



RESEARCH PAPER

Afghanistan after U.S withdrawal and Role of Pakistan: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The military annihilation of the Taliban on account of the US-drove alliance in the consequence of the 11 September assaults adjusted the political conditions in Afghanistan. This study has been planned to overcome the research gap about the situation created after withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan. Aside from the chronicled question concerning the division of fringes, new issues have developed after the US military activities in Afghanistan. Afghanistan historically remained crucial, particularly in Asia with its ever-evolving nature of foreign relations. Relations with Pakistan, the Afghan government always had bitter realities but the population of the country had strong sentiments and bonds with Pakistan, particularly after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Pakistan supported unconditionally Even after the Soviet defeat, Pakistan supported Afghanistan in multiple ways but after 9/11 with the change of world order. This study is qualitative in nature and historical descriptive approach have been adopted to meet the objectives Pakistan's position became controversial in the eyes of Afghanistan and USA as well.

Introduction

The rivalry between Russia and the U.S.A has a long history, due to the strategic location of Afghanistan, the Russian forces have also fought a war for the dry land of Afghanistan. Both states Russia and U.S.A always took opposite actions in the matter of Afghanistan. The second major power of the world China is also lying in this region and its national interest as China is investing its huge amount in the development of CPEC in Pakistan. If Afghanistan is not politically stable in the future it will be a threat to Chinese investment in Pakistan. So, all the regional actors are hoping for long-lasting peace in Afghanistan. After the Istanbul conference, the result is to settle a government that is associated with the Afghan National Unity Group is the way to finish the war in Afghanistan.

After 20 years of U.S. warfare in Afghanistan, President Joe Biden has proclaimed the date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and ended the longest war. U.S forces will withdraw their entire military forces from Afghanistan and exit from all military bases which are present in the region by 9/11/2021. According to several Political scientists and analysts, after the evacuation of U.S military troops from Afghanistan the state affairs of the Afghan government will be more drastic and crucial (Muzaffar, et. al. 2019 & Muzaffar, et. al. 2021)

Following 20 years of the war driven by the United States in Afghanistan, there has never been more force to dispatch a formal harmony process. First came the Taliban's short ceasefire back in June 2018. At that point came the news that Kabul has given its hesitant

help to Washington to talk legitimately to the Taliban one of the agitators' top preconditions for exchanges. What's more, in the course of the most recent couple of months, a progression of casual talks has occurred including the Taliban and Washington (Hassan, 2017).

Qatar Peace Dialogue

The most encouraging gathering occurred some days back in Abu Dhabi. Exceptionally senior agents from the Taliban's political office in Qatar and their top administration in Quetta sat down with authorities from the United States, yet additionally from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates may be the three nations with the most impact over the Taliban (Myra, 2017; Muzaffar, et.al. 2020).

As a result, the stars appear to be progressively adjusted for planned talks. The White House, actuated by a president tingling to set out toward the ways out as confirmed by his as of late uncovered expectation to expel about 7,000 troops inside the following couple of months – is in with no reservations on endeavors to dispatch compromise. Kabul is completely dedicated to seeking harmony. Key territorial players Pakistan, China, Russia, and Iran are all locally available. What's more, most altogether, the Taliban has broadcast their readiness to investigate harmony (Hassan, 2017).

This is not to downplay the snags. To start with, by the day's end, regardless of what the number of questioners might be happy to connect with them, the Taliban have minimal motivation to quit battling a war that they trust they are winning. Trump's ongoing troop withdrawal choice will just further encourage the extremists (Myra, 2017). Also, moreover, the Taliban have over and again dismissed the Afghan political framework implying that persuading the radicals to set out their arms and offer power or challenge races will be very difficult to do.

