

ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES: AN INCOGNITO MENACE

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ABSTRACT

The antipersonnel landmines are the typical threats which is mostly used for devastating the military personal and the civilians too. It is heavily used in World War II but its impact is still affecting the innocents. This article contains the past present and future conditions regarding to the antipersonnel landmines it also examines the impact of landmines over innocent civilians and the work of intellectuals for its retention. The type of mines and their evolution will be described over here the heinous massacre which took place since World War II era is still affecting the countries. India's situation is also described from the use of AP Landmines to its retention process. The Ottawa Process and its method is also a part of this articles which collects concerns towards the abolition of mines.

INTRODUCTION

In the history of "ART OF WARFARE" there are so many warfare techniques which were described and used by the forces in several war times but in World war 2 the concept of the landmines were introduced by America and then it was used on a wide scale in the gulf war, Korean war, Vietnam war on so on. Landmine comes in two varieties 1-anti-personnel and 2- anti-vehicle mines. Both have caused great suffering in the past decades.

Anti-personnel landmines are designed to explode when as little as two kilograms of pressure is applied or when a person steps on them or disturbs them. Antipersonnel landmines are explosive devices designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person. Placed under or on the ground, they can lie dormant for years and even decades until a person or animal triggers their detonating mechanism.^[1]

Anti-vehicle landmines are designed to explode when at least 200 kilograms of pressure is

applied or when a car, jeep, truck or tank drives over them.

Within each of these categories, there are many subcategories. For example, "fragmentation mines" is a type of anti-personnel mine that sprays metal fragments through the air for explosion. A "blast" mine is another form of anti-personnel mine that kills or injures a person with the sheer force of the explosion.

It was initially developed for the security purpose and to protect antitank mines and to stop those being removed by enemy soldiers, but the war gamming maneuver changed its perspective to the longtime disaster which is still alive in present time. Landmines are killing, injuring and orphaning children. In many mine-affected countries, children account for one in every five landmine victims. It is estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 people are killed or maimed by landmines every year, according to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Anti-personnel landmines have been globally condemned and banned due to their inherently indiscriminate nature which is clearly at odds with the most basic principles of International Humanitarian Law.

The states with the greatest numbers of casualties reported from anti-vehicle mines were Ukraine, Pakistan and Syria and still used and activated in south Asia, middle east and south America. This kind of threat which was always there in the past warfare maneuvers but still affecting the present population is a highly condemned topic, India is also getting effected by this but as India never reported any kind of information about mass reduction due to anti personal landmines, therefore it is not highly spotted over the discussion table. The UN has continuously trying to avoid the use of landmines in the conflict especially at the borders and the marine zones. It Though India is a signatory to the Amended Protocol II of the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) that regulates the production, transfer, and use of mines, curved booby-traps and other explosive devices which it has not joined the Mine Ban Treaty. Being one of the small group of ten countries including Pakistan, Israel, Russia, and the US who have signed the Amended Protocol-II but not the Treaty.

EVOLUTION OF MINES

The strategic base behind development of the landmines were to disrupt a huge mass from

different sides. Thus the use of map and making strategies became an obsolete war technique and the soldiers started to set up the landmines in abundance because there were variety in mines and one can easily purchase them. It is certainly true that landmines are one of the 'lowest-tech' weapons available today: one common example, the Chinese-made Type 72A has only one moving part, and there is no precision engineering or rocket science required of the sort needed to machine a rifle bullet. Furthermore, because of their low technology landmines are easy to store compared to some more complicated weapons which one can barely move, and usually require nothing more than a shovel to emplace just because they were very cheap mines were used in very heavy amount in 20th century and till now, but as the time passes the air vehicles did the transportation of mines so they were no mapping and marking of mines. The self-destructive mines were developed which were known as the 'smart mines' but some of them were fail in the destruction thus they remain for infinite time and due to the climate change like cyclone, flood, rain shifted the landmines. So, without clear records and with the impacts of weather and time, clearing up the mess after a conflict became even harder.

