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About AC-GAIR

The Alliance School of Law Centre for Global Affairs and International Relations (AC-GAIR) intends to serve as an academic platform to foster interest in the dynamic web of international relations and contemporary global affairs. In an increasingly globalized and connected world, it is not only pertinent to be aware of global happenings but also to understand the related background and historical facts. AC-GAIR seeks to engage with the current and future stakeholders of the Globalized World by providing an opportunity to comprehend, evaluate and analyze the topics of International Law, Global Affairs, and Human Rights.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN- CHIEF

“International Politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power.” – Hans J. Morgenthau.

There can be no doubt in anyone’s mind that our world is going through an increasingly turbulent period of time. With a raging pandemic devastating the existing societal structure, to extremist organizations finding their foothold to form administrative governments threatening the lives and existence of women, religious minorities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals living in the area, to an existential threat to human survival due to rising global temperatures; there has been no period in recent memory wherein global politics was so distant from a state of equilibrium.

Due to such issues of Global Affairs and International Relations, which can often feel overburdening or overwhelming to deal with, it is essential for the study of International Relations to be given detailed attention and importance. The Alliance Centre for Global Affairs and International Relations (AC-GAIR) through its newsletter intends to give a platform to scholars to opine, discuss, and deliberate on complex issues of Global Affairs and International Relations.

The theme of this current newsletter focuses on the difficult situation prevalent in Afghanistan. An understanding of the situation must encompass not only how the terrorizing outfit named Taliban came into power in the region, but it is pivotal to understand the background of the issue, - the history of conflict in the region, the role of Western Forces in the creation of the Taliban Outfit, and what it means going forward for women’s rights, for religious minorities, and other marginalized groups, which may, and most likely will be, persecuted.

The newsletter hopes to provide its readers with unique perspectives on the issue, while giving them a steady factual background on the issue.

Alliance University, and Alliance Centre for Global Affairs and International Relations extends its gratitude to all the contributors and editors of this flagship Newsletter, and we hope the readers get a better understanding of International Relations, and the situation in Afghanistan after reading the brilliant pieces included in this newsletter.

Thanking you,
Dr. Kiran Gardner
Professor & Dean
Alliance School of Law

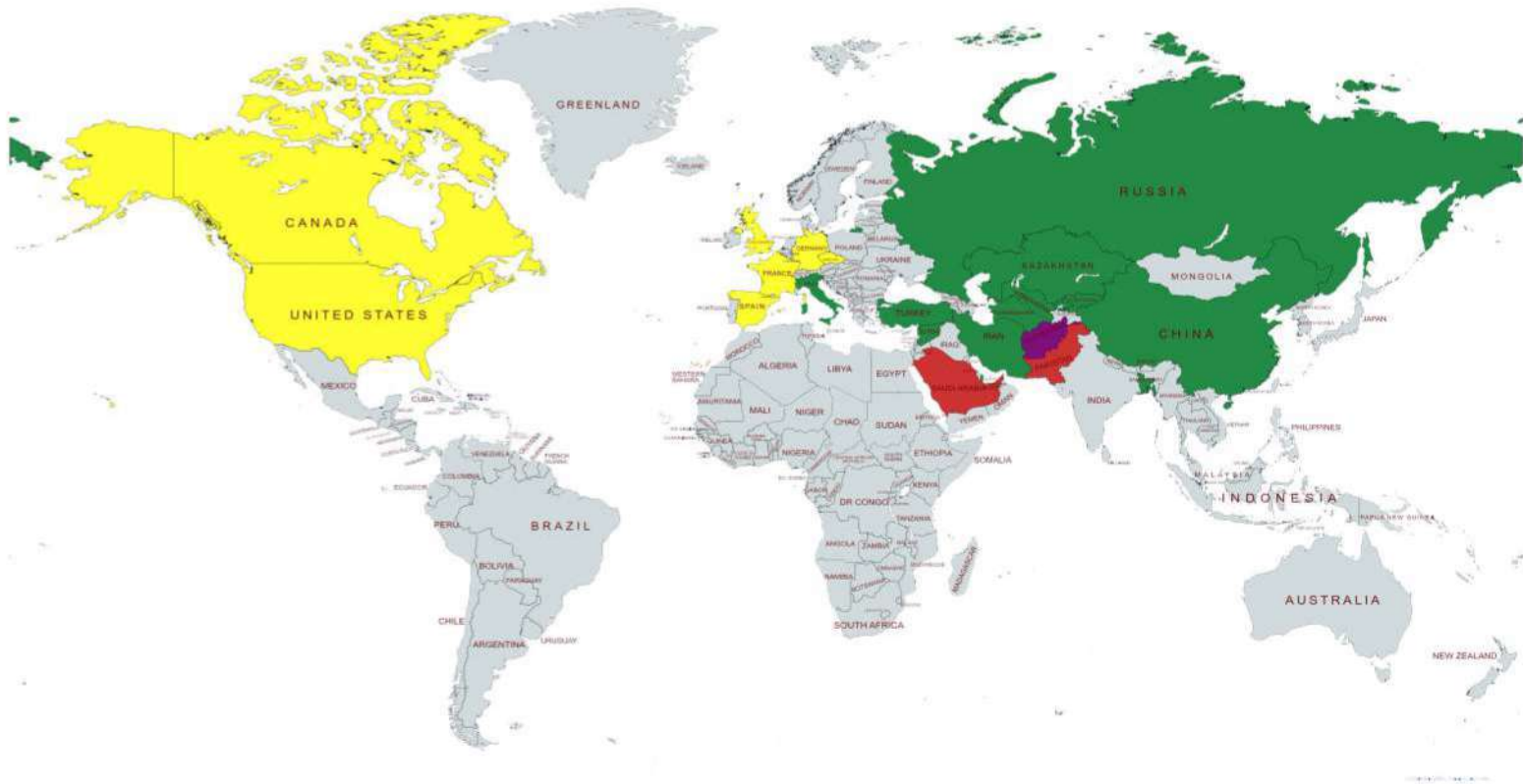


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Gully Images

Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan - Recognition Status



Recognition Status

- Recognized the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
- Consular or Embassy Presence in Afghanistan
- Declared the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan as an illegitimate State.
- Afghanistan

Timeline of Political Events

1921
The British are defeated in the 3rd British-Afghan War, and an Independent, and Sovereign Afghanistan is formed, with leader – Amir Amanullah Khan as its Emir, however abdicates 5 years later.

1953 - 1956
Mohammed Daoud Khan, the former General, and pro-communist became Prime Minister, and worked towards building an alliance with the then-USSR.

1978
Daoud Khan is assassinated by the Communist Coup, and Mohammad Taraki takes over as President, and immediately signs a treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union.
To counter the progressive communistic government, and to retain conservative Islamic values, tribes across Afghanistan started guerrilla movements and created the Mujahadeen.

1988
Osama Bin Laden formed the Al-Qaeda with 10-15 other Mujahadeen Islamists.

1992
The Mujahadeen forces stormed Kabul and ousted Najibullah from power, and formed an Islamic Republic with Burhannudin Rabbani as its leader.

