



RESEARCH PAPER

Historical Analysis of Al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan

¹Dr. Iqra Jathol, ² Dr. Sobia Naseer and ³Dr. Sajida Begum

1. Research Assistant, Centre for south Asian Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Assistant Professor , Lahore College for women University, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Associate Professor, School of political science, Minhaj University, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author:** Sajidabegum.polsc@mul.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

The study deals with the historical background of Afghanistan and also introduces the two main groups Al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan also extends with Taliban origins ideology and structure in Afghanistan. It also traces to explore the resources of Taliban their previous activities and present situation after NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan. The analysis distinguishes between Al-Qaeda's transnational jihadist agenda and the Taliban's primarily Afghanistan-focused and objectives under Afghanistan's geographical location. Afghanistan has played various roles in women's rights for education, Political development, relationship with Pakistan. It questions about the Taliban focus on Afghanistan's internal as well as external political dynamic forces, while evaluating how Afghan actors had tied up globally? How they created insurgency then re-insurgency in Afghanistan? To meet the end goals several questions attempts to access towards accurate problems in Afghanistan through the lens of qualitative research.

KEYWORDS History, Afghanistan, Taliban, Al-Qaeda, NATO Withdrawal

Introduction

Afghanistan is considered as a hard country due to its land of deserted mountains and deserts, on the edge of South Asian region and Middle Eastern region, which is locked by Iran, Russia, and Pakistan. The State of land lock Afghanistan drags with Turkmenistan the Republic of Soviets with 2370 km. Pakistan is also linked with the Durand line which is 2600 km identified the border between Kabul and Pakistan the Afghan-Pak line is now formed between two countries (Nojumi, 2016). By Geographical position, Pakistan is located on the East side as well as Southern side with Afghanistan. Both the countries Pakistan and Afghanistan are sharing a longest boundary of 2600km (Barfield, 2022). Due to the longest border sharing Afghanistan, Pakistan facing a deep security challenges since 1979. Because of instability in Afghanistan Pakistan is also suffering insecurities in South Asia (Muzaffar, Yaseen & Afzal, 2021).

Three to four million Afghan Tajik founded thirty percent of the population as well as the west part of Afghanistan is also Persian speaking that links to Iran, which is controlled by Afghans conquest of Herat and Iran also sustained relations to the spread Shiite Muslim and often discriminate by Sunni govt (Barfield, 1996). Just Tajikistan Tough Mountains cover approximately 50.000 mile and 547.000 m of land with a normal rise of 6,500 feet and 1.980 m above sea level. Tough Mountains cover roughly 50 percent of the country. For the Hindu Kush, which are mostly north-eastern southwestern (Muzaffar, Khan& Yaseen, (2019; Siddique, 2014)

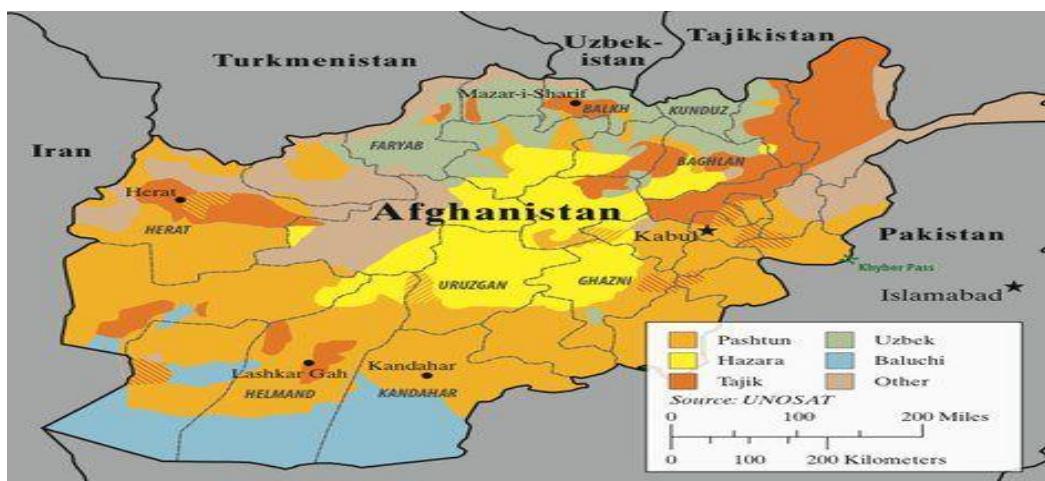


Figure 1. A political map of Afghanistan Source:
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/633387417078448/>

