

## **The Events in Afghanistan 2021: Impact on Security in Central Asia**

### **Introduction**

«I don't envy someone who is beautiful and rich because sunset always comes after dawn» (Omar Khayyam). In fact, our Persian philosopher, of course, does not mean that all of us will struggle in near future but he emphasizes that everything is not forever. In our case, the peace which satisfies our needs is might be at risk that we probably are no longer able to continue to live without concerns that no one is exposing our stability. Indeed, notwithstanding the miraculous and peaceful time which we almost set up in our world, we still see the actions which are taking place in Afghanistan are disturbing not only their neighbors but also the entire world arena and its stability. To be precise, a new political group is known as the Taliban has flipped the local government in Kabul without any efforts and these actions lead to concern of the international community. Because if we remember the fact that the Taliban is notorious for hiding the terrorist group “Al-Qaida” in its place quite for a long time, we can surely claim that the Taliban will be again just a house for any terrorist groups. Therefore, for the international arena, it's not fully clear to what extent this group which at the time is considered a radical terrorist group, can be reliable for international trade and international dealings itself. That's why the opportunity for clarifying the situation lies upon us or students who are encouraged for participating in this contest. Additionally, it needs to underline the purpose of this essay is just to simplify reality for understanding Afghanistan behind the scene. But almost my whole research will be based on one question which is: How does Taliban impact the Central Asia in terms of the stability of its system in the short term and long-term perspective? Moreover, a huge emphasis will be given to the analytical analysis of the environment which is full of tensions in Afghanistan.

Generally, despite on background history which stays behind Afghanistan, today new administration of Afghanistan is claiming that they are interested to implement all possible ways of reconstructing stability and peace within Afghanistan. However, the question is how far will it be possible for them? Moreover, how can we trust that it is? These questions pour oil into the fire. For example, even Putin said that he treats them with respect but he doesn't refute the risk that terrorists under the veil of refugees can cross borders (Victoria, 2021). Later on, we can notice that Putin is doing his best for keeping any possible threats away from Russian borders by fostering the borders in Central Asia. Inasmuch, the main purpose of Russia is to seek dominant control in central Asia for keeping in shape its stability and prosperity.

For now, I have given some preliminary results in order to intrigue you in reading my essay. However, before I start, I am going to outline the main body of the essay which will guide you during the whole essay. First of all, I will summarize the background story which is lies behind the Taliban and some historical parts which will give a full image of the historical outlook. Secondly, I will describe how the transition of power was being transferred from the hand of predecessors to the new administration of Afghanistan. Thirdly, I will try to show all prominent responses toward the Taliban which are coming from the international community. After that, I will summarize a conversation that was conducted between me and a Pakistan military cadet who previously was living in Kandahar. Later on, I will contribute analytical analysis about every information that was stated so far. Lastly, I will give my conclusion with advice which will be the main part of my essay.

### **Main Body of the Essay**

Afghanistan - a sick spot of the middle east. Maybe once upon a time, you could notice such quite an extraordinary title in the olden soviet newspaper. In my case when I was a child my grandmother was making me read the olden newspaper. For today I still remember articles that

are related to Afghanistan. As far as I remember it begins with summarizing the war between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. But in our case, we would look a bit earlier.

