

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COUNTERINSURGENCY GUIDE, 2009
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Summary

- This strategy adequately demonstrates the need to find an optimal balance between political structures, security forces, and civilian's needs and then extends it into a modern-day context.
- This strategy fails to realize how an insurgent group can spread optimism across borders to other organizations which could lead to further destabilization in a region.

Developing Government Structures

- This strategy correctly demonstrates the importance of developing effective governance structures in order to gain the support and confidence of a local population.
- The strategy properly describes how counter insurgent forces should provide non-necessary social services and resources, such as healthcare and education, to a population.
 - Successful insurgent groups establish good governance and gain popular support from the people by providing invaluable resources needed by a civilian population.
- Although, this is a population-centric strategy, it fails to acknowledge the possibility that this could result in increased violence against civilians.
 - By supporting and empowering a local population, counterinsurgent actors label civilians as targets for terrorists looking to intimidate a population.
- The strategy briefly acknowledges that some organizations have adopted a decentralized leadership structure that is more difficult to infiltrate.
- This strategy fails to discuss the strategic importance of insurgent groups controlling and maintaining territory.

Background

- This strategy was written in 2009 primarily by the Department of Defense, the State Department, and the US Agency for International Development along with the assistance of six other government agencies.
- This strategy describes a plan that can be molded to counter any insurgent group through the parallel development of politics, security, economics, and information channels in order to establish control.
- The goal of this strategy is to develop a plan that will prevent the conditions of a successful insurgency from emerging by developing a government and addressing community grievances.