

The following factors tend to support insurgent operations in urban areas.

- There are a large number of people who are potential participants in insurgent-sponsored activities such as protest demonstrations, riots, and logistical support.
- There are many services, supplies, facilities, and skilled personnel critical to the insurgent, and a system can be easily developed to provide the armed insurgent with necessary logistical support - - food, clothing, ammunition, and weapons.
- There is a large target audience for propaganda.
- There are contact points for foreign support, for international and national press, and for political maneuvering.
- Contacts can be made with potentially friendly foreign powers.
- A degree of safety exists because of the anonymity inherent in a large city.
- Built-up areas can serve as fortifications and convenient escape routes.
- There are sources of antigovernment intelligence.
- The vulnerable systems of communications, transportation, water, electricity, production, and distribution are targets for insurgent activity.
- Police forces cannot cope with insurgent activities.

The following factors tend to hinder insurgent operations in urban areas:

- Urban areas are normally the points of greatest government strength, and the insurgents are surrounded by masses of potential government informants.
- Insurgents are required to operate under the constraints and threats implicit in curfews, checkpoints, and other governmental populace and resources control measures.
- Insurgent terrorism may get out of hand and thereby cease to serve the overall strategy.
- High level insurgent leaders tend to be more vulnerable.
- There is usually a concentration of influential individuals who have a vested interest in maintaining the existing political, economic, and social structures.

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