

# **The Science of the Indirect Approach in Modern War.**

## **Resurrection of an Art forgotten?**

### **PROLOGUE**

Previous to my successful enrollment in this post-graduate programme, I had the opportunity of studying Business Administration as an undergraduate student. Besides learning about finance, accounting and marketing, all our professors were always straining to instill to us that the most important element of an enterprise are its people. Start-up business taking smart decisions could become giants in the international arena of commerce within very short periods of time whereas giant enterprises could very easily file for bankruptcy despite all their financial prowess. It was a paradox left insolvent to my curious mind until I came across the same phenomenon in the conduct of warfare, during this post-graduate programme. History offered many examples in which great armies, technologically and logistically superior were defeated by smaller and inferior opponents. As such, my interest in studying this paradox grew exponentially due to the fact that I come from a very small country, Cyprus which has been in conflict with a superior adversary, Turkey, for almost half a century now.

Could it be possible that my country's national problem be solved through the application of this Indirect Approach method, if the situation ever evolved from a political confrontation into a military one? Whilst it would require a number of hypotheses to materialize in order to view the practical result of this scenario, the Indirect Approach theory remains a science that will definitely re-emerge in the modern battlefields of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, most likely as the favorite method of adversaries with an unequal access to resources and different cultural idiosyncrasies. It should be noted though that the Indirect Approach theory can also be applied successfully by states that are technologically superior, only when these states come to realize the full potential that the Indirect Approach theory holds. Only through a critical analysis of the Indirect Approach theory, we can result in comprehending holistically the Indirect Approach theory and thus applying it successfully in modern battlefields.