



RESEARCH PAPER

US Withdrawal and Transition of Afghan Government: Implications for Afghanistan and Pakistan

¹Syed Shamsuddin* ² Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid

1. Ph. D Scholar (International Relations), Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: October 11, 2021 Accepted: February 25, 2022 Online: March 31, 2022	This article attempts to explain the implications of withdrawal of US military forces from Afghanistan in 2021 onwards. The twenty years long war between US and Taliban came to an end on 15th August 2021. This transition of government from Ashraf Ghani's administration to Taliban, took place according to the agreement signed between US and Taliban on 29th February 2020 in Doha, Qatar. The implications of US withdrawal are explained with the help of proposed rational choice model, which is applicable to the case of Afghanistan. Methodologically, this study used qualitative methods approach to collect primary data and secondary data in terms of different tools of data collection. As a result of its model-guided empirical analysis, this study finds the post-withdrawal situation, to be more complicated. This complexity could be (re)solved positively if the engaged actors prefer to negotiate. If not, divergence of interests would lead to more confrontation.
Keywords: Peace Deal Agreement, Terrorism, Transition of Government, USA withdrawal	
*Corresponding Author: ssagha2@gmail.com	

Introduction

The land called the graveyard of super powers, had to confront another war led by US and its NATO Alliance in Afghanistan for twenty years duration after USSR. On 11th September, a trade center called World Trade Center in America was hit by the high jacked jets and thousands of civilians were killed and injured. Osama bin Laden, the head of a militant group Al-Qaida was considered to be responsible for the calamity (National Commission, 2004). Osama bin Laden was given a safe hand in Afghanistan and he was under the custody of Taliban administration at the time. At the time Afghanistan was ruled by Taliban, headed by Mullah Umar who established Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. America appealed Afghan government to hand over Osama bin Laden, who the American considered the main culprit of 9/11 attacks. But the Taliban administration refused to hand over Osama bin Laden to America. On the refusal from Islamic Emirate, America and its Alliance launched a military operation against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to remove the Taliban administration from Kabul and punish the main culprit of 9/11 attacks (President Bush Addresses the Nation, 2001).

American and ISAF troops slowly with the help of Northern Alliance captured the areas under Taliban administration and finally after the fall of Kabul in November 2001, ISAF and Northern alliance forces got the total territory of Afghanistan but interestingly they were failed to kill or capture Osama bin Laden (Perry, & Kassing, 2015). The international community (UNO) decided that to establish a new democratic authority in the country which would prevent the relocation of Afghan Taliban in the country. A conference was held in Bonn, a city of Germany in December 5, 2001, where all the factions signed the Bonn Agreement, endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 1383. It was decided to appoint

Hamid Karzai as interim head of Afghan administration in Afghanistan (Fields & Ahmed, 2011).

Till 2003, Afghan Taliban again re-surfaced and started attacks on ISAF and Afghan forces. Taliban, this time changed their pattern for war and started the tactics of guerilla war. Along guerilla war other means of war like suicide attacks, mine explosions etc were also successfully used by Taliban and as a result Taliban succeeded in recapturing some rural areas from the allied forces. By 2007, the ISAF forces were increased and the number reached to a total of 140000 by 2011. In May 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed in a military operation by American military in the Abbottabad city of Pakistan (Muzaffar, Khan, & Yaseen. 2019). The departure of Osama bin Laden provided an opportunity to the NATO forces to reconsider about their stay in Afghanistan, as they had achieved their aim. The Allied forces concluded their operations in the country and transferred complete security responsibility to Afghan government in 2014. From 2014 onward efforts were made by US, Pakistan, Russia, Turkey, China and international community to find a peaceful way for the resolution of Afghan issue. Finally on 29th February 2020, a Peace Deal was signed between US and Taliban. According to this Peace Deal both US and Taliban agreed for a peaceful exit of ISAF forces from Afghanistan (Muzaffar, Shah, & Karamat, 2020; Maizland, Lindsay, 2020). On 15th August 2021, the Afghan president Ashraf Ghani left the country which paved the way for Taliban to capture the capital city of Afghanistan. On 30th August, last American aircraft left the country providing the complete withdrawal of foreign troops. From 2001 till the withdrawal of US and NATO forces in August 2021, the US has almost suffered around 2500 casualties of its soldiers and an economic loss of around \$2.3 trillion US dollar and also 240,000 of Afghan deaths (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

The American forces left 9 billion dollars military weapons for the Taliban. It includes aircraft, vehicles, guns, communication equipment and other gear used for military operations. The future would decide whether the Taliban's government would be bone of contention or the center of trade between Central and South Asia. The new government would have far and long lasting effects on Afghanistan and its neighbors specifically Pakistan. In this article we are going to answer some questions regarding this new development of US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The withdrawal of US from Afghanistan has far reaching consequences for the two neighbors.

