

RUNNING HEAD: VIETNAM AND INDIAN WARS

“A Comparison between the Insurgencies of Vietnam and the Indian Wars”

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**Abstract**

The resurgence of the different indigenous insurgencies in the South and Southeast Asian region is such a destabilizing development that have been left unchecked and these insurgencies actually have significant implications in whatever is happening not only in Asia but in the whole world today. The global counterterrorism campaign in many countries nowadays should draw attention on two of the biggest and important wars in Asia – the Vietnam War and the Indian War. In this paper, I examine a number of previous researches on Vietnam and Indian Wars and I analyze the constraints of each of them.

“A Comparison between the Insurgencies of Vietnam and the Indian Wars”

*Broad*  
**Board Topic**

Compare and contrast two counterinsurgency campaigns covered in H100 and analyze the root causes of success or failure in each conflict. Your analysis will identify three critical factors that led to success or failure on the battlefield as well as the overall importance of tactical success in achieving strategic goal. In your conclusion, synthesize the insights gained from your analysis that soldiers can apply to the Global War on Terrorism.

**Narrow Topic**

“A Comparison between the Insurgencies of Vietnam and the Indian Wars”

**Thesis**

Wars have always been perceived as destructive, unhealthy, and painful. War has been very common in the past. Even in the present, there have been wars and even terrorism can be related to wars and the roots of war. To further understand this argument, it is very important to look at the different roots, causes, and motivations. It is also imperative that we use some<sup>S/V</sup> example to address the different concerns and things that are related to war.

### Definition of War

How can one detail the effects and consequences of war? Insurmountable or prominent losses compile and the different historians record them. However, the tragedies that cause personal hells may be or may not be easily forgotten. The impact and the effects of war may be really destructive and terrible. Many people suffer from immediate horror, destruction, pain and even death. However, the legacy of any war may boil down to the things that were lost, the things that never were and how the people could go on afterwards. In order to understand what war really is, war must first be defined clearly.

War is any large scale, violent conflict. War grows from the almost universal tribal warfare that has occurred throughout history, to wars between city states, nations, or empires. By extension, the word is now used for any struggle, as in the war on drugs or the war on terror. It was once thought man was the only creature who fought wars, but closer observation of animal life has discovered wars between ant colonies and chimpanzee tribes. A group of combatants and their support is called an army on land, a navy at sea, and air force in the air. Wars may be prosecuted simultaneously in one or more different theatres.

Within each theater, there may be one or more consecutive military campaigns. A military campaign includes not only fighting but also intelligence, troop movements, supplies, propaganda, and other components. Continuous conflict is traditionally called a battle, although this terminology is not always applied to conflicts involving aircraft, missiles or bombs alone, in the absence of ground troops or naval forces. A civil war is the use of force to resolve internal differences (Wikipedia, 2008).

### **Motivations of War**

Motivations for war may be different for those ordering the war than for those undertaking the war. For a country to prosecute a war, it must have the support of its leadership, its military forces, and the population.

#### **Support of the leadership:**

In order to get all or the majority of the population to do extraordinary and difficult things such as war, without any recourse or benefits of high compensation and incentive packages as well as the conditions where the social activities and human rights are circumscribed is the role of the leaders and military. This is a chain reaction. It is not plainly on the battlefield however, in war operations such as nation-building peacekeeping where the soldiers were belittle and attacked and this makes the challenges of the leaders really demanding. How the people will perform will only be determined by the leadership quality shown to them. Like what President Truman mentioned, leadership is all about convincing others to do the things they don't really want to do at the same time like it (Howard Quotes, 2008). According to the doctrine of the military, it is trust, persuasion and assurance of success are the three important things that people look for in a leader and when a leader has this, there would definitely be a motivation of war.

#### **Military Forces**

Any country would not be confident to declare war without strong military forces. This has to be prepared for earlier. Funds and trainings have to be prepared and it is only when the military forces are ready should a country be confident and motivated to start war. Sometimes, there is even a need to seek support from other countries. In many cases, countries seek for the support of USA because the military forces of the US are strong.

