



## **Rise of Maoism in Nepal: Causes and Consequences**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** The growth of Maoism in Nepal is a notable event in Nepal's socio-political history. It can be attributed to structural inequality, political instability, and ideologization. While there exists abundant literature in regard to the subject matter under consideration, previous studies appear to be limited by their narrow focus on the aspects of politics, economics, and social sciences.

**Methods:** In this paper, the researcher adopted an empirical and conceptual research design relying exclusively on secondary data. A comprehensive literature review of peer-reviewed books, journal articles, and reliable reports was undertaken using theories of political sociology, Marxism, conflicts, and post-conflict development.

**Results:** It has been demonstrated that the Maoist rebellion in Nepal was driven by socio-economic inequality, landlessness, unemployment, and social marginalization combined with political instability and poor governance. Meanwhile, ideology operated as a unifying and justificatory factor. As for the social and economic impact of the rebellion, they entailed mass displacement, mental problems among citizens, destruction of infrastructural facilities, and interference with development initiatives. In turn, the post-conflict period brought substantial political change, which comprised the abdication of the monarchy and formation of the federal democratic republic as well as inclusion of marginalized population groups.

**Conclusion:** Maoism in Nepal demonstrates the intricate relationship between the structural, political, and ideological determinants that influence insurgencies. Peace and development can only be achieved through the application of a holistic approach that not only tackles immediate concerns but also structural inequalities, focusing on good governance and resource management.

**Originality:** This research provides an innovative contribution to the field with its unique methodology of incorporating social, economic, political, and ideological perspectives to give



a thorough analysis of the reasons, outcomes, and post-insurgency evolution of Maoism in Nepal, which is hardly ever done in one study explicitly.

**Keywords:** Maoism, Nepal, insurgency, socio-economic inequality, political transition

## **1. Introduction**

The emergence of Maoism in Nepal is one of the most revolutionary and disruptive stages in the political history of the country. As a phenomenon that gained traction in the mid-1990s, the Nepalese version of Maoism has been grounded in a radical reinterpretation of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy in the context of Nepal's distinct socio-political environment. In just ten years since the initiation of their insurgency, the Communists of Nepal-Maoist have managed to gain control over large territories (Lawoti, 2010, p. 3). Initiated in 1996 as a campaign of violence referred to as "People's War," the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) sought to bring about the end of the monarchy and feudal order and establish a people's republic in the country. Exploring the background against which the Maoist movement emerged would require examining several factors, such as the structural inequalities and historical marginalization of Nepal, among others.

One of the main reasons behind the emergence of Maoism is the long-standing issue of socio-economic inequality that had plagued Nepalese society for many years. The concentration of land ownership was one of the leading causes, with much of the rural populace being without land or living in exploitative tenancy arrangements. Several third-world governments have seen land reform as an important tool in increasing agriculture productivity and improving the lives of poor people residing in their rural areas (Moene, 1992, p. 52). Poverty, illiteracy, and absence of basic services like health care and education have particularly affected the inhabitants of distant areas. Furthermore, the issues of poverty and deprivation of rights are linked with other problems such as the strict caste system and discrimination against ethnic and linguistic minorities. Nepal is a nation composed of various social groups. There exist notable horizontal and vertical inequalities among these groups who have waged wars against cultural, political, economic and social discrimination (Gurung, 2022, p. 10).

The role of political instability and governance failure in the Maoist uprising cannot be underestimated as well. Political instability and frequent changes of the government left little time for the ruling political party to address problems related to the economic development and improvement of living standards of the population (Pattanaik, 2002, p. 118). After the establishment of the democratic government after the end of the 1990s, there were frequent changes of government, ineffective coalition politics, and high levels of corruption. Governance and democracy have much in common as the two notions significantly affect the functioning of society and living conditions of its members (Dahal & KC, 2024, p. 204). Lack of proper reforms and efficient management caused disillusionment among Nepalese citizens. Furthermore, the state had poor presence in rural regions where the central government failed



to exercise control. As a result, Maoists created their own parallel governance structures promising better governance than the central government.

