



Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention



ANALYSIS AND PLANNING: Violence in the campaign and on election day



Definition

“...Acts or threats of coercion, intimidation or physical harm perpetrated to affect an electoral process or that arises in the context of electoral competition. When perpetrated to affect an electoral process, violence may be employed to influence the *process* of elections – such as efforts to delay, disrupt, or derail a poll – and to influence the *outcomes*: the determining of winners in competitive races for political office or to secure approval or disapproval of referendum questions.”

UNDP, Timothy Sisk 2009

“Electoral conflict and violence can be defined as any random or organised act or threat to intimidate, physically harm, blackmail or abuse a political stakeholder in seeking to determine, delay, or to otherwise influence an electoral process.”

Jeff Fischer 2002



Violence overwhelming takes place in pre-vote phase. Of 124 cases of elections that saw violence, 117 reported violence in pre-vote phase and 37 reported violence in post vote.

Strauss and Taylor

Election day is the least volatile stage in the three months before and three months after the elections. More violence takes place before (46%) and after (43%). But it is the most violent single day.

Dorin Bekoe, U.S. Institute for Peace



Campaign violence

- Perpetrators?
- Victims?
- Methods, intensity?
- Location?
- Motives?
- Triggers?
- Causes, enabling conditions?
- Effects?



Campaign violence

- Attacks on candidates, supporters or families
- Clashes between rival supporters
- Intimidation of opposition, media
- Bombs or bomb scares on rallies
- Attacks on electoral officials
- Attacks on observers



Election day violence

- Perpetrators?
- Victims?
- Methods?
- Location?
- Motives?
- Triggers?
- Causes, enabling conditions?
- Effects?



Election day violence

- Intimidation of voters to compel them to support one party or candidate, or to keep them away (gender-based?)
- Attacks on electoral officials
- Theft or physical attacks on election materials, eg. Destroyed or snatched ballot boxes
- Attacks by armed rebel groups or insurgents to disrupt polling
- Disruption or fighting during count



Where will violence take place? Constituency-based risk mapping

“Since 2007 the Conservatives have focused activity on the marginal seats that could deliver a victory at the next election, though both spacially-concentrated centrally-directed activities (voter surveys and telephone canvassing) and grants to constituency party offices to fund local campaigns. While voters there are subjected to such intensive activity seeking their support, voters elsewhere, where it is unlikely that their constituency would change hands, are being relatively ignored.”

British Academy: Choosing an Electoral System



Where will violence take place? Constituency-based risk mapping

“Those states especially susceptible to election-related violence around governorship elections are those with vulnerable governors, strong challengers who expect to win, personal rivalries between candidates or their backers; politicians who have broken with their sponsors or exploit social cleavages; or that lack respected peacemakers.”


