

## From Protest to Insurgency: Understanding the Shift from Dissent to Armed Rebellion

### Outline

#### ① Introduction:

#### ② Shedding light on the Dynamics and Link Between Protest, Dissent and Insurgency:

(2.1) Protest and dissent are expression of grievances through peaceful means

- (The Civil Rights Movement in USA)

(2.2) Insurgency is armed conflict between the state and irregular forces

- Syrian Civil war

#### ③ Understanding the Shift From Dissent to Armed Rebellion:

(3.1) Inability of state to address grievances

- Armed rebellion in Indian occupied Kashmir.

(3.2) Deep rooted social and economic inequalities

- Relative Deprivation Theory  
Gap between expectation and reality  
leads to unrest

(3.3) Suppression of Freedom of Speech and opinion

- American Revolution, peaceful dissent turned violent due to suppression

(3.4) Systematic denial of basic fundamental rights

- 2021 Iranion protest ignited by the death of Mahsa Amini

(3.5) Absence of justice leads to violent escalation.

- Anomie Theory: When legitimate avenues for justice are blocked, people adopt violent means

(3.6) Collapse of trust in peaceful resolution and reforms

- Student protest in Bangladesh led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina Regime.

(3.7) Use of militarized approach

- Balochistan Insurgency and the use of force by the state

(3.8) Weak law enforcement creates power vacuum

- Political opportunity theory: Movements emerge when state institutions are weak

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(3.9) Support from external actors for strategic gain

- Proxy war in the Middle East

(4) Strategies To Prevent Transition of Protest into Armed Conflict:

(4.1) Promoting peaceful political dialogue

(4.2) Strengthening state institutions

(4.3) Ensuring freedom of speech and opinion

(4.4) Investing in upliftment of marginalized communities

(4.5) Creating legal channels to express grievances.

(5) Conclusion:

John F. Kennedy, the former President of the United States, once said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." This showcases the fragile balance between peaceful protest and the eruption of violent rebellion. Forceful repression and neglect of grievances by the state often tips the balance, leading towards insurgency. From ancient civilization to modern era, protest has served as a crucial means for people to voice their discontent to those in power.

However, when basic rights are denied and inequalities deepen, peaceful resistance often transforms into armed rebellion as witnessed during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. In today's interconnected world, protest have evolved, harnessing social media and digital platforms to amplify voices and raise global awareness.

However, the increasing suppression of dissent and erosion of civic space through authoritarian measures create a vacuum that is frequently filled by violent

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actors who exploit public frustration and inflame rebellion. Therefore, when peaceful protests are ignored or suppressed, and institutions fail to address public grievances, the resulting frustration leads to armed rebellion.

It is essential for the state to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach to resolve issues before they ignite into insurgency.

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