

Forum: Security Council

Issue #SC-01: The situation in Afghanistan

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Introduction

On August 15, 2021, as was reported on an international scale, Taliban forces entered Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, and drove the then president, Ashraf Ghani, to flee the country. This power topple left the guerilla group in charge of the country. To those oblivious to the situation, a question may naturally arise; Who are the Taliban?

The Taliban is an Afghan terrorist group that is tied to the infamous Al-Qaeda, another organization of the same trade. For the last twenty odd years, both groups have been at war against the United States' (US) troops sent to help the Afghan government stay in power. The deployment itself originated from a previous issue involving the Taliban not wanting to yield Osama Bin Laden to the US.

Osama Bin Laden was the leader of Al-Qaeda during the attacks on the twin towers that took place on 9/11/2001. Bin Laden was believed, and later identified, as the man who orchestrated the blitz. Due to the latter, the US deployed its troops in Afghanistan and declared war on the Taliban.

All parties previously mentioned had been fighting for a tad over a decade before there was a stalemate of six years. During this brief period, the US finally decided to remove their troops from Afghanistan in June of 2021. A whole 95% of American troops deployed were called back home. However, this paved the way for the Taliban to rain down a sweeping of the rest of American troops in Afghanistan. Once the American troops presence had been "eradicated", the Taliban deemed it fit to pull a coup d'état on Afghanistan as the Afghan government was too weak without US aid, becoming a de-facto state in the process.

Currently Afghanistan finds itself with a dire humanitarian crisis as violence and instability plagues its streets and the threat of a mass exodus of refugees is in the midst. Moreover, women's rights have been severely limited considering such newly applied laws as the prevention of education for girls older than 12 years of age and the restriction of women being in civil service positions. Additionally, there has been a Robespierre-like post-revolution step with execution of former officials. Raids have taken place in the houses of activists and human rights defenders. The growing fear that Afghanistan could turn into a terrorist safe haven looms over the Security Council. Could the Taliban's victory lead Afghanistan down a path to a successful surge of terrorist group led rebellions throughout the Middle East? Is there any chance to take the Taliban away from the government through diplomatic means or, if it is not possible through diplomacy, military intervention? And, could a democratic government be established in Afghanistan?

It is crucial for delegates to come together and see eye to eye to find, what they believe is, the best solution possible for the matter. To quote the great Islamic writer Avicenna, “There are no incurable diseases - only a lack of will. There are no worthless herbs - only lack of knowledge”.

Definition of Key Terms

Guerilla Group

A military armed group that does not stem from an official governing body. These groups tend to be fairly partial, or keen to change a political situation by force. Their main method is to make unexpected attacks in several small groups.

Stalemate

A situation where further progress by opposing parties is, or at least seems, impossible.

De-facto state

A state physically functions and exercises its power over masses, but is not recognized by a constitution or law exercised by an established and previously recognized governmental body.

Exodus

A mass departure, or migration, of people.

Negative Cohesion

When groups, with differing ideologies, join together to defeat a common enemy.

Negative Cohesion

A provisional, temporary, government is usually established in times of abundant political instability and when a government cannot rise when the previous one failed.

Issue Overview

Historical background



Map showing Afghanistan¹

¹ [Where Is Afghanistan? Finding Afghanistan on a Map | Sporcle Blog](#)

Afghanistan has been in conflict for almost 50 years. The conflict started when Mohammed Daoud Khan staged a bloodless coup on the former King, Zahir Sahad, in 1973, formally establishing himself as the president and prime minister of Afghanistan; this established Afghanistan's first true look at democracy. However, Khan was not supported by the general public, let alone recognized, because of his affinities with an ethnical group in Afghanistan, the Pashtun. Hence, in 1978 a coup d'etat took place to take him out of power and pave the way for the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to take control. They established a coercive government which led the country to enter into a civil war.

