

Afghanistan is One of the Never Ending Embers in South Central Asia

The Incessant Struggle for Supremacy of the Superpowers

Afghanistan is the smallest country in South Central Asia, and it is bordered by Iran, Pakistan, China, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan – administered Kashmir. Since this country is in a strategic geographical region, the political developments taking place there will affect other countries in Asia. Therefore, the people of Afghanistan have been languishing in the flames of imperialist and hegemonic countries for decades and in the past Britain and Russia are now driving America out of there. As a result, a life of freedom for the Afghan people has become an inaccessible grape. Some of the forces that America has created in the name of jihad for its own selfish purposes are the Mujahideen, the Taliban and then Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.



The United States, which has been wreaking havoc in Afghanistan for 20 years, has now reached an agreement with the Taliban to withdraw its military forces, branding the Taliban as a terrorist. Since the US has frozen Afghanistan's International Monetary Fund, the Taliban government formed in Afghanistan after such destruction has very little funds, so people around the world are waiting especially for the Afghan people to see if this government will rule in Afghanistan with many restrictions imposed by imperialist and dominant countries or defy them. The United States has refused as a G-7 countries request to extend the August 31 deadline as part of a review of the current situation in Afghanistan in the G-7 virtual meeting.

The fight against the Taliban in Afghanistan had already begun under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Masood (son of anti-Soviet Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Masood), and even today the Panjshir Valley is under their control. Ahmad Shah Masood seeks the help of the Western countries in this resistance. The United States may help them. Amrullah Saleh, the first vice president, has fled the country, along with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Amrullah Saleh joined hands with Panjshir's resistance.

The Dominant Role of America

In 1978, the US by Pakistan Intelligence Agency (ISI) funded and provided weapons to the Mujahdeen insurgents in Afghanistan, carried out an uprising against the Russian backed Communist government in Afghanistan. This created opportunities for militant

groups such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda to form in Afghanistan as successors to the Mujahideen.

The 2001 physical attack on the Twin Towers in the United States showed Afghanistan as the birthplace of terrorist organizations. Eliminating Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden as the main agenda and in the name of the goal of suppressing terrorism US and NATO forces have entered Afghanistan directly, dismantled the Taliban government and formed a nominal civilian government. Committed acts of sabotage against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. According to Brown University's Castles of War project, 171,000 to 174,000 people will be killed in Afghanistan by April 2021, including 47,245 Afghan civilians, 66,000 to 69,000 Afghan military and police, and at least 51,000 Taliban and the death toll could be higher than expected as there are no estimates of deaths due to diseases, food, water, infrastructure and other indirect consequences of the war (The death toll from the Twin Towers attack was 2,977). Eventually after 20 years of sabotage against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda had negotiations with the same Taliban. Joe Biden declares that we have achieved our goals in Afghanistan so we are withdrawing our military forces, we are not going to build an Afghan nation, it is the right and responsibility of the Afghan people to develop what kind of government there should be in Afghanistan. The United States, unable to carry the burden, left the embers it had ignited, and try to convince the world that the Taliban was responsible for it.

The Dominant Role of Russia

The Communist government in Afghanistan was formed in 1978 by an uprising (Saur Revolution). The communist government made cultural reforms during its tenure. It forbade women to wear the burqa, enabled them to place themselves in all fields, forbade men to grow a beard religiously, canceled all farmers debts, and tried to free farmers from debt. Obviously the Islamic and capitalist countries that could not tolerate these reforms incited the Mujahideen in the name of jihad to overthrow this government.

Russia sent its troops to assist the communist government in countering these Mujahideen uprisings. This led to war by the end of 1979. This situation lasted until 1989, when the struggle against the Mujahideen lasted for ten years. The Mujahideen received military support from the United States and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Russia's internal problems and international pressure have led to the withdrawal of its military forces from Afghanistan. The Taliban formed the government in Afghanistan in 1996 as the successors to the Mujahideen. Russia is looking to expand its role in Afghanistan at a time when relations with the west have soured since the Ukraine conflict. As part of that, it has trade relations with Afghanistan and talks with the Taliban.

Built and Road Initiative (China)

The former Chinese communist government perspective was of that the imperialist forces like the US should not be settled in Central Asia. Today's China has trade and commerce as its top priority. China has spent billions of dollars on roads, dams, and power plants in Afghanistan since launching the Built and Road Initiative from Pakistan to Turkey via Afghanistan in 2013. Afghanistan is a key destination for the \$ 62 billion China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor and shipping line in the Indian Ocean for China's interests in Central Asia.