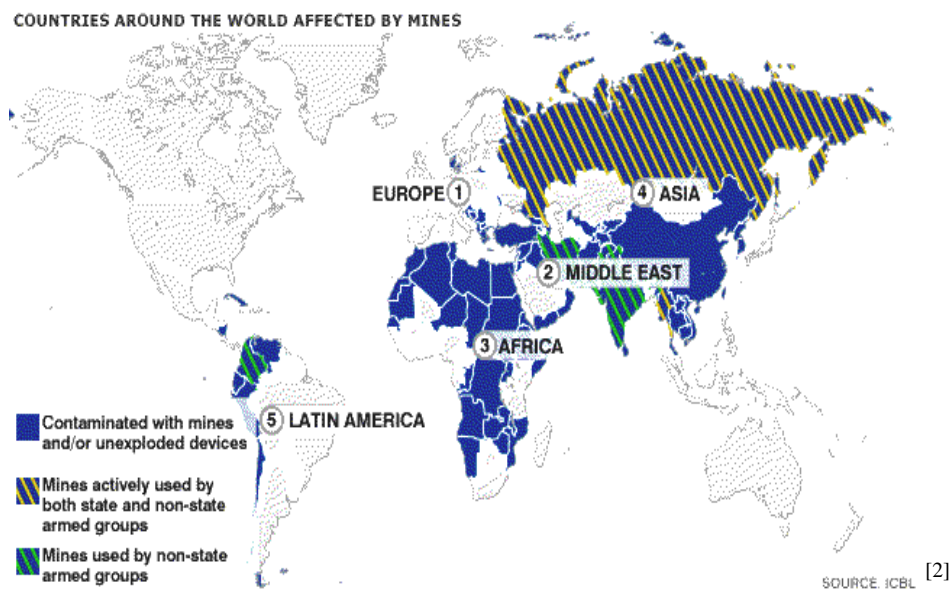


Figure (a) countries around the world affected by mines

In the context of 21st century and landmine issues various countries show their concerns and on 4 October 2017, India reiterated its long-held position that the Amended Protocol-II of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) “enshrines the approach of taking into account legitimate defense requirements of states with long borders”. India attended, as an observer, the convention’s Third Review Conference in Maputo in September 2014. India sent an observer to the Mine Ban Treaty Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in November 2018, but did not attend the intercessional meetings in June 2018. On 5 December 2018, India abstained from voting on UNGA Resolution 73/61 calling for universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, as it has on similar annual resolutions since 1997.

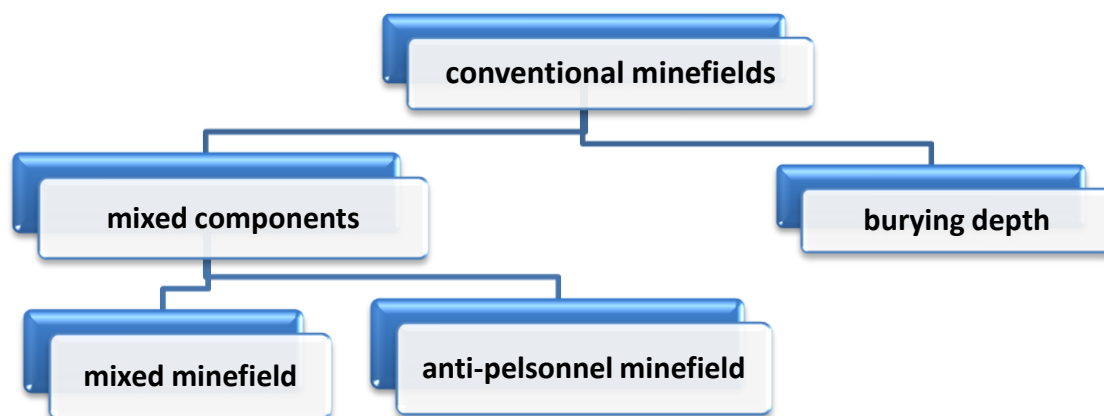
There are many countries and non-state actors who are supporting the landmine weapons in

their conflict zone which is shown in the map (Figure a). The global landmine crisis is one of the most erotic problems facing the world today. It is estimated that there are between 50 and 70 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries. Landmines maim or kill approximately 26,500 civilians every year, including 8,000 to 9000 children. Those victims that survive endure a lifetime of physical, psychological, and economic scarcity. At least 75% of landmine victims are civilian.^[3]

The variety of mines was always a part of war and conflict thus it can be defined as in 2 parts Conventional and Unconventional minefield and then these parts have their own layouts.

