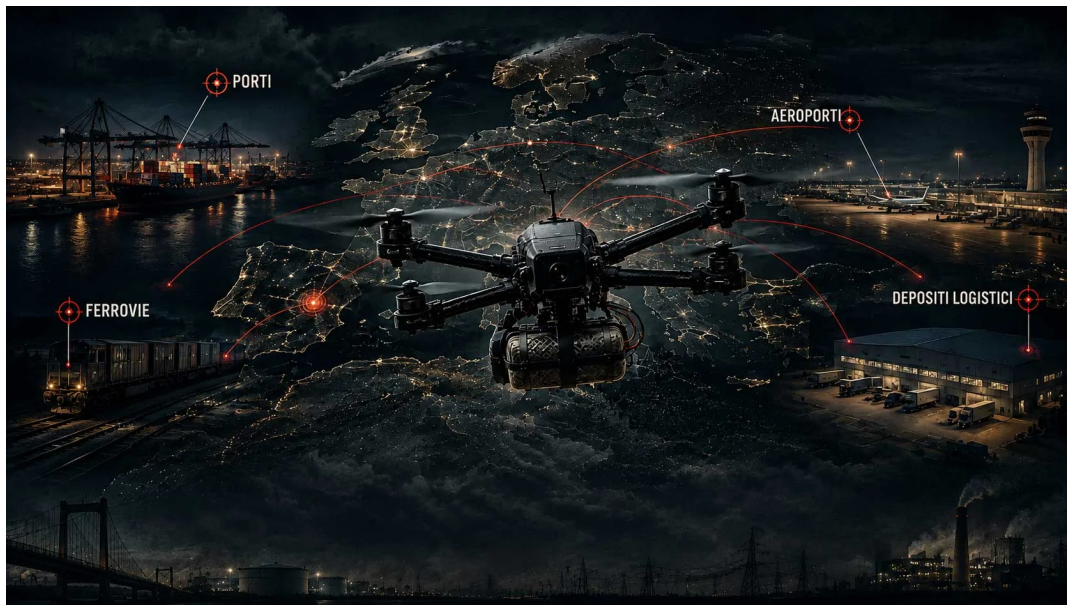




When the Front Disappears: The New War Without Borders

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For a long time, we continued to imagine war as something distant and geographically confined. There was a front, there were two armies, and, with rare exceptions, everything that happened remained confined within that space. Today, however, we still tend to talk about the "war in Ukraine," but perhaps we should start asking a different question: are we really sure that this conflict is still confined to Ukraine?

In recent months, we have witnessed a series of episodes that, when observed individually, may seem disconnected. A Ukrainian naval drone found on the Greek coast. Commercial ships involved in attacks far beyond the front line. The latest episode, off the Ligurian coast, once again demonstrates how civilian maritime traffic can no longer be considered unrelated to what is happening between Moscow and Kyiv. Today, finally, a drone with an explosive payload appears in the immediate vicinity of cargo planes bound for Ukraine within a German airport. Investigations will clarify responsibilities and dynamics, but merely discussing who is behind it risks losing sight of the real change.

For decades, the ability to strike a target hundreds or thousands of kilometers away was almost exclusively the domain of states. It required an air force, a navy, cruise missiles, special units, or enormously expensive infrastructures. Today, that same capability is becoming progressively accessible through platforms that cost a fraction, can be locally assembled with commercial components, transported with extreme ease, and adapted to the mission in extremely short times.

This is the real lesson coming from the war in Ukraine. Not the drone itself, but the democratization of offensive capability. Technology has broken down a barrier that for decades had limited the projection of force to major military actors. Today, with relatively modest investments, it is possible to create an operational and psychological effect that just a few years ago would have required enormously greater resources.

The problem, moreover, is not only about the ease with which these systems can be built or deployed. It concerns the completely unbalanced relationship between attack and defense. A relatively inexpensive drone can block an international airport, disrupt the traffic of a port, force the evacuation of a critical infrastructure, or oblige a state to deploy anti-drone systems, bomb disposal experts, security forces, and procedures that cost tens or hundreds of times more than the tool used to create the threat. In other words, the attacker continues to spend little, while the defender is forced to spend more and more.

Perhaps this is precisely the change we are observing without realizing it.

We continue to discuss borders, while technology is making them increasingly irrelevant. We continue to imagine war as a line drawn on maps, when in reality the true battlefield has become logistics, infrastructures, transport, ports, airports, and all those networks that allow a state to continue functioning and sustaining a military effort.

I don't know if the drone found in Leipzig is directly connected to this logic. Investigations will tell. But I do know one thing: even if tomorrow it emerges that there is no connection, the problem would remain the same. Because the technology that makes such an action possible already exists, has been tested on a large scale, and continues to evolve at a speed rarely observed in recent military history.

The real question, therefore, is not whether the war is moving beyond Ukraine's borders.

The real question is whether we have finally understood that, in the era of drones, those borders have already begun to lose their meaning.

Author's Note: This analysis arises from reflection on recent events reported by the German press. The considerations expressed represent a strategic assessment of the evolution of modern conflicts and do not constitute an attribution of responsibility regarding the facts under investigation. Image generated with AI.

Reference Article (BILD):

<https://www.bild.de/news/inland/flughafen-leipzig-paket-als-sprengstoff-identifiziert-erstes-foto-der-drohnenbombe-6a72f7b83013d32d67880de4>