Literture Review

Malik and Iqbal (2010) traced back the history of Taliban from their earliest emergence as mujahidin's in era of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and underline some of the causes of their popularity among deprived layers of society (Ijaz, Malik & Ahmad, 2022). The "Geneva Accords" of 1986 pertaining to Afghanistan refer to a set of international agreements aimed at resolving the conflict in Afghanistan, which had been ongoing for several years at that point. These agreements were signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 14, 1988, and were known as the "Geneva Accords for the Settlement of the Circumstances in Afghanistan (Muzaffar, Nawab & Yaseen, 2021; Akhtar, 2008; Bibi & Muzaffar, 2023). Their rapid advance was facilitated by the disarray of the existing Afghan government and the unpopularity of the various warlords who had controlled the city. Taliban entered in the city named Kabul in Sep. 1996 and they hanged the Ex. President Muhammad Najibullah. Whereas, Iran, Russia, and Central Asian countries were supporting to enemies of Taliban in war period (Wahab & Youngerman, 2007).

Material and Methods

This study adopts historical approach in research methodology to examine the Taliban history and re-emergence in Afghanistan that is suitable for a systematic reconstruction of past events, ideology of Taliban their developments, leadership structures over time in Afghanistan. therefore it is consisted on secondary sources like books, articles, reports and government documents. The above mentioned sources provide contextual insight into key phases, Afghan War, the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s and re-emergence of Taliban within Afghanistan's complex political and security landscape.

Ethnic Minorities

The Pashtuns, who are living mainly in the eastern and southern regions of Afghanistan, account for approximately 6.5 million people and make up 43% of the population. They are Hanfi Sunnis, except for the Tajiks who are Shia. The Pashtuns have controlled the rest of the Afghan people since Ahmad Shah Abdali. The Afghan ethnic minorities hated this. In their daily relationships with others, the Pashtuns follow their own ancestral tradition rigorously.

The Tajiks who make up around 24.7% of the population constitute the largest ethnic minority. Iranian plunge guarantee the 3.5 million Tajiks. They're Hanafi Sunnis in general. Some of them are Shias Ismaili. They talk Dari, a different Persian language, and are

packed mainly in the north and the northeast. They like the occupants of the Russian Republic of Tajikistan a good deal of ethnic, only section of the country on the border. Likewise, the Tajiks are divided between the Soviet Association and Afghanistan. A significant portion of them are horticultural or trivial merchants with an established life that is unlike the typically characteristic Pashtuns. The Pashtun wale is the most important of these (Griffin, 2001)

Certain are Sunni and some come from Ismail. The remaining Afghan classes, the Ani, aks (800.000), who live along Iranian lines are Hanafi Sunni, are mostly locked up in the modest work. A Dari lingo is spoken of you. Indeed, the Iran-Afghan line even covers Farsi. For the Shia group Ismaili, they are important. The Turks (125,000) are located in the northwest. Sunni are also the Baluchi (100,000). They are migrants and The Sunnis in Nuristan (100,000) live on rocky, upper-eastern territory of Pakistan's kafir valleys (Kafir, 2009). When applying the four scale to the Pashtun, it means that one should first be faithful to the family and then to the group which the clan finally traces to the Confederation at that point. (Rizvi, 1988)

Soviet invasion

The Soviet invasion in Afghanistan was a significant event in the late 20th century. It took place on December, 1979, under the leadership of General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, deployed troops into Afghanistan. The invasion was a response to a deteriorating political situation in Afghanistan. The invasion was met with strong international condemnation, and the US, along with several other Western countries, provided support to Afghan insurgent groups known as the mujahedeen. This conflict, often referred to as the Soviet-Afghan War, lasted for nearly a decade and resulted in significant loss of life and destruction. For Afghanistan, it led to a protracted and devastating conflict, which continued even after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. The power vacuity formed by the Soviet withdrawal contributed to the rise of the Taliban and ongoing uncertainty in the country (Rais, 1993).

After that war Afghanistan converted the world's prominent country due to the refugee's migration. During the 1980s nearly four million Afghan refugees were entered in lived in Pakistan as well as another two million in Iran to save their lives. Thousands of refugees have been flown to Europe, India, (mostly in Germany and France) US and elsewhere they find place and security in the world. Additionally, According to a predictable numbers 2/3 million people were directly internally evacuated by the war. Feifer reports that number of soviet's death may be closer to 75,000 and dreadful 469,685 became injured in large extent due to completely destruction many were suffered by hepatitis, and typhus ((Feifer & Dean, 2009).

