

## **BATTLE OF AFGHANISTAN AND IT'S MARK ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND TRADE OVER THE DECADES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Afghanistan has been a small landlock place of central Asia with no sea, limited roads, the geography location dated by 2000 years have been an important crossroad for trade for the Middle East, Eurasia and South Asian countries, it is through Afghanistan that India can continue its trade connection with Europe. Afghanistan war is an ongoing it been 40 years that Afghanistan has been indulged in some kind of wars with countries starting from Soviet Union to Taliban and US. The US, Afghanistan , Taliban and Al-Qaeda the war between them has lasted for 14 years ever since the Taliban supported and refugee to Obama Bin Laden and Al -Qaeda who have organized the 9/11 attack . It was in 2021 that US finally withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and Since 1996 the Taliban have captured Afghanistan and made the life of the civilians miserable, taking away their human rights, carrying out blast at market places, women and children have been the target, around 90% of the Afghans have taken refuge in Pakistan and Iran. In the recent SCO meeting the countries have pledged for peace and end of violence in Afghanistan which has an impact on International relation, trade and diplomacy.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Taliban, US, Soviet Union, blast, troops

### **INTRODUCTION**

Over the past 42 years Afghanistan is experiencing war with different countries the year's long conflict is carried by an escalating shed of local groups and global countries and people .The Soviet Union, Pakistan, US, Saudi Arabia and Iran have tried to capture or attack Afghanistan. In 1978, the cold war was on, the communist party led a bloodstained plot against the nation's first president during Saur Revolution, it was not a action but a revolution once in power , the People's Democratic of Afghanistan ruled the nation there was despotism curfews, travel bans, mass imprisonment and quelling of disagreement, people belonging from different professional and level of the society from academics politicians doctors and even farmers joined the hostility against the successive communist governments, by 1979 the Soviet Union came to provide assistance to the communist government. This episode attracted the west, the United States with the support of Pakistan and a few Arab states began a covert , functioning to instruct and equip the defence forces the Mujahideen , many of these mujahideen were indigenous Afghans fighting for their own nations from a external conquering, by 1988 we see a change where the war is slowing moving in favour of Mujahideen's due to the training and funds provided by the US and its allies and finally in 1989 the termination was absolute by the Soviet Union. With the Soviet Withdrawal the US deserted Afghanistan the Last communist president of Afghanistan Najibullah Ahmadzai took initiative to establish peace with the Mujahideen but it was a failure. He warned the people that without peace, Afghanistan would become a pledge in International power games .Later the Combatant commanders embarked hundreds of thousands of rockets and divided the city along ethnic lines. The forces under the control of these combatant commanders were charged with land grasp and vicious offence, rape, torment, murder.

In 1996 the Taliban arrived in Kabul to free the people from the combatant, who were supported by the US, in the course of the five year rule of the brutal Taliban authorities the western countries didn't focus on Afghanistan until the 9/11 attack Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda carried out. George W Bush conquer Afghanistan, to destruct the Al Qaeda, the US and its allies joined with the support of a few combatant in 2004 who toil damage over Kabul during the civil war, those combatant now hold dynamic position in the country. International Conflict in Afghanistan begins in 2001 after the September 11 attack. The Afghanistan war is divided into 3 chapters now. The chapter is the Taliban the conservative religious and political fraction which ruled Afghanistan and supplied refuge for Al-Qaeda, the second chapter starts from 2002 to 2008 where U.S is conquering the Taliban militarily and reconstruct fundamental organization of the Afghan state. The third chapter is 2001 to 2014, which was among the Afghanistan, Taliban, Al-Qaeda and US the longest war fought by US, 13 years of Afghanistan war.

### HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN WAR TO THE CURRENT SITUATION

Everyone from Alexander to the British Empire always wanted to conquer/attack a relatively small landlocked central Asian country, this country has no access to sea and hardly anything grows here, the main reason is the geography of the place, central location between the traditional power houses of Eurasia, Middle East and South Asia. All the major empire which ruled had to come to central Asia through Afghanistan, the Mongol empire even ruled in this region and even if India had to have trade region with Europe it has to go through Afghanistan.