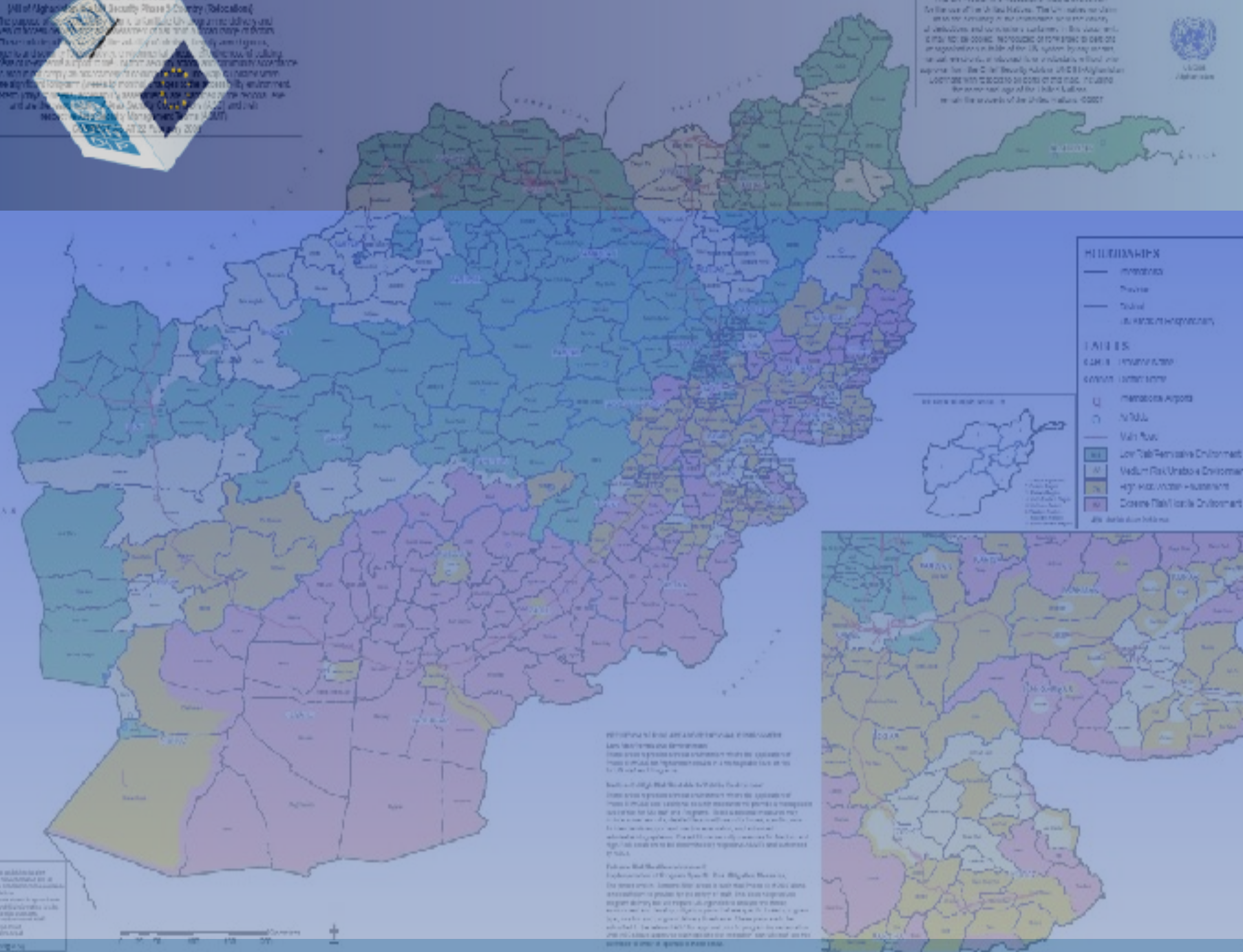
Crisis Group ahead of Nigeria 2011

UNEP/WHO/WHO/Country Offices

The purpose of this map is to provide information on the location of the UNEP/WHO/WHO/Country Offices in Afghanistan. The map shows the location of the offices in the different provinces of Afghanistan. The map is intended for use by the public and the media. The map is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The map is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

Disclaimer

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MULTI-RISKS

- International
- National
- Sub-national

FAKES

- International
- National
- Sub-national

LEGEND

- International Airport
- NATL
- High Risk
- Low Risk
- Medium Risk
- High Risk
- Extreme Risk