Afghanistan quite for a long time has been struggling because of internal and external harsh conditions which were surrounding it. Their land was several times been conquered by Alexander the Great, Muslim Arabs, Mongols, and even the British. Since the coming of Arabs, they have adopted Islam. That's why we can surely claim that Afghans for a long period are struggling with self-determination. However, since the Taliban came to power Afghanistan can be considered as a radical Sunni Islam. Referring to the recent decades, to be exact, since the cold war began, the Soviet Union saw Afghanistan as a bridge with its southern neighbors. That's why the Soviet Union began to spread its influence over its territory. In fact, communists were good in terms of possessing key leverage on Central Asia quite for a long time until civil wars became sharper. The origin of the problem is coming from the April revolution which happened in 1978. Once the Afghan regime has been flipped by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, it was a raised a big number of guerillas against communist power, these rebels were called mujahideen. In September 1979 head of state, Nur Muhammad Taraki was assassinated by Hafizullah Amin who was on the same fraction and both of them were supporting Soviet ideology. However, the Soviets did not like that movement, that's why they killed Amin and had put another leader. But the patient of mujahideen was run out. By the way, mujahideen were people who were represented as an Islamic organization that is fighting for freedom. That's why they became more aggressive toward communists, the Soviet Union immediately right after targeting Amin has deployed its troops over Afghanistan. Briefly saying, the war was not so different than others wars during the Cold War. It was a usual proxy war that was highly pumped up by the Soviet Union and the US. During the combat operations, communists have faced 3 basic problems in war. First, Afghanistan has a lot of mountains, therefore it was difficult to conduct any military operations because of the low mobility of any transport. Secondly, mujahideen did not have centralized power, thus it was impossible to carry

out the negotiations between the two sides. Thirdly, mujahideen were highly sponsored by ISI (Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence). ISI at that time was being sponsored by the USA. It estimates around 40 billion dollars which were fueled into this organization in order to resist communist power. One of the most famous American weapons which have changed the character of the war was "Stinger". For you to know, the Soviet helicopter "Mil Mi-8" was the last chance to end the war successfully but that American weapon broke the hope of communists. That's why the Soviet Union could not achieve its goals because several reasons were playing against it. However, while these conflicts were going on and when civil war has sharpened, most women and children emigrated to the southern land of Afghanistan and the Northside of Pakistan. There we are coming to the key point which I will explain in the next paragraph.

To begin with, summarizing key points with the history of the Taliban it is worth mentioning that Talib means student in the Arab language. Indeed, the name explains its history itself. As I mentioned before, a lot of children were hosted in the Northside of Pakistan or the South of Afghanistan. ISI (Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence) strongly was supporting building madrese (usual schools with attention in studying Islam). There we see a core problem that most of the children were brainwashed by the radical view of the world. Later on, when mujahideen finally came to power they could not manage with establishing a strong and legitimate power in Afghanistan. That's why later on Talibs successfully took over the office of Afghanistan. Despite on fact that they were excluded from power for a while, they are still in power. Later I will explain the reason for being excluded from governance.

As you have noticed Afghanistan quite for a long time is struggling because of civil wars which creates internal instability within its country. In fact, political instability brings not the only problem for local folks but also it can be used as a tool for enforcing the power of external non-governmental actors. To be specifically I am talking about the terrorist group which is known as Al-Qaida. Al-Qaida was organized in 1988 by Osama bin Laden. He is coming from a rich bin Laden family who is still living in Saudi Arabia. His family has a multinational

construction conglomerate which brings them a big amount of money. Osama used this good condition for sponsoring mujahideen during the Soviet-Afghan war. After expulsion from Saudi Arabia and Sudan, he finally was hosted in Afghanistan. Since he had a very good reputation toward Afghan folks, they met him politely. That's why Talibs could not betray Osama because before that he fueled a big amount of money to war against the Soviets. Even though Talibs did not get direct aid from him, they hosted him because to the most extent they have some common view of the world. Later after hosting him, he deployed its military base which aimed primarily against the USA. Once he has deployed his military base, he has begun several terrorist operations. For instance, he exploded American Embassy in Africa, several times his organization (Al-Qaida) has committed a terrorist attack in Iraq and Syria. Finally, we are coming to the key history part that has turned Afghanistan upside down. In September 2001, Al-Qaida under the leader of Osama Bin Laden has killed around 3000 people. The interesting part of it is that pilots who hijacked 4 planes were very well-skilled. They were taught to fly even much earlier than we can imagine. Two planes were aimed toward the twin tower, the third one was aimed at the pentagon, and the fourth one was aimed at the capital resident. Hopefully, the fourth one was successfully crushed in the forest around Pennsylvania. That event pushed Americans to revenge Al-Qaida despite any conditions that were resisting them. Namely, the Taliban was under fight because they rejected America's request for the extradition of all members of Al-Qaida. That's why the Bush administration has considered Talibs as a participant in that terrorist attacks because otherwise, no one would hide terrorist groups in the home and no one would support them. America immediately invaded Afghanistan in order to erase Al-Qaida from the surface. Moreover, Bush wanted to establish a new government in Afghanistan. However, the most mysterious statement which was claimed which I have read in the book "the globalization of world politics". The authors of this book said that at some point the US was guilty by itself because of the case 9/11 (Baylis J., Smith S. & Owens, P., 2008). They did not elaborate on this statement but my guess is that if Americans were not providing mujahideen

