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IRD 214

IN NOT MORE THAN THREE, DISCUSS THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY.

WHAT IS INSURGENCY?

Insurgency is defined as an organized group trying to gain or seize control from a current government all with the aim of driving home a point. Insurgency can be said to be an asymmetric warfare because it is focused solely on avoiding the strength of the adversary i.e. enemy and also exploiting their weakness. Insurgency connotes a strategy of offensive action against that of mass force action, to tackle the weaker enemies at decisive moments. The United States Military defined insurgency as an organized movement aimed at overthrowing a constituted government or to seize, challenge political control of a region through the use of violence subversion and armed conflict.

O’Neil also defined the concept insurgency as a struggle between a non ruling groups and ruling authorities in which the non ruling groups consciously use political resources(organizational expertise, propaganda, demonstrations.)and violence to destroy reform units or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspects of politics. Insurgency is also regarded as protracted political-military activities controlling the resources of a country though the use of irregular military forces and political organization. They are designed to weaken the existing government power, control and legitimacy while increasing goals of the insurgents. An insurgency is a violent rebellion against high authorities, when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognised as lawful combatants.

Insurgency differs from other movements in the violence to achieve political goals .hence insurgency is seen as intra-state conflict this does not mean that insurgents cannot have external support or join their causes to those of external organization (if they are in line with their aspirations). As a result of such modern insurgency can cross multiple borders, an example of insurgency can be Boko Haram etc. Insurgency can be of various types ranging from their characteristics or mood of the operation to the aims of the operation.

Types of insurgency according Clapham;

* Liberation
* Separatist
* Reformist
* Warlord

STAGES OF INSURGENCY

Every insurgency is different they are shaped by conflict, Specific factors such as culture, grievance and history. Not every insurgency will pass through each stage; they sometimes jump baby stages to the dangerous stage.

**The pre insurgency stage**

* A conflict in this stage is difficult to detect because most activities are underground and also the fact that the insurgency has yet to make its presence known to the masses either through the use of violence. During this stage it can be stated that the group is just starting to organize themselves to place individuals in their groups on their specific place of duty. Here they look for either historical societal political or economic conditions that generate discontent among a particular division of the masses- recent history of internal conflict that has left lingering grievances against the government or hostility among groups. During this pre insurgency stage, insurgents identify and publicize grievances around which they can rally supporters. These insurgents seek to create a compelling narrative.
* In this stage the formation of group identity is formed to form an identity that separates them from national identity or that of ruling elite, establishing an ‘us versus them’ dynamic to the conflict. The identity must centre on ethnicity, tribal affiliation, religion, regionalism, political affiliation, or class.
* The recruitment and training of individuals is done under the pre-insurgency stage this can also include the disappearance of significant members of subgroup members, especially young men reports of people training with arms or the identification of non government military training sites etc.
* They also would have little or no weapons to aid their movement and so they start gathering weapons from where ever they can get from.
* Government reaction- the government reaction in this stage is perhaps whether a movement would develop into an insurgency group. During this stage a potential insurgency group is weak disorganized and also vulnerable, so it is up to the government to either trace their little shows of violence and then stop them from growing or ignoring them and then giving them the licence to grow wider.

**INCIPIENT CONFLICT STAGE**

A struggle enters the incipient conflict stage when the insurgents begin to use violence. Often these initial attacks provide analysts the first alert to the potential for an insurgency. This stage is however the most dangerous phase for insurgents because they have made their presence felt around the state through initial attacks but then they are still weak and also still organizing

* Insurgent leadership
* Understanding the insurgent’s theory of victory answers the question of how they see this ending. Some insurgents believe they would eventually defeat the government.
* Insurgents must establish source for supplies that they can not obtain from civilian population.

**OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE**

At this stage there is no doubt that the government of a state is facing insurgency. Politically the insurgents are overtly challenging state authority and attempting to exert control over territory. Militarily the insurgents are are staging more frequent attacks which have probably become more aggressive violent and sophisticated and involve larger numbers of fighters. As the insurgency becomes more active external support for the belligerent probably becomes more apparent.

**RESOLUTION STAGE**

An insurgency will eventually reach a conclusion, an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement or a government victory. At least 130 insurgent conflicts have occurred since World War II estimates vary widely and go as high as nearly 300 insurgent government conflicts and at least two dozens were on going as of late 2011.

REFRENCES

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