2001
The Taliban destroy the Buddhist Statues in Bamiyan.

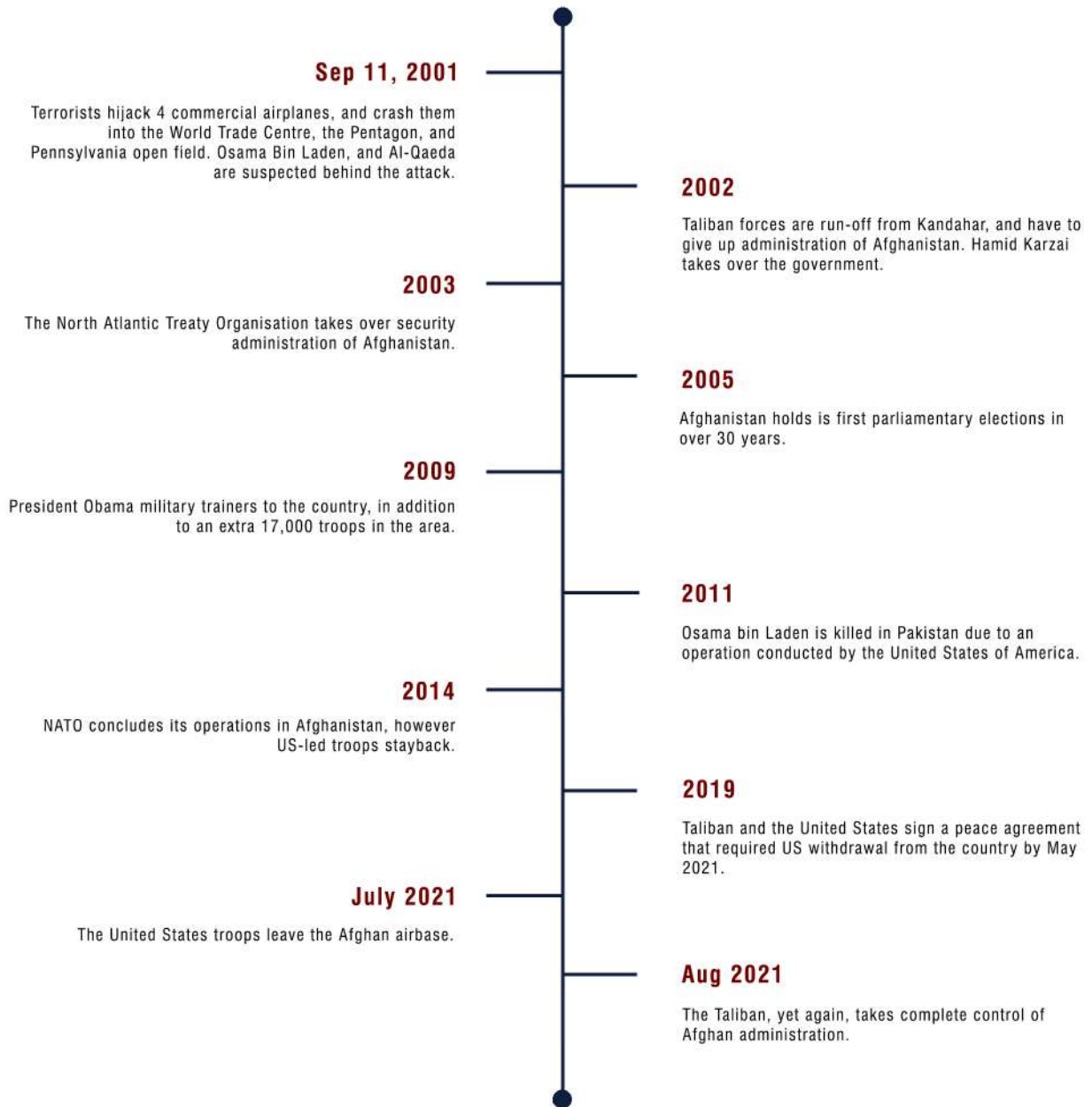
1934
Majority of Western Countries, including United States of America, recognised Afghanistan as a sovereign nation.

1965
Babrak Karmat and Mohammad Taraki formed the Afghan Communist Party.

1979
The United States of America cuts off aid to Afghanistan due to its ambassador being murdered; and the USSR invaded Afghanistan in order to bolster the communist position in the country.

1989
The United States, USSR, Pakistan, and Afghanistan sign a peace-treaty, and USSR withdrew its 100,000 troops. However, left a puppet leader in Dr. Mohammad Najibullah as the President of the country.

1995 - 1997
The Taliban is formed, and started taking over territory of Afghanistan. Furthermore, they publicly execute Najibullah.



Source

Newsdesk, 2021. A historical timeline of Afghanistan. PBS. Available at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/asia-jan-june11-timeline-afghanistan> [Accessed December 14, 2021].

TALIBAN AND THE CRISIS OF AFGHANISTAN

Introduction

15th august, 2021 – a date that shall live in infamy. The Taliban takeover of Kabul and subsequent fleeing of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, has well and truly established the Taliban as the sole hegemon of Afghanistan. The Announcement of establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by the Taliban accelerated the speculation of what the so called widely accepted ‘terrorist outfit’ has to offer. The withdrawal of the US forces in a jiffy has left a power vacuum which plausibly has been fulfilled by the Taliban. After the 2001, 9/11 terrorist attacks on the twin towers and Pentagon, the US has been on the prowl hunting the Al-Qaeda and associates who took the responsibility for the attacks, in Afghanistan and Iraq. What followed was another period of US presence on a foreign soil.

Rise of Taliban

The term ‘Taliban’ literally means students in the Pashto language. After the Saur Revolution (1978), the Afghani autocratic one-party system under Daoud Khan was overthrown and replaced by the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) under Nur Muhammad Taraki. This coup was fostered with the help of the Soviet Union which was trying to exert its influence in the middle east. Soviet presence at the zenith of the cold war drew the US towards Afghanistan in the 80s. The US backed Islamic Mujahideen, waged a war against the Soviets and the Soviet backed regime. The US, in alliance with

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, funded and trained thousands of men with the help of ISI. By 1989, Soviets withdrew and a Soviet backed regime under Mohammad Najibullah was installed which would eventually fall in 1992. Chaos prevailed and the Taliban was founded in 1994 by Mullah Omar in his hometown of Kandahar¹ who himself had participated in the anti-Soviet resistance. Conditions of civil war had existed after 1992 with Afghanistan divided between local warlords with each faction pressing for hegemony against the other. In this infighting, Taliban entered Kabul on the 27th of September 1996 and proclaimed the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Taliban rule and the US invasion

The Taliban rule started in the year 1996. An extremely progressive society in the 60s, the social scenario of Afghanistan changed drastically. The country was now governed by the Sharia laws which were particularly harsh on women. Music, sports, television, dancing were banned and Afghanistan plunged into a gross humanitarian crisis. The Taliban regime wreaked havoc in the state of affairs providing shelter to Islamic fundamentalism and extremists. Proximity to the Taliban with the mastermind of 9/11 attacks Osama Bin Laden and refusal to cooperate with the US on its global war on terror called for the US invasion of Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom was launched and Taliban retreated rapidly with the last city of Kandahar surrendering on December 9, 2001.² The United Nations

¹ BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11451718> (last visited Nov 27, 2021).

² NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND, <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/middle-east/operation-enduring-freedom.html> (last visited on Nov 29, 2021).

called up for an interim government and the US in the following year stated that its objective was the reconstruction of Afghanistan in the form of humanitarian and reconstruction assistances. The long, taxing, and futile occupation of the US in Afghanistan had begun.

US in Afghanistan (2001-2021)

The US presence in Afghanistan was a period of economic boom for the country. Period of rapid growth ensured that the country's reliance on agriculture decreased in favor of the services sector. Development assistance peaked in 2013-14 and shrank towards the end of 2020 effect of which could also be seen in the GDP of the nation and on the per capita income which rose by 100%. The life expectancy at birth increased from 50.3 in 1990 to 64.8 in 2019, so did the mean years of schooling from 1.5 (1990) to 3.5 (2019). Human development index value increased from 0.3 to 0.5 during the period.³ New laws and regulations were promulgated and infrastructure projects were undertaken. The total non-military aid from the US to Afghanistan equaled \$150 billion by the end of 2020. The United States meanwhile headhunted senior al-Qaeda leaders and tasted success in 2011 when Osama Bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad. With the mission accomplished, US withdrawal seemed inevitable. Meanwhile, the Taliban who were on the run but never completely eliminated continued inflicting losses on the US by guerrilla war tactics during this

period. The situation led to the US-Taliban peace talks in Doha in february 2020.⁴ Under the new President elect Joe Biden, the date of withdrawal was announced as 31st of August, 2021. By the time it was clear that Taliban had gained a strong footing and the United States had prolonged its miseries in Afghanistan, for which it knew no way out. Withdrawal was coming, galloped alongside it emerged the resurgent Taliban.

Taliban in Afghanistan

The swift fall of Afghanistan started immediately after the Americans left the strategically important Bagram airfield. Subsequently, important cities like Kandahar, Mazhar-I-Sharif fell, eventually resulting in the fall of Kabul on August 15th.⁵ The Afghani forces proved no might for the Taliban offensives, reportedly surrendering without a fight. Pocketed resistance was reported from Panjshir Valley where Abdul Dostum- the Uzbek warlord who played a major role in bringing down the Taliban in 2001, alongside the ex-Vice President of Afghanistan – Amrullah Saleh have been planning to proclaim an Afghani government in exile.⁶ Taliban 2.0 had promised a rebuttal of earlier practices of human rights violation and ill treatment of women but this prospect seems highly unlikely at the moment. High-grade weapons which the US and its allies provided to the Afghan forces have landed in the Taliban's lap, which spells catastrophe if the Taliban doesn't intend to

³Dipu Rai, *How Afghanistan changed economically, and socially, after US invasion*. INDIA TODAY, (OCT.22,2021,04:30pm)
<https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/how-afghanistan-changed-economically-socially-after-us-invasion-1844410-2021-08-23>.

⁴*Joint Declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan*,
<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/02.29.20-US-Afghanistan-Joint-Declaration.pdf>.

⁵ALJAZEERA,
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2021/8/15/taliban-continues-advances-capture-s-key-city-of-jalalabad> (last visited Nov. 27, 2021).

⁶ALJAZEERA,
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2021/9/4/taliban-surrounds-panjshir-valley-as-resistance-holds> (last visited Nov 29, 2021).

fulfil what it was preaching after the Doha talks.