The 'Geneva Accords'

The 'Geneva Accords' and Soviet Withdrawal after Gorbachev's depiction of the crisis as a 'bleeding wound' on February 1986, the Gorbachev governance decided in opinion at the Nov. in convention to cut Soviet damages and found out a way out of the Afghan problem. So, Gorbachev launched a dynamic operation to attain objectives. The main and first objective was to withdraw its forces and peaceful withdrawal in demand to avoid any conventional reaction. The second was to achieve the first objective in conjunction with, not in isolation from, his international diplomacy, American cooperation, Pakistan's harmony was needed. The third objective was to shift the blame for the Afghan disaster and leadership, with a view eventually to declaring it a 'mistake'. Withdrawal would have to be achieved within the broader framework of changes in the Soviet domestic environment Gorbachev initiated a series of diplomatic offensives to accelerate the process of UN sponsored indirect Geneva 'peace talks', which had been fitfully since 1982 (Saikal, Farhadi, & Nourzhanov, 2004).

Soviet withdrawal and chaotic situation

The state of affairs was so chaotic after the Soviet withdrawal and members of INGOs were scared of functioning and aiding in Kandahar. Afghanistan was separated into various groups that were fighting with each other. The commanders and other chiefs in Kandahar city had sold out assets of many cities. Those Afghan leaders had sold out the poles, electronic transformers, industrial units, and equipment, and road maintenance equipment, trees to various businessman and scrap traders. The political leaders of Afghan regions has exploited with the abduction of people for money, theft from numerous traders, and conflicting in the roads. Large numbers of Afghan refugees has moved from Kandahar instead to leave Pakistan (Zaidi, 2006)

There followed a time of turmoil until 1933 had been a more stable government. The government was expelled by an upheaval in 1973. Relationship with the USSR was established in 1978, but Common Conflict was caused by the Soviet Intrusion (1979). In 1989, the Soviets broke up and left urban communities under the control of the open country by the government and Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas. The Soviet mediation made Afghanistan an intermediate battle between the two main cold conflict coalitions. But, in January 1992, Afghan Army and State military officers in the north rebellion against Najibullah, after drawing Soviet soldiers, gained a chance to get the Focal Asian Republics style at ease. The struggle between the various fighting groups in the post socialist Afghanistan has taken place seriously which create afghan insurgency.

Afghanistan and Pakistan (Refugee Crisis and Border Challenges)

Pakistan's support for the Mujahedeen ensured certainly has long-term concerns for both countries, particularly in terms of the displacement of Afghan refugees and its impact on Pakistan. Moreover, the Afghan conflict and Pakistan's support also had affected the regional stability and security. The war drew in a range of external actors, including the US, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. These states have supported the Mujahedeen against the Soviet Union and the conflict also saw the emergence of various armed groups and militias, many of whom were later involved in the civil war in Afghanistan and the rise of the Taliban. The US was deeply involved in South Asia at that time, US and Pakistan were supporting to mujahidin forces in Afghanistan against the Soviets, specifically irritating to achieve its relationship with India and Pakistan (Chari, Cheema & Cohen, 2009).

After Soviet occupation, Pakistan had faced the massive influx of Afghan refugees and refugee crisis strained Pakistan's resources and created security challenges along the porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Pakistan faced difficulties in managing the humanitarian fallout while simultaneously supporting the Afghan resistance against Soviet forces. The third phase of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, spanning from 1973 to 1979, witnessed significant geopolitical shifts and escalating tensions.

Al-Qaeda

The Al-Qaeda organization has an ideology and the word Al-Qaeda derived from the Arabic word Qaeda which is interpreted as a base of task or groundwork. Islamic fighters continuously agreed the term in the latter sense, in 1987; the foremost and renowned Islamic teacher in Afghanistan, Abdullah Azzam (modern Sunni Muslim major activist) called for al-Qaeda al-sulbah (a frontline of the strong). He has imagined about the men who act freely and would set a model for the Umma globally and for the rest of the Islamic world also.