After the withdrawal of US and her NATO Alliance from Afghanistan, the Afghan government failed to protect the country from Taliban. The takeover of Kabul by Afghan Taliban put the country in various challenges. These challenges are multi-dimensional and Taliban face hardships while resolving these issues. The implications of US and NATO withdrawal for Afghanistan are in the shape of various challenges, which are discussed in detail as;

Legitimacy/ Diplomatic Challenge

Legitimacy is defined as recognition and relations with international communities through different diplomatic manners which are common for mutual relations in international law and customs. Before, the recognition process for any country, the world community looks for the type of government. They check out whether the government is the real face of its public and will it animate for a longer duration in order to provide safe path for the upcoming projects across the countries. During the last twenty years US-Taliban war, the governments of Hamid Karzai and then Ashraf Ghani both had their governmental recognition from the international community. They had numerous projects from a number of countries. They had the opportunity to boost their economy and trade with any country of the world, because their governments had international recognition, which eventually proved growth in Afghan economy.

The transition of government from Ashraf Ghani's administration to Taliban have put the neighbors as well as the international community at a fix whether to recognize or not.

Afghanistan with its important geographical location is facing complications to be recognized by the world community. Yet, no country has officially recognized the Taliban government. Though some of the countries completely denied to recognize Taliban government. The UK's permanent representative to the UN stated that UK would never be prepared to recognize Taliban government as it took into power by force which is committed to terrorism (Miakhel, Shahmahmood. 2021). The Canadian prime minister denied to recognize Taliban government by exploring the Canadian law which commits Taliban is a terrorist organization because it took power by force from an elected government. While on the other side, some of the countries put some demands for the Taliban to be recognized, as the US state secretary Antony Blinkon a few hours later after the Taliban took over on 15th August 2021 that the future of Afghan government would be recognized and we could work with it if it upholds the basic rights and doesn't recognize the terrorist organizations. On August 18, the information minister of Pakistan, Fawad Chaudhry said that Pakistan could recognize the Afghan Taliban's government on the behalf that it preserves human rights and not allow its territory for the cross border terrorism. These statements are open signals to Taliban government that if they want to work with the world and desire to be the part of the world community, they have to take some steps to make state heaven for the people of Afghanistan not for the terrorist.

Security Challenges

The people of Afghanistan who suffered a lot of troubles in the war against terrorism, in the shape of bomb blasts, target killing, suicide attacks and drone attacks. This was a common phenomenon with the people of Afghanistan during this war for twenty years. Withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in August 2021 created a number of security issues for the country. Though Taliban got the control of Afghan government, but it has to go a long way to ensure a complete peace and prosperity in the country. There are still some jihadist and rebellious groups who have support from outside and can create security issues for the country (Mir, 2021). The Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid denied such claims, but the 31st May attack by American drone on the head of Al-Qaida Aimen Al Zawahiri who was departed in that attack, denied the claims made by Taliban.

The US attacks and the killing of AL-Zawahiri showed that there are still terrorists in Afghanistan who are using the Afghan land for terrorist activities, which is a clear breach of Peace Deal Agreement between Taliban and US. In October, a Shia mosque in Kandahar was blasted during Friday prayer and more than sixty people were killed. This attack was claimed by Afghanistan's ISIL. ISIL proceeded another suicide attack in Kunduz on a Shia mosque after a week of the Kandahar calamity. Another attack in the capital city of Afghanistan took place in a mosque and killed Afghan cleric and senior Taliban leader sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani including other members. Sheikh Rahimullah was followed by a larger group of Taliban as their spiritual leader. He was also in favor of girls' education in Afghanistan. All these attacks showed scarcity of security in the country. Taliban has to take serious steps against these terrorists throughout the country to make sure safety and security of the country (Gambino, 2021).

Taliban government has to face several other attacks in future. The terrorist groups working in Afghanistan are enough strong to challenge the Taliban administration. The ISIS-Khorasan has already differences with the Afghan Taliban and from recent attacks it is visible that in the near future this group will resist and create several security issues in Afghanistan (Muzaffar, Yaseen & Afzal, 2021). Taliban at the moment are not so strong to fight against this group. Even the Taliban themselves are worry about the situation because they know the reality that this terrorist group has the power and strength to challenge the writ of government. At present Taliban have a soft corner for ISIS due to its inability and compulsions?

Another important group which may create problems for the Taliban administration is Al-Qaida. As Taliban agreed in the Peace Deal Agreement that they would not allow any

terrorist group to operate from Afghanistan including Al-Qaida, which is considered as the main culprit of 9/11 attacks (Rassler D., & Brown V., 2011). Due to Al-Qaida's presence in Afghanistan at that time, the International forces attacked on Afghanistan and now Taliban agreed in the Peace Deal that they would not allow any group including Al-Qaida to operate from Afghan soil. But the claims of Taliban proved false because in an attack by a US drone on the residence of Al-Qaida chief Aiman Al Zawahiri in which he was killed, showed that there are still the members of this terrorist group in Afghanistan. United States of America and members of NATO declared the presence of Al-Qaida chief as a clear violation of the Peace Deal Agreement.