Be that as it may, a standout amongst the quickest snags is the Taliban's refusal to converse with the Afghan government. For a considerable length of time, they have spun a similar publicity line: it is the American occupiers we are battling, thus we will just converse with them. For sure, the Taliban have held conversations with partners from numerous countries throughout the years however just once in a while have they consented to sit over the table with Afghan authorities. For sure, while top agents from Kabul including the Afghan National Security Council ventured out to Abu Dhabi, the Taliban would not meet with them. An Afghan harmony process can't continue without the Afghan government itself. Also, there can be no harmonious bargain or more extensive compromise without Kabul. This is the place Pakistan can be useful (Hassan, 2017).

Role of Pakistan

For a considerable length of time, Washington has sent confounding messages to Pakistan. It has asked Islamabad both to take action against Taliban authority havens and to urge the extremists to the harmony table. The circumstance has developed, be that as it may. The Taliban never again need persuading to get together. However, they need cajoling to converse with Afghan authorities at that table. For Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States emissary for Afghan compromise, persuading the extremists to converse with their nation's administration is the test of great importance. Furthermore, to this point, he has not succeeded. Islamabad may guarantee that its influence over the Taliban has declined. In actuality, insofar as Taliban pioneers keep on being situated in Pakistan and they are Pakistan will hold influence (Myra, 2017, Karamat, 2019).

As a result, there is a unique opportunity for it right now to commit to the harmony process long-term. There are enormous benefits if Pakistan can succeed in encouraging the Taliban to sit down with Kabul, no matter how difficult it is to do. Relations between Kabul

and Washington would be given a much-needed boost, and Pakistan's reputation in the country would rise. In addition, a complex harmony operation would be ready to begin. As a result, Imran Khan became the United States' ticket out of Afghanistan in this unusual situation. Pakistan is now part of the problem. What do you think, Bruce? Trump sees Pakistan as an ally of the United States in its fight against terrorism (Adhikari & Bhadauria, 2014).

The current US president believes that two of his predecessors sent \$33 billion to the Taliban, and he is quite worried about Pakistan's ongoing support for the Taliban. The Trump era has put an end to this effort for Pakistani officials, who had previously been the primary beneficiaries of such preparation programs. Recent discussions with his Secretary of Defense, Gen. (R) Jim Mattis, and Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo, have focused on finding ways out of Afghanistan for Trump. Donald Trump must withdraw US forces from Afghanistan so that the Taliban do not seize control of the war-torn country or a deliberate war is fought," Bruce Riedel had said (Kasuri, 2015).

Imran Khan is one of the most vehement opponents of U.S.-based Pakistani government officials in the country. There is no doubt that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is a skilled negotiator who has met with US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. The Pakistani press has reported that Imran Khan wanted \$4 billion from Saudi Arabia after winning the World Cup. On his first visit, he received nothing, but after the murder of Saudi journalist and dissident Jamal Khashoggi, King Salman became wary of companions. In this way, Imran Khan prevailed about the dismissal of \$6 billion. In addition to China's desire for Imran Khan, the United States may soon be knocking on his door! There was no Pakistani policy for President Obama. Pakistan's policy to Afghanistan and the Taliban will not alter as a result of Donald Trump's obscene remarks (Hassan, 2017).

After US Possible Scenario

Settle a government of Afghanistan National Unity Government

First, achieving peace and making a stabilized government with Afghanistan National Unity Government (ANUG) is the 1st proper possibility, after withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. According to the political analyst after the U.S. armed forces, there is no reason for further conflicts and issues. For attaining long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan and the entire region it is a dire need to settle a strong and potential government in Afghanistan. The role of the internal and external player is much more important and unprecedented (Brown, 2017). The social and political structure of the Afghan government has come true when the collaboration between locals and the Taliban is the need of time. The balance of power between different political parties and the Taliban is very disturbed in different regions of the countries. In some areas, the supporters of the Taliban are in large numbers, and in the regions, like the central part like Kabul and Qandahar, the different Political parties are in majority (Javaid, 2016).

