

Resilience and Opportunity: Effective Tools for Victory in Fourth Generation Wars?

In Iraq, the US has spent at least \$200 billion dollars. Let us say 100,000 hostile combatants were defeated.

That represents two million dollars per combatant killed or otherwise removed from the field of battle.

Are there cheaper ways, in both money and lives, to permanently remove 4GW combatants from the field?

In a conventional war armistice and demobilization are not individual level decisions.

That power resides with the wage-paying entities that employ the common soldier and provide material.

4GW is *cheap labor warfare* in which self-funding combatants select their own level of involvement.

How to change the priorities of those combatants who might rather be doing other things with their lives?

How much would it cost to enable one combatant to go home and start a family-run business?

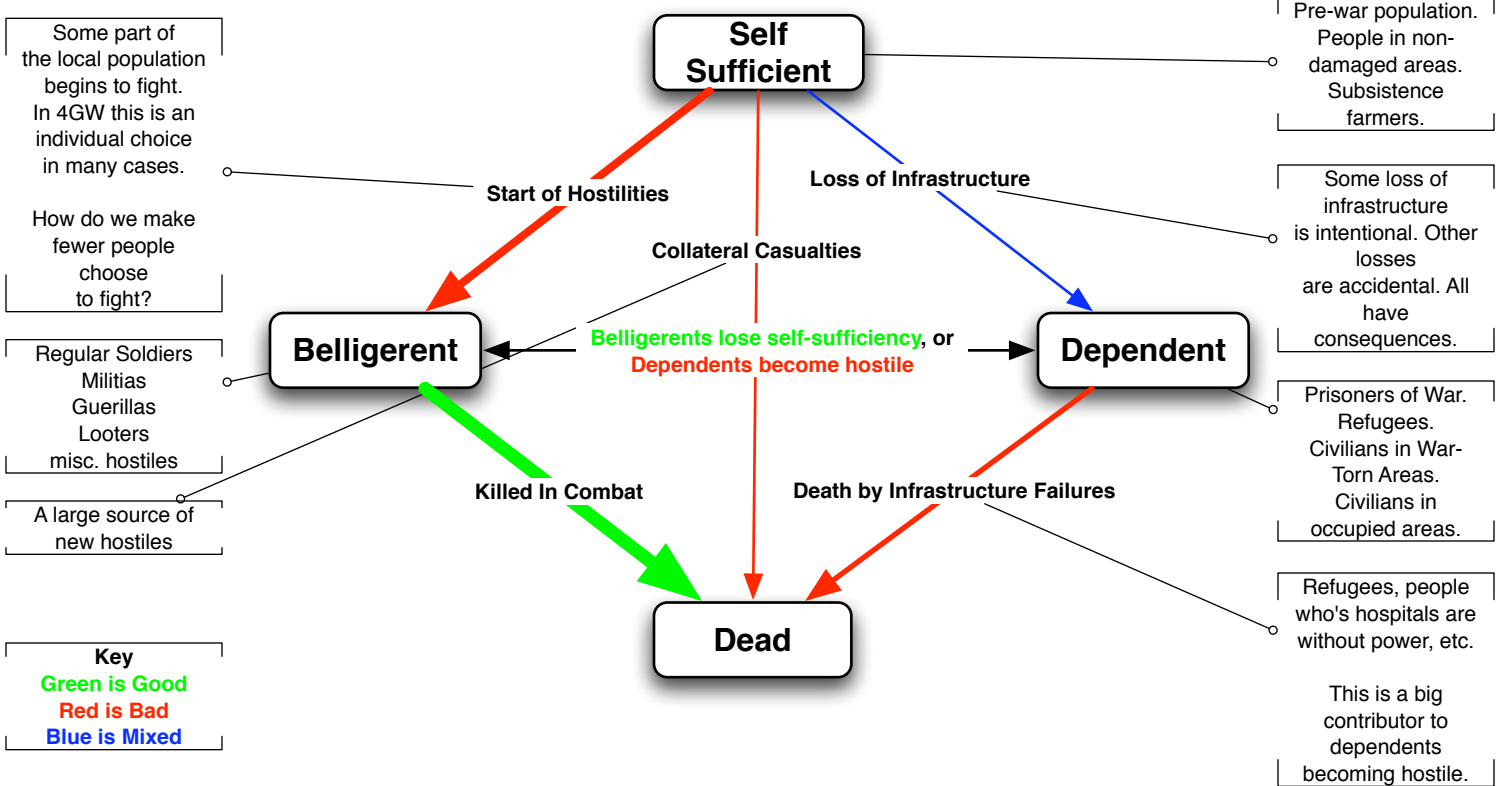
A 4GW war is won when everybody left alive has gone home to raise their families and earn a living.

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and
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Let us use a "stocks and flows" model to think about conventional warfare. War begins at declaration.

The population at war can be seen in three groups: the self-sufficient population, the enemy, and the victims.