The Al-Qaeda was a transnational extremist organization created by Arabic national Osama bin Laden in 1988. The group gained international notoriety in the late 1990s and early 2000s for its involvement in various acts of terrorism and violence in Kenya and

Tanzania and the September 11 attack in US. The Al-Qaeda's primary goals have involved the formation of a global Islamic caliphate and the removal of non-Islamic influences from Muslim-majority countries. The organization has used terrorism as a means to achieve these goals, and its activities have led to significant loss of life and destruction. United States and its allies launched a global counterterrorism effort to dismantle Al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups after 9/11 incident. Al-Qaeda's philosophy was deep-rooted in a fundamental explanation of Islam and the group has historically sought to establish an Islamic caliphate based on the explanation of Islamic law. It has used violence and terrorism as its primary means to achieve its objectives. Today structure has been destroyed that was built in Afghanistan after bin Laden and his friends spread in the world and there was no upcoming Islamic hub or Islamic militancy (Burke, 2004).

The most important as well as long-term impact on Pakistan's fame to cooperate with the US transmits in search for extremists hiding themselves in Pakistan that were arrested by joint operations from Pakistan belonged several leading Al Qaeda and Taliban members.

Taliban

The word Taliban means a student studying in religious seminary and in addition to religious knowledge undergoes military training as well. The Taliban gained international attention and infamy for its imperative in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, during that time, the Taliban enforced a strict explanation of Islamic laws, which included severe restrictions on the rights of women, bans on forms of entertainment and music, and the destruction of cultural and historical artifacts. The regime has provided a safe haven to Osama bin Laden, his companions and Al-Qaeda group, which led to international isolation and sanctions against Afghanistan. The Taliban is an Islamic fundamentalist militant group, which initiated in Afghanistan in 1990s. The group was emerged after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The word "Taliban" means "students" in Pashto and the group originally consisted of students who had studied in religious schools (madrasas). The expanded growth of religious seminaries in the wake up of Soviet attack in Afghanistan in 1979 with the passage of time gave birth to the phenomena of Italianization.

Afterward the fall of the Soviets and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1989, the country descended into civil war, with various factions vying for power. Pakistan supported the Taliban, a militant group that emerged from the chaos and took control of Afghanistan in 1996. The Taliban's creation has a stronger heritage by the civil war fought by ex-Mujahedeen groups in Afghanistan. The hectic condition in Afghanistan produced a deep gap between the political leaders and the general public. Taliban movements appeared in that gap from community and Mujahedeen guidance in 1992. That gap was resulted of aggressiveness over politically awareness in Kabul and the failure of government. The lack of government leadership allowed to Taliban in emerging. The Taliban declared the cause to establish Islamic sharia laws, peace, security, and the formation of national assemblage in Qandahar. The war became sympathetic to Taliban cause and their statement was fit generally with the need of Afghan people (Malik and Iqbal, 2010).

Mullah Omar

Mullah Omar was born in 1959 in the family of Pashtun in a small town of Kandahar Afghanistan his family moved to a native town when the mujahedeen were fighting against the USSR in 1970 that was a problematic to entrance area of Afghanistan. Mullah was a young man when his father died then Mullah Omar decided to move Kandahar where he became Muslim teacher in the madrassa of small town and also religious leader. Earlier, he has studied at madrasah; he had been disturbed twice in history. In 1989 and 1992, Mullah Omar was an Afghan soldier of Islamic group at the time of Soviet attack and Taliban

insurgency in Afghanistan. That was the era of Afghanistan President M. Najibullah. Omar had married with three women having five kids that were also reading in the madrasah where he was teaching (Armajani, 2021).

He had been involved to train youngsters in the madrassas in anti-Soviet campaign as well as joined a jihadi fighters groups and that had increased all across the Afghanistan. Talibs mean the seekers of knowledge were the religious scholars who wanted to carry justice and sharia laws in Afghanistan. Those young pupils were conveying law and order in the villages or towns of Kandahar. The group matured in fame and power with the goals comes to be greatly ambitious and interpretations of Islamic sharia laws of Islam. That was working for the rebuilding peace in Afghanistan. Mullah Mohammed Omar, 39-year-old Taliban leader and previously an expert of the Soviet conflict in Kabul (Zaeef, 2011). So, Mullah Omar was a leader and had earlier controlled a religious madrassa in his village. Taliban were conveyed to the attention by government of Pakistan. Mullah Omar had banned sixteen activities in country:

- Fitna (Temptation) probable to reason public trouble and the exposing of women's faces publically was forbidden. At that time, Taxi drivers were not allowed to take as costs from women who were not wearing Burqa and not covering completely cover their faces. The woman without any (mahram) women were also not permissible to go in the streets and bazar
- Music is not allowed in Islam. So, it is prohibited in shops, hotels, and cars, on pain of custody and the finishing of the criminal institution.
- To Muslims, Shaving a mustache and beard was banned; a month and a half after this ruling, anyone not unshaven was to be caged until his beard grew out.
- To Muslim men essential to offer everyday salat (Prayer) were to be offered in mosques and at the time of prayer Shops should be closed, vehicles had to stop circulating in the streets 15 minutes before prayer time. Shopkeepers or persons not obey the rules would be jailed for 10 days.
- It is forbidden to train pigeons and playing with birds is forbidden.
- Drug usage as well as drug transferring was prohibited.
- The kite flying and betting on it were forbidden according to Islam.
- Images are also forbidden in Islam so, there should be no images of people might be demonstrated in factories, guesthouses, or cabs, "since this was a form of idolatry".
- "Betting was prohibited in order".
- American or British hair style or fashion was also forbidden.
- The representatives of the Ministry for the Upgrading of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice were to arrest violators and cut their hair.
- In Islam interest is prohibited and that was forbidden, on pain of a long prison term.
- It is not allowed to women to wash clothes on the banks of rivers. If they were found doing so they would be imprisoned to the custody with the male guardian and harshly punished.
- In the all type of wedding or other ceremonies music and dancing were not allowed according to sharia (Islamic Laws).
- "Drum music" is also forbidden in Islam, ulama (body of clerics) would select on the punishment for it.

Poppy cultivation

Poppy cultivation had almost ended under the Taliban but is again increasing. Opium trade may now account for one-third of Afghanistan's GDP. It is one of the most serious challenges faced by the Afghan government. The end of poppy cultivation is partly dependent on the support provided to farmers to earn their livelihoods by alternative

means. The 2005 US allocation to counter-narcotics programs was over 700 million dollars, including over 200 million dollars for alternative livelihoods support. In 2008, Afghanistan was one of the major poppy-producing countries in the world. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in their "Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008," they estimated that Afghanistan had cultivated approximately 157,000 hectares of poppy in 2008 (Blanchard, 2009).

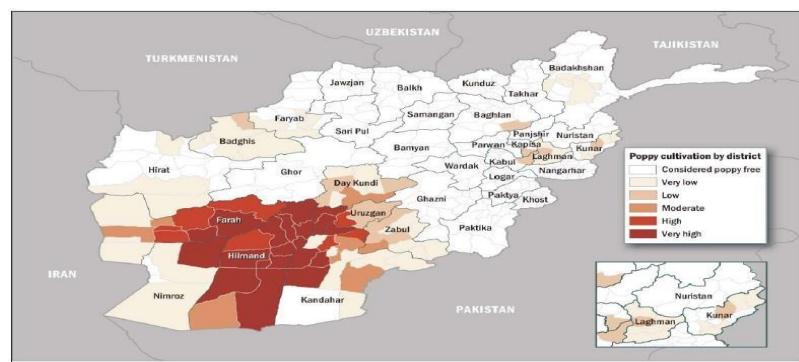


Figure: 2 Estimated poppy cultivation in 2008
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL32686.pdf>

Aims and Objectives of Taliban

At the time of soviet invasion the main aim of the Taliban was to establish Islamic laws (sharia laws) and an Islamic government in Afghanistan as interpreted by Islam and that will be regulated on the land of Afghanistan. The country will be to name the Islamic State of Afghanistan. State will be governed under the Islamic laws (Sunni Hanafi). A nominated Shoora is to run the affairs of the state in keeping with the announcements of the Amirul Momineen (Nojumi, 2016).

Relations between Al-Qaeda and Taliban

The relations between were highly private between the two organizations in the midst of an enduring war which was extremely challenging, militant groups and their relationship to each other reinforces. Some assessments of the relationship between the two groups Taliban and the al-Qaeda group and their friends must be traced by the roots and development over decades: than concentrating on the new era of US twin tower incident. Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda's leaders found sanctuary in Afghanistan under the security of the Taliban leaders. The Taliban provided shelter and support to Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda leadership during their time in power. Al-Qaeda used Afghanistan as a base for its operations and training camps. The Taliban provided Al-Qaeda with a safe haven to plan 9/11 attacks. Despite international pressure and efforts to dismantle Al-Qaeda and disrupt its network, some ties between the two groups have persisted (Van & Kuehn, 2012). Pakistan had to fight with the US within the war against Al Qaida and either therefore the Taliban continue with their support or are the victim of yank retaliation the Taliban or standing. Pakistan chose to support the international coalition and provided bases for intelligence, flight corridors and logistical support recovery with in the October 7 US invasion of Afghanistan 2001.