Due to Afghanistan always having an advantageous geographic position, dead center of the middle east, and considering the political canvas in Afghan history in this certain period of time was overwhelmed by political instability, Afghanistan was by all means an interesting target for both the US and the Soviet Union (USSR), currently know as Russia, during the Cold War. Both first world nations wanted to have a government that aligned to their ideas so that they could form allies, and collateral connections, within the region. Thus, both countries helped Afghan rebels during the Afghan civil war (1979-1989) whose perspective views aligned with characteristic revolutionary ideas of the two. The USSR helped the PDPA and the US helped the Afghan rebels, Mujahideen, which would later split into the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. Ironic, to say the least. Nevertheless, an internal coup in the governing party led to the disapproval of their international ally and Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Army in December 1979. This was the start of the Soviet-Afghan war that lasted for 10 years until the USSR 's withdrawal.



Soviet soldiers entering Kabul, picture taken from [here](#) (24/10/21)

However, there was still internal conflict inside of the country due to the fact that PDPA was still fighting the Mujahideen, with aid from the USSR. Nonetheless, when the USSR dissolved it stopped providing equipment to the Afghan government. This would lead to the later dismembering when the Mujahideen took over Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, in 1992. This didn't finish the conflict because the Mujahideen had been a coalition that started with negative cohesion and now that it's common enemy had been defeated, the internal conflict started to eat the parties original union like a tumor. One side, the more "Mensheviki" like of the two, wanted an Islamic Coalition Government and the other, a more radical "Bolsheviki" like party, wanted a single-party state, which was backed by Pakistan. Even so, the Islamic Coalition was in the lead until another group that shared the single-party state idea rose into recognition, which later led to the Taliban. Furthermore, Pakistan started to finance this group, leaving the other one behind.

The Taliban began to take control of Afghanistan, reaching up to 90% of its territory in 2001. Moreover, this was obviously the year when Al-Qaeda attacked the twin tower in US, which would lead to the recoil of the event in the shape of a declaration of the War on Terror by Ex-President, George Bush, the deployment of US troops in Afghanistan and, eventually, the war between those two nations.

Major Parties Involved

USA

War on terror, if Afghanistan became an ally they could make it base anti-terrorist, 9/11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ripNNLiSFUY>

Taliban

As already stated, the Taliban was a radical Islamic group that emerged from the Mujahadeen. They were, and are, in favor of establishing an Islamic regime in Afghanistan, which they are already in the process of consolidating. After they finally took over the majority of Afghan Land in August, they started to implement laws similar to when they had the power for 5 year before the US attacked and have the same people in political positions as they had back then. Now they are serving the country as an interim government. However, they are officially registered as a terrorist group and had harboured Osama Bin Laden, the leader of another terrorist group called Al Qaeda.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO forces have been deployed in Afghanistan for almost 20 years because of its close ties to the US and to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for terrorist activity. They've led the ISAF and created an operation called Resolution Support Mission, to ensure that terrorism was not spreading through the Middle East. Nevertheless, they are getting sent back, however, they still need to monitor the safe return of personnel and Afghan affiliates, ensuring that they have a country to settle in.

Pakistan

It is one of the most relevant of Afghanistan's neighboring countries. It had funded Islamic groups, such as the Taliban, in Afghanistan since the civil war. However, its ties to the group are in dispute as it had sided with the US when it proclaimed the war on terror, but, at the same time, when the Taliban seized a majority of the Afghan land, 20 years ago, Pakistan formally recognised them as the Afghan government and, in the recent rise to the throne, the prime minister states that the group were "breaking the chains of slavery"².

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
September 11th, 2001	Twin Towers are hit by two Al-Qaeda hijacked airplanes. This was done in claims of a holy war against the US.

