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CHOICE Subject: Social and Behavioral Sci-Political Science-Comparative Politics

Weinstein, Jeremy M. *Inside rebellion: the politics of insurgent violence*, Cambridge, 2007. 402p bibl index ISBN 0-521-86077-6, \$70.00; ISBN 0-521-67797-1 pbk, \$27.00. Reviewed in 2007jun CHOICE.

Weinstein (Stanford Univ.) has written an impressive work that asks crucial, subtle questions about rebellion. It is a good example of using extensive qualitative research to reach a general conclusion that is as rigorous as any potential quantitative alternative. Drawing on interviews from several conflict zones in both Africa and South America, the book argues for the importance of the structural environment in understanding the often-perplexing differences across rebellions. Why are local populations abused during some rebellions, but not all? Why transform government in one instance and ignore it in another, focusing on corrupt personal gain? Why is violence sometimes arbitrary and other times highly specified? One could argue these are the essential internal questions for researchers who wish to understand rebellion from within. In so doing, the author presents a very convincing "industrial organization theory" of insurgent violence that adds to the literature, and provides relevant evidence to solving many of the field's most important mysteries. Cogently written, although in dense prose not accessible to all readers, it is a needed companion piece to some of the older classics in the literature. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, faculty, and practitioners. --- M. D. Crosston, Clemson University

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