However, the effects of Maoist movement had been very wide-ranging impacting almost all facets of the Nepalese society. To start off, Maoists engaged in looting Agriculture Development Bank, Police Stations and even governmental treasuries. Maoists also resorted to killing and abduction of Nepali Congress leaders and workers. They also arranged strikes very often (Upreti, 2006, p. 44). During this 10-year period of conflict, more than 13,000 people lost their lives. There was large scale destruction, massive displacements, and serious disruptions. Physical infrastructures and development work was destroyed; investments went down. Ten years of Maoists' People's War have serious conservation impacts in Nepal. The physical facilities, occupation of protected sites and forests, intimidation, and killings of the officials from Maoists have seriously disrupted the conservation sector (Heinen et. al., 2005, p. 8). However, the conflict also highlighted several other important issues such as inequalities, inclusiveness, and restructuring of the state. With Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2006, formally concluded the insurgency phase. The peace process led to the elimination of monarchy in Nepal and Nepal became a federal democratic republic.

The long-term impact of the spread of Maoism in Nepal is mixed, as it has produced both positive and negative outcomes. In terms of positive impacts, Maoism contributed significantly to the initiation of change in politics, such as an increase in the presence of marginalized communities in the political system and the transformation of the Nepalese state into a federal one. However, there have been several problems in the transition from instability and conflict to peace in the country, such as political division, delayed reforms, and justice concerns.

## **2. Methodology**

In this research, both conceptual and descriptive designs will be used, which will use only secondary sources of information. No empirical data will be gathered using techniques such as interviews or surveys. The analysis will be based on an interpretation of information available in the literature concerning the rise of Maoism in Nepal. This is appropriate since it concerns processes of a political and socio-economic nature.

### ***Use of Secondary Sources***

The research draws its data exclusively from secondary sources such as scholarly journals, books, government documents, and papers by international institutions. This type of data provides both evidence and theory regarding the reasons for, and effects of, the Maoist movement. Utilizing a variety of secondary sources ensures that the understanding of the subject matter remains thorough and balanced.

### ***Selection Criteria***

In order to ensure academic integrity and validity, certain selection criteria were employed for choosing the sources:

- **Relevance:** The sources should be relevant to Maoism in Nepal and topics like political unrest, economic disparity, and conflict.



- **Credibility:** Priority is given to scholarly sources, well-known publishers, and reputable institutions.
- **Authoritativeness:** Contributions from renowned scholars, researchers, and organizations are favored.
- **Impartiality:** Sources that offer an unbiased perspective are preferred.
- **Recency and historical relevance:** Both contemporary research and historically important material are selected based on relevance.
- **Sources without appropriate referencing,** those that are old but not historically significant, and those that are unreliable were not considered.

### ***Time Period***

This research is conducted within the timeframe from the early 1990s to post-2006. The early 1990s represent the return of multi-party democracy to Nepal, establishing the political background that contributed to the eruption of Maoist insurgency in 1996. The primary emphasis is made on the conflict period (1996-2006) with the subsequent post-conflict phase and processes, such as the peace process and political transition following the Comprehensive Peace Accord.

### ***Analytical Framework***

The thematic and comparative analysis approach is employed for analyzing the findings. Relevant topics like socio-economic disparity, governance breakdown, political instability, and conflict resolution are some of the important themes that are examined from various sources. A comparative analysis of different views held by academics is conducted in order to uncover their points of agreement and disagreement. Moreover, conflict theory and political economy concepts will be employed as well.

### ***Nature of the Study***

In this case, the study is clearly positioned as both a conceptual and descriptive one. While its main objective is not to provide any new empirical information but to analyze and interpret the current body of knowledge, the emphasis will be placed on creating a coherent theoretical framework of Maoist emergence in Nepal.

### ***Limitations***

Since the paper makes use of secondary data only, the limitation includes the availability of information as well as its reliability since the material used has already been evaluated and analyzed by other people. Moreover, no first-hand observation was conducted during the course of the study.

