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Question: in not less than 3 pages, discuss the stages of insurgency.

What is insurgency?

Insurgency can be defined as the violent rebellion against authorities, this is a movement used in acting against the government. Insurgency may be based on politics or economy. The violent struggle of a group of people who has refused to accept the laws of their government.

There are different stages of insurgency

Which are:

1. The planning stage: for every successful insurgency there must be a plan and that plan is meant to help them (rebels) to carry on their insurgency movement. In this case the rebels are meant to live in these places which the government has little or no attraction, in this case the propagate their ideas and recruit people and rebels that will help in the movement. In this stage of planning the movement the rebels recruited are called to persuade them and show them why to join the movement: the planning stage has to be the most important part of the insurgency movement.

Under the planning stage we have sub stages of the insurgency which are :

Preinsurgency Stage

A conflict in the preinsurgency stage is difficult to detect because most activities are underground and the insurgency has yet to make its presence felt through the use of violence. Moreover, actions conducted in the open can easily be dismissed as nonviolent political activity. During this stage, an insurgent movement is beginning to organize: leadership is emerging, and the insurgents are establishing a grievance and a group identity, beginning to recruit and train members, and stockpiling arms and supplies.

The members must be trained and well examined if fit for the movement.

During this stage the rebels are to demonstrate whole heartedly and other forms for spreading the news and plan is the mass the mass protest. Rebels should always hold up the rues and regulations of the plan

The planning stage should be done and is very important for every member of the movement

The recruitment stage: this is when they train the rebels with arms this occurs in the preinsurgency stage which also include:

1. The disappearance of significant numbers of subgroup members, especially young men.
2. Reports of people training with arms or the identification of nongovernment military training sites, such as sports clubs or other social groups conducting paramilitary-style physical training.
3. Reports of subgroup members traveling abroad for training or of sympathetic outsiders providing training in country.
4. Guerrilla war fare or conflict stage: A struggle enters the incipient conflict stage when the insurgents begin to use violence. Often these initial attacks provide analysts the first alert to the potential for an insurgency. The target government, however, frequently dismisses insurgent actions as the work of bandits, criminals, or terrorists, which increases the risk that the government will employ counterproductive measures.The incipient stage is the most dangerous phase for insurgents; they have made their presence felt through initial attacks, but they are still weak and organizing. An incipient insurgency must balance the need to conduct attacks to demonstrate its viability, publicize its cause, rally supporters, and provoke a government overreaction while limiting its exposure to government security forces. Insurgents may emphasize highly asymmetric and terrorist tactics, such as kidnappings, small bombings, assassinations, and night letters during this phase. Understanding the characteristics, capabilities, and actions of both the insurgents and the government can help analysts assess whether an incipient conflict is likely to sputter out or expand into a full-blown insurgency. During this war there must be popular support and so on the masses should support them or rather they should gain support from the masses. Insurgents generally rely on the civilian population for food, medicine, shelter, or intelligence—provided either voluntarily or under duress. Indicators of genuine or forced popular support for the insurgents include:
5. Refusal of the population to provide intelligence on the insurgents and evidence that insurgents are being warned of security force operations.
6. Signs that the insurgents have expanded their base of support beyond their initial subgroup.

1. The last stage is the resolution stage: under this we have the insurgent victory: Some insurgencies progress steadily through the life cycle stages; many grow in fits and starts, occasionally regressing to earlier stages; and others remain mired in one stage for decades. In theory, an insurgency will eventually reach a conclusion, either an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement, or a government victory. At least 130 insurgent conflicts have occurred since World War II estimations Cary widely and go as high as nearly 300 insurgent-government conflicts and at least two dozen were ongoing as of late 2011. The average duration of these continuing insurgencies is more than 21 years. The insurgent victory is the outcome of the movement, An insurgent victory is the only potential outcome that is likely to be clear- cut, marked by the insurgents seizing control of the government, expelling a foreign occupier, or gaining independence for their region. Nevertheless, an insurgent victory may spark another insurgency by the ousted regime’s supporters or by a subgroup excluded from the new government. At this stage the insurgency should be either positive or negative.

It is now seen that the stages of insurgency can be grouped into three which are:

1. Organization, Consolidation and Preservation of Base Areas
2. Guerrilla warfare
3. Decisions

Reference

Oxford English Dictionary second edition 1989 "insurgent B. n. One who rises in revolt against constituted authority; a rebel who is not recognized as a belligerent."

^ These points are emphasized in many works on insurgency, including Peter, French Revolutionary Warfare from Indochina to Algeria: The Analysis of a Political and Military Doctrine, Pall Mall Press, London, 1964.

^ Roberts, Adam and Timothy Ash (eds.), Civil Resistance and Power Politics: The Experience of Non-violent Action from Gandhi to the Present, Oxford University Press, 2009. See [1]. Includes chapters by specialists on the various movements.