

Modeling Insurgencies

Moshe Kress

Operations Research Dept., Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, USA

Most recent military conflicts (e.g., Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria) differ from traditional force-on-force engagements, taking the form of an asymmetrical counterinsurgency situation, where the civilian population plays a major active role. Legacy warfare and combat models (e.g., Lanchester models) do not capture this “social” aspect of military conflicts and therefore must be modified. In this talk I will review our recent papers on this topic, in which we applied dynamic and rational choice models to highlight certain aspects of the conflict and investigate possible outcomes of the insurgency.