On April 22, 2021, a suicide bomber struck a hotel where the Chinese ambassador was staying in Pakistan. However, the Pakistani Taliban claimed that the Pakistani authorities were their target. On July 14, 2021, nine Chinese engineers working on the \$ 4 billion Dasu hydroelectric project being built by China were killed in an attack on a Chinese shuttle bus in Pakistan. With these two successive incidents, China had to worry about its assets in Afghanistan. The diplomatic talks with the Taliban were held with the main agenda that the Afghan territory should not be used for an attack on China.

Durand Line (Pakistan)

After Pakistan came to power in 1947, dissatisfied with Pakistan's attitude towards the Durand Line (Afghanistan – Pakistan' border), Afghanistan became the only country to vote against Pakistan at the United Nations, and relations between the two countries began to deteriorate. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were completely severed in 1952 when the Afghan government dominated the territory of Pakistan Province Baluchistan and Persia.

The Communist government was formed in 1973 with the cooperation of Soviet Russia. The United States has joined forces with Pakistan to control Soviet influence in Afghanistan and advance its own interests. Pakistan has become a training ground for 250,000 Mujahideen against Communist Afghan and Soviet forces. Pakistan has had close ties with Afghanistan since the formation of the Islamic Emirates in 1996. Relations between the two countries deteriorated again as the Taliban refused to accept despite pressure from Pakistan that there would be no borders between Muslims. The Islamic Emirates collapsed in the aftermath. New government formed in Afghanistan with the help of the Taliban. Under the current circumstances, the new government to be formed with the Taliban in Afghanistan hopes that China's investment will be in line with Pakistan's interests. Pakistan is very confident about the positive consequences of the Taliban's victory.

Iran

The Iranian government backed the PDPA government during the Soviet struggle in 1979 to support the PDPA government against the Mujahideen uprising across the country in Afghanistan. It continued its support after the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan until the fall of the PDPA government in 1992. Relations between the two countries deteriorated after the Taliban seized control of the Iranian embassy in Afghanistan in 1998 after the formation of the Taliban government. Relations between the United States and Iran have been strained by US objections to Iran's nuclear program. However, Iran maintained friendly relations with the United States and played a key role in the overthrow of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Since then, Iran-Afghanistan trade relations have grown significantly. In 2009, Iran became one of the largest investors in Afghanistan, investing in roads, bridges, agriculture, and health.

Today, as US troops withdraw from Afghanistan and Taliban were occupying Afghanistan, at this moment Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi's statement "US withdrawal

should restore security and lasting peace in Afghanistan". This statement proves that Iran indirectly supported the formation of a Taliban government in Afghanistan.

India in Line with America

After the Soviet Union left Afghanistan in 1989, appeasement aided the Najibullah government until its fall. India has suspected the role of the Taliban in the 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines CI-840 aircraft. At the time, India was a key supporter of anti-Taliban alliances in Afghanistan. When the US invaded Afghanistan in 2001, India aided the United States. After the overthrow of the Taliban government, India provided \$ 650 million in financial assistance in the name of Afghan reconstruction and invested in the construction of the air link, power plant, health, and education, as well as the development of power, oil and natural gas supply lines. In December 2015, India provided 3 MI-25 helicopters to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban and launched the \$ 90 million Indian built Afghanistan Parliament.

India has so far been reluctant to hold open talks with the Taliban because it would damage its ties with the Afghan government and other countries such as the United States, and direct talks with the Taliban would increase pressure on India to start talks with the Kashmiri rebels. After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, India will hold indirect talks with the Taliban to protect its security interests and investments in Afghanistan and to ensure that other Kashmiri-focused armed groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba not become an Afghan platform to carry out attacks in Indian Kashmir.

During US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's visit to India, Indian Foreign Minister Subramaniam Jayashankar discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. Anthony Blinken declared that "India is a key contributor to the stability and development of Afghanistan." Jayashankar stated that "conditions in Afghanistan will not be determined on the battlefield." These statements mean that the US is trying to protect its interests in Afghanistan and to bring India deeper into the problems of Afghanistan for strategic purposes.

The consequences after the end of the article are also proving that "Afghanistan is one of the never ending embers in South Central Asia". A series of suicide bombings at Kabul airport on August 26, 2021 killed 104 people and injured 143 others. ISIS-K (Islamic State - Khorasan) claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban, along with the rest of the world, reacted strongly to the attack. Joe Biden told emotionally in a news conference that he had paid tribute to 13 US soldiers and promised not to spare anyone responsible for the attack. He knew that the sin he had committed had engulfed him, and that was the source of that emotion. Within 48 hours of the announcement, the United States announced that the mastermind of the Kabul airport attack had been killed in a drone strike in the Afghan Nangarhar province. It was not declared how many civilians were killed in the attack.