Histocal Analysis: Taliban's struggle for Power

The struggle for power in Afghanistan is not a new phenomenon. It began with Ruler Zahir Shah by his companion S. M. Daud, in 1973. Five years later another struggle took place, and this time plenty of blood was spilled in the presidential palace. Daud and his family were brutally murdered by the pro-Soviet elements in Afghanistan, who was under

the false notion that communism was the answer to Afghanistan's situation. Taliban did not succeed to bring the nation at one platform after ten long years of tussle against the. The Taliban quickly became a significant political force in Afghanistan, garnering attention as a potential contender for power. Pakistan expressed concerns about the Afghan civil war spilling over into its territory, as many Taliban members had sought refuge in Pakistan during the Soviet occupation. Arms and ammunition were acquired by the Taliban, further strengthening their position.

The rise of the Taliban in 1996 marked a significant turning point in the history of Afghanistan. The Taliban, which means "students", emerged as a militant and ultra-conservative Islamist group during the Afghan Civil War that followed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in the late 1980s. The Taliban movement emerged in the early 1990s, primarily in the Pashtun-dominated areas of southern Afghanistan. Many of its early members were Afghan refugees who had studied in religious schools (madrasas) in Pakistan. The movement was influenced by a strict interpretation of Sunni Islam and sought to establish Islamic Sharia laws. In September 1996 Taliban controlled the Kabul which is the capital of Afghanistan and began establishing their rule (Armajani, 2021). Pakistan was succeeding its goal of safeguarding way from Pakistan to the Central Asian states with a little bit of strategically gravity towards Afghanistan and the Saudi also had moderately attained their aims under the shadow of their Islamic education to expand their inspiration in Afghanistan, in that way they succeeded to gain two major military victories in that Era:

- At the time of soviet withdrawal in Oct. 1994 Taliban was able to control on the Spin Boldak, the in the south Afghan town that linked with the border with Pakistan between Quetta and Ashgabat.
- Second time in November 1994 they succeeded to occupied Kandahar which was second largest city of Afghanistan and that linked with Pakistan on the Quetta-Ashgabat highway (Gregory, 2004)

The existence of a conflict situation has been duly recognized by one of the most eminent anthropologists of Pashtun society (Edwards, 1998). Main, the Taliban appeared in late 1994 from Islamic madrasahs in Pakistan where they were living as refugees (Rashid, 1999).

Conclusion

Taliban (The students) desired to make a new state according to Islam to interpret the Islamic sharia laws. For that purpose they focused on the control of the politically, which they succeeded to implement. Initially, the Taliban militia comprised of madrassa students, but, with the passage of time, when the Taliban leadership needed more manpower, they mobilized the rural Pashtuns by employing village Islam. The use of such a method was not new in Afghan society. They have collected the young generation in Afghanistan to practice the sharia law and have made strong to capture Kabul Government.

The Taliban emerged during the Afghan civil war and after the withdrawal of Soviets from Afghanistan. The group was initially made up of Afghan students who had studied in religious schools (madrasas) in Pakistan. The Taliban follows an ultra-conservative interpretation of Sunni Islam and seeks to impose its strict version of Islamic law (Sharia) in areas it controls. In 1996 they captured the Kabul city and established their government. The group quickly gained control of most of the country, bringing an end to years of civil war.

In August 2021, the Taliban rapidly regained control after the US withdrawal and international militaries. This marked the return of the Taliban to de facto power in the state. The return of Taliban to power had risen up worries about human rights, females' rights,

and the group's relationship with extremist elements. The situation remains dynamic, and the international community is closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan.

Recommendations

- Strengthen Afghan state institutions to prevent power vacuums historically exploited by militant groups.
- Need to encourage regional cooperation among neighboring states to address cross-border militant movement.
- education reforms to reduce long-term exposure to radicalization.
- Reassure dialogue-based conflict resolution knowledgeable by past peace negotiations.
- Avoid repeating interference approaches that in history increased insurgency.
- regional diplomatic engagement involving Pakistan, Iran, China, and Central Asia.
- Improve border management through technology and regional agreements.
- Incorporate historical risk assessments into future security planning.

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