Taliban and India

India had been good friends with the earlier Afghan presidents – Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani and had been keen on an anti-Taliban stand. Taliban and its associated outfits had been spreading militancy in Kashmir irking India. Alternatively, India has provided aid and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan. With China's acceptance of the Taliban, Taliban's historic proximity with Pakistan and the

absence of the US in the region, India looks encircled with no counterbalance in sight. It will be haywire and against the interests of *realpolitik* to alienate Afghanistan and create problems in an already troubled neighbourhood. Taliban has shown intentions to foster a good diplomatic relationship with India. As in the words of former British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in a speech to British Parliament in 1848 – “*we have no eternal allies, we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual and those interests it is our duty to follow*”. The mantra for India is simple – make a diplomatic overture to the Taliban.

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3. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND, <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/middle-east/operation-enduring-freedom.html> (last visited on Nov 29, 2021).
4. *Joint Declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan*, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/02.29.20-US-Afghanistan-Joint-Declaration.pdf>.
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6. ALJAZEERA, <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2021/9/4/taliban-surrounds-panjshir-valley-as-resistance-holds> (last visited Nov 29, 2021).

THE NEW GREAT AFGHAN GAME

Background

On the night of 15th August, the city of Kabul fell, yet again. Afghanistan added another empire to its 'Graveyard of Empires'. The swift pullout of US forces from Afghanistan, heralded the rise of the Taliban. The takeover was met with expected criticism from major stakeholders; the deposed government, the United States and large sections of the Afghan citizenry. After more than 2 months, the erstwhile state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is now the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan with a *de facto* Taliban Government at the center. The rise of the Taliban and the subsequent establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan raise questions of legitimacy and recognition of this government.

The Question of Recognition of Governments

Recognition lies at the intersection of international law and politics, with nations tilting between the former and the latter to suit their needs. Recognition, while being a legal and political question, is also an essential question; for recognition of the government of a state accords legitimacy to the government and acts.

Recognition constitutes acceptance of a particular situation by the recognising state both in terms of the relevant factual criteria and in terms of the consequential legal repercussions, it means that the government being recognised is deemed to have satisfied the required conditions, and the recognising state will deal with the government as the governing authority of the state and accept the usual legal consequences of such statusⁱ. It forms the basis for future diplomatic relations between the recognizing and the recognized governments. This complex interlinked web of governments recognizing each other is essential for political freedom of a state; Hannah Arendt placed emphasis on the notion of the 'public sphere'ⁱⁱ and the prerequisite of being a part of a community to have political freedom and realization of full potential, thus, recognition is inseparable for a state to participate as a member of the global arena.

De Jure vs De Facto

This interplay of political and legal forces dictating recognition leads to the concepts of *de facto* and *de jure* recognition. The former can be best described as recognition of a government that effectively controls

the state, while questioning the validity and legitimacy of that governmentⁱⁱⁱ. De facto recognition is a situation of ‘wait and see’ which can be followed by an official de jure recognition, which paves the way for formal diplomatic exchanges and legal consequences of accepting the government as the legitimate authority of the states, and the actions attributable to it. De facto recognition is a mechanism for dealing with a government that effectively controls power, without any formal legal recognition. However, both of these concepts have seen exceptions, with countries using them as political tools to serve interests.

There is little difference between the doctrines through which these recognitions are granted, however these doctrines often lie on opposing ends. On one hand, states have largely followed the ‘effective control’ doctrine; this doctrine places emphasis on the entity that has effective control over state. It has been considered as standard practice for recognition by many international legal theorists. Hersch Lauterpacht was a fierce advocate of this doctrine, considering it as “the better test” for recognition^{iv}. However, due to recognition being largely a political question, states have frequently deviated

from this doctrine by recognizing the doctrine of legitimacy, the Tobar Doctrine, which advocates for recognizing governments who have obtained power only through legitimate means^v.

The ambiguity in doctrines of recognition has led to major jurisdictions changing recognition policy entirely, after a brief period of support for the Estrada and Tobar doctrines, countries including the United States^{vi}, United Kingdom^{vii} and Australia, have largely resorted to recognizing only States, indicating recognition through political statements and diplomatic exchanges. Institutions like the United Nations require a prospective participant to submit credentials, for review by the Credentials Committee (to meet in November). Therefore, the question of recognition has taken on new layers of complexity, with each country free to pick and choose doctrines and/or political instruments.

The Recognition of a Taliban Government

Recognition of the Taliban Government is a question that will define future relations with the Afghan state and its citizenry. Recognition will accord acknowledgment to the current government as being the

legitimate representative of the state, while setting a platform for future discussions and, possibly, negotiations. Furthermore, the kind of recognition accorded will entail legal and political consequences, de facto recognition has been accepted to not involve a diplomatic relationship^{viii} and legal claims in courts of the recognizing country^{ix}, whereas a de jure recognition might remove all abilities to recognize an alternate government.

The question of recognizing a government led by the Taliban requires acknowledgement of the legal, political and social consequences, especially from the domestic perspective of the Afghan people. It is indisputable that the Taliban controls Afghanistan, after having seized the last remaining stronghold of the Panjshir Valley. The effective government in power in Afghanistan is the Taliban, with no significant opposition domestically. However, the Taliban usurped power through force, a move condemned universally. Also, it remains uncertain

whether they would be able to maintain status quo.

Considering the abovementioned factors, the consequences and importance of recognition, it is crucial to assess the benefits of recognition. At the time of writing, the Taliban have failed to make significant gains in their struggle for recognition, the question of a legal representative of the Afghan state is in doldrums as the country struggles to heal after the Taliban blitzkrieg, as the economy goes into freefall. Furthermore, the Taliban are attempting to establish a deeply flawed government, with no respect for human rights. Recognition may serve as an instrument to call upon the Taliban to adhere to commitments of Afghanistan. Moreover, non-recognition will create a vacuum in the Asian geopolitical space, and consequently an opportunity for radical groups to move in. Recognition may prove essential for inviting the Taliban to the negotiating table to preserve hope of a legitimate representative of all Afghans.

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ⁱ MALCOLM N. SHAW, INTERNATIONAL LAW 337 (8 ed. 2017)

ⁱⁱ Leroy A. Cooper, *Hannah Arendt's Political Philosophy: An Interpretation*, 38 *The Review of Politics* 145–176 (1976)

ⁱⁱⁱ MALCOLM N. SHAW, INTERNATIONAL LAW 341 (8 ed. 2017)

^{iv} HERSCH LAUTERPACHT, RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENTS 145 *Columbia Law Review* 815–864 826 (1945)

^v JONATHAN LAW, A DICTIONARY OF LAW (8 ed. 2015)

^{vi} *Digest of US Practice in International Law* 1977 19-21

^{vii} HL Deb 28 April 1980, 408, cols 1121-1122

^{viii} Yehuda Blum, *De Facto Recognition and Diplomatic Immunities*, 8 *Israel Law Review* 350–361

^{ix} *Republic of Spain v SS Arantzazu Mendi* 1939 1 AER 719

THE FALLEN KINGDOM: AN OVERVIEW

The debacle in Afghanistan was more of an expected tale than a sudden development. The country's fate was sealed the day it became a battleground for the two world powers during the cold war era. The USSR's invasion of Afghanistan and the Mujahidin resistance fuelled by the US prepared the ground for an impending disaster for the people of Afghanistan. The US experienced a 'Frankenstein's Monster' nightmare when the rebels against the USSR that it had initially supported picked up arms against them and shook the very foundations of America's supremacy with the blotch of 9/11. What followed was a 'forever war' which may have been over on papers but in reality, it exists in a deadlier fashion and is brewing hard under the covers with wider implications for the world at large.

It baffles many as to how, after 20 years of war, the most powerful army in the world coupled with the NATO forces could not contain the Taliban. The answer is evident in the manner of management of the whole "war on terrorism" episode. The USA's complacency and hubris made it take on too much. The US administration back then set such over-ambitious targets that even after toppling the Taliban from power in a nick

of time and killing Osama Bin Laden in 2011 it decided that the military should stay on to oversee full transition to democracy and complete 'restoration of order'. This was as much motivated by political considerations back home as it was an attempt to undo the shame that a ghastly breach of security arrangements had brought upon them. To restore order in different countries was America's version of the 'white man's burden'. Thus, the war on terror was a fig leaf for America to cover the global embarrassment that it had suffered.

While its targets were overambitious, the actions on the ground failed to keep up. For instance, the US military, in 2003, diverted its focus to invade Iraq on the pretext of finding weapons of mass destruction. Such capricious policy helped the Taliban to bounce back. Taliban survived also because of its illicit drug trade and the constant backchannel support by some nations, the most prominent of them being Pakistan.

Talking about the hurried agreement between the Taliban and Donald Trump's government, it can be concluded that it did nothing but add insult to the injury of the Afghans. The deal gave an upper hand to

the Taliban and downplayed the interest of the legitimate government of the day.

