



# Decelerating Militaries: A Strategy to Limit Urban Destruction

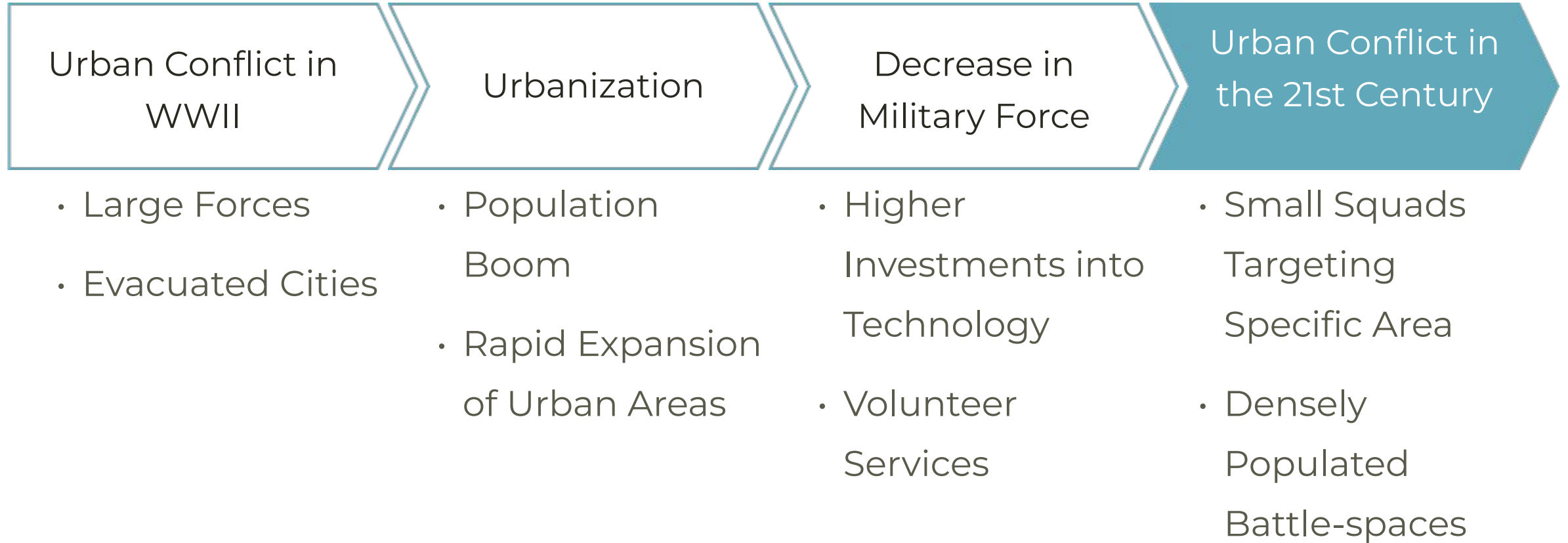
Reese Ramirez

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Ben Meiches

# Introduction

1. A Short History of Urban War
2. Dromology
3. Military Challenges in Urban Areas
4. Military Solutions
5. Recommended Action

# A Short History of Urban War

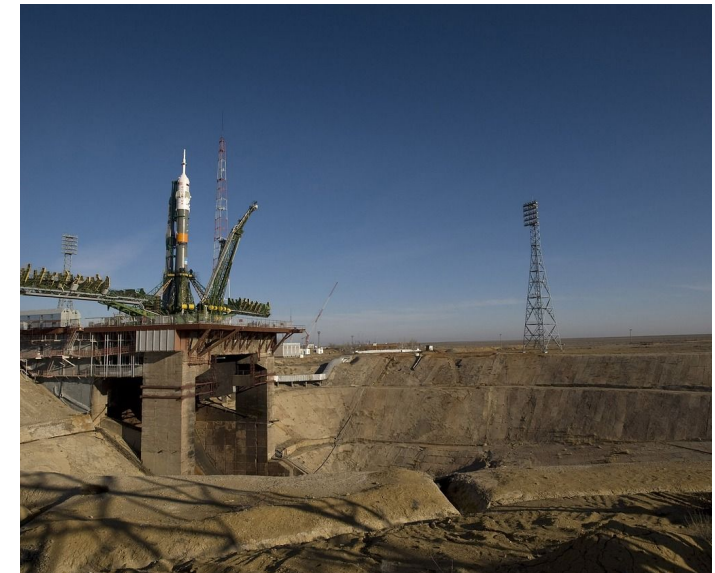


# Dromology

The Logic of Speed and Acceleration

To Virilio, speed and acceleration underpin most human innovation

As one party innovates, others must do the same to remain competitive



# Dromology Continued

The counter to speed

Speed and acceleration are dangerous

So, planners, politicians, and military engineers turn cities into “deceleration machines” (Virilio 2006).



# Challenges in Urban Areas

Operations and Ethics

## Complex Terrain

“ The terrain makes detection and identification difficult, as surface and subterranean areas can cover and conceal military objectives and be used to launch attacks from

(Muhammadally 2020)

## Civilian Presence

“ Iraq’s infrastructure was extensively damaged – roads, bridges, communications, electricity supplies, water and sewage systems, weapons factories, health care facilities, administrative centers, warehouses, homes and much more ”

(Salvage 2002)

# Military Solutions



## Drones and Technology

Calls for more investment into weapons technology

(Spencer et al. 2023)

# Military Solutions



## Precision Airstrikes

US Operations in Mosul utilized precision airstrikes to strike enemy combatants while limiting risk of collateral damage or casualties.

(Khan and Gopal 2017).



# Military Solutions



## AI Targeting Systems

"The Gospel" uses AI to identify Hamas targets and strike quickly before they can relocate.

(Davies et al. 2023).

# Military Solutions - The Fallout



Precision Airstrikes

One in five strikes resulted in civilian deaths  
(Kahn and Gopal 2017)



AI Targeting

The system has emphasized speed over accuracy with  
little human oversight  
(Cook 2024, Davies et al. 2023)

# Recommendations



Engage in dialogue with military analysts and theorists



Create legislation that enforces speed limits on military technology and operations



Leverage Global Connections to place pressure on international institutions



Targeting speed and acceleration in International Humanitarian legal language can stop the cycle of military innovation that leads to death and destruction.