

DADY DAN GWAKCHANG

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QUESTION

In not more than three pages discuss the stages of insurgency .

An **insurgency** is any kind of armed rebellion against an established authority by a group not recognized as legitimate regardless of the form of violence or the nature of the regime being fought. Some insurgents acquire a reputation as good, freedom-loving heroes, while others are nothing but bandits and terrorists trying to destroy all that is good. Most end up as both, depending on the timing or audience.

The stages of insurgency are as follows:

1. Organization, Consolidation and Preservation of Base Areas:

This essentially means establishing a core cadre as part of the movement. Insurgents generally arrive in remotely located areas, and live with the locals. These are places towards which government has little or no attention. They propagate their ideas and recruit followers. This is the conceptual stage for the rebels, since the numbers in these areas are small, it is easy for the insurgents keeping tabs on the population. Working among the peasantry to win them over, and build a base from which to operate. Organizational strategy is determined primarily by the groups operational environment and by the training of its leaders. The operational environment includes the sociocultural makeup of the target population ,the economic ,political, and geographical characteristics of the area of operation .

2. Guerrilla Warfare:

The next phase involves the use of military means to heightened political effect, isolated attacks are planned- which are meant to serve a political purpose and to forward their propaganda. The aim is to put a fear of safety in the otherwise comfortable officials as well as gather attention. This is where the insurgents fight the state, but in harassing actions or against communications and logistics. The objective is not to win territory, but to weaken the enemy while consolidating one's own power. Is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants, such as paramilitary personnel, armed civilians, or irregulars, use military tactics including ambushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military. Guerrilla groups are a type of violent non-state actor. Over the centuries the practitioners of guerrilla warfare have been called rebels, irregulars, insurgents, partisans, and mercenaries. Frustrated military commanders have consistently damned them as barbarians, savages, terrorists, brigands, outlaws, and bandits. Regardless of terminology, the importance of guerrilla warfare has varied considerably throughout history. Traditionally, it has been a weapon of protest employed to rectify real or imagined wrongs levied on a people either by a ruling government or by a foreign invader. As such, it has scored remarkable successes and has suffered disastrous defeats.

Lacking the numerical strength and weapons to oppose a regular army in the field, guerrillas avoid pitched battles. Instead, they operate from bases established in remote and inaccessible terrain, such as forests, mountains, and jungles, and depend on the support of the local inhabitants for recruits, food, shelter, and information. The guerrillas may also receive assistance in the form of arms, medical supplies, and military advisers from their own or allied regular armies.

The tactics of guerrillas are those of harassment. Striking swiftly and unexpectedly, they raid enemy supply depots and installations, ambush patrols and supply convoys, and cut communication lines, hoping thereby to disrupt enemy activities and to capture equipment and supplies for their own use. Because of their mobility, the dispersal of their forces into small groups, and their ability to disappear among the civilian population, guerrillas are extremely difficult to capture.

3. Mobile conventional Warfare

Conventional warfare is a form of warfare conducted by using conventional weapons and battlefield tactics between two or more states in open confrontation. The forces on each side are well-defined, and fight using weapons that primarily target the opponent's military. It is normally fought using conventional weapons, and not with chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. The general purpose of conventional warfare is to weaken or destroy the opponent's military, thereby negating its ability to engage in conventional warfare. In forcing capitulation, however, one or both sides may eventually resort to unconventional warfare tactics. Many insurgencies never reach this stage. Conventional warfare isn't just about capabilities employed – that is, industrially manufactured, technologically advanced equipment, deployed by recognisably military organisations. Rather it is a society's way of fighting that encompasses the doctrinal thinking, the organisational structures, the rules of engagement, and even the appropriate goals of violence. What makes it 'conventional' is just that it adheres to the dominant conventions of the time.

Of course, all this changes through time as the societies and conventions involved in generating 'conventional' approaches to war evolve. Thus, the conventional forces of Napoleon look radically different from the 'conventional' forces of France today.

It might just be that 'conventional' warfighting is simply a good way of making a polemical point in favour of one's own view of appropriate strategy. Conventional warfare is stale, attritional and inappropriate to the challenges of the modern era. Or conventional warfare is neglected at our peril, given skill fade in critical branches, like artillery and armour.

REFERENCE

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