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QUESTION: In not more than 3 pages ,discuss the stages of insurgency

Insurgency can be defined in many ways, it 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 Consequently, insurgencies evolve through a series of stages, though the progression and outcome may and will be different in almost every case. Not every insurgencies however experience every stage as the sequence may not be the same in all cases and the evolution of any stage may extend over a long period of time. This stages include:

1. Preinsurgency Stage

A conflict in 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. It noted that even in the pre insurgency stage they are different tactics in them which include:

Pre-existing Conditions:

Insurgent organizers can use historical, societal, political, or economic conditions that generate discontent among a segment of the population to rally support for their movement.

Grievance :

During the pre insurgency stage, insurgents identify and publicize a grievance around which they can rally supporters. Insurgents seek to create a compelling narrative in order to attain legitimacy and favour among relevant populations.

Group identity:

Most insurgencies seek to create a group identity that separates the group from the national identity or that of the ruling elite, establishing “us versus them” dynamic to the conflict The identity might centre on ethnicity, tribal affiliation, religion, regionalism, political affiliation, or class .

1. Guerrilla warfare: The word guerrilla means "little war"

Guerrilla warfare is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatant, such as paramilitary personnel, armed civilians or irregular use military tactics including ambushes, sabotage, raid, petty warfare, hit and run tactics

Insurgencies often utilize guerrilla warfare as a successful strategy in facing off against larger, more advantaged adversaries. However, guerrilla warfare itself is merely a method which may be pursued by insurgents or state actors as a part of more traditional warfare. Many insurgencies rely not only on guerrilla tactics

Guerrilla warfare, can also be defined is a type of combat that’s fought by a civilian population or other people who aren’t part of a typical military unit. Often attempting to overthrow an existing government or are rebelling against a much larger, organized military although in some cases, guerrillas fight against rival insurgents forces.

Guerrilla warfare is generally considered a war motivated by politics, a desperate struggle of common people to right the wrongs done to them by an oppressive regime that rules by military force and intimidation.

Throughout history , cultural ideologies such as liberty, equality, nationalism, socialism and religious fundamentalism have motivated groups of people to employ guerrilla warfare tactics in efforts to overcome real or imagined oppression and persecution at the hands of a ruling government or foreign invaders.

Many times, guerrilla warriors are fighting in their homeland or they have the support of the local population. Therefore, guerrillas are usually familiar with the terrain and landscape, and they use this to their advantage in their attacks whereby making the enemy have no idea what's happening until the guerrilla attack is underway. As they are usually fighting against a larger, more fortified but less mobile military or police unit, guerrillas move in quickly and keep their battles short. By surprising their enemy and then retreating almost immediately, they keep their foes from adequately defending themselves or staging a counter-attack.

1. Conventional warfare:

This is another stage of insurgency, it is a form of warfare conducted by using conventional weapons and battlefield tactics between two or more states in open confrontation . The general purpose of conventional warfare is to weaken the opponent’s military thereby negating its ability to engage in conventional warfare.

References

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