CONVENTIONAL MINEFIELDS

A ‘minefield’ is an area of ground containing mines laid with or without a pattern.



a) BURYING DEPTH

Mines tend to be buried, in order to camouflage them from attacking troops and enemy. In order to achieve this, soldiers may only need to excavate a few centimetres to accommodate the mine. Just to conserve time it is clearly quicker for the soldier to bury the mine as shallowly as possible, and in most cases mines are found very close to the surface.

It carries the mix use of Anti-tanks weapons and Anti-personnel weapons. Anti-personnel mines to act as an obstacle to troops, and hence delay clearance of anti-tank mines. A boundary fence and markers to indicate the presence of mines these can be detected further after the war and can easily get defused-

b) MIXED COMPONENTS

MIXED MINEFIELD

The tactics of using minefield with the help of AT (Anti-tank) and AP (Anti-personnel). The formation of AP mine around the AT mines makes a 'cluster' which is placed at a particular distance to make the blast heavy. This technique was initially used by Iraq in Kuwait (1990).^[4] It is basically used or tied to natural features to enhance the power of the blast such as the bridges, the Dams, trees, checkpoints, infrastructure and so on.

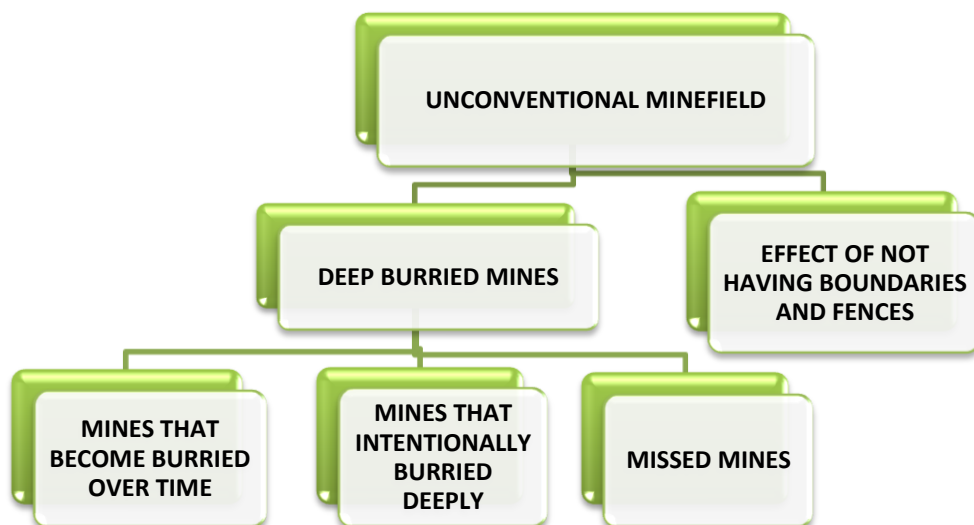
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINEFIELD

These mine setting techniques are basically used for the defensive positions to harm the infantry. These are very small in size and don't have any kind of heavy rocket science to set it. It can be placed without the help of the anti-tanks. These are also called the protective mines.

Example- In the fighting in Cambodia, Khmer Rouge raiding parties might carry a small number of Antipersonnel mines to put out every night around their positions to provide early warning of any attempts at infiltration. Land mines can therefore be expected around any area that was occupied by a defending force for any length of time. This mine setting is also found dangerous because one can't detect the mines easily. The other minefield technique is the unconventional technique which is explained below.

UNCONVENTIONAL MINEFIELDS

The mine laying technique is used without any planning or marking which are still not known. These mine fielding techniques also have parts to understand the anti-personnel landmines.



A. EFFECT OF NOT HAVING FENCES AND BOUNDARIES

The lack of boundaries and fences made the spreading of mines more difficult. It is very hard to find it as there were no fences to mark or to detect. This is still affecting the civilians who are working over those places.