This crucial imbalance can produce crucial results in the future and caused the complete collapse of state affairs. The role of external factors like Russia and India as well as Pakistan supports different groups at different times. The U.S.A continues its support and coordinates with the capital of Afghanistan and can make a pro-U.S.A government in Afghanistan. The other stakeholders, like China and Russia who are major powers of the world, have serious concerns about Afghanistan and they want to settle a government in Afghanistan that is friendly and more stabilized. The terrorist groups in Afghanistan are a serious threat to all-region and activities toward the West cannot be ignored (Karim, 2017, Yaseen, et. al. 2016).

Another important reason is that Afghanistan is the Gateway for the Central Asian states. The availability of energy and oil resources in the central Asian states and the gulf

makes this region more important for the world. The regional, as well as an international power, wants direct access to the region to fulfill their energy needs. The presence of U.S military forces in Afghanistan is a serious threat to the regional states like China, Pakistan, and Russia. These states have their national interests which are associated with the condition of peace and security in Afghanistan (Dylrymple, 2017).

The prolonged stay of U.S military troops in Afghanistan causes a vulnerable situation for these regional actors. The role of multinational companies and agencies is sabotaging the interests of these states. Pakistan is sharing its West border with Afghanistan and due to not a proper border management system, insurgencies have happened from time to time. So it is also an interest for Pakistan to hope a stable and strong government will be settled in Afghanistan in the future (Malik, 2018).

Status Quo

The second scenario will be the standing of the status quo. The status quo option means after the drawl of U.S forces from Afghanistan the U.S.A continued the help and support of Afghanistan. The U.S.A will maintain its diplomatic ties with the Afghan government. It is the way forward for the U.S to exit safely its military troops from Afghanistan and committed to supporting the Afghan forces with money and arsenal. Due to the support of the U.S, the Afghan forces will have enough power to fight the Taliban in this region. Because the peace talk of Istanbul will fail Afghanistan will in this situation survive and can fight with the Taliban. The Afghan National Army will be in the condition to stop the terrorist activities in the whole country (Khalidi, 2021). During this whole period, it will need to strengthen a stable government in Afghanistan that can run the matters of government to defense and power.

There is some serious ethnic division present in different regions of Afghanistan which have their ideologies some are in the support of the Taliban and some are in the support of the diplomatic government. This imbalance of power and support causes ambiguity to settle a government in Afghanistan. The unexceptional continued development in Afghanistan is a matter of hinge and stress for the entire region. If external support and money will be not provided to the central government the Afghan government cannot survive and will face such problems as insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, corruption, and civil crisis (Kaura, 2017). It is also a dire need to create a balance between political parties.

If the puppet government will be settled in Afghanistan the sentiments of the locals are hurt and they will never accept this it is a chance of entire collapse and causes a civil crisis. The west border of Pakistan issues cannot be minimized because Pakistan has its interest in Afghanistan due to the Taliban issue and Pakistan has fought a long fight against them if the Taliban-supported government will be in power it will be a challenge for Pakistan also (Akbar, 2015).

The Collapse of the State and Civil War

The third and more crucial scenario is the collapse of the state and reaching civil war. The war is to been fought for 20 years in Afghanistan. There were many attempts were made for peace and development by the U.S.A now Washington decides to safe exit from Afghanistan. In this regard, there will be many conferences and peace talks that were held in the past but all are ruined and wasted.

The U.S presents the American-Afghan diplomat Khalilzad for a peace talk and agrees with the Afghan capital government and Taliban. The draft and the core plan of this agreement is to settle a non-puppet government and it will be chosen according to the wishes of the Afghan people (Karim, 2017). In this regard, a letter is received from Afghanistan President Ghani to "Urgent" to accelerate the process of peace and agreement

and settled a peace talk in Turkey for speedy developments. A high-level meeting will be organized in Turkey with the Taliban and different groups. This letter shows the concern Washington how the U.S is serious to evacuate from Afghanistan.