The Biden administration did little to reverse the damage and instead jumped on the bandwagon. The stealth and untimely withdrawal of the US troops, abandoning all ambitions and promises did more to destroy than restore. It left back an emboldened Taliban, with their chest puffed up for having compelled a vanquished US to leave the battleground. The US once again acted upon political consideration deciding to renege on the tall promises once the war became unpopular back home, and when countering China become a priority.

What's left with Afghanistan is an extremist Taliban with sophisticated weapons. Its current rule shows that it is no different from the last time it was in power. In fact, unlike then, it has hold even over Panjshir, which was the birthplace of resistance against Russia and subsequently the Taliban during its first spell. The policies that have followed the takeover are based on sharia law. There are several bans on the freedom of women and minorities are at risk of being victims of terror. Taliban leaders have defied all calls by the UN and

different nations to respect human rights and form an inclusive government. The Cabinet has no woman or anyone from the minority community. Instead, UN and US-designated terrorists like Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is believed to be behind the 2008 suicide attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul, occupy key positions in it.

India, which had invested close to \$3 billion to promote democracy and democratic institutions in Afghanistan is in a precarious situation, to say the least. The budding democracy that India hoped to build turned into a reign of terror and we, on our Independence Day saw the light of freedom fade for a million Afghans. India had never given formal recognition to the Taliban, eschewing even the concept of 'good Taliban' and 'bad Taliban' proposed by Pakistan. India's situation seems grimmer if we consider the win-win situation of Pakistan which has already inducted Taliban-appointed diplomats in their embassy and consulates contrary to most western nations which deny recognizing the Taliban government. China, on the other hand, was the first country in the world to address the Taliban after the takeover and hope for 'friendly relations' in the future. China and Pakistan

are also among the countries that kept their Embassies functional during the turbulent takeover while India and most western nations decided to close the same. As for the Taliban regime, they have shown interest in the Belt and Road Initiative of China and are keen on getting humanitarian assistance from them.

All of this, as well as India's fragile border situation in the form of an aggressive China in the eastern sector and a notorious Pakistan in the western sector, has made the path ahead a difficult one for India. The LAC negotiations seem far from over and while India and Pakistan have entered into a ceasefire on the lines of the 2003 agreement, the recent uptick in violence in Jammu and Kashmir paints a different picture. India is now apprehensive of Afghanistan becoming a breeding ground for terrorists and a protégé of rival nations.

For the Taliban, it's not all sunshine and rainbows. It faces the threat from rival terrorist groups like IS – K which gave a glimpse of its plans with its attacks on the Kabul airport. Approaching is a harsh winter, the possibility of an economic recession and a food crisis in Afghanistan, and a terror and refugee crisis for the whole

region. With freedoms already curtailed, this would be the last thing that its people would want. With half-hearted aid from the West, the Taliban is bound to look to its east. And China is too astute to let go of the opportunity to fill the power vacuum with Pakistan already enjoying a key position.

With QUAD and other bilateral engagements with the western powers, India seems to be leaning on the other side of the balance. Afghanistan on the contrary would be turning to Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia, and the like for assistance. In such a scenario it would be in the best interest of India to weigh in all the consequences before coming to any policy decision, abstain from 'joining' any apparent bloc, be firm in advancing democratic principles and engage proactively in providing humanitarian aid. It should pursue dialogue as abstaining from it would mean being reduced to an insignificant power in the newfound geopolitical contest.

A war-ravaged Afghanistan, hosting several terror groups, with a terror outfit as its head poses danger not only to the people of Afghanistan or India but the turmoil in the region will derail all countries and destabilise the world order.

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RISE OF TALIBAN AND ITS IMPACT ON THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Introduction

Afghanistan has been the center of global affairs for a while now. [The USSR's invasion](#) in 1979 during the cold war period turned out to be a black phase for the whole sphere. Since then, the continuous series of events including the involvement of the USA and Pakistan and the eventual rise of the Taliban has now resulted in the heinous human rights violation.

This takeover by Taliban resulted not only in the total turbulence of the international diplomatic structure but also in the gross [violation of human rights](#) of the people of Afghanistan. The most affected were the [educational rights](#) of the locals. This article attempts to revisit the situation which gave rise to the formation of the Taliban and critically analyze the resultant violation of educational rights in current Afghanistan.

Rise of the Taliban

[Taliban dates its formation](#) back to the 1990s during the end of the historic cold war. To understand the origin of the Taliban, few aspects of cold war have to be understood in brief.

“The lesson of the Cold War is that against nuclear weapons, only nuclear weapons can hold the peace”, these words by [Chung Mong-joon](#) briefly summarizes the phase of the cold war.

[Cold war](#) is the name given to the 45 years of struggle period between the USA and the USSR. Ironically, during this period no actual war took place between the two countries but there was always a threat of happening of war. The competition of nuclear weapons, the war of more no. of participants, were some the features of that period. Therefore, the world was directly or indirectly divided into two paramount ideologies, capitalism and communism propagated by the USA and the USSR respectively. Similarly, Afghanistan was one such country which was stuck between the two. The fact that it was the key location to exert power over Central and South Asia intrigued the two countries towards it.

At the peak of the Cold War, “[the Soviet Union decided to invade](#) Afghanistan under the pretext of upholding the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978”. Following which, the USA and Pakistan backed

Mujahideens emerged in the country. Mujahideens were the group of islamists who were funded and provided arms by the Americans to fight against the communist soldiers. They were funded in such a large quantity that by the end of 1987, [the annual funding](#) by America had reached \$630 million. Consequently, USSR pulled out itself from Afghanistan after a decade in 1989.

Eventually the country got sunk into the civil war. Various factions of Mujahedeen started ravaging each other and a greater faction overpowered everyone and called themselves the Taliban.

Human Rights and Education

[As per the UNHRC](#), “Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that

make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty”.

The formation of Taliban proved to be more disastrous for the people residing in Afghanistan than the government in power. Taliban in power from 1996, “[imposed strong restrictions](#) on women, performed public executions, and prevented international aid from entering into the country for starving civilians”. Post US military backout, the same situation has arisen again in the already war trodden country.

“In just over five weeks since assuming control of Afghanistan, the Taliban have clearly demonstrated that they are not serious about protecting or respecting human rights.”

- [Dinushika Dissanayake](#), Amnesty International’s Deputy Director for South Asia

The biggest blow is faced by the education system of the country. Taliban ironically means “students” in Pashtun. The group has [explicitly prohibited](#) girls from going school for secondary education. Although later, The Taliban have stated that they no longer

oppose the girls from receiving education yet only a few Taliban officials allow them to continue attending school beyond puberty. It is evident from the fact that Taliban halted the girl's education when the schools opened for the first time throughout the nation after its takeover.

[As per the UNICEF](#), “Afghanistan is currently facing the biggest education gender gaps, girls accounting for 60% of the 3.7 million Afghan children out of school”. The Taliban have announced that, girls will be allowed to attend schools but only in assent with the Sharia law, which is as ambiguous as the law itself. It was also proclaimed that co-education won't be permitted and girls will only be taught by the female staff. It is quite clear that this is a planned propaganda because [according to UNICEF](#), “Currently,

just 16% of Afghan schools are exclusively for girls”.

Conclusion

Taliban is a living nightmare for the people of Afghanistan. Since its emergence in the early 1990s, the human rights of the natives are quashed like anything. Just like most of the interstate global issues, cold war is the primary reason behind the emergence of Taliban. The quarrel between the two world powers the USA and the USSR turns out to be a havoc for the people of Afghanistan as well as for the global population. The current crisis from which Afghanistan is going through can only be solved from the dialogue between the Taliban, the neighboring countries of Afghanistan (which are directly affected) and the five permanent members of the UNSC.

Rishabh Shukla

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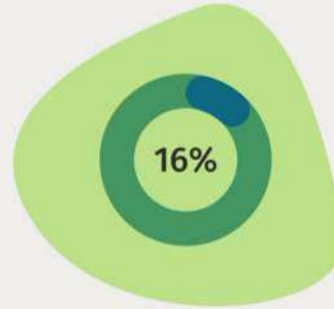
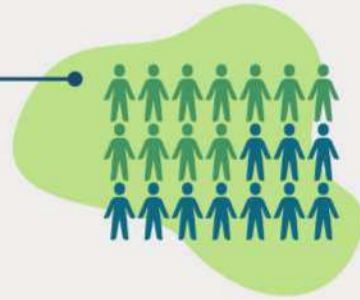
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Literacy in Afghanistan

The threat to educational rights in Afghanistan is huge following the take over by the Taliban government. Here's a peek.

