

Implications of India's Influence in Afghanistan in Relation to Past and Present Scenario: A Geo-Political Analysis

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ABSTRACT

India has been playing a vital role rebuilding Afghanistan after long battle between Afghanistan and Taliban and long stay of US for 20 years in Afghanistan. Since 1999, Afghanistan has been facing a steady threat from the Talibanies, as a result, faced conflicting situation due to vested interests of United States. A large number of US troupes were deployed to ensure the security for the people of Afghanistan. Now after 20 years, United States has withdrawal its military troupes from Afghanistan in the Ausust, 2021. In this context, the present paper examines the India's future influence and implications in India for US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Till August 31, US had evacuated Afghanistan and Taliban taken over Afghanistan, which was supported by radical Islamic militant Group, and has poised to increase their influence over the state to a considerable extent and India stood by US derived Kabul Government, now set to lose its most of the influence in Afghanistan. The influence of India was built by periodic aid under various MoUs is seems to be ended, particularly assuming that India is not positioned to continue Indo-Afghanistan relations in penetration by Taliban in a undemocratic way in Afghanistan. In this context, various implications are to be examined in perspective of withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan. .

Key words: Vital role, threats, radical Islamic group, withdrawal, perspective implications of India.

INTRODUCTION

India has been playing a vital role for executing the development projects during different successive periods in Afghanistan. It was not paid any much attention earlier; due to facing the conflicting situation created by Taliban for last over 20 years. Since the year 1999, Afghanistan has been facing a steady threat from the militant groups of Tailbanies; and due to vested political interests of United States, US troupes were deployed for ensure the security of safety for the people of Afghanistan. The earlier situation has also been relatively worst due to long presence of Russian troupes during 80s and 90s (Harsh, V. Pant, 2012). Recently, after facing a 20 years conflicting situation, United States has withdrawal its military troupes from Afghanistan which led to some of implications on influence of India. In this situation, India and its implication of withdrawal troupes by US troupes are new emerging new scenario which is to be examined in the regional and global perspectives. However, on August 15, Taliban taken over Afghanistan, derived by radical Islamic Group, has poised to boost up their influence over the state to a considerable extent and India which was stood by US derived Kabul Government, now set to lose its most of the influence; particularly assuming that India is not positioned that one can project the implications in the uncertain current scenario. (Singh, K 2021).

The *Talibanies* are a community which predominantly Pashtun, the Islamic fundamentalist group which came back to the power in the August 3021 after waging the 21 years insurgency. Following the U.S. derived invasion which had toppled the original regime in the year 2001, the *Talibanies* were reassembled on the across the Pakistan border and taken the initiation for taking back the territory less than 10 years after their ouster. With the returning in to the power, the *Talibanies* had started to swift offence came as the U.S. withdraw, its remaining the militancy troupes in the Afghanistan as outlined in a 'Peace Agreement 2020' with the group. Now, the *Talibanies* have imposed the hard interpretation of their Islamic laws, despite taking in to consideration the women's right and religious and minorities of the other ethnic groups. In the meanwhile, as the *Talibanies* have transited from an insurgent group to the working

government, Taliban had faced a very grim-situation on the food crisis and the economic opportunities to survive the country.

Indo-Afghanistan relation in the undemocratic captures the Afghanistan. In this context, various implications have examined in socio-economic and political perspectives; so

The primary objective of India in Afghanistan is to reduce the strategic influence of Pakistan so that Afghan soil which is not used for anti-India militant groups. However, the end of presence of US military presence is likely to put significant barriers on ability of India to operate in interior Afghanistan. The prospects of a Taliban-derived government bring with it a novice and fatal reality for India: expansion of strategic footprints of Pakistan in Afghanistan. But India's policy toolbox for responding to the unfolding Afghan problem remains unsolved due to India's Afghan policy has often suffered from the growing tension between idealistic viewpoints which is hampered and imposed by and by regional power politics (Kaura, Vijay, 2021).

