

Maoist Conflict in India

An Annotated Bibliography

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Joseph Flavian Gomes. 2015. “The Political Economy of the Maoist Conflict in India: An Empirical Analysis.” *World Development* 68 (2015): 96–123. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2014.11.021>

Abstract: We study the Maoist/Naxalite conflict in India by constructing a comprehensive district-level database combining conflict data from four different terrorism databases to socioeconomic and geography data from myriad sources. Using data on 360 districts for three time periods, we find that land inequality and lower incomes are important factors behind the conflict. Exploiting the micro structure of the data we show that growth of incomes of Scheduled Tribes significantly decreases the intensity of the conflict. Finally, we show that historical property rights institutions from colonial times that go back centuries affect present day conflict outcomes.

Summary:

Questions:

- 1) Is it true that the NSS data are representative at the district level? For Employment and Unemployment Survey, stratification at the district level only started with the in 2005-06(62nd round) onward. But perhaps it started earlier for the Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys;
- 2) How is land inequality calculated for the analysis? Were the binned nature of the landholdings data taken into account?;
- 3) Are NSS data a good source for measures of inequality? My understanding was that they tended to under-represent the rich households.