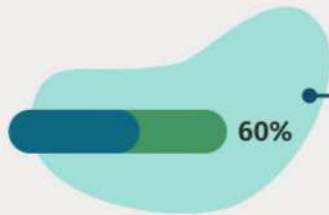
1996-2001

During the last regime of the Taliban Government, it had banned women from attending educational institutions



Schools

The Taliban Government stated that girls and boys will not be allowed to go to school together, right now there are only 16% schools in the State that are all girls school

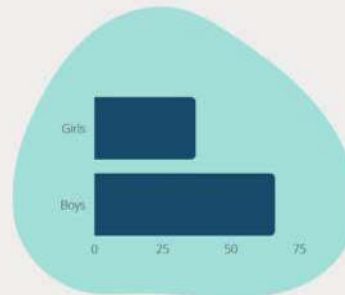
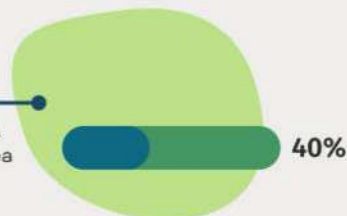


Drop out Rate

According to data published by UNICEF, out of 3.7 million Afghan children out of school, 60% are girls.

The Urban/Rural Divide

The Urban/Rural divide is huge, only 40% of girls in the rural area attend primary school as opposed to the 70% in urban areas



Tennage boys and Girls literacy ratio

Only 37% of the teenage girls can read or write as opposed to 66% teenage boys.

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POLITICAL EXPEDITION OF AFGHANISTAN AND RESURGENCE OF TALIBAN

INTRODUCTION

As Taliban rises once again, Afghan falls into an existential crisis affecting its social, economical and political affairs. The 2020 US-Taliban agreement which led to the withdrawal of US troops, paved the way for Taliban's long-awaited dominance. This caused rampant insecurity amongst the common public, especially women and children, who feared history repeating itself. What caused this turmoil? Where was the origin of the collapse of this democratic government? Did Afghanistan ever have a stable government? Can the revival of Taliban be attributed to the defects of the Afghan Constitution? It is imperative to address these questions in a broader way.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The very first Constitution for Afghanistan was conceived in the 1890s, which was replaced by the 1923 version. But it was the 1964 Constitution that gave way for the transformation of Afghanistan into a democracy and subsequently, monarchy ended in 1973. The President and Prime Minister of the new government were eventually taken down by a military coup

organised by the [PDPA](#) (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan), a Marxist-Leninist political party. PDPA took control of the entire Afghanistan as a consequence of the [SAUR Revolution](#) alongside the Soviet, and re-established it as the 'Democratic Republic of Afghanistan'. But they faced opposition from the people since they were against the traditional Islam, causing instability in their government.

The US wanted to suppress the Soviet domination and started funding [Mujahideen](#), a militant group, who were against such non-Muslim forces. The Geneva Accord was signed by the Soviet, US, Afghanistan and Pakistan in 1988, in order to end the war in Afghanistan, and in due course the Soviet retreated in 1989. This marked the end of the civil war.

Among the various *Mujahideen* fighters, the most-distinguished and conservative militant group named Taliban emerged. In time, they took over 3/4th of Afghanistan's territory and ordained the State as 'Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan'. The Taliban government during this period enforced Islamic [Sharia law](#), in its strictest form. This can be seen as brutal treatment of its civilians especially

women, religious minorities and anyone working against them.

By the end of 2001, Pakistan terrorists, [Al Qaeda](#), attacked the US and resulted in several casualties. Taliban sheltered [Al Qaeda](#) and protected them from the US. The US retaliated by invading Afghanistan and stripped of Taliban's power. And alongside [NATO](#) and the [United Nations](#), the US worked towards the restoration of a democratic Afghanistan.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION

In 2004, after a plethora of deliberative procedures, the [new Constitution](#) was adopted, as authorised by the [Bonn Agreement](#). Contrary to the previous three Constitutions, it incorporates a Presidential system of government and its powers and functions are largely centralized. Following the preceding govt., this new Constitution relied on the Islamic laws.

Unlike the Taliban regime, the Republican Constitution has embedded a number of rights (also entering into [several treaties](#)), as follows:

- Gender equality

- Non-discrimination of the ethnic groups, by providing protocols in other languages (besides Dari and Pashto).
- Fundamental freedom including right to movement, right to form associations, voting and elections rights, protection against forced labour.
- Right to healthcare and information, and IP rights

FACTORS FACILITATING THE TALIBAN'S TAKEOVER

Even after the establishment of a formal government and having US and NATO to facilitate their survival, Taliban did exist and carried out severe attacks in its former capital and other territories.

The major grounds for the instability of the government and survival of Talibans were :

1. Constitutional Drawbacks

The centralisation of the government, that was set out by the [Pashtuns](#), turned out to be the major fall out of the Constitution. In an ethnically diverse nation, the non-Pashtun

community favoured federalism and local autonomy. The powers of existing local actors are not recognised by the Constitution, which undermines the position of the Centre. Moreover, the functions of the President and the Parliament were incongruous with the framework of the Constitution, stirring up animosity within the Centre. Lastly, although the Constitution should be consistent with the *Sharia* law, several Human Right provisions contradict the conservative interpretation of the Islamic law. These conflicts were the source of political volatility, which turned out to be advantageous for the Taliban.

2. Taliban's Activities (2001-2019)

Even in the wake of a new democratic government, Taliban marked their presence by conducting successive attacks in and around the territory. In the mid-2015, a sequence of gruesome attacks in Kabul, they systematically bombed prominent

targets including the Defence Ministry, Kabul Police Academy, Kabul International Airport etc., resulted in the death of innumerable casualties. While US and the NATO officials undermined these attacks to be merely a terrorist threat and ergo, focused on combating these attacks rather than effectuating a reliable political influence and a stable and secure government.

3. International Relations and Its Impact

The allies of Afghanistan's government include South Africa, Colombia, Mexico, and a number Asian countries. The most influential State, the US, decided to withdraw their forces (both military and civilian aid) pursuant to the 2020 [Doha Agreement](#). Following which it's allies (including NATO) also pulled back its forces. The Afghanistan's forces which almost entirely relied on external support could not stand against the resurging Taliban.

CONCLUSION

The root cause of these altercations can be boiled down to one factor - the disparity in the extent of inclusion of the religion in law. In spite of their relentless efforts in the formation of a well-established government,

they couldn't maintain stability. Even the latest Constitution failed to address the deep-rooted issues, triggering the pre-existing dissensions, which led to the re-emergence of the Taliban.

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INSIDE AFGHAN POLITICAL CRISIS: BEGINNING OF A NEW ORDER

The recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan following the departure of US forces has marked a new beginning in Afghanistan. The unprecedented speed of the Taliban conquests has shocked the entire world.

[The Soviet invasion](#) in 1979 and the subsequent civil war severely disrupted the economy. The following political chaos became a breeding ground for resistance movement, leading to the birth of American trained-and-backed [Mujahideen](#). The [Taliban](#), a [Pashtun](#)-dominated Mujahideen emerged in 1994 in Kandahar district of southern Afghanistan. Their rule from 1996 was marked with strict imposition of [Shariah Law](#), and punishments that came with it. Women were barred from working or studying, and were confined to their homes. Public executions were common, and anything deemed 'Western' was vandalised. The Taliban government was toppled following the [September 11 attacks](#), when they refused to hand over [Al-Qaeda](#) leaders to America. The American offensive pushed them back into the villages and across the border to Pakistan.

Since 2001, the US tried to implement democratic systems in Afghan society where kinship, tribal loyalty and sectarian affiliation have deep roots. Such

environments aren't receptive to liberal values of tolerance, respect for civil liberty and individual freedom,ⁱ and hence not conducive for democracy to develop and flourish. It resulted in the rooting of Taliban systems in rural Afghan life. People, frustrated with the slow pace of economic development, rampant corruption and civilian casualties inflicted by the NATO troops, turned to the Taliban for quick solutions to disputes and efficient carriage of justice. Despite its barbarous and medieval nature, they proved effective, and in turn created loyal subjects in the Afghan countryside.

Armed resistance came from the [Northern Resistance Front](#) (NRF), a [Panjshir](#)-based group of primarily Tajik ethnicity, which put off one of the most fierce and heroic fights under the leadership of [Ahmad Massoud](#) and [Amrullah Saleh](#). Even though Kabul fell on August 15, Panjshir could be captured only on September 06. In the 1990s, NRF was supplied by India and Iran and benefited from supply lines from Tajikistan in the North. However, this time, the Taliban rapidly advanced across the valley and cut off those crucial lifelines. Lacking essentials such as food and medicine, the NRF wasn't able to continue resisting the

Taliban for a sustained period.ⁱⁱ Additionally, young women and men had taken to the streets of Kabul and other cities to voice their protests, indicating the presence of a deep-rooted civil societyⁱⁱⁱ in the urban Afghan life. The civilian resistance being restricted to cities, also demonstrated the deep roots of the Taliban in rural Afghanistan.

