

TODAY'S AGENDA

- 1 Kalyvas control and collaboration simulation
- Rebel tactics: treatment of civilians
- Rebel tactics: electoral violence
- (4) The midterm

Rebel tactics

REBEL OBJECTIVES

Much like counter-insurgents, insurgents want to:

Hurt their enemy

Not alienate civilians (refresher: why?)

These goals are in tension! (how?)

ACTIONS AND REACTIONS



Indigenous militas in Peru during Shining Path insurgency

TWO CASES

Insurgents want to disrupt elections (Electoral violence in Afgh, Condra)

Insurgents need lots of recruits (Wartime sexual violence, Cohen)



Shining Path first act of war: burning election ballots



Taliban targeted voters in Afghanistan

Why disrupt elections?

Delegitimize the government; show state has no control

Convince people that bullets > ballots

Later in semester: sway elections

So why not just engage in wholesale violence?

Insurgents need to "thread the needle" between discouraging voting and not alienating civilians

why not do the Shining Path thing and just disrupt electoral system?

Problem because main insurgent tool is violent and imprecise

SOLUTION

Use violence in a **strategic** manner, in order to minimize casualties

Carry out attacks early in the morning (how constraints?)

Use IEDs to hit busy roads (how constraint?)

Insurgents are trading off fire power for accuracy

Notice: if too soft they won't ruin the election; if too aggressive they will alienate civilians

WARTIME SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A caveat on the writing in Cohen

Central question:
why does wartime sexual violence take place in some cases more than others?

A "PERSONNEL" PROBLEM

Cohen argues this is about how people are recruited into organizations

Certain recruitment practices make sexual violence more likely

What's the tension here?

Insurgents need lots of members

But members hard to come by

Methods for recruitment —> quality of insurgents

SOCIAL COHESION

Low cohesion

Opportunists, anyone joins, abduction

Little training, no ideology

RUF in Sierra Leone, Bosnia High cohesion

Dedicated, select recruits

Lots of training, ideology

FARC, Shining Path

THE PROBLEM WITH LOW SOCIAL COHESION

"Hence, armed groups face a central challenge: how to create a coherent force out of a group of frightened strangers who feel no loyalty toward the group of which they are now a member."

wartime sexual violence "resolves" this dilemma

HUMANS IN GROUPS

Gangs similarly force new recruits to commit crimes; How would this affect cohesion?

Become part of in-group

Shared "risk"

Inside MS-13's secret initiation rituals and internal feuds

Court records shed light on the inner-workings of the violent street gang along the East Coast.



Members of the MS-13 gang are detained near the crime scene where two men, Jose Wilfredo Navidad and Nestor Alexander Rivera, were killed as they rode a motorcycle on their way to work, in San Salvador, El Salvador January 26, 2016.

—Reuters/Jose Cabezas

THETENSION

How much control do groups have over whether they are "low" or "high" cohesion?

Rebels face constraints on time, resources, recruitment capacity

Plus these are *downstream* consequences, unclear how to anticipate

CONNECTIONS

How does this connect to the Weinstein "resource endowments" from the "greed" lecture?

How does this connect to the US Army's "moral waivers" from last week?

RECAP

Much like states, rebels face **trade-offs** between waging war and not alienating civilians

In some cases, rebels behave **strategically** to balance these trade-offs

Constraining violence during elections to reduce turnout without mass casualties

In other cases, early choices or "forced" choices determine extent of trade-off

Abduction/low-cohesion increases rate of sexual violence