**Paramilitary**: existing alongside the military services and professedly nonmilitary but formed on an underlying military pattern as a potential auxiliary or diversionary military organization

Associated with . . .

**Counterinsurgency**: organized activity designed to combat insurgency

**Guerilla**: one who carries on or assists in an irregular war or engages in irregular warfare in connection with a regular war; a member of an independent band engaged in predatory excursions in wartime

Associated with . . .

**Insurgent**: a person who rises in revolt against civil authority or an established government; a rebel

**Organized crime:** a [transnational](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnational) grouping of highly centralized enterprises run by [criminals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime) for the purpose of engaging in illegal activity, most commonly for the purpose of generating a [monetary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Money) [profit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Profit_(economics)).

**Partisan violence:** struggles between formal political parties to dominate the state. Partisan politics are generally characterized as fervent, sometimes militant support of a party, cause, faction, person, or idea that might accompany violence.

**Military coups:** the sudden unconstitutional deposition of a [legitimate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legitimacy_(political)) [government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government), usually by a small group of the existing state establishment—typically the [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military)—to replace the deposed government with another, either civil or military.

**Civil war:** A civil war is a [war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War) between organized groups within a single nation state[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war#cite_note-fearon-0), or, less commonly, between two nations created from a formerly-united nation state[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war#cite_note-EH-1). The aim of one side may be to take control of the nation or a region, to achieve independence for a region, or to change government policies[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war#cite_note-fearon-0). It is high-intensity conflict, often involving [regular armed forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular_Army), that is sustained, organized and large-scale. Civil wars result in large numbers of [casualties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_(person)) and the consumption of large resources. The common scholarly definition has two main criteria. The first says that the warring groups must be from the same country and fighting for control of the political center, control over a separatist state or to force a major change in policy. The second says that at least 1,000 people must have been killed in total, with at least 100 from each side.

In the 1990s, about twenty civil wars were occurring concurrently during an average year, a rate about ten times the historical average since the 19th century. However, the rate of new civil wars had not increased appreciably; the drastic rise in the number of ongoing wars after [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) was a result of the tripling of the average duration of civil wars to over four years

**Civilian deaths**: death of the unarmed, including women, children and the elkderly.

**Religious persecution:** the systematic mistreatment of an individual or group of individuals as a response to their [religious beliefs of affiliations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion).

**Ethnic violence:** refers to [violence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence) that is predominantly framed rhetorically by causes and issues related to [ethnic hatred](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_hatred), or to the oppression of indigenous minorities

**Genocide**: the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group.