## **The Population**

In cases of war, the population has to be very well prepared as the consequences are still uncertain. Also, if there is any consequence of war, it is the population that will be greatly affected. Therefore, when majority of the population is eager and willing to have it, the motivation of war is great. Nevertheless, whenever the population is going to sacrifice, take risk and be involved in the war, they always believe that what they will be doing has a worthwhile and great contribution to the society and of course to the country as a whole. Moreover, people have to be very confident that who they will be serving is fair and just and what they are supposed to do should be for a good cost.

In cases of Vietnam and Indian War, the motivation could either be the support of the leaders as well as the call of the population. These two are enough reasons for the motivation of war.

### **When is War Integral to the Society?**

War has always been perceived as dangerous, unhealthy and destructive to the people, society and for the country but like anything else that happens on or for a purpose, wars are also important and integral to the society. It just depends on the consequence the war will cause and of course, how the government will carry out the good effect and divert the negative effects of war. Below are some of the factors that make war integral to the society.

#### **Political/National Security**

This is perhaps one of the most important issues when the issue about war is raised up. In fact, defining this factor alone raises some arguments and debates. Some people give this factor a conventional interpretation that is related to military while there are some people who give this factor a broader meaning which encompasses things such as human security and environmental

degradation. Why is political and national security a good effect of war? After the war, whichever country wins means they would automatically be secured nationally as well as the leaders who led the war and guided the people during the war would definitely be politically secured.

In cases of Vietnam and Indian War, this was not achieved because of the conflict of interests between the parties involved. Although the name of the leaders as well as the insurgents became known in the world, being politically and nationally secured is not achieved.

### **Economic Security**

One of the main reasons why some countries declare war against another country is to achieve economic security. The economic security will be achieved through certain treaties and agreements. Unfortunately, the result of the Vietnam and Indian War did not give the two countries the economic security since the war revolved within. And since the two countries are third world countries, it is hard to achieve the economic security.

### **Psychological**

Wars have different causes and the effect on the people also varies. In case of Vietnam War, the war was caused by the mishaps between the Southern and Northern part of Vietnam. There was already a psychological effect caused by the division of the country and the war led the people to be psychologically disturbed. After the war, the people of Vietnam could be said to have achieved the psychological peace because they know that the war is over. The same thing goes for the Indian War.

### **Religion**

Religion is also one of the best reasons or one of the most important reasons why a war could erupt. The difference in religion causes division and misunderstanding especially when

there is more than one major religion in the country. This is one of the most common reasons why war and terrorism erupt these days. The war in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and other countries rooted from religious causes.

### **Ideological/Philosophical**

This factor is quite related to religion. Fighting for religion is similar to fighting for ideologies and philosophies. This is also one of the most serious causes of war because this reason could have rooted for a long time already. When the anger and rebellion arise, it could be very hard to stop the rage. When the country started the war and won the war, the ideologies and philosophies seemed to be fought for.

### **Moral**

The morale of the people is boost when the country wins the war. However, wars could also break the morale of the people.

### **The Vietnam War**

The Vietnam War is also called the “Second Indochina War and the Vietnam Conflict”. It took place sometime around 1950’s and August 1975. Its roots can be traced back to the earlier war or the First Indochina War where the US had provided troops and advisors and this led to the division of 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel of Vietnam with the North Vietnam which was then under the communist government control while the South Vietnam which was under the nominally democratic government’s control. The government of the Southern part of Vietnam was under destabilization during that time and the insurgencies started to crop up. It was in 1959 when the North Vietnam authorized its forces to provide assistance to the pro-communist insurgents in South Vietnam. The purpose for this is to reunite Vietnam under the leadership of the communists and they started sending the troops into the South Vietnam. 2 years after the war

started, in 1961, more aid and assistance were promised by the US and the troop levels were also increased.

