

Course on

ILLICIT MARKETS AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE AMERICAS



Class

Articulation with the defense system in combating organized crime

Alessandro Visacro



Introduction

In this class, the concept of criminal insurgency will be addressed, in order to demonstrate the incompatibility of the Westphalian conception of security and defense against hybrid threats, originating from high-intensity criminality associated with transnational illicit networks.

The approach adopted is based on the general theory of the State and on the dynamics of organized armed groups, above all, on the **“competitive control theory”**.

It is intended to bring the student to an understanding of the problem in addition to a perspective of public security, *stricto sensu*, inducing a multidimensional systemic approach.



Concepts

Insurgency: the act of rebelling or turning against an established authority or order.

Criminal insurgency: the use of organized armed violence with the aim of controlling illicit activities, seeking economic and territorial autonomy free from State interference.

Integrated multidimensional approach: bringing together all available capabilities in the State and society to address the challenges of criminal insurgency, including both coercive and non-coercive approaches.



Concepts

Territorialization of micro-sovereignty enclaves: non-state armed actors exercise territorial control in segregated areas, imposing their own rules and challenging state sovereignty.

Renegotiation of the social contract: the process in which criminal insurgencies can lead to the erosion of national institutions and the collapse of state governance, requiring a redefinition of the social contract terms.

Criminal governance: an alternative form of governance established by non-state armed actors in micro-sovereignty enclaves, imposing standards of behavior and rules of coexistence.



Institutions

United Nations (UN): seeks a global order based on cooperation and respect for the sovereignty of States.

European Union (EU): discusses European integration as an example of overcoming Westphalian logic and building a regional order.

Organization of American States (OAS): The role of the OAS in promoting multidimensional security in the Americas, addressing issues such as human rights, democracy and development.



Institutions

First Command of the Capital (PCC): Brazilian example of an organization that seeks to control territories and illicit activities.

Comando Vermelho (CV): another Brazilian example of a group that seeks to control territories and illicit activities.

Maras: Street gangs in Central America that exercise territorial control and promote violence in vulnerable communities.



Class Content

The **convergence and hybridization of illicit networks** is a phenomenon that involves collaboration between state and non-state actors in licit, illicit and informal activities. We will explore how this convergence extends the reach, resilience, and complexity of criminal networks and challenges crime-fighting efforts.



Class Content

Criminal insurgency is a contemporary phenomenon, characterized by the use of organized armed violence to control illicit activities. The motivations, tactics and strategies of criminal groups involved in criminal insurgency and implications for security and governance.



Class Content

In this sense, **competitive control theory** is an approach to understanding the power dynamics between state and non-state actors in criminal insurgency. It discusses how criminal organizations compete for control of territories, illicit routes and consumer markets.

In turn, **multidimensional security** goes beyond security traditionally understood as military defense and includes aspects such as human security, socioeconomic development, human rights, governance and the environment. Discusses the importance of comprehensive, integrated approaches to address contemporary security challenges.



Class Content

The concept of **hybrid war** involves combining military, non-military, and unconventional elements to achieve strategic objectives. Criminal insurgency and other actors employ hybrid war tactics and this affects the **contemporary strategic environment**.

In the age of communication and technology, criminal groups and non-state actors use information manipulation, propaganda and narrative war to gain strategic advantage.



Class Summary

- Criminal insurgency in Brazil and Latin America as a complex and multidimensional security problem.
- Criminal insurgency is defined as the use of organized armed violence to control illicit activities, seeking economic and territorial autonomy.
- The convergence and hybridization of illicit networks, the territorialization of micro-sovereignty enclaves and the need to overcome limited approaches and adopt more effective measures to deal with criminal insurgency.
- This form of violence challenges state institutions and can lead to a renegotiation of the social contract.
- The need for an integrated approach that brings together all the capacities of the State and society to face the problem.

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