Taliban's victory does not make them the undisputed rulers of Afghanistan. Because another terror group, the [Islamic State-Khorasan](#) (IS-K), has presented the ruling terror group with unprecedented challenges. There have been numerous reports of IS-K attacks in Kabul, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif. They carried out the infamous bombing in Hamid Karzai International Airport on August 26, 2021, in which 180 people, including 13 US soldiers died. What makes the IS-K dangerous is their ideology: "IS-K seeks to establish a Caliphate beginning in South and Central Asia, governed by sharia law, which will expand as Muslims from across the region and world join. IS-K disregards international borders and envisions its territory transcending nation-states like Afghanistan and Pakistan."^{iv} While the Taliban ideology is a territorial nationalist ideology, the IS-K is based on the universal brotherhood principle of Islam, welcoming within their fold Muslims of all countries and ethnicities. Such ideologies are

intimidating. With the NATO pulling out of Afghanistan, and subsequent fall of the elected government, several countries have shown interest in Taliban rule. They are hopeful that the Taliban could be used to subjugate the IS-K, essentially using terror to suppress terror.

Within the Taliban, two factions have emerged, the Doha group, led by Deputy PM [Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar](#), and the Pakistan group, led by [Muhammad Yaqoob](#) and [Sirajuddin Haqqani](#). Most of the office-holders of the present interim government are veterans of their last government (1996-2001) and [Haqqani network](#) (Pakistan group) loyalists, indicating that there will hardly be any difference^v, and that Pakistan has got the upper hand in this new power reorientation.

US President [Joe Biden](#) has said that the decision to withdraw was to end "an era of major military operations to remake other countries". There is more to it. The answer lies in the current political scenario of Southeast Asia. China and Taiwan are presently engaged in a faceoff, and this has become the new theatre for US-China strategic competition. "China's ambitious leader, Xi Jinping, now presides over what is arguably the country's most potent military in history. Some argue that Mr. Xi, who has set the stage to rule for a third term starting in 2022, could feel compelled to conquer Taiwan to crown his era in

power.^{vi} And it becomes an US imperative to prevent that from happening. For this US needs resources, which have been diverted from Afghanistan to Southeast Asia. This explains why the US left Afghanistan.

Future research will be able to provide many more valuable insights into this crisis when documents, classified with the government today, will be made public.

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TALIBANIZED AFGHAN AND INTEREST OF CHINA-PAKISTAN AXIS IN AFGHAN

Introduction

Afghanistan features a long history of dominance by foreign conquerors and conflict among the internal groups within the nation. It is considered to be the gateway between Asia and Europe and has been conquered by famous Darius I of Babylonia and Alexander the Great of Macedonia. When we go deeper into the history of Afghanistan, Ahamed Shah Durani, who conquered the area, is considered to be the founding father of Afghanistan in 1747. From 1830 to 1895 Afghanistan was considered the "Great Game" by eminent Historians as it was considered a buffer zone between Russia and Great Britain. So both the nations did their best to establish their puppet governments in Afghanistan instead of conquering them, which led to the first Anglo-Afghan war (1839-1842) and second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-1880), respectively.

Secondly, it was the Soviet Union that conquered Afghanistan in late December 1979. Soviet Russia intruded Afghan with the help of Afghan communists, but later the entire Soviet Union collapsed. And lastly, USA military troops evacuated from Afghanistan in mid of 2021, leading to a

fully-fledged Taliban government in Afghanistan.

Diplomatic ties of Pakistan with Taliban

Pakistan shares about 1600 miles of border with Afghanistan. There are numerous cultural and ethnic connections between the two nations and are active trading partners since their inception. Afghanistan was considered a buffer zone by British India and considered to be the gateway to British India, which Pakistan was also formerly a part of. Hamid Kazari, one of the prominent leaders in Afghan, once coined both these countries as "Inseparable brothers" due to their analogous character in culture and many aspects. Though many countries like the USA are still not considering Pakistan as a strong ally because of their indifference towards the Taliban community, something it denies, some other Western countries are keenly seeking help from Pakistan to play a mediator role between the new Taliban government and Western governments. Hence Pakistan has a pivotal role in maintaining an amicable diplomatic relationship between both these countries. Pakistan positioned itself as an ally of the United States on its military campaign 'War on terror' after the 09/11 tragic incidents, which led to the death of about 2000 persons in the US after the attack of the Al-

Qaeda on the World Trade Centre. But Pakistan also made hand-in-hand relations with militant groups like the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan through constant material and logistical support. Pakistan ensured a good relationship with Afghan because it is considered the Trade gate to Central Asia, where a large number of minerals and oils are deposited, and world nations have always kept their eye on the indefinite minerals deposited in Afghanistan.

Even though Pakistan is accused of its historical ties with Taliban militants, the country has the worse experience of Islamic terrorism in their Afghan borders by the militants. So Pakistan shows huge interest to the current Afghan government to eliminate insurgent groups like Al- Qaeda and regional militant groups like ISIS-K to ensure peace on Afghan soil. This shows Pakistan likes to have a firm and stable Taliban Government so that Afghans won't descend to the past anarchist space. Pakistan's other significant concern is regarding Afghan refugees who are camping in their territories which are unimaginable. Pakistan is dogmatic of having three million Afghan refugees who flew from Afghan to Pakistan during the previous civil wars, which derogated Pakistan's conditions and led to devastating

the Pakistan economic and security loss for the nation. So Pakistan can't accommodate refugees anymore.

The USA is not interested in having thriving ties with Pakistan because of its mediocrity towards pro-Islamic groups. Even current US president Joe Biden is reluctant to call Pakistan President to the US since he became president because of Pakistan's attitude towards the militant powers. Whereas Western powers contradict this perspective of the US, foreign delegates of Britain and Germany visited Islamabad, and more countries are on their way. They are afraid that staying away from Pakistan might lead to a warm embrace from China.

Diplomatic ties of China with Taliban

The return of the Taliban to power after 20 years has been perceived as a victory not only by Pakistan but also by China. When Pakistan always helped the Taliban in all its activities, China considered itself a 'Big Brother' and recognized the Taliban for the first time. China is worried about the Uyghur insurgency, which is dominated in the northwest parts of the country bordered by Afghanistan. The Uyghur fundamentalist escaped to the Afghan border when they felt caught by the Chinese forces and China interested in ceasing the

Uyghur fundamentalist movement from Afghanistan with the help of the Taliban government.

Secondly, China is interested in a large mineral deposit in Afghanistan. China is expanding its economic activity to underdeveloped and high mineral reserved nations to capture them. Afghan is estimated to have \$1 trillion minerals worth, and China plans to execute it by funding the Taliban to run their government.

Effect on India

With the support of Pakistan and Afghanistan, China can become the most

influential and powerful nation in Asia. If the Taliban has pleasant diplomatic relations with China, it would be adversely affecting India first. The anti-Indian attitude of the Taliban would be utilized by China for their business purposes. If Afghanistan shows its ascend towards the China–Pakistan axis, it would be a nightmare. It might lead to insecurity in Kashmir, and China can extend its pet project, one belt One Road (OBOR), through Afghanistan in good faith, which may penetrate its access to Central and West Asia, endangering Ladakh; hence India's security situation will be seriously affected.

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WE ARE HUMAN

Human Rights and Afghanistan

The Taliban takeover has brought rampant human rights violations, the plight of the Afghans needs to be addressed.

Limited Achievements and Subsequent downfall

2003

Afghanistan ratified the CEDAW

2004

The Afghan Constitution was framed recognizing human rights

2009

The Elimination of Violence Against Women Law was enacted

2020

Disruption of human rights following Doha Peace Agreement

2021

The Taliban captures Kabul in August and subsequent violations start by curbing basic human rights

"The experience of women in Herat raises grave concerns about the extent to which the Taliban leadership in Kabul is able or willing to control the actions of their members across the country on human rights, including women's rights"

-Kazem-Stojanovic

80%

60,000 people were internally displaced this year out of which 80% were women and children

A whopping 70% of the entire population is war victims

70%

Journalists have been targeted, women denied access to schools and offices. They have rhetorically mentioned that women can do anything within the Sharia framework. Some communities have been displaced forcibly and the international communities response is baffling.

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EVALUATING THE POSITION OF TALIBAN VIS-A-VIS RECOGNITION OF STATE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Over some time, international law has developed certain standards for recognition of a state. Initially, these standards were developed with the help of customs and practices. However, with the emergence of the positivist approach, these standards were accepted by way of conventions and treaties. One such convention which was adopted for recognition of a state is the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of the State 1933. Article 1 of the [Montevideo](#) Convention 1933 states that in order to recognize a state as a person under international law, the state has to have a permanent population, defined territory, a government, and capacity to enter into agreements. Under international law, two types of recognition are granted to recognize a state as a person i.e., *De Facto Recognition* (factual recognition) and *De Jure Recognition* (legal recognition). De Facto recognition is granted on a temporary basis and can be revoked after assessing the situation of the concerned state. Whereas, de jure recognition is a permanent recognition that is irrevocable and is given after following due process of [law](#). Another, two other tests which are taken

into account while recognizing a government are the 'effectiveness test' and the 'legitimacy test'. The effective control test states that if an authority is able to give sufficient assurance of its permanence and is able to dispense its internal duties and external [obligations](#) then it should be recognized as a state. The manner in which the government came into power is irrelevant. Nonetheless, some [elements](#) which need to be satisfied for effective control are there should be an independent government, it is habitually obeyed by the bulk of the population, has the sustainability of power, and control over the capital city. On the other hand, the [legitimacy](#) test says that a government should not be recognized if they formed with extra-constitutional means and without the support of the people.

