

International Terrorism
Second Grade Students
International Relations Department
Lecture 10
Insurgency & Terrorism
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Definition of Insurgency

An insurgency: is a movement within a country dedicated to overthrowing the government.

Insurgency 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.

Insurgents use all available tools—political (including diplomatic), informational (including appeals to religious, ethnic, or ideological beliefs), military, and economic—to overthrow the existing authority. This authority may be an established government or an interim governing body.

Insurgencies generally fall between these two extremes. They normally seek to achieve one of two Goals: General Goals

- 1- to overthrow the existing social order and reallocate power within a single state.
- 2- or to break away from state control and form an autonomous entity or ungoverned space that they can control.

Insurgency is typically a form of internal war, one that occurs primarily within a state, not between states, and one that contains at least some elements of civil war.

The goals of an insurgency most often fall into one of five categories:

1- Revolutionary insurgencies: seek to replace the existing political order with an entirely different system, often entailing transformation of the economic and social structures.

2- Reformist insurgencies: do not aim to change the existing political order but, instead, seek to compel the government to alter its policies or undertake political, economic, or social reforms.

3- Separatist insurgencies: seek independence for a specific region. In some cases, the region in question spans existing national boundaries.

4- Resistance insurgencies: seek to compel an occupying power to withdraw from a given territory.

5- Commercialist insurgencies: are motivated by the acquisition of wealth or material resources; political power is simply a tool for seizing and controlling access to the wealth.

Insurgency has taken many forms over time:

- 1- Past insurgencies** include struggles for independence against colonial powers, the rising up of ethnic or religious groups against their rivals, and resistance to foreign invaders.
- 2- Before World War I**, insurgencies were mostly conservative; insurgents were usually concerned with defending monarchies, and traditional religion.
- 3- Since World War I**, insurgencies have generally had more revolutionary purposes. (wars of national liberation).
- 4- While some Cold War insurgencies** persisted after the Soviet Union's collapse, many new ones appeared. These new insurgencies typically emerged from civil wars or the collapse of states no longer propped up by Cold War rivalries.
- 5- Today's operational** environment also includes a new kind of insurgency, one that seeks to impose revolutionary change worldwide. Al Qaeda is a well-known example of such an insurgency.

Insurgency Types or Strategy

revolution, guerrilla war, terrorism, and riots.

Revolution: is a fundamental and relatively sudden change in political power and political organization which occurs when the population revolts against the government, typically due to perceived oppression (political, social, economic).

Guerrilla war: is a diffuse type of war, fought in relatively small formations, against a stronger enemy.

Riot: is mob violence. Riots are usually unorganized, in the sense that the rioters are neither totally controlled by a leader nor organized in units or some other hierarchical structure.

Counterinsurgency refers to military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological, and civic actions taken by governments or occupying forces to quell a rebellion.

(COIN): is defined by the United States Department of State as "comprehensive civilian and military efforts taken to simultaneously defeat and contain insurgency and address its root causes".