B. DEEP BURRIED MINES

There are three parts of deep buried mines which are as follows-^[5]

MINES THAT CAN BURIED OVER TIME

They can start off near the surface but become buried over time by the help of natural climate divastation like erosion landscape and so on.

I. MINES THAT INTENTIONALLY BURIED DEEPLY

These mines have a deep set up which can be exploded when someone passes out from it these mines can live for long years without getting caught by the detection team a wooden plate is placed over it to reduce the detection.

II. MISSED MINES

When the detecting device cannot detect the mine or it missed the mine somehow because they buried so well, it can make the explosion any time these mines are called the missed mines.

The contact of mines with human body effects the various parts simultaneously, according to the range of the mines, Afghanistan is recorded as the country where the affect of landmine is very active as it is recorded that more than 2300 people are suffering from traumatic amputation and the multiple lacerations caused by fragmentation^[5] Similarly Syria, Ukraine, Pakistan, Nigeria, Libia, Yemen are also in the grip of mines. Mine/UXO injuries have two main impacts. First of all, they affect the lives of the casualty and their family; secondly they have impacts on the medical infrastructure of the affected country. It affects the children of any state who are completely innocent and they are getting punished by these heinous munitions indirectly.

CHILDREN AND LANDMINES

According to the report of ICBL landmines are killing and injuring the children and making them orphan. Every year approximately 20,000 people killed by the explosion of landmines and 50% population is held by the kids and teens in this

ingonito threat, it destroy their limbs, fingers, toes and most of the children died before reaching to the medical care, kids suffer injuries to their genitals, it affects the kids psychologically and built up a huge mountain of future problems in front of them and these are the economic, educational problems, burden of their family which they can't carry further these effects the economic growth of the country a well. Landmines also devastate the agriculture of the nation because everyone will become afraid of getting injured or killed by the blast which leads them and their family towards a huge trouble therefore people, either they are refugees or common people of any country, they also refuse to built home or any other infrastructure for the sake of life. This single thing destroys all the various aspects of living life on a better norm. They deny access to farmland and irrigation. Landmines and unexploded logistics violate nearly all the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: a child's right to life, to a safe environment in which to play, to health, clean water, sanitary conditions and adequate education and so many other stuffs.

MINE CLEARANCE OR DEMINING

However all the peace keeping organisation is in the favour of banning the use and production of the mines but the eventual goal of any awareness programme and organisation is to remove the mines in a suitable cost which are still effecting many innocent lives of the civilians thus the demining is the essential topic to discuss the four main branches of demining are Aware people about this, search, analyse and then defuse therefore the ultimate goal is to defuse the mines and to secure the people. In 20th century many mine demining machines were introduced which were useful in some manners and some of them were very heavy in size that they can barely manage their own weight. Mine Flails, mine rollers, tillers are one of them

METHODS

The demining of the mines are mostly done by the suitable trained dogs who siffed out themines and the danger clearly by the help of the dogs the time and money both will consume in a good way.

- I. The demining machines and advance mine detecting devices are mostly used to defuse the mines in low cost.
- II. The education regarding to mines can spread awarness and it will be beneficial in the reduction of using mines on word platform.
- III. Small mobile EOD teams can be deployed quickly to deal with reports of one or two items of ordnance as they are reported. These teams normally have the better skills of clearance of mines with more perfection and lower cost.
- IV. The GIS system is very beneficial to find out the mines exactly and it will reduce the death. By The GIS system also acts as the basis for an historical archive that allows future development to find out what type of clearance has already been done in a particular area. The population where the mines are fielded can be analyse quickly and then the strategy will help out to make the demining without any harm.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND LANDMINES

The united nations NATO and Warsaw pact show there concern towards this topics. As United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres highlighted in his message commemorating the annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action,

“An unprecedented volume of landmines and unexploded weapons contaminates rural and urban war zones, maiming and killing innocent civilians long after conflict has ended. Mine action is vital.”