It is junction or a crossroad for many countries throughout the History back to 2000 years old. Zaranj, is the place where India is trying to build a railway line to a port in Iran. Wakhan corridor is a major issue which has boundaries with both India and China. The Khyber pass connects Afghanistan with Pakistan, the war has an influence on other countries in particular the ones who share borders .Afghanistan is often referred to as the Graveyard of Empires as it is easy to capture due to the absences of a strong standing army, Afghanistan has been formed by indigenious and genetic community they don't have a standing uniform army finding among themselves. There is have a strong or standing army near the borders which becomes easy for countries to attack whereas other countries like Pakistan, China, India have strong armies at the border, it is difficult to conquer because of its geographical location and impossible to rule by any foreign power, this is simply because of the geography.

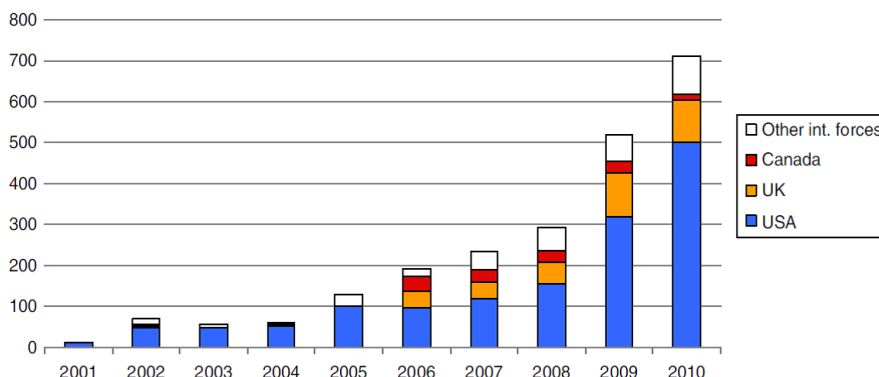


It is both a boon and a bane because of its tough geographical location mountains areas you can't attack the region for long and it has only highway known as the Garland Highway. There are ethnic divisions and you can't rule Afghanistan by a single ruler 70% is covered by mountains, rest in desert, cities are located in the valleys so it is difficult to construct roads in the region.

Only 12% land is arable which is used for producing opium, it is the world's largest producer of opium and majority of the refugee of Afghanistan stays in Pakistan and Iran. The Taliban rule led to immense ground for war in Afghanistan supported and backed militarily by Pakistan, strict sharia law imposition, widespread human rights abuse and worst condition for women where no education and no free movement was allowed. Al-Qaeda – the International Network of terrorist groups, extremist form of Islamism where Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahiri is given support and shelter by Taliban, where many training camps were organized, there started their network which were the largest terrorist attack in the world for 15 years and called out WTC bombing, 1993, US Embassy bombing in Africa, 1998, 9/11 crashed hijacked planes into WTC and Pentagon and Madrid train bombing in 2004. 9/11 changed the course of History and the world, the 9/11 attack happened in India also. Finally it was the 2001 to 2014 war between Afghanistan and US.

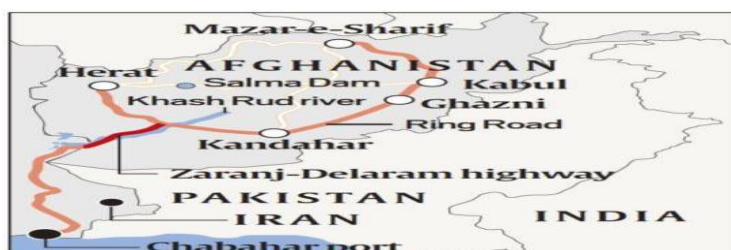
Taliban now commands 85% of Afghanistan region after this has captured areas near the border crossing like Iran and Turkmenistan, following an extensive derogatory started by US troops pulled out of war sprint Nation. Hours after president Joe Biden issued a steady defence of the US ending, the Taliban has captured two important border crossings in Western Afghanistan, completing a curve of region from the Iranian Borderline to the boundary with China.

