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Stages of Insurgency

An insurgency is a rebellion from authorities. A struggle between a non-ruling group and the ruling authorities, in which the non-ruling group consciously uses less political resources. In addition, an insurgency is an organized movement with the aim of overthrowing a regime or government for political gain. An example of an insurgency is the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency that has been taking place in Nigeria, as well as neighbouring countries such as Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

An insurgency is mostly fought in the style of guerilla warfare. The insurgents or rebels focus on avoiding the strength of the enemy, which is simply the government forces. This is due to the fact that insurgent groups in most cases are not as strong or as well-equipped as the national or organizational forces. The mode of operation for insurgent groups is to simply attack or take offensive against enemy opposition at the most vulnerable moment, or devising means of exploitation against enemy oppositions. This includes terrorist attacks, assassinations, abductions, kidnappings etc.

Insurgency is mostly classified as an intra-state conflict or internal struggles, with the rebel forces aiming to overthrow the government to get partial or complete control of the state. However, in a lot of cases, insurgent groups usually have external support from other insurgent groups, countries, or organizations. Hence, insurgency is also classified as an inter-state conflict, as insurgent groups carry their operations across state borders and into other neighbouring countries. As a result, insurgency can cross multiple borders.

Insurgent groups must take time and steps before they can carry out any acts in order to reach their objective. Insurgency is a process that takes time before it takes place. There can be said to be stages of Insurgency. This includes the organizations, guerrilla warfare, and decision.

The organization is simply the establishment of the insurgent group. The group would first of all find a location, preferably a remote location with little to no government attention, such as mountains, forest, or countryside. From there, they would spread into the neighbouring towns or villages, where they will live or mingle with the locals. This is when the insurgents will now have the chance to propagate their ideas and gain the support of local recruits.

Guerrilla warfare is then the next step for the insurgents. This is the form of mobilization. The group would have gotten the equipment needed for the operation. Things such as vehicles, weapons, communication devices, and manpower. The insurgents would train, prepare, and organize attacks on their specific desired targets.

The decision stage is the final stage where the insurgents launch their attack on their specified target(s). This would result in the emergence of military objectives as well as encouraging more people to take up arms. This would result in the build-up of a larger military force to attempt a takeover of the government.

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