with weapons, Afghanistan would have a more stable country than now, maybe with communist ideology but nevertheless. Probably USSR could win the war in Afghanistan and later on this country would not host any terrorist group in its country. Thus, probably Al-Qaida would not have any military bases or supporters who could help them. But since it's the only theory we can't surely claim that.

For the replacement of Talibs, Americans have put pro-Pashtun administration with its leader Ashraf Ghani. The reason for choosing them was simple, their view of the world was more legitimate in terms of, once they had gotten power, they permitted to get education for all people despite gender and so on. However, during the ruling of Pashtuns, the narcotraffic has been increased enormously. Talibs with Al-Qaida were still highly haunted by the world because of their ideology and view of the world, it brings concern that these banned groups can organize second 9/11 in some not defended places. First of all, under risk lies neighboring countries. However, it's another topic that will be discussed later. Americans were staying quiet for a long period on the territory of Afghans until April of 2014. During that time Ghani won a presidential election and asked NATO to withdraw its troops out of Afghanistan. NATO agreed to do it partially, they have withdrawn its troops and gave more power to Ghani in terms of, Ghani got direct control over its Army. But American troops were still staying in Kabul. However, once Biden came to power, all American troops rapidly have left Afghanistan. After that leader of Talibs, Hasan Akhund got control over the government without resistance during that time. Finally, we are coming to the end of the history part, indeed without a background story, it's impossible to give analytical analysis and any thesis which should be credible because it gives a full picture.

Slowly but surely we are coming to the second main body, as was mentioned before in the history part the transition of power to the Taliban was conducted without blood but some features make it suspicious. To be specific, in 2021 on the 9th of July Talibs have visited Moscow for conversation in order to convince them that they are not willing to cross the border

of Central Asia or conduct any illegitimate, criminal, or manipulative actions for expanding their power over this territory (Isachenkov V., 2021). By the way, the Taliban is still considered as a banned terrorist group in all countries, in Russia as well. That thing seems to us puzzling, if we look it at outside we can describe it like, terrorists came to speak with the Putin administration about cooperation. Doesn't look weird? Moreover, the situation is getting sharper when we notice that right after the conversation Putin said that it would be better to give power to Talibs in order to decrease bloodshed. In fact, after a while, Talibs got power without any resistance. Simply, Talibs quietly came to Kabul and very quickly established its power. Before that, Ghani managed to migrate to Saudi Arabia with a big baggage of money. When he left, most Afghan citizens were trying to escape from the country because they did not want to live with the new Talib's rules which were highly unpleasant. Some women were throwing their children over the fence believing that they will have a better life than in Afghanistan. Indeed, today most folks are suffering from the hands of Talibs, all women started to wear burqa and do not go outside without men. Moreover, all people have to pray regularly no matter what they wish. There is only Panjshir province which is still fighting against Talibs. This place is playing a privileged role for defenders because they took crucial points in mountains that allow them to fight against Talibs with a low rate of losses. The leader of that province said that they are able to defend themselves at least until this year. However, as the Taliban reports, they have conquered this place but defenders are claiming the opposite. For today the new administration of Afghanistan possesses an inability to provide its citizens with basic needs such as food. In another word, we see a famine because of recent changes in the political sphere that harshly affected not only the weak economy but also lead to concern from the external actors.

