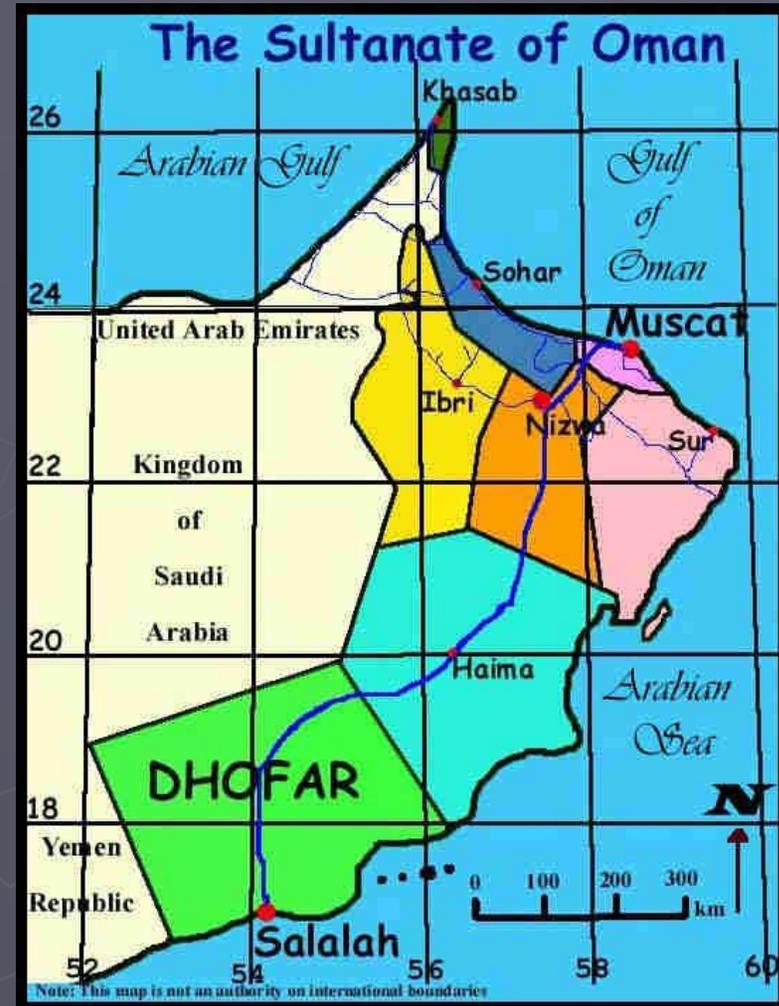


The Oman Insurgency 1962-1976



Overview

- ▶ Terrain of Dhofar
 - Tropical Coast; Desert Interior
- ▶ British supported Sultanate of Oman vs Communist Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO)
- ▶ Rise of Sultan Said bin Taimur



Picture from <http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Lagoon/9370/index.htm>

Overview (cont.)

- ▶ British support of Taimur
- ▶ DLF and the 1st Congress
- ▶ DLF -> PFLOAG and the 2nd Congress
- ▶ Sultan Qaboos and PFLOAG -> PFLO
- ▶ End of Insurgency



Picture from <http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Lagoon/9370/index.htm>

Theory

- ▶ State-Centered Theory
 - State Autonomy
- ▶ Sultan Said bin Taimur
 - Isolated Oman
 - Restricted health care and education
 - Severe restrictions on travel

Strategy Typology

Low Profile
Outside In
Bottom Up

Low Profile

- ▶ Musselim bin Nuffl: Jebalis leader
- ▶ Organizations operated underground until 1965
- ▶ Planning done in mountainous regions
- ▶ Leaders were present, but not introduced until later (external support)
- ▶ Popular support came from the people

Outside In

- ▶ Mountainous region provided security
- ▶ Support for the PFLOAG grew in the small farming towns on the outskirts
- ▶ Began taking control of the peripheral tribes
- ▶ Eventually worked east towards the coast
- ▶ Cut off supplies (Red Line) to the main city in the East

Bottom Up

- ▶ Grass roots approach (plant the seed)
- ▶ Attacks and organization initially on the peripheral
- ▶ Began tightening the noose (isolate the city, cut off avenues of approach, Red Line)
- ▶ Exhaustion of the city (eventually failed-lack of cohesiveness; they were exhausted)

Operational Template: 7 Dynamics of Insurgency

- ▶ Ideology
 - Shifted several times
- ▶ Objectives
 - Different goals: Expulsion of Taimur vs. Spread of Communism
- ▶ Environment & Geography
 - Interior vs. Coast
 - Insurgents Isolation
- ▶ External Support
 - British support of SAF (Sultan's Armed Forces)
 - Communist and Yemen support of PFLOAG

