**Introduction**

In the introduction, I provide the basis for the book’s ensuing discussions about the proper way to wage low-intensity warfare against guerilla and/or terror organizations. Ideally low-intensity wars should be conducted while balancing preservation of human dignity with the effective defense of the state and its inhabitants. Such wars also require the development of normative-universal rules for conducting warfare. In other words, an equilibrium should be sought between military effectiveness and adhering to ethical considerations and maintaining international legitimacy for actions undertaken by democratic states against terror and/or guerilla organizations.

The context of this discussion is the steady decline of traditional, classic wars between sovereign states ever since the end of World War II. This trend has seen a corresponding rise in low-intensity wars, conflicts in which a sovereign state battles a guerilla or terror organization. While such organizations radically differ from democratic states in terms of their values and priorities, they have developed paramilitary organizations which in some ways resemble the regular armies deployed by states. However, while regular armies are expected to respect the principles of international laws, these organizations do not. The rising frequency of these types of wars without a concomitant development of suitable moral justifications and rules for declaring or conducting them, has left democratic states with a significant problem.

For the purposes of this study, I have developed two working definitions, distinguishing between terror organizations and guerrilla organizations, using these to classify the specific organizations discussed. I present these definitions in the introduction. Likewise, I present the characteristics of low-intensity warfare, explaining the ways it differs from classic warfare.

I explain how the book is organized: the first part is theoretical; it presents Just War Theory and the principles of *jus in bello*, applying these to low-intensity warfare. Specifically, it explores the doctrine developed by Kasher and Yadlin. The second section includes case studies. The third section discusses the nature of military doctrines, presenting the two new doctrines which I have developed: one for the war against terror the other for war against guerilla organizations.

In my description of the book’s second part, I explain the rationale behind the specific cases studies chosen: all cases pertain to states with a democratic profile (as defined by the 2010 Democratic Index, as I explain). Moreover, each case represents a different type of organization operating in a different territory and environment. In addition, the beleaguered states in these case studies lack effective control over the territory in which the war takes place.

Finally, I explain this book’s contribution to the scholarship on the subject, especially the new doctrine it offers.