

## **Abstract**

Does poverty make ethnic insurgencies more likely? I argue that if (a) civilian support for insurgents plays a decisive role in their success, and if (b) civilians experience a reduction in public goods provision after supporting insurgents, then insurgent attacks are less likely to occur in poorer regions. This is because lower income makes poorer individuals more vulnerable to losing public goods, and therefore makes them less willing to support insurgents. I test this argument using data on attacks by the Kurdish insurgency between 1988 and 1999 in 20 Turkish provinces that are poorer than the national average, and in which Kurds form a significant share of the population. I find that in provinces with initially high levels of public goods provision, attacks are less likely when per-capita income of the province is a smaller percentage of the national average. Moreover, higher unemployment is associated with fewer attacks.