We are very good at dealing with belligerents, but have a lot to learn about caring for the "dependents."



Dependents are people without infrastructure or tools to self-support.

They are people like refugees and some civilians, and if they die, it looks like our fault.

Dependents get angry and blame us for their plight. As long as we are responsible, we have a problem.

Dependents are a cheap labor pool for insurgent or terrorist organizations.

Lack of productive opportunities makes recruitment to 4GW groups look more attractive.

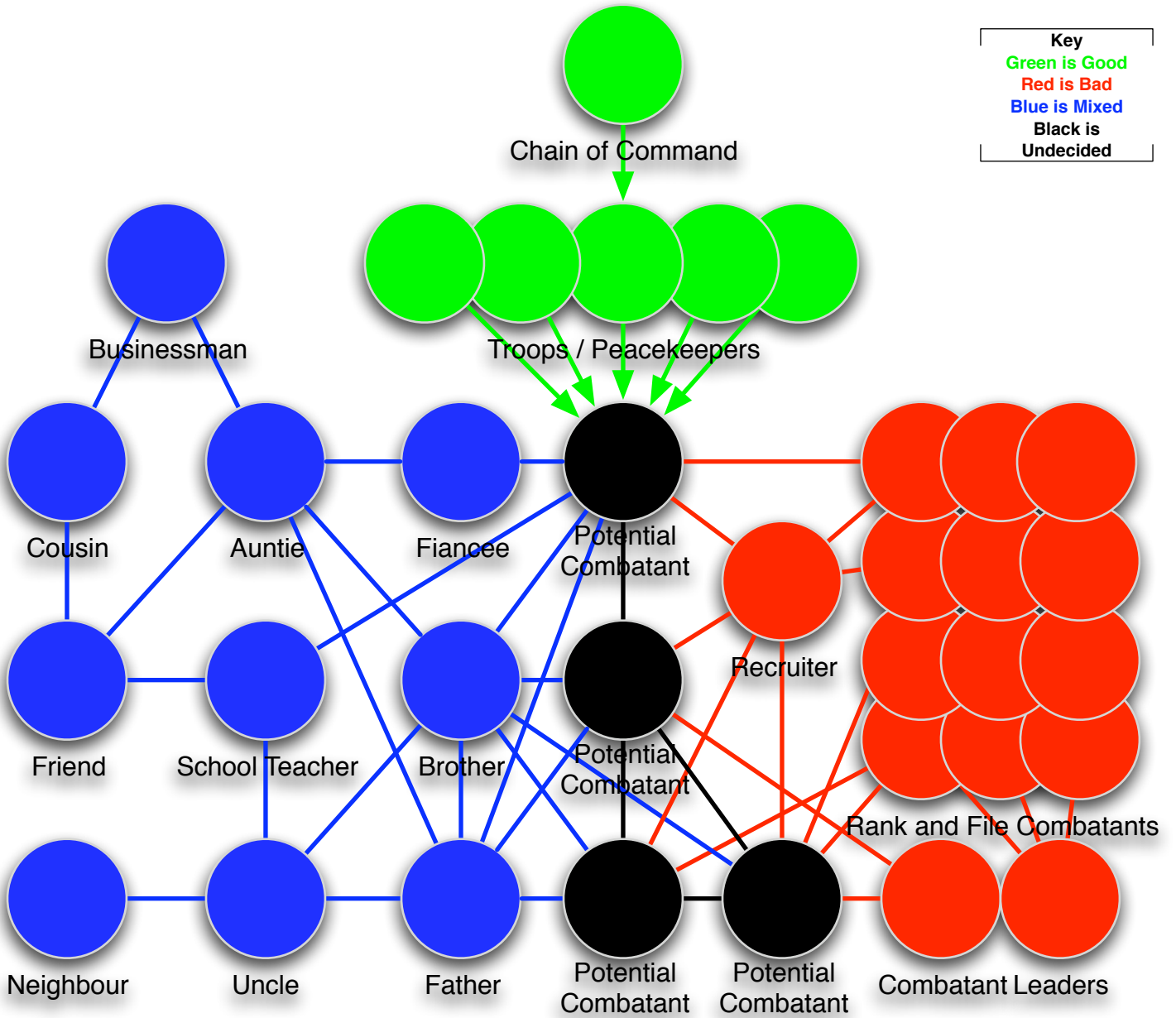
Nobody gets rich in a refugee camp, only angry.

Strong nation states can have policy changed from the top. In a failed state all change is from the bottom.

The Marshall Plan made stable peace probable by diverting national energies into rebuilding and growth.

What would an individual level Marshall Plan look like for every single 4GW combatant?

Key
 Green is Good
 Red is Bad
 Blue is Mixed
 Black is Undecided



Think of the **edge** of an 4GW warfighting group.

The edge is inexperienced and uncommitted. Can some of these potential combatants be diverted?

If 5% of these potential combatants find better lives through our intervention, we are making effective war.

