#### Modern Technologies and Conflicts

#### Al and autonomy at war

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## Some basics

what is intelligence and consciousness? unmanned/autonomy/AI?

types of AI? • strong/general AI vs weak/narrow AI

what about physical form?



# History of autonomy

mechanical automata since middle ages

Digesting Duck, Leonardo's mechanical knight, <u>Karakuri</u>

biological automata since 19th cent.

• Frankenstein, R.U.R.

accelerated progression after WW2

• Turing, von Neumann, Minsky, ...

exponential since 90s



### History of autonomy in warfare

before WW1: hot-air balloons

 $^{\rm o}$  observation and bombing

interwar: aerial practice targets

during WW2: remote control of all types

- both wired and wirelss
- air, land and sea -based
- V1 and V2?





and <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\_dr0arBltU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\_dr0arBltU</a>

# Cold War

target practice, decoys and reconnaissance

• with jet engines too

modern era of drones/UAVs began during the 80s, in the Middle East



## Present

remote control is commonplace growing autonomy • locomotion a sensors "human in the loop" principle fire-and-forget systems still not true intelligence







smitsmitty.livejournal.com



# Problems?

lower conflict-threshold collateral damage "gamification" dehumanization psychological impacts political and cultural fallout



## Non-state actors

#### terrorists, guerillas etc.

reconnaissance, targeting, smuggling

• direct attacks

commercial drones are cheap, available and easily modified

perfect example of horizontal proliferation of dual-use tech





# Near future

growing autonomy across the board

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h449oIjg2kY</u>

closer integration and mixed units

autonomous swarms

first autonomous kill? arrival of true AI?