Another important threat to the security of Afghanistan is Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. This group is involved in many attacks on the Pakistani army and after the operation of North Waziristan the members of this group crossed the Pak-Afghan border and now living in Afghanistan. Although this group considered the Afghan Taliban as their ideal and they also made allegiance to Afghan Taliban. But the number of this group is huge and can create problems for Taliban administration (Muzaffar, Nawab & Yaseen, 2021). This group is involved in cross border attacks and their target is Pakistan army. Again it is a clear violation of the Peace Deal Agreement, Taliban promised in the agreement that they would not allow any group to operate from Afghan soil. But the stance of Afghan Taliban regarding Pakistani Taliban is entirely different and they considered this issue as an internal issue of Pakistan. When Pakistani administration demanded to take strict steps against Pakistani Taliban, Afghani Taliban refused this demand and stated that Pakistan would resolve this issue by mutual negotiations with Pakistani Taliban. Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan is a bone of contention between Pakistan and Afghanistan and it would deteriorate the relations between the two countries. Therefore, Afghan government must take certain strict steps against this group in order to normalize its relations with Pakistan.

Another important security risk for Taliban is East Turkestan Islamic movement which is involved in terrorist activities in the neighboring countries. Neighboring countries have serious threats from this group. The base of this group is also present in Afghanistan and operating in the neighboring countries. China has also concern for this group and wants to eliminate the members of this group. China has already given statements regarding this terrorist group. The Central Asian Republics have also reservation for this group. So, for Taliban to make good relations with its neighbors, it is mandatory for Taliban to act against these terrorist groups and give a clear message to the international community that they are against of terrorism in any shape and color.

The security of Afghanistan is at stake due to the presence of terrorist groups. All these terrorist groups have a safe zones inside Afghanistan. In the coming days it will deteriorate the security situations in Afghanistan. Therefore, Taliban government has to take action against all these terrorist groups to ensure the internal security of the country and peaceful existence with neighbors (Mir, Asfandyar. 2020).

Governance Challenges

The abrupt takeover of Afghan Taliban was unexpected even for Taliban. Taliban may face numerous complications for governing the country. They might endure the surveillance of external factors and direct resistance from internal aspects. Economy and security play efficient roles in ruling any region. The non-recognition and frozen assets are making financial exploitation while on the other side the non-cooperation of Afghan youth in government affairs and activation of ISIS Khorasan is a sign of danger for the subsequent government. The failure of Taliban in handling these issues might take Afghanistan once again towards safe zone of extremists. These extremists would have better environment to go for cross borders attacks and as a result, the international community would again intervene and consequently the security of the region could be negatively affected (Dawn. 2021).

The Taliban has divided into many groups and they have also differences on some key issues of governance. These different groups under the banner of Taliban which includes Haqqani group and Mansoor group. The representatives from the West and North West claim that 90% of the movement is controlled by Kandahari group. According to another report, Taliban has been divided into three groups led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Mullah Yaqoob and Sirajuddin Haqqani. The power and strength varies as the weakest group of Mullah Baradar and strongest group led by Mullah Yaqoob. They all have different way of thinking, they too have different ideology on Kashmir issue. Some considering it as an internal matter of India while the other have strong affection with Kashmiri mujahidin. With the movement of regional countries, this issue may grow and result in the making of a rebel movement within the Afghan territory and open fighting over time (Miakhel, Shahmahmood. 2021).

Secondly, the youth of Afghanistan is still unsatisfied with its new government. There is a gap between the thinking of ruling class and the ruled. This difference of mind set exposed when Taliban banned the national flag and introduced its own flag. The new generation was unhappy with this act of Taliban government. There is another difference between the rulers and ruled i.e, the ruler class is favoring theocracy and strict Islamic rules whereas the masses favor the flexible and internationally acceptable rules. In addition to this, the unemployment in the youth is another issue, approximately seventy-six percent of the youth is still jobless. A country where majority of the population is jobless and having no education is very serious problem. In the previous government they had access to education for both boys and girls and have freedom of speech and many other rights. But which they lack in the current Taliban government. The strict Taliban instructions for girl's education and forcing of women for wearing burqa created some serious problems in Afghanistan which may result in the opposition and mistrust of youth on government. Asian Foundation advises Taliban to decline dissatisfaction in order to gain the support of youth by applying pre-Taliban rulings. It is 21st century and the universally accepted rights called fundamental rights are the basic humanitarian rights and the Taliban government must assure it otherwise its consequences for Taliban will be disastrous. The Taliban government should take some practical steps to ensure the availability of fundamental rights including, education, freedom of speech and worship and all other fundamental rights.