INTRODUCTION

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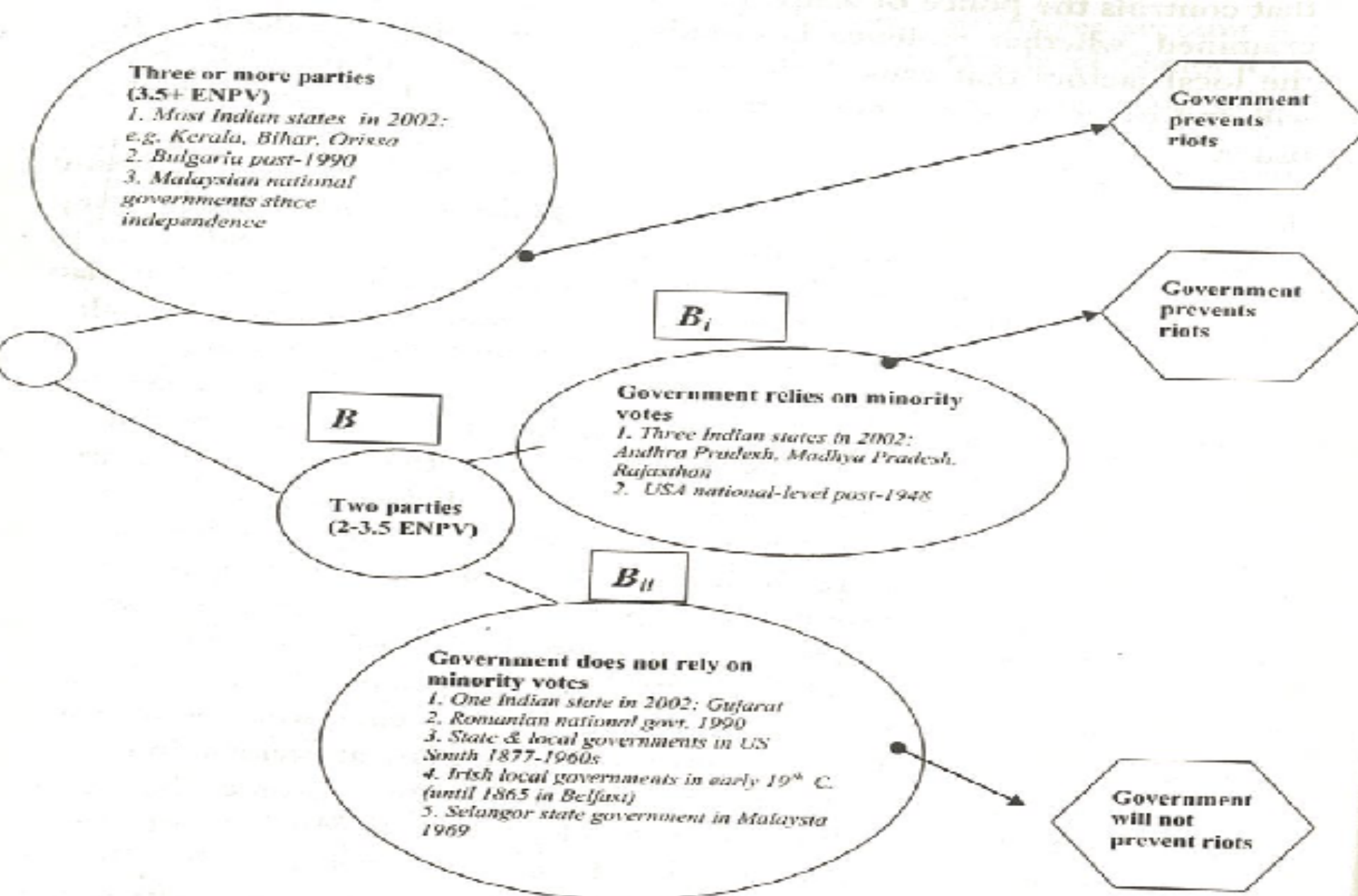


Figure 1.1 The relationship between party competition and a state's response to anti-minority polarization and violence: Indian and non-Indian examples (ENPV = effective number of parties)



Where will violence take place? Constituency-based risk mapping

Contextual_

History of violence
Societal divides – ethnic, sectarian
High unemployment
Inequality
Marginalised groups
Weak rule of law
Insurgents, rebels
Land disputes
Resource rivalries
Availability of weapons - DDR
Opportunities for patronage

Candidates

Financial backers
History of violence
Supporters?
Access to suppliers of violence - DDR
Fraud?

Campaigning

Bridging or bonding
Appeals to identity
Use of violence
Mobilising armed groups

Competition

Stakes, spoils
Tight race
Expectations
Close vote margins
Incumbent faces serious challenge

Regulators

Local authorities – EMB, judicial, security, govt
Traditional peace makers
Registration problems