It was in 1963 when the government of South Vietnam was taken over in a coup-de-etat and this started a long period of uncertainty and political instability. However, in 1964, there were series of attacks to fight the American ships and this was caused by the Congress for the military operations authorization in the country. Despite the situation, the congress did not declare the war officially. What happened then was called the “police action” wherein the American troops provide assistance to the government of South Vietnam to fight the war of attrition and finally in 1968, the government of South Vietnam had become stabilized and certain negotiations to end the war began. In the Vietnam War, around 914,000 soldiers died and there were between 3 million to 6 million civilians died and the death from instabilities which was around 2 million additional victims.

### **The Indian War**

India is known as the union of states and its constitution provides greatly for the parliamentary form of the government which is federal in the structure that comes with specific unitary features. Its constitution distributes the legislative assemblies and apart from its states are the territories that are administered centrally. These are called the Union Territories. Basing it on the federal structure of India, the fighting of the insurgencies is the main responsibility of the state government. This mainly accounts for the inconsistencies and diversity in the approach of India to the counterinsurgency.

However, a broad evolution of the counterinsurgency is also present over the years due to the involvement of the federal or the central government, federal or central police organizations, army, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, as well as the linkage between the

central and provincial politics in the counterinsurgency issued by the state government. India has a long history of democratic governance and this lasted for over 50 years. At the macro level, the country of India was able to handle different insurgencies one of which was when it was under British Empire which happened in 1947. What determines the propensity of insurgencies in India were the level of inaccessibility of a certain area, the strength of the separate social identity of the country's population as well as the amount of the external unifying influence in the country.

### Proposal

Based on the above research, the relationship and comparison between the Vietnam and Indian Wars can be expressed greatly by the following equations:

$$I = C_{xrel}X_{rel} + C_{xlang}X_{lang} + C_{xethn}X_{ethn} + C_{yfor}Y_{for} + C_{yslope}Y_{slope} + C_zZ + I_0$$

$I_0$  is the value of  $I$  when all the other factors on the right-hand side

are 0,

$X_{rel}$  is the *SSI* due to religion.

$X_{lang}$  is the *SSI* due to language.

$X_{ethn}$  is the *SSI* due to ethnicity.

$Y_{for}$  is the average forest coverage of an area.

$Y_{slope}$  is the average slope of the terrain of an area.

$C_{xrel}$ ,  $C_{xlang}$ ,  $C_{xethn}$ ,  $C_{yfor}$ ,  $C_{yslope}$ , and  $C_z$  are the coefficients. (Mitra, 2007)

All the factors contributing to the equations mentioned above all led to the break out of war and by analyzing and accepting the above equations, wars in the future, especially these days when terrorism is at peak in many countries may be prevented and avoided.

SSI = The Strength of Separate Social Identity – It is defined as the concept or sense of separating the major population from the minor population through language, ethnicity, religion as well as other distinct social attributes of the major population as a whole.

I = Propensity for insurgency that stands as a dependent variable. It is the insurgency level that was seen in the past.

Z = The Amount of External Unifying Influence which is defined as the perfect proportion of people that belong to the top leadership of those who belong to the main insurgent groups of those living outside the origin as well as those spending much of their time beyond the affected geographical area.

Because certain data are unavailable, only the dimensions X and Y of the models mentioned above have been verified empirically for the whole countries of Vietnam and India. By comparing the data gathered from the 528 constituencies of India and the division of the North and Southern part of Vietnam, the empirical evidence supports the Z dimension greatly.

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### **Conclusion**

In comparison, the Vietnam War and the Indian War are similar in such a way that both countries were geographically divided – Vietnam, being separated between the North and the South and India being composed of different states. In third world countries such as Vietnam and India, significant policy implications should be well accepted. Included here are the roles of democracy, type and desirability of the economic development, population integration, and the extent of the decentralization of the political power. In countries such as Vietnam and India, war

is not inevitable. In fact, they can be avoided and prevented provided there is unity and consistency in the leadership of those seated in the political position. The war that happened in these two countries can be the subject of discussion when talking about the subject of terrorism happening these days. If the organizations in different countries would really want to counteract the terrorism happening, there is a need to analyze the different wars in the past especially those that happened within the premises of one country.

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