Humanitarian Challenges:

Afghanistan, a country confronting war for twenty years which caused poverty, drought, destruction and humanitarian loss, is once again enduring humanitarian crisis due to emergence of an isolated government. Many people lost their lives by escaping the country on borders and airports. According to a report majority of Afghani people are facing poverty and drought. This calamity might ignite with an increase in governance challenges of subsequent government (Mackenzie, James. 2021).

With an abrupt takeover of Taliban, Afghanistan has been enduring from worsening humanitarian crisis. Malnutrition has captured the country and majority of the people haven't been able to have enough food and households. Approximately 20 million of the population are under crisis or in emergency to gain food stuff. A report by world food program WFP has elaborated that Afghanistan has the highest number confronting food insufficiency. The organizations also reported that tens of thousands of children are in health emergency who not having sufficient treatment will cause to death. The WFP claims sudden shock in economy as the cause of the current situation (World Food Program. 2021). The international rescue committee predicted that there will be more casualties by food starvation than the previous twenty years of war. In spite, all the country has been affected by the crisis but women and girls are enduring more complications in gaining food, health care and financial appliances. Some women and girls who could not do numerous jobs and eliminated from their jobs, got their families directly affected as they were the only sources of their income and family expenses. Many women are pushed by poverty on selling

household materials, sending their children to work and marrying dowries. Taliban made obligatory the presence of a male family member with family on workdays which was unaffordable task to be done. An ordinary woman cannot go out without muharram to buy daily household stuff which made them restricted (United Nations. 2021).

The root cause in access to food, water, shelter and healthcare, is the shock in economy, in millions of lost dollars and collapse of banking sector of the country. Though, drought and long lasting war also effected the condition but economic crisis made an extra ordinary role in making this deteriorating situation.

Economic Implications:

Afghanistan being confronted with various humanitarian crisis cannot ease the condition without providing sustainability to the economic sector. Complete economic system has become bankrupt. Neither the Central bank can provide the transaction process nor are the markets ready to provide good business. The Afghan economy cannot be satisfied unless the US provide way to the frozen assets and world community to ease trade with Afghan government. The Afghan government should escalate talks with world community specially America to have their assets back and save Afghanistan to be completely bankrupt.

The restriction by US and world bank have provided implications on Afghanistan's banking sector have amplified crisis by hampering most legitimate economic activities, concluding humanitarian efforts. The Central bank of Afghanistan is unable to provide banking functions such as currency auctions, importing banknotes and humanitarian transaction (Byrd, William. 2021). Importers are facing complications to pay back for their goods. The Afghans cannot send their money to the family members from abroad. Therefore, millions of Afghans facing problems in buying food which they can see in the bazars.

This complication in economy will boost if the frozen assets are not released and money trail from the Central bank is not continued. The officials claim 20 % contraction in the GDP. This cessation provided dramatic change in public spending and shrinking of household incomes. Taliban must not decline talks with world community to have their frozen assets back and trade with the world, which will eventually put the economy back on the track (Byrd, William. 2021).

Political Implications

Afghanistan, since the abrupt takeover of Taliban has been enduring obstacles in every field of life. Including weak economy Afghanistan also has untrusted political system. The political system has totally been under the control of Taliban Islamic movement (Rensmann L., 2011). Taliban announced caretaker government on 7th September 2021, but it had non-of the persons from the previous government or locals except the heads of the movement. Afghanistan is still facing the issues of bribery and likeliness. The northern areas of the country even claim the control of the Taliban under the Quetta and Peshawar favorites.

The Afghan Taliban themselves confronting the huge distance in their ideological thinking. Afghan Taliban has been divided into three main groups. They all have differences in their ideologies. They might confront one another on any of the issue. The fourth group is the previous Afghan leaders and their supporters. They also have not yet admit the new government and will not let any chance to go if they get any kind of the support. Afghanistan has to move towards combined government in which all the heads whether they are political or local must be included in the government. There must be an effective talks and consultations with the Kabul based politicians such as ex-president Hamid Karzai, former chief executive Abdullah Abdulla, ex- mujahidin leader Gulbaddin Hikmatyar, ethnic political and civil society leaders, and through smaller scale intra-Afghan exchange channels. This act can pay back in the declaration of the new government and Taliban can have the recognition.

Social Implications:

It is the harsh rule in the world that in any region of the land where people are ruled under the pressure of guns and threats, social and fundamental rights have been put down the leg, same is the case in Afghanistan (Khan, M. A., & Rahman, Z. 2017). Taliban imposed namely Islamic law which is not acceptable in any region of the entire world. Afghans today cannot enjoy music in their marriage, they cannot send their daughters to school, women cannot go out without muharram, means a male member of the family, women cannot work and many more. All the skilled and athletic men and women settled themselves out of the country. The families who had only female source for their earnings are today cashless to run the family. The social life of Afghans has totally affected by the power change.