To continue with the scrupulous theme as the response of the international community toward the new administration of Afghanistan I would, first of all, discuss Russia. To begin with the history of Russia in terms of its expansion to south neighborhoods, it is worth mentioning the reason why Central Asia was initially important to Russia. Shortly describing the history part,

after several unsuccessful attempts to gain control over the west neighbors and to restore its reputation toward the international community Russia decided to expand to the south (Kissinger, 2014). Russian soul or behavior of its state for a long period of time was full of heart of ideas of realism. Therefore, we can treat it as an actor which is seeking all means for getting dominative control over the neighboring countries. Once Central Asia was kept in Russian hands, Russia still don't want to let them go because of geopolitical status. Even if, Central Asia had barely gotten freedom after collapsing USSR, Russia again has returned its geopolitical domination over them. However, as Alexander the Great has given a name for China as a sleeping dragon, today this dragon seems to us that he is awaking because we can see that China is willing to play as an actor who wants to dominate in the sphere of military suppliance, technology with consumer goods and in others as well. Because for current agenda which is being risen in CCP is considered the idea for expanding its market for solving the problem which is connected with further developing its economic growth. Exactly, if the country is expanding goods and service demand in the trading sphere it's simultaneously increasing revenue for itself. Therefore, China kills two birds with one stone by selling its goods to Central Asia and keeping its borders safe. Meanwhile, for Russia, it's a premature plan to keep terrorist groups away from penetrating them into Central Asia. Let me provide some statistics and other researches which will help us to give a not biased opinion about my topic we should look at one of them. According to the article "In Russia's Shadow: China's Rising Security Presence in Central Asia" which has been published by Wilson Center. It says that Russia still plays a dominative role in Central Asia by treaties which are exerting to China's policy as a frame which limits a certain amount of goods for selling to Central Asia, especially a certain amount of military equipment also are limited for selling while Russia has way more leverages over these territories. However, even though China doesn't play a dominant role there, it doesn't mean that they are idle, otherwise compare with the amount of selling military equipment in 1990 and for today, China's selling has been increased dramatically. Particularly, the amount of military equipment which is being sold to Uzbekistan

and Turkmenistan by China has bypassed the Russian selling. Therefore, it would be considered a mistake if we say that only Russia has full right to influence Central Asia because soon we will see the long-awaited project BRI which overwhelms by its goals not only neighbor countries but also other big players in the international arena in terms of its possible geopolitical consequences. In addition, recently military exercise has also been increased dramatically which is being led by China's initiative where Central Asia participates actively. But still, notwithstanding China's attempts to expand its influence by selling its goods to Central Asia, Russia sells a bigger amount of goods for this territory. Therefore, we can surely claim that Central Asia is under the protectorate of Russia. There are some rumors that if Russia would face the problem with keeping the borders in shape, China will deploy its troops and military bases in Central Asia. However, the problem is that because of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, Central Asia is strongly skeptical of China's help. As you remember for deploying troops in other countries, the country where the not local troops are being deployed has to get permission from the host government and the UN, or otherwise, it will be considered as an abuse of power.

It is worth mentioning that after 9/11 USA has deployed military bases in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. More familiar was Manas military base where the US concentrated military airfield. Despite on fact that Russia let the US army settle down military bases there, Russia nervously was watching over the theater of war and the US domination over that territory. However, these countries began to suffer from terrorist attacks even before the US arranged its Army. Several terrorist attacks were committed during the chaos which was going after the collapsing USSR. Thanks to the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) these countries were saved from further penetration of terrorist groups into these countries. These problems were accompanied by internal issues which were existed in these countries. To be exact, Kyrgyzstan for a long time had problems with establishing a distinct government that would satisfy its civils (Weitz,2021). Still today to some extent we can notice that Kyrgyzstan is suffering from political instability. Thus, we are coming to the informal answer which is at least explicit for us, Central

