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ASSIGNMENT QUESTION; IN NOT MORE THAN THREE PAGES DISCUSS THE STAGES OF INSUREGENCY.

Firstly in answering this question, we have to understand the meaning of insurgency before getting into the stages.

What is insurgency? Insurgency can be defines as a rebellion against an already existing government in that the people want a change in the government. It is a movement within the country to overthrow the government. The United States of America was founded by an insurgency when the colonies fought England for independence.

Also, an insurgency can be seen as a violent rebellion against the authority. Although not all rebellions are insurgency. Insurgency is a violent political struggle for the control of people and resources. Insurgency can be said to be an asymmetric warfare meaning it’s an irregular or unbalanced war. In an insurgency, the insurgents try to avoid the strength of the adversary while focusing on their weakness.

Insurgency is regarded as a protracted or prolonged political-military activities directed towards completing or partially controlling resources of a country through the use of irregular military forces and political organization.

Insurgencies are normally internal struggles hence, it is seen as intra-state conflicts but however, they still have support from external groups.

An insurgency must have the following characteristics

* It must have popular support from the people
* It creates a condition for the change or overthrow of a government
* They operate from periphery
* Insurgencies differs from revolutionaries by their goals
* Insurgents in the eye of the law are not lawful combatants

Some of the causes or reason for insurgency may include

* Bad governance
* Economic reasons
* Ideological differences
* The need to control resources

Now that we have understood insurgency as a whole, we can move to the stages of insurgency.

The first stage of insurgency is the PREINSURGENCY STAGE.

In this stage, the insurgent groups are still emerging so the conflict is not detected as the insurgents are still finding leaders, recruiting and training its members and stocking armed supplies. They are still making a group identity and establishing grievances and all their activities are still underground. During this stage, the insurgents find grievances in which they can use to get supporters. They make up stories to gain favor and attain legitimacy among the public. The insurgents can make DVDs and pamphlets and even make use of the media to publicize their story just to gain support from the population. The insurgents then create a group identity that is different from the national identity which may be centered on ethnicity, regionalism, political affiliation or class. They make emphasis on cultural religious and language symbols. They also make use of language that would make the government look like the enemy. In this early stage of nonviolence, the insurgents may have small weapons and military supplies they may also be accruing weapons through thefts, robberies, kidnapping for ransom, etc. The government reaction in this early stage would determine whether the insurgent group would be formed or not. They can give a productive response such as efforts to address grievances through political economic or legal reform. Also, security forces may arrest the insurgents.

The second stage of insurgency is the INCIPIENT CONFLICT STAGE

In this stage, the insurgents have made their first attack using violence. Now, they have made themselves known but it is still the most dangerous stage for the insurgents because now they are known but they are still weak and organizing. During this phase, the insurgents engage in kidnappings, assassinations and night letters. The actions of the governments and insurgents would determine whether the incipient stage would lead to a full blown insurgency. The leader’s motivation for joining the insurgency would determine the part that the organization is likely to go. As such, in this stage, the insurgents must be able to conduct attacks to demonstrate its viability, rally supporters and provoke the governments.

The third stage of insurgency is the OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE

At this stage, the insurgent group has finally come to exists. They are then politically challenging the authority by attempting to exert control over the territory they are operating in, and militarily, they are staging more attacks and using more violence and aggressive means in that particular territory. At this stage, the insurgent groups no longer undermine the state authority but they are now replacing it. They now develop no-go areas labeled with coloured designation such as red or black. The insurgents are then conducting guerrilla warfare at this stage including hit-and-run raids on military units. However, the insurgents seek to avoid prolonged firefights that would allow the military to capitalize on its advantage in firepower. But in this stage, the insurgents start to grow stronger in military through using more sophisticated weapons and equipment for communication, evidences of insurgents penetration and subversion of the military, police and intelligent services. The most important task of the government when an insurgency has reached this stage is to reestablish the security. In this stage, support from foreign actors if any exists, becomes more evident. The external aids bolster the recipient’s legitimacy rather than causing it to be portrayed as puppet to foreign interest.

The fourth and final stage of insurgency is the RESOLUTION STAGE

Some insurgencies grow and progress over the previous stages while others remain in one stage for a long period of time. However, an insurgency would eventually reach a conclusion, either an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement or a government victory. An insurgent victory is the only potential outcome likely to be clear-cut. The insurgents then gain control of the government or gain independence for their region. However, an insurgent victory can give rise to another insurgency. The insurgents now obtain their goal when the people see the government as illegitimate, government will to negotiate a settlement with the insurgents. A negotiated settlement may be false because most times, the insurgents are trying to buy time to recover from a set back and then plan their next attack. However, they can be sincere if reports have reached that they cannot win military or if the insurgents believe that they can win the election or otherwise participate legally in politics. However, the government can also gain victory if the insurgents are losing military capabilities, external assistance and popular support. The government would then succeed in reducing the number of insurgents and seize their infrastructure. Also, the civilians would then alert the government on any insurgent group.

REFRENCING

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