The rights of the Taliban are characterized by systematic violations against women and girls, cruel corporal punishments suppression to the freedom of right to speak and education. Taliban government is still blamed for human rights violation by the international community. Many countries have not recognized the new government just due to human rights violation. US still demands for the fulfillment of human rights as it was also the part of the agreement. Many women have been punished by male Taliban for protesting for their rights. Journalists from media teams are not allowed to talk against the governmental policies. These all misfortune rules will automatically play as an obstacle for the nourishment of their government.

Women Rights Challenges

Governmental changes do not matter in a lot of countries. New governments make new policies regarding their individuals in order to provide them ease and get positive response from them for better settled and long lasting governmental duration. The case seems different in the matter of Afghanistan. Women in Afghanistan feel more unsecure with the takeover of Taliban. Women are restricted and pushed backed to their homes. Taliban issued the list of women rights but it lacks employment and education rights. This issue is a hot table talk for many human right organizations.

Taliban are distinguished from other groups in the case of gender discrimination. They ban women from working outside their homes, ban girls education after six years, defy their social, political, economic and cultural rights (Human Rights Watch., 2021). Women are bond to wear hijab while working on the TV. This made another restriction for women working. They are also banned from working in different offices and the offices where they are allowed, are also bound to have the company of a muharram man. This took many of the women out of their offices. In short, it is enough for a women to get education and then go and sit at home.

Secondly, women being restricted in Kabul are far lucky than the provinces that lack social media and the small cities where people know one another. Some social activists' women have been targeted and disappearing involved in the protests (Glinski, Stefanie, 2021). Some organizations think that this might be the start of another new phase of repression under the Taliban. There are numerous cases which are even not reported because the family members feel scared and believe that it could result in the death of disappeared ones. There have been numerous attacks on media, social activists, human right defenders, hospitals, schools and universities. Including all these Taliban still claim that they have provided complete human rights. The international community seems failed in providing and protecting human rights in the country.

Media Challenges

Media including their instructions, limitations and barriers in freedom of speech, they also have economic problems. The Afghan journalists attended a press conference in Kabul, A report by reporters without borders claimed that 231 media outlets closed and over 6400 journalists have lost their jobs since last August. Afghanistan also lost two media stations since last August, due to economic problems. The Paktia ghag, in Paktia province,

and Sadai Maimana in Faryab province seemed financial problems in announcing the closure. The editor of Paktia Ghag Zabiullah Ayubi said that they have closed their work due to lack of potency in submitting the bills and other expenses. It is only example of Zabiullah Ayubi who became jobless after working for 14 years in this field, thousands of media workers got jobless and many are on the line to be kicked out. More than 60% of the media workers lost their jobs. The Taliban restrictions along with economic hardships since the Taliban takeover, have affected the finances of media sector. Before, the media would rely on foreign organization and governmental sectors for their finances which have been closed since the Taliban takeover (Collett-White, 2021). Taliban also restricted media channels to share advertisements before airing them. Media is completely ruined with the government of Taliban.

Refugees Problem

Afghanistan being headlined for its wars and uncertainty. Afghans have always displaced in the search of food and security. The withdrawal of NATO and US once again lead Afghanistan to lead refugees. This caused increase in the number of internal and external refugees (Alrea Niazi, & Raza, 2021). Already, in the present year 558000 Afghans have been displaced internally. Thousands of people moved towards borders and even hanged to airplanes to leave the country. The recent rules adopted by Taliban government about women and girls education and jobs, escalated the fear of insecurity in future. The instability in Afghanistan will have worse impact on Afghanistan and neighboring countries both (Akhtar. Saadullah., 2021).

Afghanistan's neighbors, especially Pakistan and Iran, who have already hosting 2.2 million refugees registered and 3 million overall refugees in different status. These refugees not only need shelter for them but also food and security. This cause direct effect on the economy and management complications for both the subsequent countries. Pakistan is facing great pressure on borders in which great number of asylum seekers are ill and health seekers. This has been put great pressure on hospitals in Quetta and Peshawar in Pakistan. Pashtun, a nation living on both sides of Pakistan and Afghanistan may increase security and management problems for both the countries if hardness is applied on the borders. The situation was quite different before Taliban. The previous government had the recognition of all the countries and many organizations would release helping aids for Afghan residents and refugees. The refugees today are causing direct complications for Afghan and neighboring governments. The refugees is a great problem for Afghanistan and neighboring countries both.

