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**QUESTION: IN NOT MORE THAN THREE PAGES DISCUSS THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

**Abstract**

*Firstly, insurgency can be said to be an assymetric warfare, an uprising or a revolt aimed at avoiding the strength of the enemy and exploiting their weakness. Insurgency can also be said to be the protracted political military struggle aimed at subverting or displacing or the constitutes government or occupying power whilst controlling the resources of the territory through the use of irregular military force and illegal political organizations. The term “insurgent” originated in the year 1745, from the Latin word “insurgentem” meaning “rise up” “lift oneself” “rise against” “stand high” and “gather force”*

*According to the United States military insurgency can be defined as an “organized movement” aimed at the overthrow of a government through the use of sub-version, violence and armed conflict. According to Oneill, insurgency can be defined as the struggle between non ruling groups and ruling authorities whereby the non ruling groups consciously use political resources (organizational expertise, propaganda, demonstration) and violence to destroy the basis of legitimacy on one more aspect of politics. Insurgency differs from other movements through its use of violence as a means of achieving political goals.*

However, each insurgency differs according/based on the conflict or specific factors for example; the history, the cultural, the religion(in certain cases of extremism), the grievance, the strive for change amongst others. But all insurgence often go through different common stages of development although not every stage is compulsory of all insurgency to go through, some insurgencies will skip certain stages as they are not deemed “necessary” whilst others will revisit earlier stages will others will seize to exist before reaching the later stages. However, the amount of time needed to progress through a given stage is likely to vary.

The first stage is the preinsurgency stage, the preinsurgency stage is the first stage most insurgent groups must undergo, as it is the very genesis of their whole process, this stage( the preinsurgency stage) is extremely difficult to detect due to the fact that most of the activities and actions carried out by the insurgents are underground and done undercover and also the insurgency has failed to make its presence known through the use of violence and the actions exhibited can be easily mistaken for and dismissed as nonviolent political activity. This stage is merely the stage we’re insurgent groups begin their process by choosing who amongst them is “worthy” enough to attain leadership (leadership could also be based on hierarchy) and the insurgents are establishing a grievance and a group identity, stockpiling arms and supplies also recruiting and training members.

The preinsurgency stage also makes use of:

* **Preexisting conditions:** these insurgency organizers may make use of economic,, social or political situations that majority of the population is discontented with hence support the movement of the insurgency thus gaining majority of the publics support
* **Grievance:** during the preinsurgency stage, insurgents make use of the public support by publicizing their grievance which enables them to rally supporters. They often tend to justify the reason for their behavior with the poor economic state of the country which a handful of the population can relate to using flyers, the media, articles and so on
* **Group identity:** most insurgencies seek to build a group identity that is entirely different from the national identity which enables an “us versus them” dynamic to the conflict. The identity may differ, it could be according to ethnicity, religion, tribal affiliation and so on depending on the grievance.
* **Recruitment and training:** this stage basically enables the leaders or the ones on top to train the “underdogs” preach to them to embody this new prospect as their way of life and so on

Other parts under the preinsurgency stage includes; arms and supply and government reaction

The second stage is known as the incipient conflict stage, this stage occurs when the insurgencies begin to use violence. The incipient stage is the most dangerous phase for insurgents due to the fact that they have made their presence known my engaging in violent attacks but that doesn’t mean that they are not weak and still undergoing the organizing process. As they struggle with balancing rally supporters,small bombings,assassinations, kidnappings and several others. Parts of the incipient stage includes:

* **Insurgent leadership:** an ideal insurgent leader is often charismatic, an ability to engender loyalty and maintain group unity whilst maintaining the flexibility to balance ideologies with the need to be inclusive.
* **Theory of victory:** it is quite important to understand how the insurgents view their ending, do they believe that they will win the battle between the government? And what prompts this thinking?

Other parts include; insurgent unity which requires the insurgents to stick together no matter what, popular support, insurgent logistics, government leadership, security force effectiveness, external support for the government

Finally the last insurgency stage, is the open insurgency stage, is the open insurgency stage, in this stage there is no doubt that the government is facing an insurgency and the public and everyone is Infact aware of this. The insurgents are staging more frequent attacks, which have probably become more aggressive, violent and Sophisticated and involve larger numbers of the fighters. There are several factors that prompt this stage such as:

* **The political factors:** this factor is enabled by the insurgents seeking to replace or displace the states ruling authority. Insurgents are more likely to create a “shadow government” set on mirroring state administrative structures.
* **The military factors:** insurgents conduct more frequent attacks, usually employing terrorism and guerrilla warfare tactics. Including hit and run raids on military and police units, ambushes, assassinations, attacks on school, hospitals, banks and several other public buildings or companies. Indicators that the insurgents are growing militarily stronger include; changes in the size and composition of the insurgent force, an increase in the rate, size, sophistication, and geographic spread of the insurgents attacks, an increase in the proportion of fighters who are armed with modern firearms or an in the quality and quantity of the insurgents arms, insurgents using more sophisticated methods and equipment for communications, or possessing larger quantities of communications equipment, evidence of insurgent penetration and subversion of the military police and intelligence services.
* **External Assistance:** the insurgency might be open to external assistance such as foreign actors including diplomatic, financial arms, sanctuary intelligence and several others.

**Reference**

Anon(year 2012) *Analysis of Insurgency.*https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=713599