Recognition of Taliban Government:

On [August](#) 15, 2021, the Taliban took over the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan after which it took control over the key cities and the capital of Afghanistan. Soon after the Taliban gaining control, various reports

emerged of human rights violations, people running over the airport runway, and anti-Taliban protests. However, when we consider the effective control test and article 1 of the Montevideo Convention, Taliban fulfils all the conditions. It has a definite population, defined territory, a government, and can enter into agreements. The Taliban had also entered into an agreement with the Trump administration for designing the road map of withdrawal of US troops. Though there is the fulfilment of all the conditions it is upon the states to decide whether to recognize the Taliban as a state or not.

Going strictly by international law, recognition is given to a country and not to the internal government of the country. Irrespective of the change in government, once a *de jure recognition* is granted it cannot be revoked. In 1988, the Australian government had changed its policy of recognizing a state. Under the policy, the Australian government would only recognize the state and not the internal government. However, it made an exception to formally recognize the interim president of Venezuela. So here, Australia can either continue the *de jure recognition* given to Afghanistan or give *de facto recognition* to the Taliban and continue *de jure recognition* to Afghanistan. 12 states including India and

the US had decided not to recognize the Taliban as a state since it had taken power unconstitutionally. However, some states like Russia, China, and Pakistan are now inclining towards giving recognition to them due to geopolitical reasons.

India's Stand:

Currently, India has been slowly trying to start talks with the Taliban but India has adopted the policy of wait and watch. This is due to cross-border terrorism issues and the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan to India. As of 2020-2021, bilateral trade of India with Afghanistan was USD 1.4 Billion. Considering all these issues India should take a decision whether to recognize the Taliban as a state or not. However, India seems to have given implied recognition to the Taliban. The Indian ambassador had held a formal meeting with the Taliban Political Office. This does not mean India has given *de facto* or *de jure* recognition to the Taliban.

Conclusion:

Non-recognition of a state under international law brings a lot of disadvantages. If a state is not recognized then the state cannot trade with foreign states. Additionally, tourism is affected and foreign aid can be denied to that particular state. Taliban is facing all of these crises at once along with the USA blocking the free

reserves of Afghanistan. In order to revive the economy of Afghanistan, recognition of the Taliban government is very crucial. Since most of the countries are reluctant towards granting recognition to the Taliban due to undemocratic practices, the states can grant *de facto recognition* to the

Taliban. The violation of human rights and terrorism in Afghanistan can be monitored and *de jure recognition* can be granted once the states are satisfied. Nonetheless, the fate of Afghans is completely dependent on the acts of the Taliban and the recognition which will be given by other countries.

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ECONOMIC RELATIONS POST TALIBAN TAKEOVER: A CHINESE PERSPECTIVE

Introduction

The Taliban takeover and United States pulling out is the likely combination for destroying the already nascent economy of Afghanistan. While the Taliban has taken over the country and has instituted a government, considering the haphazard form of functioning, economic revival seems unlikely. Afghanistan is already a poor country with a GDP that stands approximately at 2 Billion dollars. Taliban coming in will affect primary industries such as agriculture which will be replaced by growing crops which can help in opium production hence wiping out agriculture as a sector. Furthermore, though Taliban supports the private sector, practices of restricting women from working or strict interpretation of Islamic principles may deter the population of Afghanistan and foreign players from investing actively in the country.

Furthermore, Afghanistan's economy was largely reliant upon foreign aid for its survival but ever since [the United States pulled back its 7 billion dollars of foreign exchange](#) it has been impossible to stay afloat. Moreover, both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have stopped their loans and allowances to Afghanistan which can be seen largely due

to US withdrawal. Even the international community including countries such as [Germany, Finland and Sweden have made announcements relinquishing their aid to Afghanistan.](#)

In the light of such debt mounting on the nascent economy of Afghanistan, China is trying its level best to take over the nation by infusing the economy with millions of dollars and creating a debt trap for the nation. The article seeks to understand as to how the economy will be taken over by the dragon and how China is looking to capitalize on the mineral and energy resources of Afghanistan.

Can the economy of Afghanistan be revived?

Having put forth the financial disarray Afghanistan is in the question of whether there is some respite remains. The only way the world community would engage with the country is when a developed country sides with the Taliban government and invests in Afghanistan. China is playing the role of a businessman by engaging with the country for its own benefits of milking natural resources and lithium from Afghanistan. Post the withdrawal of US troops, China commented positively on Taliban taking control over Afghanistan

and reshaping the same while after a meeting of the Chinese and Taliban officials, the Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan [committed to friendship and cooperation with the country](#). Considering the West has finally withdrawn from the Asian Pacific region, China wanting to be the next global superpower would look to exert control over the region and also finance projects in Afghanistan to secure its natural resources need for the next century.

The only way in which Afghanistan could fund its economy is by exploring the options of mining for natural resources which are present in abundance. In fact, according to a report presented by the United States Geological Survey, [the Aynak core body located 30 kilometers from Kabul houses copper deposits worth 102 billion dollars which in Bamiyan province there exists 336 billion dollars of iron deposits](#). Additionally, Afghanistan has a large reserve of lithium which is considered to be the petroleum of the future.

The element is not only beneficial for renewable energy but also for the production of automobiles as seen from the electric cars produced by Tesla and various other companies.

China's economic interest

Considering the resources to revive the economy are present, Afghanistan should look at China as a viable option to sell these resources to and secure funding for its survival. Speaking about natural resources, Afghanistan should enter into a financial agreement with China for a century where it is promised financial aid of a similar amount as given earlier by the United States. This would ensure that foreign aid continues to fall in and the country would never go bankrupt. For this gesture China would be given access to mine in the country as well as capitalize on these resources. The financial agreement must also indicate towards development of Afghanistan infrastructurally and must address the need for the economy to move towards the tertiary sector. This would entail lead to a better and more efficient economy while ensuring recurring Chinese interest in the situation.

Additionally, [China would look towards making Afghanistan a part of the One Belt One Road \(OBOR\) initiative](#) which makes transportation of resources and raw materials between the countries extremely simple. The Wakhan corridor which already exists between the two countries is extremely narrow and small. Once

Afghanistan agrees to side with the dragon it would do everything in its power to capitalize on the opportunity and turn Afghanistan into its haven for natural resources.

Lithium: Next Superpower

Having discussed the financial impact of natural resources, Lithium is the next to be discussed upon. While China may control natural resources, Afghanistan must ensure that lithium reserves are protected from the dragon. [Lithium being a rare material and wanted by many, Afghanistan must be use it to its advantage to appease other nations to recognize its existence.](#) Afghanistan may use the same with the United States and parts of Europe to open global supply

chains while being recognized by international forums due to push by the United States in exchange for Lithium.

Conclusion

While Afghanistan is in a financial disarray today, the article presents a wide picture on elements which is capitalized by the Taliban could lead to a profitable Afghanistan. Afghanistan should ensure maximum milking of their natural resources as the same would generate funds to run the nation's economy but the country must also create industries and organizations which can further development of these resources and look to sell to the highest bidder while being recognized internationally by fellow member nations.

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ARE CHILDREN SAFE IN AFGHANISTAN?

“Millions of children are caught up in conflicts in which they are not merely bystanders, but targets.” ~ Graca Machel

It is not a furtive fact that grave human rights violations are occurring in Afghanistan after being taken over by the Taliban for the second time on the [15th of August 2021](#). Media has widely covered the impact of Taliban over the women in Afghanistan, however, there is [another category](#) of population that is severely affected due to war. The ways in which war impacts children are hard to comprehend. Around the world, around [250 million children](#) live in conflict-prone areas. Dolefully, when any dispute arises, grave human rights violations take place against children such as sexual abuse, abduction, recruitment of children as soldiers and human bombs. It can inflict long term psychological and mental effects on children and destructively affect the behaviour of children growing up in a war-torn area.

[UN Secretary-General](#) rightly said that children have no role in a conflict. The UN Secretary General's [Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict](#) stated that Afghanistan is one of the world's most unsafe places for children. When Taliban captured Afghanistan, they shut down all the schools to stop education for children. The [schools](#) in Afghanistan are probably not going to open any soon, which means

children will not have right to education. Almost [44 percent](#) of children in Afghanistan are out of school and are not receiving any formal education. Taliban has also targeted and attacked girls' schools in the country to stop education for the girls. Many children do not have access to [healthcare facilities](#) as Taliban have destroyed hospitals, which could also lead to increased covid-19 deaths among the children. Lack of healthcare facilities to children would also cause increase in polio, measles, tetanus and other communicable diseases. Due to the economic crisis in Afghanistan, children lack access to necessities like [nutritious food](#) and clean drinking water. This can lead to [acute malnutrition](#) among the children in Afghanistan.