Shifting of US Priorities from Middle East countries to Indo Pacific region:

Currently Biden administration is making its efforts for shifting its priorities from the Middle East to Indo-pacific region, which has drawn the U S attention and resources for last two decades. President Biden considers the countries like China to be the United States' greatest rival and it is, therefore, the core thrust of his administration is to contain China and incapacitate its endeavor to expand its capacity and the interests beyond its borders of wartimes. China has exponentially increased its naval capabilities during different successive years last year China surpassed the US by becoming the biggest navy fleet in the world. The U S is now required to have an aggressive state of its naval presence in the Indo-Pacific region and it is possible when it decreases its presence in the Middle East and gives more focus on deployment numbers in the Indo-Pacific region (Ministry of External Affairs, 2021).

Shifting the US budget resources of defense from the Army and directing it towards developing new advanced capabilities can build and strengthen the capacity of the navy and air force, as these two branches which are more relevant and essential for encountering aggression of China and making equilibrium in power game in the Indo- Pacific region. For the U.S, the Indo-Pacific advocates for a open and free Indo-Pacific, and the progression of Quad which is necessary for ensuring the onshore security, safeguarding freedom of navigation and connectivity in territorial aspect in the region. QUAD's first summit which held in March; which was presided by the leaders of the Quad nations- President Joe Biden, *Narendra Modi*, the Prime- Minister of India Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, and Japanese Premier *Yoshihide Suga* were made an affirmative statement and ensured the rule which is based on maritime order, revealing its commitment to significantly contribute to maintain the stability, prosperity and peace of the region. (Ministry of External Affairs, 2021).

Implications for India: A Geo-political perspective:-

India has strategic interests in the future of ASfghanistan and as its ally; India can have an edge over Pakistan. Over the numerous of decades India has tried to establish a cordial relationship with Afghanistan by investing in various types of infrastructure, education sector, development of irrigation and power sector. Indian engineers, belonged to various streams have assisted to build the *Shahtoot* dam near Kabul. Afghanistan was among the first countries to acquire Covid-19 vaccine from India. Despite this association, economic, strategic, security related interests of India depend upon how the currently formed the Afghan government keeps the Taliban at bay after the withdrawal of US military presence from the region.

About a year back, Taliban rupturing the Afghanistan, India reopened its functioning its embassy in Kabul and started to take initiation to re-engage by sending humanitarian aid in the forms of wheat, medicine, and the vaccine. India has cleared its red-lines on the chronic threat of the militancy and the minorities' rights, and also indicated a long-term commitment of the future of Afghanistan. India has committed of U.S. \$ 3 billion during last two decades for ameliorate the conditions of the Afghans. Now draw the implications in future in view of the present scenario, as an active political actor, although it is affecting and even controlled by the Military establishment of Pakistan. In order to examine the implications of the ongoing scenario, it is very much essential to know the strategic importance of Afghanistan by its location which is shown in the map as follows:



The concept of withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan was conditional on Taliban taking preventive measures to avert and prevent al-Qaeda or any other “militant group” from harboring in Afghanistan with the assurance for agrees to a dialogue on sharing of power with the Afghan government, but Biden administration has no left such type of the provisos. There are currently over 2,500 US troops in Afghanistan and “NATO force of under 8,000 and Biden is committed for a complete pull out because even after an endeavor of two decades of trying to establish stability in the region through democratic governance, the Taliban remains to be a potent force in Afghanistan and according to the Council of Foreign Relations it has become even stronger than it was in 2001, when United States’ forces had invaded Afghanistan”. The withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan will only create the challenging tasks for the Indian Subcontinent as the US military presence kept a vigilant eye on the radically characterized extremist forces and created the more probability of favourable environment for India to work with Afghanistan. The withdrawal of US troupes may lead to a surge in global and regional terrorism. Further, it may re-emerge of influence of Taliban on Pakistan and also lead to the political instability within in the region.

According to study; carried out by “Defense of Democracies Foundation’ Long War Journal, out of 325 districts in Afghanistan, the Taliban exercise control over 76 districts and the Afghan government has control over 127 districts, whereas 122 districts remain contested and after the pull out all these districts can come under the influence of Taliban formed government. The major relating matter to India are about the resurgence of *Talibanies*, which can no doubt reassure and incite the terrorists elements in the Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India through India- targeted militant groups like Jaish-e- Mohammed and Laskhar- e-Toiba, which are believed to be shifted to Afghanistan with large numerical strength. Unlike the US, both India and Pakistan share a geographical advantage to Afghanistan, if there is any political instability in the region, as a result, it will likely to be affected naturally both the countries. In the past, Pakistan has been very supportive to Taliban and with the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan; Pakistan may scale up again its support to Taliban (Report of Defence of Democracies Foundation, 2021, Washington DC).

