

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 insurgent groups can spread optimism to other organizations around the world which could destabilize other regions.

Relationship Between the State and Insurgents

- This strategy outlines that insurgents who rebel against state actors will follow a series of steps that elongates a conflict in order to gain an advantage by exhausting the government.
- The strategy correctly demonstrates that state failure is a global threat.
 - Failed states are more likely to host organizations that commit transnational attacks and have their own citizen partake in political violence as well as become targets of political violence.
- This strategy adequately describes how counterinsurgency actors must ensure the stability of a region since being provided a safe haven can benefit an insurgent group by giving them the space to plan and prepare in secrecy.
- The strategy explains that state sponsorship plays a role in the successful of insurgent groups, but it does not mention that state sponsorship can increase the chances of a group being eliminated.
- This strategy acknowledges that the insurgents are evolving to organize their groups based upon networks rather than hierarchies, but it fails to describe how counterinsurgency actors can exploit the failures of networks.
 - By understanding that networks are more susceptible to security breaches, counterinsurgency actors can better craft policy that delegitimizes insurgents while building good governance.

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 insurgent groups through the parallel development of politics, security, economics, and information channels to establish control.
- The overarching 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.