Apart from this, many children lose their lives in crossfires and other explosions on a [day to day basis](#). Children are physically weak and cannot withstand explosions, and they also get injured soon resulting in disabilities or deaths. Also, children face a lot of trauma due to the constant displacement and separation from families due to the conflicts. The condition of Afghan girls is problematic, as they face [early marriages](#) and [sexual abuse](#) at homes.

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Afghanistan is under Taliban, these organizations may not be able to provide their support to the Afghan children. Countries across the globe with the help of the United Nations, other non-governmental organizations and NGO's should initiate dialogues with the Taliban regarding the rights and safety of the children in Afghanistan.

There should be pressure on the Taliban from other countries to reopen schools and hospitals. If they do not oblige, countries can restrict Taliban's efforts for global recognition and development. There should be conscious efforts from the [International community](#) to rescue and rehabilitate the Afghan children who are under the control of the Taliban.

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The War on Terror



The resurgence

The existence of the Taliban continued due to the illicit drug trade and constant back support. It resurfaced taking over Kabul in August 2021

International Allies

After the Taliban took over, China and Pakistan mainly has become its allies and a new geopolitical contest has come up for India

The reconstruction

In 2002, President Bush set an agenda to reconstruct Afghanistan. This US presence in Afghanistan continued till 2021



Its Effect



Keeping in mind India's border situation with China in the East and Pakistan in the West, it is now apprehended that Afghanistan will become a breeding ground for terrorists if a diplomatic stand is not taken

The take over

India had invested \$3 billion to promote democracy in Afghanistan. The recent take-over has turned it into a reign of terror with India on the other side of the balance

India's Stance

With QUAD and bilateral agreements, India seems to be in a difficult situation. It has still not recognized the Taliban regime but its decision is going to be of strategic importance

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AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE RETURN OF TALIBAN

Afghanistan, also known as the "graveyard of empires", is a landlocked country which is located in the heart of Asia and is bounded by Pakistan on the east and Iran on the west. In 2021, the World Bank ranked Afghanistan as the poorest country in Asia (based on GDP per capita, current US\$)¹. The Taliban is a radical, Islamic fundamentalist organisation based in Afghanistan. The radical organisation emerged as one of the most influential factions in the Afghan Civil War of 1994. Following the Afghan civil war, the Taliban formed a totalitarian regime known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in 1996. During this period, the Taliban enacted its interpretation of Islamic law. The Taliban controlled nearly three-quarters of Afghanistan for the next five years. Following the September 11 attacks, the United States invaded Afghanistan in December 2001, removing the Taliban from power.

To bring closure to the Afghanistan War, the United States committed to removing its forces from Afghanistan in 2020. As a consequence of this deal, the Taliban regained control over Afghanistan in 2021, following the fall of Kabul.

Economic Background of Afghanistan

In the early modern period, a substantial percentage of Afghan trade was primarily regulated by the Afghan government. During this period, the flow of western technology was controlled by the logistic needs of the army. Only foreigners invited by the Afghan rulers were permitted to establish businesses in the country.

The Soviet invasion and the subsequent civil war utterly destroyed most of the country's meagre infrastructure and distorted regular economic patterns. During this period, the gross national product declined significantly due to disruptions in commerce and transportation, as well as labour and capital losses. Consequently, the country's economy went from a traditional one to a centrally planned one up until the fall of the Taliban in 2002.

Afghan Economy Before Return of Taliban

Back in 2001, Afghanistan's economy was in tatters as a result of internal conflicts and civil war that had lasted nearly two decades. The nation was one of the least developed economies in the world, with high infant

¹Poorest Asian Countries 2021, World Population Review(2021), <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/poorest-asian-countries>

and child mortality, low life expectancy and a malnourished populace. Over the next decade, various foreign donors and humanitarian organisations offered aid and assistance to the war-torn country. With this support, the nation made significant improvements in both political and economic spheres.

Estimates from the World Bank shows that Afghanistan's GDP has increased dramatically since 2001, rising from \$4 billion in 2002 to \$21 billion in 2020. Between 2002 and 2012, the economy grew at a breakneck pace, with per capita GDP increasing by nearly 100%. During this time, international donors financed almost three-fourths of the government's budget; however, from 2014, external development assistance began to decline, impeding economic progress and recovery. Some of the remarkable advances in the country during the previous two decades have been the recognition and empowerment of women in school and work, a substantial reduction in fertility, infant and child mortality, overall death rates, and a significant decrease in food scarcity.

Afghan Economy After Return of Taliban

Afghanistan's economy is primarily dependent on remittances from abroad and external foreign aid. According to World Bank estimates, the country's GDP accounted for nearly 4% of remittances from abroad and 40% of international aid in 2020². The fall of Kabul and the return of the Taliban has placed the flow of remittances and international aid in uncertainty. Following the takeover, numerous countries and international financial institutions, notably the IMF and the World Bank, discontinued their assistance and funding to the country, resulting in the collapse of Afghanistan's central bank. All of these factors eventually led to an economic crisis in Afghanistan; the supply of money shrank significantly, most commercial banks in the country closed due to liquidity crisis, the authorities imposed restrictions on bank withdrawals to conserve the country's reserves, unemployment peaked and the employed were either underpaid or unpaid, many local businesses were forced to close, the situation exacerbated food shortages and led to inflation.

²Overview of Afghanistan, World Bank (Oct. 08, 2021), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistan/overview>

According to Asian Development Bank estimates, almost one-third of the population lives in poverty, earning less than \$1.90 per day³. The bulk of exports, primarily to India and Pakistan, included dried fruits, nuts, and medicinal herbs. However, huge imports of oil, food, and machinery resulted in a large trade deficit for Afghanistan⁴. According to experts, the Taliban's return will worsen the country's trade deficit and general poverty level. The return has also caused the Afghani, the country's official currency, to drop by more than 6%, which has created a distortion in the country's trade and commerce.

According to a recent UNDP analysis, the worst-case scenario would see a significant increase in the number of people living in poverty in Afghanistan, with about 38 million people falling below the poverty line⁵. Food scarcity as a result of low output and inflation could have a significant impact on the population's health. To avert such a disaster, numerous countries and international organisations have pledged to give humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Countries and International organisations

such as the United Nations, the United States, China, and the European Union have promised aid to address the country's critical needs.

Future of the Afghan Economy

The sudden reduction in foreign aid and assistance, as well as loss of access to offshore assets and disruptions in financial linkages, are projected to result in a significant contraction of the economy and health sector, increased poverty, and macroeconomic instability.

Currently, the recovery of Afghanistan's economy is possible only through the flow of funds to the country in form of external financial help. Shortly after taking over Kabul, Taliban leaders spoke to the international media, expressing their desire to establish good relations with both developed and developing countries. Experts question whether the true motivation for this interest is to gain access to aid and assistance from these countries⁶. Maintaining a solid trade and aid link with the rest of the world will be critical to Afghanistan's economic progress.

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QUIZ

1. When did Mullah Omar, the Founder of the Taliban Group captured Kandahar and seized Kabul for the first time, establishing the Taliban control of Afghanistan and imposition of strict Islamic rule?

A 1994

B 1996

C 1989

D 1992

2. When did The United States of American invaded Afghanistan first?

A 2000

B 2002

C 2001

D 1999

3. What was the main reason for America's invasion in Afghanistan?

A Human Rights violation by the Taliban

B Taliban's Anti America Approach

C Taliban's refusal to hand over Osama Bin Laden to the United State

D None of the Above

4. What is Taliban's main source of Revenue?

A Illegal Drug Trade

B Export of Dry Fruits

C Poppy Cultivation

D Illegal Mining

5. President Joe Biden has authorized how much amount from the emergency fund to meet the refugee needs which is stemming from the geo-political situation in Afghanistan?

A 100 million USD

B 150 million USD

C 200 million USD

D 50 million USD

6. The first communist government in Afghanistan which had close ties with the USSR was led by?

A Mohammad Daud Khan

B Ashraf Ghani

C Hafizullah Amin

D Nur Mohammad Taraki

8. In which year did Soviet Union signed an accord with the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, giving Afghanistan a non-aligned status?

A 1986

B 1985

C 1988

D 1999

10. The US Military bombing campaign through air strikes on AL-Qaeda and Taliban, with the help of British Military on 7th October, 2001, was named?

A Operation Desert Storm

B Operation Enduring Freedom

C Operation Red Dawn

D Operation Rolling Thunder

7. Which country backed the Mujahideen against Soviet invasion under Babrak Karmal?

A United States of America

B United Kingdom

C France

D Iraq

9. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267, linked two groups as terrorist entities and imposed heavy sanctions. One of the groups was Taliban, the other was ____

A ISIS

B Al Qaeda

C Lashkar-e-Toiba

D Haqqani Network



Scan for answers