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58443839>

- September 18th, 2001: The United States declares a war authorizing the use of force against those responsible for attacking the nation on 9/11.
- October 7th, 2001: The United States, with British support, launch Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This was done as so to declare a war on terrorism and commence an anti-Taliban Campaign.
- November, 2001: Taliban fall in retreat after a loss at Mazar E-Sharif to forces loyal to ethnic Uzbek warlord, Abdul Rashim Dostum.
- December, 2001: Bin Laden escapes battle between Afghan Militia and al-Qadea troops (Dec 3-17), Believed to have escaped to Pakistan on horse the morning of his troops defeat.
- December 5th, 2001: An Interim Government is established in Afghanistan with the help of the UN. [Bonn Agreement](#), endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 1383.
- December 9th, 2001: Taliban Regime collapses after surrender in Kandahar.
- March-November 2002: United States becomes heavily involved with the reconstruction process of Afghanistan. A transitional government is established and named.
- January 2004: Afghanistan presents its new constitution.
- October 9th, 2004: Afghanistan elects Hamir Kazari, provisional president, as their first president chosen by the people post Taliban regime.
- October 29th, 2004: Bin Laden releases videotaped message three weeks after the country's presidential election. This video was released days prior to Bush's reelection. In remarks aired on Al Jazeera, bin Laden taunts the Bush administration and takes responsibility for the attacks of September 11, 2001. "We want to

restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation,” bin Laden says.

July 2006:

Terrorism plagues Afghanistan with suicide bombings, battles between militia and al-Qaeda troops in the south regions of the country.

November 4th, 2008:

Obama elected president. Emphasizes commitment to war in Afghanistan.

May 11th, 2011:

Osama Bin Laden is killed by US forces in Afghanistan. Obama, with the victorious news for the American president, prepares to withdraw thirteen thousand troops from Afghanistan.

May 27th, 2014:

President Obama announces a time table to withdraw most US troops by 2016.

January 20th, 2017

Trump assumes office.

April 13th, 2017

US attacks islamic state redoubt. The weapon used in the operation, known colloquially as “the mother of all bombs,” comes as newly elected President Donald Trump delegates decision-making authorities to commanders. One of these could possibly be adding several more thousand American troops to the Afghan deployment.

August 27th, 2017:

Trump signals a prolonged Afghan War. The ex-president felt the need to prevent any vacuum for terrorist emergence through a retirement in the region.

January 2018:

Taliban aggression rises amid US escalations.

Feb-Sep 2019:	Peace talks commence between US and the Taliban after President Trump was speculated to withdraw seven thousand troops from Afghan territory. Talks are abruptly called off by Trump.
February 29th, 2020:	Taliban and U.S sign deal on Path to Peace.
November 17th, 2020:	U.S announce troop withdrawal. 2,500 troops return home.
April 14th, 2021:	New President Joe Biden announces complete withdrawal by 9/11/21. Twenty years after the attacks.
April 15th, 2021:	The Afghan Government collapses as the Taliban takes Kabul.
April 30th, 2021.	Complete withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan. War Is Over.

Relevant UN treaties and Events

[Resolution 49/5, contained in report E/2006/28, expressed support for the proposal of the Russian Federation to convene in Moscow in June 2006, in continuation of the Paris Pact initiative.](#)

[The Council adopted resolution 2120, extending the authorisation of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan until 31 December 2014](#)

[Unanimous adoption of resolution 2513, which welcomed the progress towards a political settlement of the war in Afghanistan facilitated by the 29 February “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan” signed by the US and the Taliban and the “Joint Declaration for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan” issued by the US and the Afghan government.](#)

Past Action

[Report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan from 31 October to 7 November 2003.](#)

[Report of the Council mission to Afghanistan, DEC 4, 2006](#)

[Draft press statement expressed concern about numerous civilian casualties caused by an air strike in the village of Azizabad on 22 August 2008.](#)

[Debate on Afghanistan.](#) DEC 19, 2011

Possible Solutions

Considering Afghanistan has recently come out of a long endured war, which has scared itself and its masses, it is paramount for a peaceful solution to be established, so that democracy can sprout and Afghanistan can proceed as a country.

Delegates must address Afghanistan's previous conflict with the US, abuse of human rights throughout the latter and currently, Afghanistan's ongoing conflicts and the Taliban's control over drug trade in the region through **sanctions, international pressure, humanitarian aid and foreign pressure.**

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<https://www.dw.com/en/how-the-us-invasion-changed-afghanistan/a-59427641>

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