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# Sendero Luminoso Insurgency

(The Shining Path)



# Agenda

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- Location
- Background
- Theory (reason)
- Strategies
- Operations
- Tactics
- System
- Questions?

# Location



# Background

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- Started by a former university professor, Abimael Guzman in 1960's
- Maoist Insurgency
- Took up arms in the 1980's
- Estimated 30,000 people have died since violence began
- One of the most ruthless guerilla forces in the western hemisphere

# Theory

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- Structuralist (state centered)
- After Democracy, large disparity between rich and poor
- “Empty promises” on land reform, education, and jobs
- “The SL has sought to eliminate the perpetrators of past error to establish a new order of its own.”

# Strategies

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- Outside in, low profile
- “The Strategy emphasized rural revolution, establishment of liberated zones, and encirclement of cities.”
- Made up of intellectuals (university and high school educations), teachers (university/high school), Mestizos, whites, migrant youth, alienated peasants, rural populations

# Operations

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- Dynamics:
  - Ideology
    - Communist
  - Environment/Geography
    - Rural Andes mountains of Peru (Huancavelica, Ayacucho)
    - Moved along Andes mtns along “spine” of Peru,
  - Objectives
    - “Its stated goal is to destroy existing Peruvian institutions and replace them with a communist peasant revolutionary regime.”
    - “It also opposes any influence by foreign governments”

# Operations Continued

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- Phases:
  - Combat Employment
    - Terror bombings
    - Attacks on locally elected municipal officials
    - Raids on towns, refugees to cities
    - City Police attacked refugees = more SL

# Tactics

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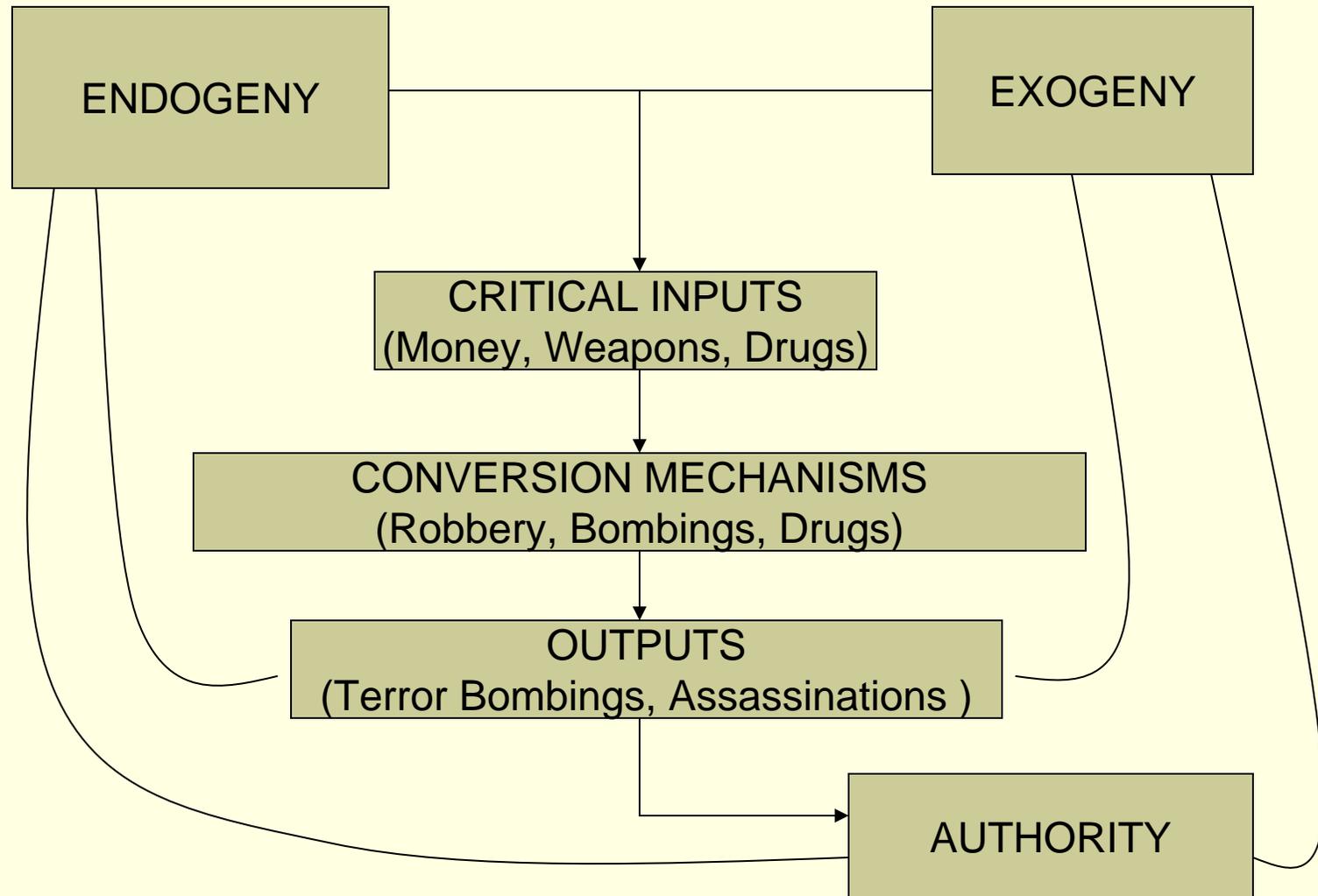
- Survivability
  - Operate in rural areas
  - No Government
- Command and Control
  - Rural, no strong government until 1992 (Guzmon arrested in Lima)
  - Shining Path weakened since then (400-500 armed members, ceasefire)
- Maneuver
  - Use rural areas to move into cities (Lima)
  - Use Andes mtns (no strong government presence) to move along country (covered vast area of rural Peru)
- Intelligence
  - Recruited from schools, educated.
  - Rural area, used locals and their power to gain intelligence

# System

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- Communist Insurgency, started with poor conditions and “corrupt government”
- From '60's – '70's propaganda (cult following)
- '80's violence
- Rural insurgency, isolate cities and infiltrate them
- Terror bombings, assassinations, raids
- Good command and control, intel, maneuver
- Critical Inputs: Money, Weapons, Drugs

# System



# Questions??

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# Sources

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- [http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/sendero\\_luminoso.htm](http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/sendero_luminoso.htm)
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