## **3. Literature Review**

There is an abundant volume of literature dealing with the emergence of Maoism in Nepal. This literature spans several disciplines such as political science, sociology, history, and development studies. The Maoist insurgency in Nepal (1996-2006) can be analyzed in terms of two aspects. Firstly, it can be viewed as an outcome of longstanding structural imbalances; and secondly, it can be seen as a reaction to the contemporary political crises. Literature on this topic is usually divided into early works that are descriptive and later works that provide more



analytical insights. It is common knowledge that Maoist activism should not be considered in isolation.

One of the factors that have been extensively studied as the primary cause behind Maoist unrest is socio-economic inequalities. The presence of endemic poverty, uneven distribution of wealth and development, political or socio-economic disparities and misgovernance at the national level, according to research, are some of the major causes behind the emergence of armed violence in Nepal (Ali & Saleem, 2009, p. 2). Scholars opine that social unrest was the result of unequal land distribution and deprivation of basic services that led to poverty in the region. Development failure, coupled with corruption and short-sightedness of government officials, has created conducive conditions for civil war in Nepal (Sharma K. , 2006, p. 1247). Studies suggest that the rural population in the country faced negligence on part of the government authorities. This neglect was not only economic but social too, with caste and ethnicity being some of the reasons for exclusion of people from participating in the development process. They find themselves in a position where they have limited access to education or any profession due to their economic instability. The Dalit sub-groups include Kamis, Damais, Sarkis, and Badis (Bohara, 2025, p. 116). It is always noted that the Maoists have been able to gain popularity among the people by making use of such complaints.

Political instability and poor governance have also been identified as contributing factors in the emergence of Maoism. After democracy was restored in the early 1990s, Nepal witnessed many changes in governments, weak structures, and high levels of corruption. Many researchers suggest that the inability of political elites to implement effective reforms created a lack of confidence among the citizens regarding the democratic process. Nepal is still experiencing problems associated with governance, including unkept promises, poor leadership, lack of transparency, and widespread corruption. All of these problems have contributed to the loss of public confidence (Phuyel & Paudel, 2025, p. 103). Additionally, the Nepalese government was not able to establish its authority in the countryside, thus providing an opportunity for Maoists to create their own alternative governance system.

The literature is also concerned with the ideological basis of the Maoist movement, which can be traced back to the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist ideology. With the proposal of a “science of ideas,” de Tracey aimed to provide a scientific approach to decide on which aspects of tradition should be maintained and which among the plethora of ideas emerging during the Enlightenment period should be incorporated (Mahoney, 2009, p. 136). It has been observed that the Maoists in Nepal applied classical revolutionary ideology by adapting to their context through the application of the principles of agrarian revolution and protracted peoples’ war. The rebels usually have and utilize political fronts, stage strikes and rallies, and negotiate with other players, such as political groupings or parties or even the opposition (Kerttunen, 2011, p. 79). There are some studies that highlight the strategic use of ideology to unite different groups with a common purpose, while there are some studies that debate whether ideological commitment or pragmatism motivated the movement.



Along with the causes of the insurgency, another major area covered by numerous studies involves the impact of the struggle on human beings and the economy. Indeed, many publications reveal the significant human cost of the violence, the population displacements, and the extensive violation of human rights perpetrated by both sides in the conflict. It is well established that violent conflict leads to the displacement of millions of people. Not only does such a massive wave of refugees constitute a logistics nightmare and a humanitarian disaster but also it poses threats to international security and places the lives of refugees, aid agencies, and peacekeeping forces at risk (Lischer, 2007, p. 142). On the economic side, many researchers have drawn attention to the disruption of developmental efforts, the destruction of infrastructural projects, and the reduction of investments. In contrast, other authors have emphasized the positive impact of the insurgency in terms of highlighting certain neglected issues, such as inequality, inclusion, and state restructuring, which have had an important bearing on the national agenda.