Asia plays the role of fence for the Russian border. In other words, Russia believes in the salami-slicing approach or it is also called a domino effect. Therefore, Russia keeps its borders in shape to save its wellbeing. Recently, Russia has already sent 1.1 billion dollars to Tajikistan for facilitating its borders. Regarding the Russian response to the new government of Afghanistan, it has been noticed that countries that are members of CSTO, especially countries in Central Asia started to facilitate their Army. While Central Asia is under the protectorate of CSTO these countries can surely continue their political-strategic in favor of enhancement of prosperity and economic growth. Even though the Taliban has declared that they will not interfere in Central Asia, the Taliban doesn't have credit toward the international community because of their background story. Russian relation to them can be shortly described by one Russian saying "trust but check" (*доверяй но проверяй*)

To continue with Russian aid, shortly saying, during the last three years Russian finance aid was highly concentrated on Central Asia, in sum is estimated at 3 trillion rubles (Ivan, 2021). While Russia is concerned with other foreign dealings, Kazakhstan with Kyrgyzstan has already conducted conversations with the new administration of Afghanistan. Both sides are willing to cooperate in the trading sector. Recently Afghanistan has already received 5 tons of flour from Kazakhstan. Fortunately, Russia doesn't have any claims toward these countries (Brus, 2021). Therefore, it's more likely that Russia will also have close negotiation with the Taliban if their administration will fulfill promises which were said toward the international community in terms of keeping peace and reducing violence within the country.

Indeed, the international community needs nothing from Talibs except two things, first is to keep its borders in shape. In other words, Talibs have to keep in control migration policy, in order to don't let the rate of emigration be increased enormously. In addition, they have to keep all terrorist groups within their country and don't let them spread out over the world. The second one is to take into control the narcotraffic. According to several experts' opinions, it seems difficult to do it because the most lucrative and single industry which makes whole government

revenue is narcotraffic. That's why as soon as possible Talibs should solve local problems in the country and try to cooperate with neighbors in terms of increasing trade turnover in order to bring stability to its society.

However, if we pay attention to one of Afghan's neighbors, we can notice that one of them has the capability to escalate nuclear power for one month. In fact, this country doesn't have a nuclear weapon but as Kessinger noted in his famous book "world order", Iran has a lot of factories that can recycle a big amount of uranium and can develop nuclear weapons very fast. Moreover, referring to the recent news, the Iran office admitted that they have brothers' relationships with Talibs (Kumar R., 2020). Iran has an expansion plan only in two directions, into Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. In the first case, Iran has to resolve problems with the ethnic issues in the Northside of Iran. In the second case, Afghanistan for Iran is playing a vital role in terms of expanding its influence in the middle east and boosting its economy. These facts bring us concerns (Brzezinski Z., 1998). That's why the American CIA has to work very well in order to predict any movement in Iran in terms of processing uranium in this country. Indeed, Iran was been imposed by sanctions because of nuclear activities in its country. Therefore, the US has to make relationships with both countries warmer or otherwise the risk of burning new conflict will be increased.

In addition, the small thing that should be noticed it's the behaviors of foreign diplomats within Afghanistan. I have noted only four countries that continued to work without fear, it was Iranian, Russian, Turkish, and Chinese diplomats. It's still not clear will they acknowledge the Taliban or not but their treatment for them is ambiguous. For today even USA is ambiguous for us because right after withdrawing its troops US embassy told us that they have good relations with the Taliban and they are able to keep in touch but simultaneously from the news we could notice quite opposite picture. To be exact, we did not notice any declarations or agreements, we have heard only promises and worm words. In fact, later on, Talibs have gotten more sanctions

and Afghan's bank accounts were frozen by IMF. That's why we cannot be sure that the US office is telling true.