India is expected to keep away in future from the current Afghan government without the supporting of the US military as it will tend to be triggered a geopolitical flux in the region and if the talks; dealing the peace do not fall through and there is a reneging in accordance with the terms and conditions of the “Doha Accord” by the Taliban; as a result, this consequence directly tend to be threaten India’s security, political, and economic interests in Afghanistan. It is

therefore, in order to ensure the safeguard its own interests; it becomes imperative for the country to reorient its policies towards Afghanistan and deal with the changing scenario of power shifting in the region.

US withdrawal of troupes and India; as a regional power:

One of the most significant implications of withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan are the three critical areas; where India will be dealing in Taliban which are as follows:

- Protecting the investment which spent in the millions of \$ Dollars in Afganistan;
- To taking the preventive measures for future Taliban regime from being pawn of a Pakistan;
- It becomes imperative to take some of preventive measures for Pakistan derived anti-India terrorist groups so that these militant groups may not be supported by Taliban.

India's approach to address the implications of withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan

- India should focus on intensify by involving in Taliban's and find the influencing regional partners to protecting the interest in the changing scenario of Afghanistan.
- An independent, democratic, sovereign, pluralistic and inclusive Afghanistan is a crucial matter for regional peace and stability;
- In order to ensure peace and stability, the Afghan peace process; as stated in the foreign policy of India; should be Afghan owned, Afghan lead and Afghan controlled;
- In this context, it becomes imperative to adopt the "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism" as proposed by India at UN 1996.
- In order to ensure the security of India, Ajit Doval, the security advisor of India, now going to organize the international meeting on regional security by inviting Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkistan to be held on November 10, 2021 in New Delhi. In this context, Pakistan and China have already been turn down this invitation. It is expected to discuss some of preventive and curative measures for the probability of Taliban derived tensional environment in the coming period within this region.(Report of Ministry of Defense, 2021)

Hence, it is obvious that the implications on India for withdrawal of US troupes are quite clear from the view point of the probability of the actions are to be taken in accordance with the current scenario as being watched by India in the come period. It is therefore, it becomes imperative to take some of preventive and curative measures to address these likely problems in the coming future in this region. All these implications are to be addressed in accordance with prevailing local conditions and the policy laid down by mutual understanding.

CONCLUSION

India has been playing a very significant role rebuilding the districted country due to Soviet and US derived 20 years conflicting situation in Afghanistan. Since 1999, Afghanistan has been facing a steady threat from the Tailbanies, as a result, due to some of vested interests of US, A large number of US troupes were deployed to provide the security for the people of Afghanistan. Now after a long battle of 20 years, US have withdrawal its troupes from Afghanistan. Keeping in view the current scenario of forming the undemocratic government in Afghanistan, India's influence in Afghanistan and its short and long term implications of US withdrawal from Afghanistan are to be examined. In the month of August, Taliban taken over Afghanistan, which was supported by radical Islamic Group, has poised to boost up their influence over the state to a great extent and India which was stood by US derived Kabul Government, now set to lose its most of the influence. Most of the influence of India was built by aid is likely to be vanished, particularly assuming that India is not positioned to continue Indo-Afghanistan relation in the undemocratic capturing the Afghanistan. In this context, various implications are to be examined in various socio-economic and political perspectives. The exits of United States from Afghanistan, has triggered emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan is geopolitical flux and hence, may lead to instability in this region. However, all these factors will be progressively push the country in to geo-political tough spots in the region, smart statecraft. It is therefore, it becomes imperative to address with current scenario of Afghanistan. If India remains active and in peace; as a result, there are numerous of opportunities could be opened up in the new phase of Afghanistan. it is obvious that the implications on India for withdrawal of US troupes are quite clear from the view point of the probability of the actions are to be taken in accordance with the current scenario as being watched by India in the coming period. It is therefore, it becomes imperative to take some of preventive and curative measures to address these likely problems; created due to withdrawal of US troupes from Afghanistan and the probability of India's influence on the South East Asian countries in the coming future.

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