Brain Drain Challenge:

Afghan Taliban claiming their government, "the government of real Afghans", made enormous complications after the succession. This change has completely affected every field of life. Afghanistan is no more considered to be safe haven for talented Afghans, whether that is by means of perturbed economy, poverty, unemployment or by harsh rules for women and girls. The talented and bright brains are escaping the country. Though, Taliban pledged Afghans to help in rebuilding of the country but the life seems uneasy for many in the country. Doctors, engineers, judges and lawyers were among those who had the financial means, education and skills that could facilitate emigration. Losing such human capital, simply put, is disastrous for Afghanistan (Akhtar. Saadullah., 2021).

Taliban on one side appealing the residents to participate in governmental affairs and on the other side banning the girls education, putting them out of offices and limiting them to their homes. The girls who could compete in every field and were highlighting the name of the country, are no more valued in the territory. A girl who can confront the world is now just a house wife in the country. Girls who are interested in education and want to compete the world, have to leave the country for doing so. A girl explored the situation while talking to France said that she was studying in school when Taliban banned the education,

then she went for internet study, she found many online volunteers to help her, she worked hard and passed the test for fully funded American scholarship, she went for the interview and cleared it and on Saturday, 30th July finally landed in the US. Though she is talented but she has no future in Afghanistan.

Taliban has implemented the sharia rule which has totally unemployed all the judges and lawyers, they have banned musical programs which has unemployed the singers and writers. Taliban restricted women to go for jobs without their family members which has unemployed the women who were the only source of earning for their families. Many talented Afghans also refuse to work under the uneducated and above the law Taliban. All the educated and well trained people try to escape the country and settle themselves abroad. This all resulted in the loss of human capital and left Afghanistan a country hell for the citizens.

US withdrawal and Implications for Pakistan

Security Challenges:

The relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have not been very well since the independence of Pakistan in 1947. Afghanistan was the only country to oppose the enrolment of Pakistan in the United Nations. Pakistan has been facing anti-governments in Afghanistan, which play a negative role in the relations between the two countries. Pakistan had friendly relations for a short span of time during the previous Taliban government from 1996 to 2001 (Haqqani, H., 2005). And again it is expected that the future relations between the two countries will be based on friendship and mutual respect after the takeover by Taliban in 2021. Pakistan is considered as strategic partner of the Afghan Taliban and is much happy to overthrow the Indian friendly government. But, at the same time Taliban government has brought security challenges for Pakistan (Ali, S., & Ahmed, S. 2021). It will create management problems. There is a danger of increase in extremism, refugees and drug imports. Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan is once again active and has created imbalances in Swat and FATA region of KPK. If this issue is not handled, it can once again push Pakistan from a tourist to terrorist country (Lodhi, Maleeha., 2021).

Swat valley which was home to terrorists till 2009, unless, a heavy nationwide operation was launched. Then Swat "A home to terrorist" changed to "A home to tourists". There was a great peace and the people of Swat enjoying the capital earned by tourism. The scenario changed with takeover of Taliban in Afghanistan (Akhtar, S., & Khalil, A. 2021). A video whirled in the mountains of Swat in which two high command government officials were kidnapped by Taliban (TTP), the fear again erupted. There were few more attacks but the situation got worst when a school van was hit by a motorcycle rider, a driver was killed and students were wounded. This once again recalled the attack on Malala. After the incident there was a sit in on and thousands of people demanded for the restoration of peace. Swat and FATA is on the red list of terrorists and God forbid if they get settled in the areas of Swat the situation might get worse than 2009. According to some analysts these attacks sparked with the arrival of Taliban in power that put Islamabad in a very difficult position. Since Taliban take over, the number of attacks on Pakistani army has increased many fold along the border areas. The anti-Pakistan Taliban TTP is now the part of the Afghan Taliban government. Pakistan has to tackle this calamity to get safe from extremism and destabilization (Lodhi, Maleeha., 2021).

Pakistan's Social Challenges

Pakistan and Afghanistan not only neighboring countries but also countries with the same religions, culture and nations. Both the countries are having Pashtun population. They have same rules for marriages, funerals, eating and clothing. Many families have cross border marriages and some have even half family settled in Afghanistan and half in Pakistan. The people living in borders even cross borders for earning their livelihoods (Hussain, R., 2000).

When the new government emerged in Afghanistan people rushed towards borders and Pakistan either would open border and welcome the lakhs of immigrants or would close it. Pakistan refused to welcome the migrants and it faced huge protests especially on the borders. But on the other hand, people in Pakistan were wishing to host their brothers. In these protests many protesters were shot down on crossing the borders by forces. Secondly, the religious sector of Pakistan warmly celebrated the victory of Taliban. There are some Pashtun national organizations who directly support Afghanistan and always put pressure on Pakistan for helping Afghanistan, namely PMAP, PTM and ANP. Pakistan is always socially affected by the situation in Afghanistan (Abbas, H., 2019).