Regarding the US, the international community sees the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan as a defeat. As a result, we see that in the case of 9/11 USA has lost 3000 innocent people while in war it lost the same number. At some point, Biden's speech was convincing that there was no sense to stay further by asking "What the sense to keep troops further if most Afghan's soldiers have left their homeland without a fight right after our withdrawing?". The message of this speech was that there was no sense to keep American soldiers further if the Afghan Army is reluctant to fight with the local enemy. But despite this, the world saw that the USA is no longer is capable to play a dominant role in the middle east.

To sum up, everything that has been mentioned so far, Afghanistan is a sore spot for the middle east. Because their instability generates invariability not only within its country but also represents a risk that it will be shifted to other neighboring countries, especially Russia which is doing best to resist any possible threats which are primarily coming from the hot middle east. Despite not clear ambition which Talibs have in their mind, some big actors as China, Russia, Iran, and Turkey are to some extent ready to cooperate with them in terms of accelerating trade turnover by starting with trading at a small scale like trading in the agriculture sector. As well as small players of the international community like Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have already negotiated in the sphere of trading. However, if we return to the key points of this essay, we should recall that today Afghan relation to the world is not still clear for us because it has an ambiguous treatment, the first issue is that there are no countries that have declared any data or period when they are going to recognize Talibs sovereignty while the second issue gives us a proximate answer which shows us that most counties except Iran are indeed fully skeptic to the new Afghan administration because of their background story.

The next paragraph will be devoted to the conversation which was conducted during the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. The interviewer hasn't told much about his life in order to not be

identified by people who can punish him for sharing information. He was born in Afghanistan in the city of Kandahar. When he was three years old he moved to Pakistan. Since Pakistan and Afghanistan have no distinct borders, Afghans still today can move easily to Pakistan and vice-versa. As far as I understood he is a cadet of some Pakistan military unit. Later on, he will be sent back to Kandahar for serving in the Afghan Army.

The first thing that he has mentioned is that the war is not so simple as a war between US and Afghanistan. The war consists of way more complexity in terms of high tensions between several ethnic groups, the most prominent between Hazaras, Pashtuns, Tajiks, and Uzbeks. In other words, Afghanistan is severely disintegrating. In addition, the US was keeping its troops because several reasons but the first and foremost is to restrict Chinese expansion to the middle east. Later on, he claimed that the grown reality of transferring previous Afghan administration to the Taliban is lying upon Afghan's willingness. Otherwise, if the Afghan Army wanted to fight, they would continue the war. According to his view, most people hoped that if Talibs come to power, they will accomplish a self-determining much better than the Ghani administration. The fact is people indeed wanted peace without any external intervention. At the end of the conversation, he emphasized many times that people want only peace and he believes that the new Afghan administration will be able to manage ethnic and terrorist movements issues. Narcotrafficking will be solved because Afghanistan represents a tasty morsel for the Chinese government in terms of geopolitical and economic goals. He advises for Talibs only to keep peace within the country and increase the quality of life for folks. At the end of the speech, he said the world has to believe that most Afghans indeed want peace because they are exhausted because of long wars and internal tensions after that I thanked him for giving an interview and he said hoda-Hafez. ( in Persian and Urdu it means good-bye)

Summing up, at some point we see a logical explanation for some thesis, even we can notice his pro-Talibs mood. But overall his view is quite justifiable. Regarding the Chinese case,

it's more likely to happen that Afghan's economy will be highly dependent on the Chinese government. According to him the goals which have to be done by Talibs are also logical and feasible. Even though the interviewer was struggling sometimes with giving more concrete evidence or elaborations for some statements, generally he gave a good interview which expands our knowledge about the environment of Afghanistan. Nevertheless, as Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson stated in their famous book "Why Nations Fail". Sometimes local people are way informed and can be very right than any external expertise as was shown in practice in the case of Kongo.

My analytical analysis will be separated into three basic approaches. The first is estimating the military capability of Afghanistan or in other terms, its hard power. The second will consider the threat of terrorist groups which are to some extent considered as the byproduct of Afghan instability. The last one will be devoted to the contemplation of relations of the international community toward the second part of the Ballet de la Merlaison in Afghanistan.

