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Question: In not more than 3 pages, discuss the stages of Insurgency?

WHAT IS INSURGENCY?

Insurgency is a prolonged political military struggle focussed on subverting or displacing the authenticity of a constituted government or occupying power and completely or incompletely controlling the resources of a province through the use of unequal military forces and unlawful political organizations. The frequent denominator for most insurgent groups is their purpose of gaining control of a population or a particular territory, as well as its resources. This objective differentiates insurgent groups from purely terrorist organizations. It is worth noting that identifying a movement as an insurgency does not express a normative judgment on the legitimacy of the movement or its cause, the term insurgency is simply an explanation of the nature of the conflict.

Characteristics of Insurgency:

Insurgency is known as a violent political struggle for control of people and resources. Insurgent groups frequently pursue various common objectives to weaken the authenticity of the government and strengthen their own standing with the population.

- Insurgents seek to demean the ability of the government to provide the population security and public services, including utilities, education, and justice. An insurgent group possibly will attempt to succeed the government by providing alternative services to the people, or it may be content to portray the government as impotent.

- Insurgents seek to acquire the active or inactive support of the population. Not all support has to be or is likely to be gained from true sympathizers, fear and coercion can gain the submission of many people.

- Insurgents seek to provoke the government into committing abuses that drive dispassionate civilians toward the insurgents and harden the loyalty of insurgent supporters.

- Insurgents seek to undermine international support for the government and, preferably, gain international acknowledgment or support for the insurgency.

STAGES OF INSURGENCY:

Political work, Organization, Consolidation and Preservation of Base Areas:

This basically means functioning among the peasantry to win them over, and construct a base from which to operate, establishing a core cadre as part of the movement. Insurgents generally arrive in distantly situated areas, and live with the locals. These are places towards which government has little or no attention. They proliferate their ideas and employ followers. This is the theoretical stage for the rebels, since the numbers in these areas are small, it is easy for the insurgents maintaining tabs on the population.

Guerrilla warfare:

The next stage involves the use of military measures to heighten political effect, secluded attacks are premeditated which are supposed to serve a political purpose and to forward their propaganda. The aim is to put a fear of protection in the otherwise comfortable officials as well as gather attention. This is where the insurgents battles the state, but in harassing actions or against communications and logistics. The purpose is not to win territory, but to deteriorate the enemy while consolidating one's own power.

Conventional war:

Once the enemy is feeble enough, and the insurgent has sufficient power to fight large scale battles, the insurgent has to take control of the ground.

Decision:

Decision involves an extreme war against the government, it may commence with the mercenaries taking up arms against a small government organisation to gather resources, killing informants, pillaging weapons cache and so on. This would lead to the emergence of military objectives and also encourage more people to take up arms. This would cause the build up of a enormous military force sooner or later taking over the country.

REFRENCES:

* Guide to the analysis of insurgency
* Rationalwiki.org