The chances of the Afghanistan government to attain peace are based on the peace talks and agreements between the Taliban and other groups. The Istanbul conference and peace talks may be a chance for the Taliban and governments to attain peace and security, otherwise, the matters and conditions will be worse. The present scenario is an idealized and vital chance for both parties because the ideologies and ethnic values are discussed by their people and can be settled in a better way. The unification and single agenda will be the better option for both parties and all stakeholders. But the Afghan government is prolonging the peace talks to stay in power and they are waiting for the exit of U.S forces from Afghanistan (Khalidi, 2021).

The expectations of the Afghan government are to it is a matter of the government to settle the charges of the political scenario by their own will and all the external power should support them against the different groups. But it is a great chance that after the U.S troops the Taliban takes over the capital and gain the charge of the capital and it will be worse. In this scenario, all struggles and long war goals will ruin. The entire state will be in danger and a state of civil crisis. It is the moral duty of regional countries to play their role in the peace process and end up the 40 years of war in Afghanistan (Paliwal, 2017).

If the situation in Afghanistan is worse now it will cause more trouble for an entire region the suicide bombings, terror attacks, and insurgencies can happen in different parts of the world. It is the need the time to take part in the peace process in Afghanistan and will resolve the issues according to the wishes and will of the locals.

Another Vietnam

The withdrawal of the U.S forces may well be another example of another "Vietnam". Likewise, in Vietnam where U.S forces fought a long war and invest huge money and assets there but it will be seen when the last troop of the U.S was shifted back from there, from the very next day Vietnam was ruled by insurgents. Similarly, if this happening will occur in Afghanistan it will be a great defeat of the U.S.A and caused many Psychological and international consequences (Sanger, 2019).

President Trump's policy was enough fairly to conduct free elections in Afghanistan and the people will decide to decide what sort of government they want. The border prospect of the Trump policy was why we invest our money in others who are ideological and regionally different from us. It was a policy by him to high up the morale of forces and safely evacuate from Afghanistan and invest the money and support in their people. It was a policy by him to let Afghanistan on their government settle their matters and develop a government by the choice of locals. Why is it to waste the money of taxpayers to support or negate the other regime in other parts of the world (Karim, 2017)

Probably, Trump's policy was simple to exit the land forces from Afghanistan and increase the airstrikes and air operations like drone attacks. Even supporters will be on the side to support these policies of Trump. But in this case, if the government of Afghanistan is not stabilized its power and hold will be shifted to the Taliban which will cause serious troubles for locals.

The peace talks between American official and Taliban representatives is the only way to long-term peace in Afghanistan. Khalilzad is well known for the internal conditions and problems of Afghanistan. It is very hard and difficult to say how much different groups of different areas are strong in their regions. If the Americans abounded in Afghanistan like Vietnam it will be a serious and massive threat to entire regions (Malik, 2018).

If Khalilzad agrees with the stance of the Taliban for "property, peace, protective" the achievements and success of the American operation in the name of the war on terror will be resumed empty. The international security forces and the countries which were present in this region will face serious substantial obstacles.

Effects on Other Regional Actors

China's world-famous and the largest development initiative 'Belt and Road Initiative or One Belt One Road' under which CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is being constructed in Pakistan remained directly affected by the situation in Afghanistan and the Indian response to that situation in the region. Because India also has initiated its programs of reaching Central Asian states through the Chahbahar port of Iran and the Zaranj-Delaram road project in Afghanistan. India through such initiatives tried to bypass Pakistan minimizing Afghan dependency on Pakistan and this Afghan factor directly influences Pakistan's relations with India. On the other hand, Pakistan also strives for access to Central Asia and seeks help from China in this regard (Kaura, 2021). India never deployed its combat forces in Afghanistan but offered training to Afghan police, doctors, judges, and army personnel in India to develop their capacity for the smooth state functioning of the country (Ahmad, 2020). Afghanistan has been dependent for many years on external forces' support for its security, economy, and politics and as the ISF (international security forces) are decreasing gradually it mounting the concerns of Pakistan as well as other regional and international actors about the security and stability in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the ISF.