To begin with, the estimation for the military capability is worth reminding that one of the most important a factor that is playing a vital role in the art of war is the morality of soldiers. The local folks of Afghanistan together with Taliban warriors are exhausted due to the fact that all people of this country went through several wars in all senses. As we remember it was a civilian war which has begun in 1979, right after that war between USSR, then the invasion of US troops. For now, most Afghan folks caught their breath with relief. Because finally, they got more opportunities for self-determination. Indeed most people in Afghanistan wanted only peace that at least will ensure the right of private property and jurisdiction that will protect basic human rights. Unfortunately, Sharia Laws that were established recently violate some rules such as the right of getting an education for girls and others. But generally even under these rules society can exist further in peace, it's only a matter of time. The additional thing is that around 70 % of Afghans are living in a rural place where most citizens cut off communication with the world, in

other words, most of them are living in primitive lifestyles. That's why the bulk of the population will not be fully affected because of changes in the office of Afghanistan. Therefore local folks need only help with dealing with the constant ethnic tensions between several groups within the country. Thus, Talibs in close decades have to work on the industrialization of society in order to decrease the number of poorness. Moreover, they have to concentrate more power over Afghanistan in order to take full responsibility for any Afghan's actions. In addition, the Afghan office has to as soon as possible to review the main source of profit for implementing its policy. More exactly, it has to diminish the narcotrafficking and make a profit which has to have a legitimate character or otherwise Talibs will have several problems with acknowledging their power and attracting investments to their territory. However, we can't fully exclude the fact that Talibs who probably were inspired by the win over the pro-Pashtun administration will not expand their influence to the middle east or Central Asia. But it is less likely because as it was mentioned before the whole system of Afghans needs a recovery at least these close decades. In fact, it will take a huge time. Referring to the military capability, Afghanistan indeed has a way the weak capability to compare with all countries of Central Asia. Even though the US after withdrawing has remained most equipment, Talibs with that equipment is not a serious enemy for North neighbors. Moreover, north neighbors have conducted several drills close to Afghan territory. These military trainings were initiated by organizations such as SCO and CSTO. These drills have exerted a big influence on the security of Central Asia because of two reasons. The first is that militants are got prepared in all senses for any sudden attack on the borders. Secondly, it was not done for nothing to conduct these drills near Afghan borders because it also has brought a psychological attack to the Talibs. After that Talibs will be reluctant to commit any illegal actions toward Central Asia.

Regarding the terrorist penetration, it is worth mentioning the Talib's officials who claimed during the visit the Moscow that they will do their best to keep terrorist groups away from Central Asia. A priory is important for Central Asia to impede pan-Islamist Salafist

ideology spreading from the middle east. However, the question is how? Another question is how to believe it? The big problem Taliban is the lack of transparency, that's why the whole world is skeptical toward them. CSTO with SCO is still keeping in practice to conduct anti-terrorist training. In fact, CSTO is playing a vital role in keeping security in Central Asia as it noted Russian Defense Minister Shoigu. Moscow has personally warned Central Asia to not accept Afghan refugees under external pressure. Indeed, there was no country from Central Asia which has accepted Afghan refugees, with the exception of initially ethnic belonging people to that country that is asked for shelter. Additional problem is that for Tajikistan it's a big problem to accept even native Tajiks. Because the south side of Afghanistan is predominantly full of Tajiks. That's why Tajikistan faces with high risk to accept any refugees who can be a terrorist under the veil of refugees. In the case of Uzbekistan, the problem is similar. The fuel to the fire is pouring two territorial tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan also a war between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In the first case, the war is known as Nagorno-Karabagh, where the war lies on ethnic and territorial issues. In the second case, the war because of disputes over the water management whereas the problem is deriving since Moscow has divided these territories after the USSR collapsed. Therefore, if intergovernmental tensions will not be solved as soon as possible it can attract the attention of terrorists where they can expand their capability over territory where the government has no power. Moreover, the problem which can accompany these issues is corruption. Central Asia has to start paying attention to all medresse and mosques which are placed within their country because if go back to the topic we remember that the number of youth who accept Islam is increasing. That's why the counterterrorist sphere of all countries of Central Asia has to accelerate its capability in order to deal with this problem.

