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## **Question**

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

## **INSURGENCY**

Insurgency is said to be asymmetric warfare which focuses on avoiding the strength of the enemy and exploiting their weakness. For the US military insurgency is defined as an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constitution government or to seize, nullify, and challenge political control of a region through the use of violence, sub version and aimed conflicts. Each insurgency is different and shaped by conflict specific factors such as culture, grievance and history but insurgency often progress through certain common stages of development.

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.

## **STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

### **1. Preinsurgency stage:**

The preinsurgency stage is difficult to detect because most activities are underground and the insurgency has yet to make its presence felt through the use of violence. In this stage of insurgency, the immediate action of the government is crucial and will determine if the movement will develop into an insurgency or not. In this stage, the insurgents are still vulnerable seeing as they are not fully equipped or prepared so it will be better for the government to strike early. The government can either choose to dismiss the problem and not properly attend to it, which will lead to space for the growth of the insurgents, or they can choose to negotiate with the insurgents and solve the problems of their grievances to stop them from carrying on with the movement.

During the preinsurgency stage, insurgents identify and publicise a grievance around which they can rally supporters. Insurgents seek to create a compelling narrative the story a party to a armed struggle uses to justify its actions in order to attain legitimacy and favor among relevant populatio, most insurgencies seek to create a group identity that separates the group from the national identity or that of the ruling elite.

## **2. Incipient conflict stage;**

The incipient conflict stage when the insurgent make use of violence. Mostly these initial attacks provide analysts the first alert to the potential for an insurgency. Also in this stage the government always dismisse the insurgent actions as the work of bandits, criminals, or terrorists, which can increase the risk of government employing counterproductive measures. 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 exposurb.

This stage is very dangerous for the insurgents and is highly asymmetric and terrorist tactics, like kidnappings, small bombings, assassinations and night letters are used. Also they presence are made through initial attacks but also weak and organized, for the attacks such as demonstrate its viability, publicise its cause rally supporters, and provoke a government overreaction while limiting its exposure to government security forces has to be conducted with balance.

The best 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 ability of government intelligence agencies to collect intelligence and a willingness to coordinate their efforts and share intelligence across agencies.

## **3. Open Insurgency stage;**

This stage is the last stage and no doubt exist that the government is facing an insurgency. In the political sense the insurgents are challenging the state authority and also to control territories. In the military sense the insurgents try abd stage attacks more often which becomes aggressive, violent, and sophisticated and involve larger numbers of fighters. In this stage insurgent may

develop a shadow government. This stage progresses from undermining state authority to displacing and replacing it. The shadow government mirrors state administrative structures and may establish no go areas.

An additional consideration for analyst might be changes in qualitative measures such as siding initiatives attacks or the degree of insurgent discipline. 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 support the government. Support from external assistants, which include diplomatic, financial arms, nonlethal equipment, sanctuary, intelligence training, or advisers. Lastly the external or foreign actor have some shared purpose that has created their alliance, but they most likely have their own broader interest that diverge.

### **Reference**

Guide to the Analysis of insurgency

(2012)<https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=713599>

