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QUESTION:

In not more than 3 pages, discuss the stages of insurgency .

**INTRODUCTION**

An Insurgency is a movement within a country dedicated to overthrowing the government .An insurgency is a rebellion .Each insurgency is different –shaped by conflict –specific factors such as culture ,grievance, and history –but insurgencies often progress through certain common stages of development .Not every insurgency will pass through each stages ,Factors for analyzing can be identified for each stages.

**STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

When we talk about the stages of insurgency, it is grouped into four(4) which are, Preinsurgency Stage ,Inciplent Conflict Stage, open Insurgency Stage ,and Resolution Stage.

Preinsurgency Stage

Conflict in the preinsurgency stage is not easy to identify or notice because most activities are done secretly and the insurgency presence is yes to be felt especially through the use of violence. This is the stage that an insurgency movement is beginning to organize : leadership is emerging, and the insurgents are establishing a grievance and a group identity ,beginning to recruit and also train members ,and stockpiling arms and supplies.

Preexisting Conditions: This is when insurgency organizers uses social, historical ,political ,or economical conditions that generate discontent among a segment of the population to rally both internal and external support for their movement.

Grievance: Insurgents identify and publicize a grievance around which they can rally supporters. Insurgents seek to create a compelling narrative –the story a party to an armed struggle uses to justify its actions in order to attain legitimacy and favor among relevant populations ,maybe through the emergence of website or circulation of flyers and other promoting material ,the use of media articles or opinion pieces on issues ,Exposure of grievance by legitimate political or social organizations ,and lastly Demonstrations or protests in which the issue plays a prominent rallying role.

Group Identity: Most insurgencies seek to create a group identity that separates the group from the national identity or that of the ruling elite, establishing an “us versus them” dynamic to the conflict .

Recruitment and Training :Recruitment is getting more members to join in which training is attach

Arms and Supplies :Insurgence in the early stage will probably have few weapons and limited military supplies and they might be able to get external support which could be an individual , the government of another state or organization, it could even be a powerful individual in that same state.

The Government Reaction: The way the government react is perhaps the most important determination whether a movement will develop into an insurgency or not.

INCIPIENT CONFLICT STAGE

A struggle enters the incipient conflict stage when the insurgents begins to use violence .Often these initial attacks provide analysts the first alert to the potential for the insurgency. The target government , however ,frequently dismisses insurgent actions as the work of bandits, criminals, or terrorist ,which increases risk that the government will employ counterproductive measures .This stage is the most dangerous phase for insurgent; their presence has been felt through initial attack ,but they still cant face the government because of they are weak .They 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. High asymmetric and terrorist statics ,such as kidnappings, small bombing , assassinations ,and night letters during this phase may be employ by the insurgent .

Insurgent Leadership: Knowing not only the identity of the insurgent movement’s but also understanding the leaders’ motivation for joining the insurgency and the experience they bring to the movement –especially military service , political experience , or participation in prior insurgencies-can provide insight into the direction and character the organization is likely to take, as well as its potential early effectiveness .An ideal insurgent leader displays charisma , the flexibility to balance ideology with the need to be inclusive and leverage local grievances ,and an ability to engender loyalty and maintain group unity.

Theory of victory : Understanding the insurgent s’ theory of victory answers the question “How do they see this ending ?” Insurgents may believe that there's a probability that they will eventually defeat the government on the battlefield , spark a popular uprising that forces the government to accede to the insurgents ‘ demands , provoke international intervention on the insurgents’ behalf ,or prolong the conflict long enough for the government to judge that it is better to negotiate a settlement .

Insurgent Unity: There's competition between member within an insurgent group which can lead to infighting within the insurgency.

Popular Support: Insurgents generally rely on the civilian population for food, shelter, medicine ,or intelligence-provides either voluntary or under duress .

Insurgent Logistics: The insurgent must find sources for supplies they can’t obtain from the civilian population, including ammunitions, arms ,and other military equipment.

OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE

At this stage ,no doubt exist that the government is facing an insurgency. The insurgent are challenging state authority and attempting to exert control over territory.

RESOLUTION STAGE

This stage just simply talks about how some insurgent group go from one stage to another depending on how the satiation gets while some remain in one position ,an insurgency will eventually reach a conclusion ,either an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement, or q government victory .

Negotiated Settlement : A negotiated settlement is likely to have many false ,delays in implemented and attempts by spoilers to undermine the agreement .Moreover ,the risk of renewed violence-either by the original insurgent organization protesting government duplicity or by splinter groups unsatisfied with the terms of the settlement –will probably persist for several years after fighting has officially ended.

Government Victory: A government victory is likely to be protracted process marked by gradual decline in violence as the insurgents lose military capabilities, external assistance, and popular support . Low-level violence may persist for years, and ,lacking a climactic final battle, the end will probably be indistinct.

REFERENCE

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