Post-conflict issues are another key theme within the academic literature that analyzes what has happened after the peace process and what is the legacy left behind by the Maoists' insurgency. One of the central aspects is the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2006 that became a milestone in ending violence and beginning political transformation (Ganesh et al., 2015, p. 4). Democracy did not create those inequalities; it just gave the voiceless people the opportunity to articulate their concerns about achieving equity (Sharma R. K., 2009, p. 2). The end of armed conflict was followed by abolishing the monarchy and creating a new constitution, making a federal state structure out of Nepal. The abolishment of the institution of monarchy on May 28, 2008 is a watershed event in the political and constitutional history of Nepal (Bhandari, 2013). Yet, at the same time, there have been numerous issues including political instability, problems related to transitional justice, and difficulties with integrating the fighters who were once active during the insurgency.

In summary, the literature about Maoism in Nepal gives a multidimensional perspective about this phenomenon. The scholars share consensus on factors like inequality and bad governance, but they do not concur on the roles played by factors like ideology, agency, and outside influences. While some see the phenomenon as a spontaneous movement based on local interests, others see it as an organized one based on the capability of the Maoists to effectively mobilize their forces. Despite the disagreements in opinion, the literature provides insight into the complexities associated with this movement.

## **4. Results and Discussion**

### ***Overview***

The analysis of secondary literature shows that the emergence of Maoism in Nepal was a result of an intricate combination of many structural, socio-economic, and political reasons. In particular, the emergence of Maoism was influenced by socio-economic inequalities, political instability, and the inefficacy of a centralized state. However, these factors did not occur in isolation but worked together, contributing to the creation of a context characterized by discontent and alienation, especially among rural people. Following the reestablishment of



democracy in the 1990s, the expectations were high; however, the failure of the government to live up to those expectations gave way to frustration. The 2015 Constitution declared Nepal a secular and inclusive republic, where parliament chooses the executive power. Nevertheless, the situation on the ground is characterized by frequent changeovers of the leadership of the Nepali government, which has resulted in ineffective governance and corruption (Magar, 2025, p. 148).

Inequalities associated with rural underdevelopment in geographically distant and economically neglected areas are among the most important findings in the literature. Indeed, lack of infrastructure, such as roads, schools, hospitals, and communication channels in these areas, contributed both to the underdevelopment and social marginalization of the people living there. As the presence of the state was often negligible, individuals did not feel represented within society and lacked opportunities to interact with the government. Such circumstances contributed to the expansion of Maoist influence, which capitalized on the void left by the state to represent marginalized groups. Therefore, while establishing control over rural areas was certainly an achievement for the Maoists, it cannot be considered an incidental result since it was facilitated by underlying structural factors. In summary, the findings indicate that understanding the emergence of Maoism in Nepal requires taking into account its complex nature and the existence of multiple causes that led to the development of the movement.

#### ***Socio-Economic Drivers of the Insurgency***

One such outcome of the study is the realization that socio-economic inequality and disparity is one of the most fundamental drivers of the Maoist rebellion in Nepal. Unequal land ownership, poverty, joblessness, and marginalization within Nepalese society are cited by much of the literature as important elements of the problem, since these have contributed to the emergence of an unjust world that is felt acutely by those who belong to marginalized groups. Policies should be aimed at making education, skills training, employment opportunities, and social protection programs available equitably to all members of society (Aryal, 2025, p. 21). In rural Nepal, land ownership was very skewed toward an elite group, meaning that most people either had no land ownership rights or were in tenancy arrangements that were oppressive and exploitative. Land inequality thus became an economic constraint to upward mobility, as well as an indicator of longstanding inequality and marginalization of some sectors of Nepalese society.

Apart from economic impoverishment, social discrimination on grounds of caste, ethnicity, and gender became another important cause of unrest. People belonging to lower castes, indigenous tribes, and women constituted major sections that were discriminated against in terms of education, resources, and politics. All this resulted in the formation of a highly stratified and unequal society in which many felt left out in terms of reaping developmental and governance gains. The Maoists exploited this feeling of deprivation by addressing the concerns of the poor and oppressed, and by advancing the agenda of land reforms, equality, and justice. They were highly effective in highlighting the plight of the deprived people and making a case for the need to dismantle feudalism to achieve a society in which there was greater equality. In addition to the above, extremely high levels of unemployment among young



rural people contributed significantly to the rise of the movement, as it offered a viable escape route to the disaffected.

