Insurgency is any kind of armed rebellion against an established authority by group of individuals not recognized as a legitimate belligerent, regardless of the form of violence or the nature of the regime being fought. Some insurgents acquire a reputation as good, freedom-fighters/heroes, while others are nothing buts bandits and terrorists trying to destroy all that is good. Most insurgents end up as both depending on the timing and audience. Not all insurgencies are non-violent but in most cases they are violent in other to get the attention of the government in power or to weaken it. Insurgencies are violent rebellion against authority, but not all rebellions are insurgencies. There have been many cases of non-violent rebellions, using civil resistance, such as the Egyptian revolution of 2011 and in the 1980s during the people power revolution in the Philippines which ousted president Marcos. The use of the term insurgency recognizes the political motivation of those who participate or engage in an insurgency but the term brigandry implies no political motivation. If an uprising has little support for example, those who continue to resist towards the end of an armed conflicts when most of there allies have surrendered such a resistance may be described as a brigandry and those who participate as brigands. Nowadays most battles which are fought around the world are fought between legitimate government and insurgents and there have been stages, tactics or ways on how insurgents try to achieve there agenda or targets

1.Terrorism: Many insurgents groups use terrorism as a tactic to weaken the opposing state or to push the population into submission. So far terrorism hasn’t brought about any tangible victories except putting the population in fear of there life and safety. Terrorism is, in most cases, essentially a political act. It is meant to inflict dramatic and deadly injury on civilians and to create an atmosphere of fear, generally for a political or ideological purpose. Take for example the Bokoharam insurgency in west Africa has been large involve in a large scale of terrorist activity not only in Nigeria but also in countries like Cameroon, Niger and Chad etc and with there activities on going it has been brought to the attention of external powers to join forces with Nigeria to tackle the problem.

2. Propaganda: Insurgents make use of propaganda to either gain the support of the masses or to make the governments look bad and usually they achieve this by laying there bases in areas where the government don’t have power or are forgotten by the government and by doing so they gain followers or help from external forces e.g the bokoharam insurgents in Nigeria which literally controlled or owned the north-east part of the country for more than a year or two before the central government was able to push and gain control of the states which were controlled by the bokoharam .

3. Guerrillas warfare: Guerrillas warfare can be describe as a way in which insurgents are able to organize themselves to attack government establishment such as buildings, military bases, government officials etc with the aim of weakening the enemy and not have little or no casualties to themselves and these tactics of using guerrillas warfare has worked significantly in history e.g American revolution in [1965-1983]. Guerrilla warfare is also called hit and run tactics. The word guerrilla is the diminutive form Guerra(war). The term became popular during the early 19th century peninsular war, when the Spanish and the Portuguese people rose against the Napoleonic troops and fought against a highly superior army using the guerrilla strategy.

3. Conventional warfare: Conventional warfare is a form of war fare conducted by using conventional weapons and battlefield tactics between two or more states in open confrontation. The general purpose of the conventional warfare is to destroy or weaken the opponents military, thereby negating its ability to engage in a conventional warfare. Insurgents make use of this tactic when the feel like they have weakened the enemy or have acquired enough manpower or weapons to fight a conventional warfare.

The best known theorist of insurgency is Mao Zedong, who wrote on guerrillas war. He laid out the blue prints ever written for the practical insurgents. Specifically, laid out the importance of winning the hearts and minds of the population, a crucial move because the population provides the support and cover for the insurgency. Mao also laid out three phases of insurgency.

1. Political work: Working among the peasantry to win them over and build a base which they could operate.

2. Guerrilla warfare: This is where the insurgents fight the state, but in harassing actions or against communications and logistics. The objective is not to win territory, but to weaken the enemy while consolidating ones own power.

3. Conventional warfare: once the enemy is weak enough, and the insurgent has enough control to fight large scale battles the insurgents must take control of the ground.

This is not the only theory of insurgency however “Focoism” was a popular theory in the 1960s and the 70s that focused on the ability of violence to create its own logic and win its support, bypassing step one. While it seemed to work in cuba under Che Guevera, it has not enjoyed any success since then.

TERRORISM

Many insurgents groups use terrorism as a tactic to weaken the opposing state or to cow the population into submission. This has not produced many tangible victories as of yet, if only because it tends to harden the opponents against any form of reconciliation rather than promote it. However many have theorized that terrorism can be an effective tactic for the first phase of an insurgency, as a way of establishing control of a small region and of building support before moving on to the next stage, However , few terrorist groups have put this into practice, and it explicitly violates Mao’s precepts for building support.

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