In developing countries, armies may not have the training or the resources to address the problem of widespread mine contamination, and many donors

may not be willing or able to provide resources to local military units. like neither the World Bank nor Asian Development Bank is allowed to deal directly with local military units. The United States is a notable exception, as the US has provided resources to military-run demining programs in Thailand and Central America.

UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE (UNMAS)

It was established in 1997, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads, co-ordinates and implements the United Nations efforts to eliminate landmines and explosive hazards and to reduce their impact on people's lives^[6] UNMAS has saved many lives and protected livelihoods in conflict- torn communities and countries places including Sudan/South Sudan, Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, State of Palestine, Somalia, Sudan (including Darfur), South Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara. *The UN mine action work was always guided by law and it include the treaties of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.* The united nation also includes the women in the demining process gives the risk containment education to them and also aware people by their awareness camps. E-MINE is the singular source of information related to the United Nations system engagement on mine action issues. Managed by **UNMAS**, this site collates mine action related information and concerns with the aim to raise public awareness of the impact mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices have on individuals and communities as well as of the coordinated responses of the United Nations to this problem.

THE OTTAWA PROCESS

The first Ottawa conference was held in October 1996 with taking up the issues of Landmines with 75 attending states which were also concerned about this topic. The Ottawa Treaty which was the initial step to consume peace and humanity towards the mine ban field entered into force in [March](#) 1999 and currently has 162 signatories. ^[7] The main motive of this treaty is to develop a complete ban on using the landmine weapons. The treaty was celebrated as a progressive step and a conservation of human rights and peace, away from the post-Cold War atmosphere that was plagued by distrust and uncertainty between major international powers. The 1990s marked a new era of international relations, focused on increasing humanitarian action, peacekeeping missions and global cooperation. The Ottawa treaty included the victim of landmines and consult the new ideas to reduce their pain and casualties they also focus towards the main points of future to reduce this heinous death rate. The more points to discuss over the Ottawa treaty are It establish a process that should reduce the number of new mines in circulation and thus available for deployment. Create a normative framework which have stigmatized the use of landmines and limited their deployment for the non-signatories. This process involves a huge 'civil society' so that they can create the pressure to put the global concern over it. The limitations of the Ottawa treaty were It Get support from many of the major mine-producing countries, such as China, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia and the USA. It didn't include the all mines issue and it didn't directly affect the whole grounded mine concerns

Twenty-one years after the Mine Ban Treaty was adopted, landmines continue to kill and injure on former battlefields, long after the guns have gone away. the United Nations and partners commemorated the landmark treaty that has saved the lives of millions and prevented millions more from suffering terrible injuries and death. Their efforts to address some of the areas that were not covered by the Ottawa Treaty. In particular, work is under way to develop a treaty to cover the long-term effects of 'mine-like' weapons and other

unexploded ordnance, referred to in this new campaign as 'explosive remnants of war (ERW). ^[8] As we know that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the countries who are highly influenced by the non-actors producing the mines continuously, the indiscriminate use of landmines along the border with Pakistan has led to deaths, disabilities and displacement of India's own citizens. Many a times also till date security personnel manning the borders have themselves fallen victim to landmines. They have to take some actions towards the nation which are in favor of mine ban treaty but just because of some notorious factor they are not able to completely diminish or abolish it.

CONCLUSION

All the developing nations are constantly working over the serious issue of the ban over mines there should be the interference of the cyber technology to aware more and more people about this the refugees are coming back to Syria as they don't have any idea about this so the government of that state should clear the mine rapidly. The main goals of the Ottawa treaty should be furnishing therefore it can cover more areas and mines to remove. The term or process of demining can increase the economic base, develop the state in various manners. The innocent civilians and the military personnel will feel more productive and secure at the end of the day. More organizations should be the part of the clearance of mines and the funding regarding to demining should be provided by the state and central government of any state. The need to avoid impractical, "quick-fix solutions. A commitment to continual improvement of quality; and The need to support the principle of transfer of competence to the affected communities and the need to support the principle of transfer of competence to the affected. The world should take the advantage of the highly effective but low cost technologies and try to follow the laws of the land warfare and Humanitarian laws for mankind and to secure Humanity for future because "landmines are easy to plan, but extremely difficult to get rid of.

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