**Table 1**

*Key Socio-Economic Drivers of the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal and Their Impact on Mobilization and Support*

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Impact on Insurgency</b>
Land Inequality	Concentration of Land among Elites	Increased Rural Dissatisfactions
Poverty	High Levels of Income Deprivation	Facilitated Recruitment into Maoist Ranks
Unemployment	Lack of Job Opportunities in Rural Areas	Encouraged Youth Participation
Social Exclusion	Caste and Ethnic Discrimination	Strengthened Support for Rebellion
Lack of Basic Services	Poor Access to Education and Healthcare	Reduced Trust in Government

***Political Instability and Governance Failure***

Political instability became one of the major issues that contributed to the emergence of Maoist politics in Nepal. After the introduction of the multiparty democratic order in 1990, Nepal went through the phase of frequent changeovers in the government, weak coalitions and intense political rivalries. Different administrations were unable to achieve policy consistency, carry out any reforms, or take care of the basic interests of underrepresented communities. The corruption and inefficiency in bureaucracies further weakened people's trust in institutions and created a feeling of disillusionment among them. Institutions are 'combined bodies of rules, role relationships, and human beings producing activities and behavior', and individuals may find reasons to believe or not to trust institutions depending on their perception of such organizations (Steiner et al., 2011, p. 418). Under such circumstances, the legitimacy of the political regime decreased significantly; consequently, many Nepalese citizens felt frustrated with the democratic order and believed that the state could not represent them adequately.

The inadequacies in governance structures and limited presence of the state in rural areas further complicated these political issues. In remote rural areas, people were seldom engaged with any form of governmental representatives, resulting in the lack of basic governance and development initiatives. The Maoists exploited this gap by creating their own system of governance through local councils and dispute resolution mechanisms, along with basic service delivery networks. Through these means, they managed to offer a semblance of order, representation, and even basic social services. This helped establish themselves as a legitimate alternative to governmental institutions. Such an approach helped enhance their credibility among underprivileged segments of society while expanding their territorial reach. On the whole, the review shows that political unrest, governance breakdowns, and the lack of state presence served as significant catalysts for the Maoist movement.



**Table 2**

*Political Instability and Governance Failures Contributing to the Rise of Maoism in Nepal*

<b>Political Factor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Government Instability	Frequent Changes	Leadership Weak Governance
Corruption	Issue of Public Resources	Loss of Public Trust
Weak Institutions	Ineffective Administration	Reduced State Authority
Rural Neglect	Limited Governance Presence	Maoist Territorial Expansion
Policy Failure	Poor Implementation of Reforms	Increased Dissatisfaction

***Role of Ideology in the Movement***

Although socio-economic and political considerations were the main factors that led to the Maoist rebellion, ideology has been another important but secondary factor shaping the movement. Indeed, the rebels followed many aspects of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist ideology, modifying this tradition according to the specifics of the Nepali socio-economic reality. The combination of these two has resulted in both revolutionary upsurges and prolonged periods of ideological division, schisms, and ideologically diluted movements (Puri, 2025, p. 128). Specifically, the Maoists have paid special attention to agrarian revolution, anti-feudal struggles, and distribution of land and other scarce resources among disenfranchised members of society. Thus, the movement's ideological basis enabled the rebels to formulate their position within an ideological framework and provided them with a rationale for what they were doing in terms of philosophy and politics.

On the other hand, however, literature suggests that most of the Maoist supporters had been more influenced by socio-economic problems rather than ideology. For instance, some people supported the Maoists simply because of landlessness and poverty. Moreover, there were certain groups which faced social exclusion and, therefore, became sympathetic towards the Maoist ideology because it provided them with some kind of recognition. As a result, ideology played an important role in helping them unify and legitimize themselves within the movement framework. It is evident from the above discussion that the use of ideology not only enabled the Maoists to mobilize their followers but also legitimized their cause to a great extent.