Economic Implications:

The Taliban takeover not only launched implications for Afghanistan but also for the neighboring territories. The neighbors would not only face hurdles in the shape of refugees but also the vandalism of trade, projects and relationship. Taliban do not have cash to pay hence have stopped the imports from the neighbors resulting on the loss of economy. The Taliban control will too elevate questions on regional investment, including TAPI gas export pipeline and security issues. The Taliban accession would eminently put negative economic impacts on Pakistan, Iran, and Tajikistan and slightly on Turkmenistan (Ali, S., & Ahmed, S. 2021).

Refugee's problem will definitely hit the economy of Pakistan and Iran. The economies of both the countries have already been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2021, Pakistan was approximately expected hosting thousands of additional Afghan refugees internally dispersed. The cost of processing, managing, housing and supporting Afghan asylum seekers would definitely create economic complications for the local governments. Pakistan has to seek international community to help in order to get out of this hard nut to crack (Akhtar, S., & Khalil, A., 2021).

Implications of International Community on Pakistan

The Taliban government has confronted Pakistan with number of challenges. Pakistan on one side is glad to have ally Taliban government in Afghanistan and defeating India strategically, is facing implications from international community. Pakistan always denied the support for Taliban but the recent efforts for the recognition of Taliban government would definitely spoil its presentation. Pakistan would not only face the political complications but also economic hurdles (Humayun. Fahd. 2021). Ex-prime minister Imran Khan's ideology on the reduction of US- troops has already shrinking aids for Pakistan. Though, Pakistan has got the attention of the world community on direct talks with Taliban and has got great closeness with Russia and China but on the other side will endure the US and allies. America directly blames Pakistan for its failure. A bill by republican in US senate is about banning the Taliban government and its supporters. Pakistan seems to be more affected. This was the case that American president Joe Biden not even call to Prime Minister Khan in his duration and Khan directly blames US responsible for the regime change against his government.

Way Forward

The war which was started by USA and her NATO alliance in 2001 after the attacks on World Trade Centre finally came to an end on 15th August 2021 with the withdrawal of US and her NATO alliance from Afghanistan. Twenty years long war made Afghanistan a land of bloodshed and almost thousands of people died in it. But during these twenty years of war the Western alliance provided every possible help to the Afghan government in order to stand them against Taliban. But with the withdrawal of US and her NATO alliance the Afghan government failed to protect the country from Taliban. The takeover of Kabul by Afghan Taliban put the country in various challenges. These challenges are multi-dimensional and Taliban face hardships while resolving these issues. The implications of US and NATO

withdrawal for Afghanistan are in the shape of legitimacy and diplomatic isolation, security challenges, governance challenges, humanitarian challenges, economic challenges, social challenges, Women rights and fundamental rights, media challenges and refugee and brain drain challenges etc. Resolving all these challenges are out of Taliban's access at present. It needs the assistance from international community and regional states to resolve all these issues. Only Taliban government is not in a position to resolve all issues alone. The international community on humanitarian basis should come and help the Taliban government. On the other hand Taliban should also act according to the articles of Peace Deal Agreement and make sure to protect the fundamental rights, especially the rights of women and girls in regard of education. It is a two way process, both the sides should fulfill their responsibilities. Pakistan being an important neighbor of Afghanistan can also play its part and try to avoid any humanitarian crisis (Hussain, I., & Shah, S. 2021).

The withdrawal of US and NATO forces have not only implications for Afghanistan but also some implications for the neighboring country of Pakistan. The withdrawal of US forces and the transition of Afghan government has made security challenges, economic challenges and social challenges for Pakistan. These challenges can be overcome by framing a comprehensive policy including security, economy and social aspects. This complexity could be (re)solved positively if both the engaged actors Afghanistan and Pakistan prefer to negotiate. By mutual negotiations the two countries may overcome the situation, if not, divergence of interests would lead to more confrontation (Iqbal, Khalid., 2013).

