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**Question**

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

Insurgency can be said to be uneven/not adjusted fighting since it is focused on avoiding the quality of the foe and exploiting their shortcoming. Henceforth, revolt connotes a system of offensive action against that of mass bogus action, to handle more vulnerable foes at definitive moments.

O'Neill, characterizes the concept as a battle between non-administering party/groups and governing authorities in which the non-administering group consciously utilize political resources (organizational aptitude, propaganda, demonstration and violence to destroy, reformulate or support the premise of authenticity of one or more parts of politics.

It also can be characterized as a protracted political-military battle coordinated towards undercutting or dislodging the authenticity of a constituted government or occupying power and completely or incompletely controlling the resources of a territory through the utilization of unpredictable military forces and illicit political organizations. Insurgency can be said to be asymmetric/ not balanced warfare because it is focused on avoiding the strength of the enemy and exploiting their weakness. Hence, insurgency connotes a strategy of offensive action against that of mass false action, to tackle weaker enemies at decisive moments.

It is also known as a political-military struggle directed towards subverting or displacing the legitimacy of a constituted government or occupying power and completely or partially controlling the resources of a territory through the use of irregular military forces and illegal political organizations.

**STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

1. **Preinsurgency stage:**

In this phase of uprising, the prompt action of the government is vital and will decide whether the movement will develop into and insurrection or not. In this stage, the insurgents are as yet powerless/ vulnerable seeing as they are not completely prepared or arranged so it will be better for the government to strike early. The government can either choose to excuse the problem and not properly take care of it, which will prompt space for the growth of the extremists, or they can choose to negotiate with the radicals and solve the problems of their complaints to stop them from continuing or carrying on with the movement.

**Incipient conflict stage;**

This stage is where the insurgents proceed to make use of violence and it is usually dangerous for them because they are not fully strong and they must balance all their actions in order to avoid government exposure.

In this stage, they make use of highly asymmetric attacks and terrorist attacks also known as guerrilla warfare. They do not face the government directly and make use of hit and run tactics such as kidnappings, small bombings, assassinations and night letters to attack the government and in some cases, during this stage, they apply extensive insurgent political activities. The most responsible and intelligent action for the government to take will be to put low level military actions, psychological operations, amnesty programs and much more tactics in favor of the government in place because although disunity is a potential vulnerability for the insurgents, they are likely to succeed, especially against a weak government. The government’s ability to do this joined with effective leadership, is paramount and will reduce the escalation of the conflict.

1. **Open Insurgency stage;**

This is the last stage of insurgency and at this stage, there is no disbelief that an insurgency movement exists. So, the insurgents have succeeded and have moved to a stronger phase where they are able to gain enough support and have managed to defeat the government both politically and militarily. This stage can also be termed a stage of mobile conventional warfare where larger units are used in conventional warfare mode and although most insurgencies never reach this stage, it is very critical and requires full government attention.

Furthermore, the government has to implement conventional military operations in order to defeat the insurgents because at this point, there is no way to make them calm or negotiate with them. This stage of insurgency will be very bad if reached in a weak government because the insurgents will easily take over the country or state of insurgency.

REFERNCE

United States Central Intelligence Agency, guide to the Analysis of Insurgency (2012). PDF:

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