***Social and Economic Consequences of the Conflict***

The Maoist rebellion in Nepal was a major event with far-reaching socio-economic implications on the individuals, families, and communities in the country. The conflict led to the death of many people, including civilians, members of the security forces, and those involved in the conflict. The conflict also led to the displacement of many people, especially from rural areas where the conflict took place. Communities were displaced from their homes and traditional ways of life, leading to a breakdown of social cohesion and organization. The emotional trauma caused by violence, insecurity, and displacement left deep psychological scars on the affected communities. The young and female population in the affected areas were



vulnerable not only to violence and physical harm but also lacked educational opportunities and access to essential services. However, these courageous women make the decision to ask for assistance, and thus, at the minimum, what the South Asian community can do is rally behind the women instead of criticizing or mocking the victims of the violence (Bista et. al., 2022, p. 91).

On the economic front, the effects of the insurgency were devastating, with disruptions occurring not only to the lives of people but also the development process of the country. Infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, and medical facilities often fell prey to destruction or disrepair, thereby hampering transportation, communication, and provision of basic necessities. Farming activities, which were the lifeblood of Nepal’s economy, suffered immensely as farmers experienced land insecurity and were thus unable to farm, resulting in food insecurity and loss of income. Additionally, the capital market is important for allocating resources, providing funds for investments, and facilitating risk management, all of which are essential ingredients for economic development (Phaju, 2024, p. 40). Notwithstanding the harmful effects of the insurgency, the conflict inadvertently drew attention to issues of inequalities, exclusion, and weak governance. This is because, despite efforts towards achieving socio-economic development, the Nepalese government had ignored these critical problems for years; therefore, the insurgency was instrumental in forcing the government and citizens alike to reflect on existing structural issues and initiate reforms.

**Table 3**

*Social, Economic, Political, and Developmental Consequences of the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Short Term Effects</b>	<b>Long Term Effects</b>
Social	Loss of Life, Displacement	Greater Awareness of Inclusion and Rights
Economic	Decline in Investment, Infrastructure	Slow Recovery and Challenges
Political	Instability, Distrust in Government	Shift to Federal Democratic System
Institutional	Weakening of Governance Structures	Gradual Institutional Reforms
Developmental	Disruption of Projects	Renewed Focus on Equitable Development

***Political Transformation and Peace Process***

The post-conflict era in Nepal marked an important stage in the country's politics since the ten-year-long conflict that was fueled by the Maoists shifted to a peace process intended to ensure the end of violence and establishment of long-term political stability. Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006 marked an important milestone in this process by putting an end to violence and integrating the Maoists into political institutions. These developments have opened up new paths in institutional and constitutional reforms, which



included the termination of the monarchy, making Nepal a federal democratic republic, and reconfiguration of the state that would lead to a decentralization of power. It is more meaningful to emphasize reforms and other activities related to the implementation of the peace process, the development of institutions, and promotion of accountability rather than dismissing the parliamentary system in such a multi-party, socially heterogeneous, and transitional democracy as Nepal (Magar, 2025, p. 80). Through formal inclusion of ex-combatants in governance, peace processes seek to transform movements rooted in violence into a political institution that can participate in the formation of policies.

There were other repercussions of the political changes in Nepal that were related to inclusivity in the politics of Nepal. One such repercussion was that there were greater chances for marginalized people, such as women, lower castes, and ethnic minorities, to engage in political processes; one of the main concerns of the Maoist revolution was greater inclusivity in the political process. On the other hand, the change was faced with many obstacles during the initial phase. Some of these obstacles included the integration of former fighters, delays in drafting a constitution, and political instability.