In such a scenario it becomes important for Afghanistan to converge its national interests with other regional and international players, especially with Pakistan, India, and the United States of America. Pakistan is already mediating the Afghan Taliban's peace dialogue with the USA in Qatar and most likely both the parties will sign a peace agreement very soon which will determine the future of Afghanistan, the presence of ISF in Afghanistan, and what will be the security arrangement in the country after the US withdraw its troops. For a sustainable and realistic solution to Afghanistan's security, economy and politics it will be beneficial if the regional players like Pakistan, China, and India are taken on board. Because there is a narrative that the current situation of Afghanistan has a strong link to somehow with the rivalry between Pakistan and India which again affects the peace process and sustainability of peace in the country in the future that's why it becomes necessary to take both India and Afghanistan on board. Afghanistan should not be taken as a bone of contention between Pakistan and India but as a common ground to ensure each other's security and benefit from an economic perspective (Tariq, 2020).

Conclusion and Way forward

In Afghanistan, Russia and the United States have historically had opposing positions. China, the world's second most powerful country, has its national interests in this area. In Pakistan, Chinese investment might be jeopardized if Afghanistan's political situation becomes more unstable in the future. An administration that is affiliated with the Afghan National Unity Group is the best method to end the conflict in Afghanistan after the Istanbul summit. Pakistan has a unique opportunity to make a long-term commitment to the process of reconciliation. The benefits to Pakistan if it succeeds in getting the Taliban to sit down with Kabul are immeasurable. Relations between Kabul and Washington would be given a much-needed boost, and Pakistan's reputation in the country would rise. Before the United States could leave Afghanistan, Pakistan had to be a part of the equation, and Imran Khan became the key to freedom for the United States. Two of his predecessors gave \$33 billion to the Taliban, according to the current president of the United States.

Trump must withdraw his troops from Afghanistan before the Taliban seize control of the war-torn country. Imran Khan made two trips to Saudi Arabia after winning the election and asked for \$4 billion in aid. However, after the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, King Muhammad receptacle Salman became wary about new acquaintances. The Afghan government's social and political framework has come to fruition when the cooperation of the local population and the Taliban is required. Across the country, the power dynamics between the various political parties and the Taliban are very volatile. External forces like Russia, India, and Pakistan have a part in supporting various factions at various periods. A peaceful and secure Afghanistan is a gateway to the Central Asian republics, which have national interests linked to Afghanistan's security. Insurgencies have occurred periodically along Pakistan's western border with Afghanistan as a result of an inadequate border control system.

Pakistan likewise hopes for a stable and powerful administration in Afghanistan in the future, which is in its interest. Afghanistan's central government will collapse if it does not get financial assistance from outside, and it will be forced to deal with insurgencies, ethnic strife, corruption, and civil unrest. The United States sends the Afghan-American ambassador Khalilzad to hold peace talks with the Afghan government and Taliban in Kabul. The main goal of this agreement is to put in place a non-puppet administration that is elected by the people of Afghanistan, not by foreigners. The Taliban and other organizations will be invited to Turkey for a high-level conference.

There will be more benefits to both parties and all stakeholders by unifying and pursuing a unified goal. To the Afghan government, it is their responsibility to resolve the political situation on their own, and all other powers should help them in this endeavor. Much of the U.S. soldiers leave, and the Taliban might seize control of Kabul, making the situation even worse. Long-term ambitions will be wiped out in this case. The state as a whole will be in jeopardy and face civil unrest.

The region's governments have a moral obligation to contribute to the peace process and put an end to Afghanistan's 40-year conflict. The only way to secure long-term peace in Afghanistan is via direct negotiations between the American government and the Taliban. As in Vietnam, an American invasion of Afghanistan would pose a significant and overwhelming danger to the whole country. As a non-combat force in Afghanistan, India provided Afghanistan's security forces with training in India so they could better serve the country's citizens.

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