

- The military is often the most organized interest group in the country and often dominates or strongly influences the political arena.
- Problems created by modernization and rapid urbanization have decreased confidence in the government.
- Often, the government will not admit that an insurgent threat exists until it reaches dangerous proportions.
- Political and economic interests often restrain and inhibit independent growth of a free enterprise system.

POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT

As a nation changes economically, socially, and politically, the people often expect more. For some individuals and groups, change brings hopes for a better life while for others, it brings fear. Some regard change as too fast; others, too slow. Some feel optimistic, others disillusioned, and still others feel left out entirely. Differences may arise to the point of antagonism over what is needed, how to go about it, and what the government should be doing. Taking care of some of the problems in a developing nation requires a lot of time and resources. Most developing nations can respond only partially to many of these needs. Therefore, nations must have ways within their political system to determine priorities of need and acceptable policies and programs.

Members of a society who willingly participate in conflict against the government are usually those whose expectations have not been met and who believe they will not be met under the existing government. Their attitudes toward conditions, the intensity of their frustrations, and the extent of governmental control mainly determine to what degree they will participate in political violence.

Conditions within a society, regardless of how bad, do not necessarily cause violence. For example, the people of a particular society may be living under conditions that in most countries would be considered very severe and crude. These people who have never experienced better conditions, or who reject change, may have generally favorable attitudes toward existing conditions; therefore, they do not feel deprived or frustrated, nor are they likely to be led to violence because of these conditions.

The key point is that dissatisfied persons are vulnerable. They are more likely than satisfied fellow citizens to join or support an organization committed to a violent overthrow of the government.

Finally, modernization and development involve changes. Changes disrupt the traditional, usual ways of doing things and relating to the world in general. These changes can cause a great deal of stress in a society. A government should try to minimize the violence and destruction which may accompany change.