"The general principles which govern the application of geography in the general areas of military concern, apply to problems of counterinsurgency. However, the technique of geographical analysis of conflicts of interest can be useful here. One part of the problem of counterinsurgency appertains to foreseeing the outbreak of insurgent activities and to estimating the future requirement for counterinsurgency activities. Geographical evaluation can contribute to such foresight, both in the estimate of the most likely form of insurrection and in the estimate of the advantage which might derive from sponsoring revolt in a particular place."


The present analysis is with the intent to probe into the underlying relationship (spatial) of the insurgents movement in Nagaland to the people who speak it as their own in an environmental framework. It also seeks to identify the underlying dynamics of the movement (so called Nationalist expression of the few) that express the dynamics in their distinctive social behaviour and geographical environment. The author has attempted to show the role of geographical factors as one of the many determining factors in all this interactions. Such an approach, to author's knowledge has never been presented before, nor has the name which the author has attached to it. Even the attempted analysis is unusual, lending itself to be elaborated in succeeding chapters.
While many had written on insurgency* and on Nagaland, it has almost invariably have been as an appendage of colonisation (and capitalism), and only a relatively few since independence on such problems. There had been a considerable discussion in respect to origin and development of insurgency in Nagaland with its associated diacritics, varied socio-economic and political problems.

It had evidently occurred to no one (possibly) to understand the role of geographical factors that motivated (impart) the movement. It is of course difficult to overemphasise the role of this factor, when one sees the overall development of the state.

Other factors too have contributed to the author's approach. Among them was the basic dynamics of social and politico-economic aspects, which seems to the author, greatly clarified the effect of insurgency upon the Naga's society. The author had also sought to indicate contrastively the validity of the geographical bases of the study by paralleling it with (to some extent) their ideological bases.

*The words insurgents, extremists, etc. are used interchangeably throughout the present work.
One important and significant challenge was the Nagaland perception and its response to integration with the Indian Republic. As the author feels, their ideology that was essentially tribal in character from the outset proved difficult to adjust or recognise the advantage of the remaining with the Union of India. Their resistance and resultant offensive (insurgency) had struck the author as an example of an ideological bias that required clarification.

It soon became evident to the author that the work had to be planned around

(i) the geographical bases and its relationship, and

(ii) Contrast between socio-economic parameters and their political implications. Inevitably the question of sources, origins and foundations involved in the dynamics of insurgency as well as arising from the above two points began to focus themselves in the study. Out of this national and social forces emerged the concept of process, whose social ramification was founded upon differentiation within the Naga society.

The present analysis is an attempt, then, to construct and establish a relationship between the environmental matrix and insurgency in Nagaland. This is because
there have been efforts in making the problem actually ethnic one which has posed a challenge to India's security environment. Again right from independence there had been an uncanny continuity of events (in the North-east that is continuously testing the Indian Union).

The present attempt also seeks to fill up some of the gaps that exist about the state and the insurgent movement. By providing a spatio-temporal framework of references, the author seeks to clarify but has hitherto been in doubt.

Place: Shillong


Subash Chander