References

- Ali, S., & Ahmed, S. (2021). Afghanistan's fall: implications for Pakistan's security and economy. *Journal of Political Studies*, 28(2), 143-159.
- Akhtar, S., & Khalil, A. (2021). Taliban takeover of Afghanistan: Implications for Pakistan. *Journal of Polity and Society*, 1(1), 37-49.
- Abbas, H. (2019). Border security and cross-border terrorism between Pakistan and Afghanistan. *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 6(1), 78-97.
- Akhtar, Saadullah. (August 17, 2021). "Thousands of Afghans Enter Pakistan via Chaman Border Crossing," *Al Jazeera*
- Byrd, William. (2021). "After Taliban Takeover, Can Afghanistan's Economy Survive?" U.S. Institute of Peace
- Collett-White M. (2021, September 9). Afghan journalists beaten in Taliban detention. *Reuters*.
- Fields, Mark., & Ahmed, Ramsha. (2011). *A Review of the 2001 Bonn Conference and Application to the Road Ahead in Afghanistan*, Institute for National Strategic Studies National Defense University
- Gambino, M. (2021, May 11). Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan could become a major threat to global security. *The Guardian*.
- Grare, Frederic. (2014, February). *Afghanistan Post-2014: Scenarios and consequences. Policy Brief, Transatlantic Security Debates Series*, Paris: Foundation for Strategic Research.
- Glinski, Stefanie. (2021). Do Not Touch My Clothes: Afghan women's social media protest against Taliban. *Guardian*
- Haqqani, H. (2005). *Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military*, Washington, DC: *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*.
- Humayun. Fahd., (2021, August 20). "US-Pakistan Cooperation Is More Necessary Today Than Ever Before," *Al Jazeera*.
- Hussain, I., & Shah, S. (2021). Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*.
- Hoffman, Bruce. (2009). How to Win Afghanistan, *The National Interest*, <http://nationalinterest.org/article/how-to-win-afghanistan-3260>.
- Hussain, R. (2000). Pakistan's Relations with Afghanistan: Continuity and Change, *Strategic Studies*.
- Iqbal, Khalid. (2013, September 12). *End of Afghanistan game & options for Pakistan*. <http://www.criterionquarterly.com/end-of-afghanistan-game-options-for-pakistan/>
- Khan, M. A., & Rahman, Z. (2017). The impact of terrorism on the stability and security of Afghanistan. *Journal of Political Studies*. 18(2), 37-54
- Lodhi. Maleeha. (2021, August 2). Back to the Future," *Dawn*.

- Maizland, Lindsay. (2020, March 2). "U.S.-Taliban Peace Deal: What to Know." *Council on Foreign Relations*.
- Mir, Asfandyar. (2020). *Afghanistan's Terrorism Challenge: The Political Trajectories of Al-Qaeda, the Afghan Taliban, and the Islamic State*. Middle East Institute.
- Maizland, Lindsay. (2021, Mar. 15). "The Taliban in Afghanistan." *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/taliban-afghanistan>. Accessed May 2021.
- Miakhel, Shahm Mahmood., (2021). *For the Taliban, Governing Will Be the Hard Part*, United States Institute for peace.
- Mir A. (2021). *What does IS-K's resurgence mean for Afghanistan and beyond?* United States Institute of Peace.
- Mackenzie, James. (2021). *New era for Afghanistan starts with long queues, rising prices*. Reuters
- Maizland, Lindsay. (2020). "U.S.-Taliban Peace Deal: What to Know." Council on Foreign Relations.
- Muzaffar, M., Khan, I., & Yaseen. Z. (2019). End Game or a New Great Game? Indo-Pakistan Rivalry and Post Withdrawal Afghanistan, *Asian Journal of International Peace & Security (AJIPS)*, 3, 1-11
- Muzaffar, M., Nawab, M. W. & Yaseen, Z. (2021). The US Exit from Afghanistan: A Way Forward, *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 2(2), 30-41
- Muzaffar, M., Shah, S. T. A., & Karamat, S. (2020). US Taliban Dhoha Accord: A Compromise, *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 1(2), 32-42
- Muzaffar, M., Yaseen, Z., & Afzal, N. (2021). US Exit from Afghanistan: Impacts on Pakistan and India, *Journal of Political Studies* 28 (2), 55-68
- Niazi, T. R., & Raza, A. (2021). The impact of Afghan refugees on Pakistan's economy, society, and politics. *Journal of International Affairs*.
- National Commission Report. (2004). on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*.
- President Bush Addresses the Nation. (2001, September 20). "Text: President Bush Addresses the Nation," *Washington Post*.
- Perry, Walter L. and Kassing, David. (2015). *For more on the first year of U.S. operations in Afghanistan, Toppling the Taliban: Air-Ground Operations in Afghanistan, October 2001-June 2002*, RAND Corporation.
- Rassler D., & Brown V. (2011, July 13). *The Haqqani nexus and the evolution of al-Qaida*. *Military Academy, Combating Terrorism Center*. <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/the-haqqani-nexus-and-the-evolution-of-al-qaida/>
- Rensmann L. (2011). Political terror in the age of global modernity: Adorno's critical theory of totalitarianism revisited. *Politics, Religion & Ideology*.
- Taliban Announce Creation of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Will Rule Country Through Council," (2021, August 19). *Dawn*

U.S. Department of State. (2020, Feb 29). Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognized by the United States as a state and is known as the Taliban and the United States of America

United Nations. (2021, Sept 22). Afghanistan's healthcare system on brink of collapse, as hunger hits 95 per cent of families. *UN News*.

World Food Program (2021). *Afghanistan emergency*, World Food Program.