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QUESTION: IN NOT LESS THAN 3 PAGES DISCUSS THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY

INSURGENCY is a violent rebellion against government authorities, it is also an attempt to overthrow or destruction of government through the use of subversion or terrorism. Insurgency is primarily a political competition for legitimacy, but the violent aspect of the struggle most often alerts observers to the insurgency’s existence. Insurgent warfare is characterized by a lack of front lines, sequenced battles, or campaigns; a protracted strategy, often lasting more than a decade; and unconventional military tactics, including guerrilla warfare, terrorism, or ethnic cleansing. The distinction between civilians and combatants is blurred in insurgency, often resulting in proportionally higher civilian casualties than suffered in conventional conflicts. Insurgency is a protracted political-military struggle directed toward 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. The common denominator for most insurgent groups is

their objective of gaining control of a population or a particular territory, including its resources. This objective differentiates insurgent groups from purely terrorist organizations. It is worth noting that identifying a movement as an insurgency does not convey a normative judgment on the legitimacy of the movement or its cause; the term insurgency is simply a description of the nature of the conflict.

 Each insurgency is different based of citizens have different objectives and agendas which are to be carried out. But every insurgency has it same common and similar stages of development. Not every insurgency follows and passes through the same stages some will skip and some would follow each stage accordingly it fully depends on the reaction of the government. And if they insurgents notice that the possible of the change has not been carried out as planned. Stages of insurgency would be seen as follows:

1.**PRE-INSURGENCY STAGE:** : the outbreak of conflict is difficult to recognize because most of the activities are done in in closed areas and the insurgents are yet to make its presence felt through the use of subversion, violence or even terrorism. During this stage, an insurgent movement is beginning to organizes a well planned tactic which are going to be followed accordingly, although each insurgency would not experience each stage. Depending on the reaction of the government also at the pre-insurgency stage, a : 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. During the pre-insurgency stage,

insurgents acknowledge and publicize a grievance around which they can rally supporters. They 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. They create every means to carry out and send information through the use of social media, flyers, pamphlets, mass protests articles etc

 During this stage they insurgents proceed to Create a group name which would differentiate them from the national identity or the ruling authorities they identify might be based on religion, ethnicity or political difference.

In the early stages of insurgency, the insurgents will probably have few weapons and limited military supplies. The government’s reaction in this and the next stage is perhaps the

most important determinant of whether a movement will develop into an insurgency. At the beginning of these early stages, an insurgent group is weak, not organized, and vulnerable to a nonviolent government countermeasures. For these reasons, however, the government is likely to err either by being ignorant to the problem and failing to address the grievances behind the violence —which gives the insurgents time and space to organize—or by overreacting and cracking down hard—which can alienate the population and gain support for the insurgents. Elements of a productive government response might include:

- Efforts to undermine insurgent attempts to establish a group identity. The government may choose to reinforce national identity and patriotism by emphasizing shared history, culture, and traditions, or the government may attempt to further divide the subgroup using alternative identities, such as tribe, ethnic group, religion, sect, region, or class.

- Efforts to address grievances through political, economic, or legal reform.

- Efforts to shore up the moderate opposition. Next stage of insurgency could identified as the  **INCIPIENT CONFLICT STAGE**

**INCIPIENT** means beginning to happen or develop. The incipient stage is the most significant phase for insurgents; they have made their presence known through 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, example kidnap, ambush , small bombings, assassinations some highly known officials , 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. In this stage, insurgents must establish sources for supplies they can not by gotten from the population of citizens although insurgents rely on citizens but in terms of arms, ammunition and other military equipment.

They must also strive to acknowledge popular support ie from the citizens. They rely on citizens for food, medicine shelter and intelligence. These could be issued out voluntarily or through violence or threat.

**T**he next stage of insurgency is **OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE : I**n this stage, the government has acknowledged that the nation is under attack by insurgents. They are aware that the aim of these violence is to challenge government authorities and attempt to control territory. They are aware that more attacks are being carried out which have become more aggressive, violent and these attacks are being carried out in larger numbers There are two factors political and military factors.

 In military factors, insurgents are carrying out more attacks and making use of guerrilla warfare, violence and terrorism. Including, hit and run raids, assassination , ambush etc also attacks on infrastructure and government owned enterprises like schools, hospitals bridges, cell phone towers. The most important task for the government once an insurgency has reached this stage is to reestablish security. If the security forces cannot protect the population from insurgent intimidation and reprisals, the people are unlikely to actively support the government. For political factors, An insurgency at this stage often progresses from undermining state authority to displacing and replacing it. Insurgents may develop a “shadow government” that mirrors state administrative structures and may establish “no-go” areas where government representatives have been driven out and where only large formations of security forces can operate.

 The final stage of insurgency is **RESOLUTION STAGE.** Every insurgency will eventually reach an end, either resulting to the insurgents victory and a resolution or the government would tackle the ongoing activities. Nevertheless, a party must emerge as a winner. An insurgent emerging as a winner is the only potential outcome of that is likely to be clear cut , or seizing control of the government, eliminating external occupier, or even gaining independence of the entire nation, while a government victory is a gradual process of full elimination of the insurgents, decline of violence assistance from external troops and popular support.