The key pressure points are the blue lines - the people who would rather see the recruits alive than dead.

The recruits are sacrificing everything for their cause. With more to lose fewer will make that sacrifice.

How much was the peace process in Northern Ireland driven by economic growth in Eire?

Conventional wars usually end when the soldier's ultimate commanders are defeated. Not so 4GW.

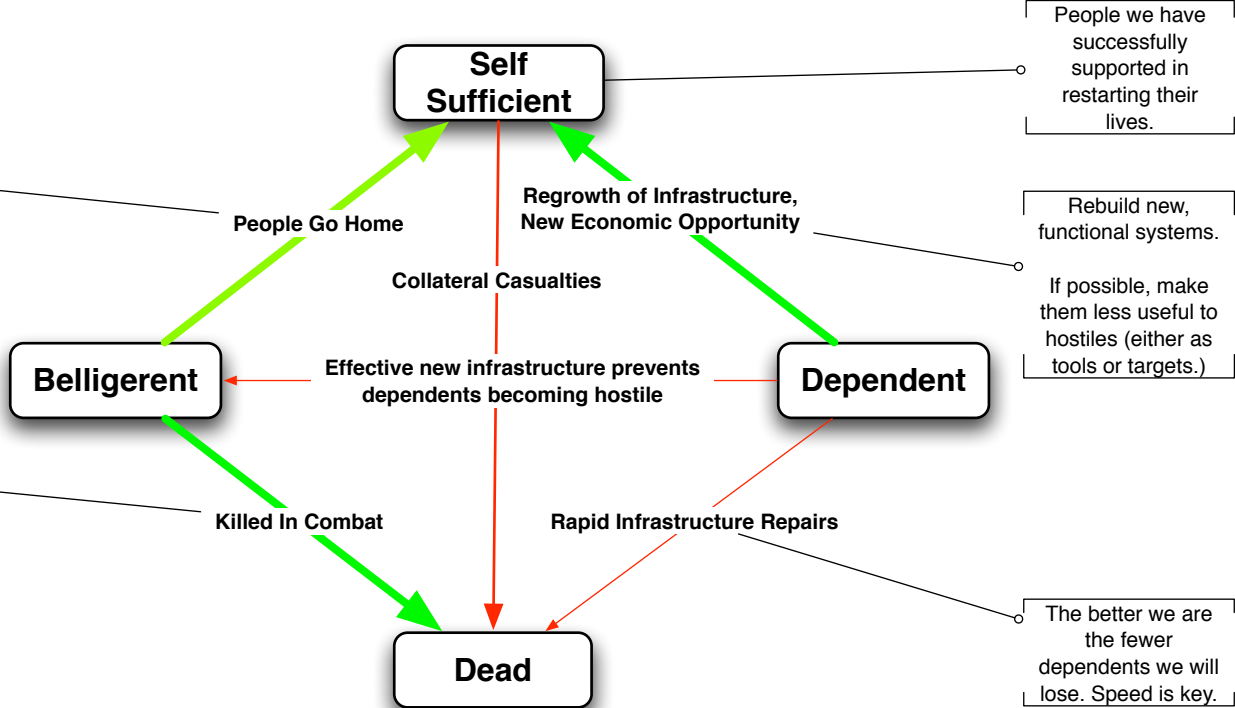
Cutting financial supply lines is very ineffective when RPGs cost \$10 in flea markets.

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4GW networks disintegrate as people find new jobs or return to their farms. As labor costs rise in an expanding economy, 4GW combatants find higher paying, less dangerous occupations and leave the field.

Fewer combatants have to be killed or defeated in combat, and those who remain may be less committed.

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John Boyd says competition for limited resources is what fuels conflicts.

Restoring individual self sufficiency and opportunity is a way of reducing numbers of 4GW troops.

Belligerents can be killed, or they can go home under their own power and restart peaceful life.

Personal victory can come in war, or in the other goals of life.

If home is **safe and sufficient** then fewer people will feel compelled to fight us (or each other).

People will not stop defending their homes. It is their right.

Our approach to refugees generalizes into approaching states.

Distributed infrastructure creates resilience. Microfinance creates opportunity.

Building expertise in both areas may help us finally learn how to win fourth generation wars.

Recommendations



Chain of Command



Troops / Peacekeepers

Distributed Infrastructure

Microfinance



Potential Combatant



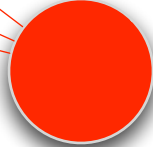
Potential Combatant



Potential Combatant



Family Life



Recruiter

Economies

See "Brittle Power" and "Small is Profitable" from RMI.

New relationships built on mutual aid in the business sphere replace alliances built on combatant status.

Microfinance supports individuals who wish to become economically self-sufficient. It is cheap.

Distributed infrastructure supports autonomous well being. It is resilient in both war and peace.

Could Iraq, for example, be rebuilt using small business loans and technologies like solar panels?