270,000 Afghans have been displaced in the country since 2021, January due to insecurity and violence which has brought the uprooted population to 3.5 billion. Families are being forced to leave their homes in recent weeks, looking at the worsening security situation in the country. The casualties has been risen by 29% in the first quarter of the 2021 compared to 2020 ,as per the reports of UN Assistance proportion women and children have been among the targeted groups. The resilience of the Afghan population has pushed to the limit due to prolonged conflict and high level of movements, the effect on COVID-19 and natural disaster has made the situation worst with prolonged drought, which is given rise to poverty, along with the ongoing war. 65% of the Afghan population in and outside of Afghanistan are children and young youth. There are more than 2 million refugee living in Pakistan and Iran in total, and provides than all the necessary services including health and education.



The current situation says that Taliban has captured the strategic spin Boldak crossing along the frontier with Pakistan; it follows weeks of rapid territorial gains since the foreign forces have stepped up their withdrawal from Afghanistan. Afghan authorities have denied their capture. The Taliban are trying to control the economic choke points to pressure the government as well as the population that is in the domain of the government, because with them controlling the border crossings, there will be difficulties in the supply and resupply of lot of things to these people taking of spin boldak was followed by heavy fighting across the Kandahar province where the government was forced to deploy commandos to prevent the fall of the provincial capital. there have ben fighting a war since 20 years and now we see Afghan army personal like thousands of them are surrendering to the Taliban without fighting a war, as Taliban control the chole points, they will automatically control the logistical lifeline into Kabul and other major cities. There are frantic efforts underway right now. The Taliban has made rapid advancement across the country seizing a series of border posts from Afghan Forces including crossing like Iran, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan Pakistan wants a political settlement and it wants to avoid the scenario of a civil war in Afghanistan, it wants the regional states to play a more proactive role in trying to convince both parties that the Afghan government as well as the Taliban that they much come to a negotiated settlement rather than risk plunging Afghanistan into another cycle of violence.

With every passing day the Taliban is getting strong in Afghanistan, there is a security threat for the country, the region and for India. the was a recent attack in the Herat province the Salma Dam, located on the river, this project is also known as India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam. In 2016 Prime Minister Modi attended the inaugurate ceremony of the Dam. It took 10 years to build this dam and in matter of few hours it fell into the hands of the Taliban. Taliban attacked the check points of them and killed 16 security personnel near the Salma Dam. Taliban has affected India interest and poses threat, This dam was the biggest project of India in Afghanistan, moreover India has invested more than 3 billion dollars in Afghanistan .along with that it has developed more than 400 projects in 34 of its provinces which include projects like schools, hospitals, dams, clinics, library, a parliament house all this development and this money now the Taliban is attempting to regain control, the security situation is getting worst and threat is increasing even minute. India is planning to bring back all its citizens and officials living in Afghanistan, the process is currently on and many multiple agencies will be part of it. India has an embassy based in Kabul, 3106 Indian Nationals live and work in Afghanistan and 500 people at consulates in Kandahar and Mazar, according to Ministry of External Affairs.



Taliban have been hijacking foreign projects m killing government officials, carrying out blast at market, forcing families to flee their homes putting an end to freedom of Afghans people at risk. On Monday, more than 1000 Afghan soldiers flee into Tajikistan as Taliban extends control without putting up a fight.

The world is against seizure of power by violence Afghanistan is an important crossroad for trade and maintenance of International relations. Most of the countries have been affected by the Afghanistan war. During the Shanghai Cooperation summit, the foreign Ministers of Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, India called for the end of violence and peace for the civilians of Afghanistan. There has been rise in terrorism they effects can be felt in most of the South Asian countries. Afghanistan is a member of SAARC, where India and Pakistan have entered into peace agreement in the case of Afghanistan. India has been a major contribute to the development of Afghanistan after the 2014 war , with US removing their troops from the region and Taliban controlling majority of the region has affected the border regions of India, Pakistan, Iran, China, there have peace negotiation from all the countries. The future is unpredictable.



## CONCLUSION

It been a year since there has been a direct negotiation between the US government and Taliban has signed a peace agreement in 2020 in the month of February, with a timeline by which US will withdraw troops from Afghanistan, with US exit from Afghanistan we see a rise in conflict by the Taliban control across the countries and border areas, where civilians are forced to flee. Women and children have been targeted with no access to human rights, the country due to its geography location is very important for majority of the countries for which peace negotiation is important as it is a gateway for trade for a number of countries followed by lack standing army in the country has made it an easy bane for foreign countries The future of Afghanistan will have an impact on the International trade and other countries.

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