
MEMORANDUM

TO: GVPT 354 INSTRUCTORS
FROM: ANA ORTEZ-RIVERA, STUDENT
SUBJECT: INDIA CONFLICT MEMO
DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2015
CC: TEACHING ASSISTANT

India's biggest internal security threat are a rebel insurgency group known as the Naxalites (Profile: India's Maoist Rebels). This groups is a part of the Maoist movement to overthrow the government and replace with communist power. What started as a regional conflict has now affects over 40% of India. Fight for the rights of the rural poor farmers, they feel that they have been neglected because the government plans to sell their lands to multinational companies to exploit their rich natural resources. The rebel group attacks police forces through the use of bombings, shootings, assassinations, raids, and abductions. The Indian government continues efforts to suppress the spread of the rebel's power through arresting leaders and members and penetrating Naxalite controlled territory.

BACKGROUND

The Republic of India is located in southern Asia, and as of June 2015, has a population of 1,251,695,584. India is known as the world's largest democracy, and developing into an open market economy. India's large rural population is prominent as only 32.7% of the population live in urban areas (The World Fact book India). What marked the beginning of the rebel Maoist movement the key event of a peasant uprising in the rural area of Naxalbari, West Bengal. Farmers united and fought violently against the government's attempts to take their land, and later formed the "Naxalites" (A Timeline of Maoist Revolution in India). Now the Naxalites aim to overthrow the current power and implement a communist government. Their methods include attacking, kidnaping, and assassinating government officials in the name of fighting for the rights of the rural poor population. India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh linked the Naxalites with terrorism, and named them as India's biggest internal security threat (A spectra haunting India). Since 2014 the government has killed 1,300 Naxalites (The Maoist Insurgency in India). The movement of Naxalites has been called "The Red Tide," "Naxalite War," and "India's dirty war."

CONFLICT PARTIES AND ISSUES

Conflict occurs between Naxalites and the government officials. The Maoist movement has gained support throughout India 20 of the country's 28 states. The movement gains supporters through uniting poor farmers, and tribal populations, of whom feel neglect by the government. Naxalites oppose the government actions of allowing big corporations to profit from their land by securing water, and minerals (The Maoist Insurgency in India). The Naxalites arm themselves

through acquiring weapons through raiding police bases, and train among themselves. The Naxalites resort to violent behavior that the government labels as terrorism. Non-Maoist poor rural people are displaced from their homes as a result of the violence and seek refuge in government created camps.

CONTEXT

The conflict began at a regional level in rural areas such as Naxalbari, but now has been occurring at a national level and has spread to 40% of India's states. In terms of fatalities, the most affected areas are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh (The Maoist Insurgency in India). This conflict also reaches a global level in which the government negotiates with multinational government in order to exploit natural resources for profit. Although land from the rural poor farmers are taken, the profits from these negotiations can increase in the international trade of natural resources such as iron-ore, and increase the economy. Since the government is fighting against a communist rebel group, this can have global implications of the spread of communism in other rural areas in different countries.

CURRENT STATUS OF PEACE EFFORTS

On October 2nd, 2015, three politicians from the governing party have been abducted after agreeing to meet with the rebels for discussion. The politicians are being held captive in protest. It is argued that the government is making further attempts to suppress the rebels, through persecuting and arresting any rebels that they encounter. On October 10, 2015, two Maoist women surrendered, and among them was one of the top leaders Jyoti Madkam. She surrendered to the police because she wanted to leave the organization after being abused by men members (2 Naxalites Surrender in Berhampur). On October 19, 2015, the police saved a Maoist leader who was being held captive and was tortured by fellow members. The police captured him and the Maoist gratefully surrendered. Although the Maoist aim to gain more support throughout the state, they are also losing support from within.

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