#### ***Persistence of Structural Challenges***

However, despite the end of the Maoist conflict and the subsequent emergence of a federal democratic republic in Nepal, many structural factors that gave rise to this movement still remain. The socio-economic inequalities prevalent in Nepal, characterized by imbalances in land distribution, income and resource availability, continue to be experienced across the country, mostly affecting the disadvantaged sectors of Nepalese society. Similarly, high rates of unemployment, along with the exclusion of certain groups from mainstream society based on various factors such as caste, ethnicity and gender, can make the achievement of upward social mobility and integration into the development process of the country even more difficult. In other words, if abilities were distributed equally in society while the opportunities for their implementation were less so, then a society would be better suited to mobilizing and employing these talents (Tiwari et. al., 2016, p. 2). Allowing all members of society to play a role in the development process.

Poor governance and inefficiency of institutions remain major hurdles in achieving stability for Nepal over time. While there have been many political changes and decentralizations introduced in the country, most of these have been ineffective because of policy delay, inadequate resources, and political fragmentation. The local governing bodies introduced to promote the welfare of the people and bring improvements in service delivery have not been able to perform due to poor capacities and inefficiency, failing to make any difference in decreasing inequality in Nepal. According to researchers, unless there are efforts made continuously and consistently to overcome these barriers to success, there is a possibility of facing repeated instances of instability or the emergence of social and political movements.

#### ***Integrated Interpretation of Results***

An examination of the Maoist insurgency in Nepal reveals that the uprising cannot be attributed to one cause, but is a result of several factors that have worked together. Inequality, poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion were some of the conditions that gave rise to the



Maoist insurgency, which was exacerbated by poor governance, political instability, and the absence of a state presence in rural regions. The role of ideology, which involved adopting Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theories, was significant since it helped frame the struggle in a unified manner and provide legitimacy. Although the primary motivations of the people behind the insurgency were personal reasons, ideology served as an enabling factor in the movement.

Additionally, it should be noted that tackling the threats posed by insurgencies such as Maoism calls for an integrative approach. The creation of inclusive governance, the establishment of strong and well-performing institutions, as well as socio-economic development, becomes important not only to prevent conflicts from arising but also to ensure their sustainability after resolution. It is vital to tackle structural inequalities, poor service provision, and political marginalization to address frustrations within society and foster faith in the state. Finally, it is crucial to focus on long-term reforms aimed at fostering sustainable growth and development to ensure that peace processes yield positive outcomes. Overall, the rise of Maoism in Nepal underscores the need for integrative approaches toward addressing both proximate and root causes of conflict.

#### ***Implications and Future Research Directions***

The results of this study have significant implications for policy and practice in the context of post-conflict Nepal, as well as other settings with comparable dynamics. Firstly, the fact that socio-economic disparity, inadequate governance, and exclusion remain significant barriers to development requires the implementation of specific programs to ensure that marginal groups benefit from developmental initiatives. In this respect, it is necessary to address the factors that contribute to people's dissatisfaction by developing policies related to land reform, employment opportunities, education, and access to health care services. Another key aspect involves reinforcing governmental institutions and fostering inclusivity in politics and decision-making processes to restore citizens' trust in the system.

There is much room for additional research to advance the knowledge base regarding the topic of Maoism and development in the post-conflict period in Nepal. First of all, empirical research aimed at assessing the impact of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and reorganization of the state apparatus could be beneficial as it would give insight into achievements as well as problems with the implementation of the peace agreement. Comparisons could be made between Nepal and other examples of post-insurgency societies in South Asia. The relationship between ideologies, grassroots movements, and socio-economic conditions in developing countries facing insurgency could also become an object of interest for further analysis. Finally, the voices of young people and women who experienced the conflict should be heard.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Maoist uprising in Nepal resulted from the dynamics between socio-economic inequity, political unrest, poor governance, and ideology that made the environment conducive for an armed rebellion. Some of the impacts of the conflict on the society, economy, and politics included loss of lives, property, displacement, economic infrastructure damage, among others. Nevertheless, while the end of the conflict, the ensuing peace process, and inclusion of



marginalized communities was a step in the right direction, the existing structural problems like high levels of poverty and unemployment remained potential sources of conflict in the country. In conclusion, the Nepalese case is a demonstration of the need for integrated approaches to solving conflict, where both the immediate causes and underlying problems must be addressed for sustainable peace.

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