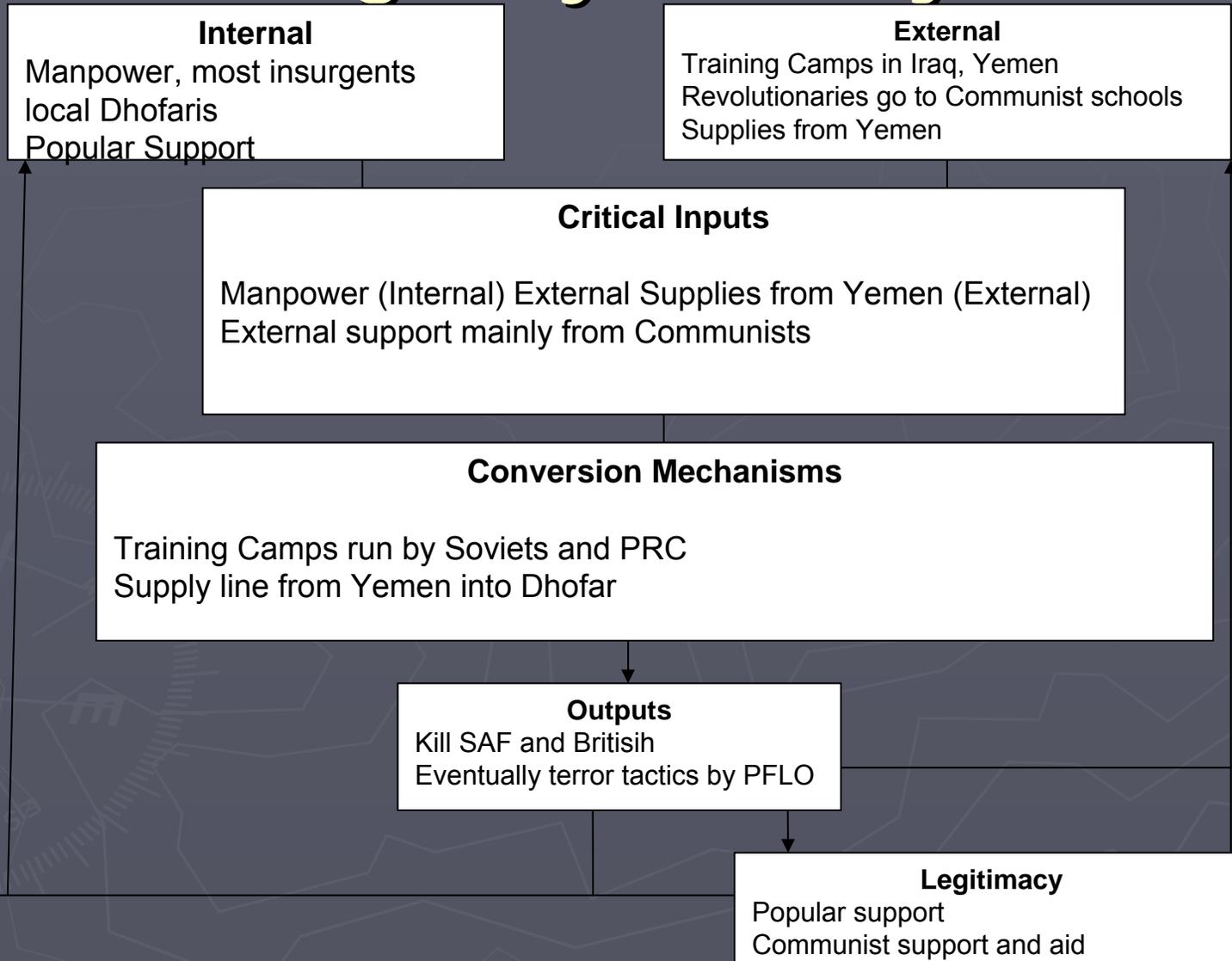
Tactics: BOS

- ▶ Maneuver: “Hit and Run” approach
 - Oil convoys
 - Near assassination of Sultan
 - Exhaustion
 - Moved inward towards city
 - Different goals and beliefs
 - 3 sectors (Western, Central, Eastern) tribal boundaries
 - Terrorist tactics

Mobility/Survivability

- ▶ Knowledge of terrain
- ▶ Very Nomadic due to external support (Yemen, China, Iraq, Palestine)
- ▶ Hit and run = low casualties (element of surprise)
- ▶ Geographical conditions worked to their favor

Insurgency as a System



Documentation

- ▶ "Exploring Dhofar".
<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Lagoon/9370/index.htm>
- ▶ "The Insurgency in Oman."
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/1984/CSA.htm>
- ▶ *Arabia without Sultans* by Fred Halliday (New York: Vintage Books, 1975).
- ▶ *Bunch of Five* by Frank Kitson (London: Faber and Faber, 1977).
- ▶ *Guerrilla Warfare and Ideological Confrontation in the Arabian Peninsula: The Rebellion in Dhufar* by J.E. Peterson, 2001.