Finally, briefly telling about how the international community is treating Afghanistan is worth, to begin with, the US. American troops were a long-time presence over the Afghan territory. The reason for that as was mentioned before it was the case of 9/11. But later when tensions have sharpened between the US and China regarding the case of BRI (Belt and Road

Initiative) the USA saw advantages in a presence over the Afghan territory because to some extent the presence of it can restrict the expansion of Chinese influence. Indeed, the Chinese have a good condition for it because Talibs are lack of sufficient capital that will help them for implementing its policy. As was the case with some infrastructure projects within Malaysia and with Shri-Lanka port, China can give financial aid or loan in return Afghanistan will give some valuable places for renting. Indeed, Afghanistan has abundant resources whereas China as a fast-growing country has the appetite for it. It seems that it's unavoidable for Afghanistan to be part of project BRI. Thus US domination over the middle east is slowly cutting down since it lost its power in Afghanistan. In addition, even Russia with Taliban has warned that they will not be tolerant if the pentagon again decides to deploy US troops over Afghan territory even if it is intended against terrorists. As it was mentioned before, Russia has more power in Central Asia than any players in the international arena. But in terms of estimating the actor which has more power over Afghanistan, it's still unclear because China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran have the same starting point in the race for getting domination over this territory. As it was said before China is more likely to become an actor who will dominate over Afghanistan. Indeed, if we look at the aggressive actions which are being conducted by China in favor of economic benefit, we can suppose that this race will be won by China. Russia is more likely to stay out of the deals in Afghanistan until it touches the security issues of Central Asia.

In the case of Kazakhstan, its administration has shown its benevolence after conducting warm conversations and sending 5 tones of powders to Afghanistan. However, as in most countries of Central Asia, the recruitment of new soldiers has been increased effectively. Moreover, Kazakhstan has sent some military equipment irrevocably to Kyrgystan and Tajikistan so that means its concerns toward Talibs. In the case of Kyrgystan and Tajikistan, despite tensions between them over territorial issues, Russia is consisting two military bases which are "division 201" and "Kant". The first one is placed on the south side of Tajikistan. The

second one is placed in Kyrgystan. Thus there are no big concerns for these countries until Russia consists of these bases.

In the case of Turkmenistan, close relations between Afghanistan are unavoidable because Turkmen are aiming to realize the project of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline. Through Afghanistan, that pipeline will deliver from Turkmenistan natural gas for Pakistan and India.

The last one is Uzbekistan which recently reopened the Friendship Bridge which is intended to accelerate the economy of both countries. Uzbeks as Kazakhstan also promote the exchange program for Afghan students but it is still on small scale.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, we came to one of the most important parts of this essay because I am not going only to summarize my essay but also give suggestions that should be implemented by governors in Central Asia.

Briefly summarizing key points this essay is worth mentioning, Afghanistan quite for a long period was suffering from internal instability. This problem was used by several non-governmental actors who at some point achieved their goals. To be precise, Al-Qaida is remaining in the territory of Afghanistan while the Taliban finally came to power. The international community watches nervously at outcomes that have been demonstrated in Afghanistan. Because the new administration of Afghanistan is widely notorious for its bloody background story. Several international actors are already making attempts for preserving its borders and stability by enforcing its borders and developing migration policy. However, the questions are still open how to move on further and what should Central Asia do?

My advice toward countries that consist of Central Asia would be that they should host a certain number of students from Afghanistan. As famous marshal, Suvorov said, "if you want peace, prepare for war". But in this case, they have to not only facilitate the borders between Afghanistan but also think in the long term perspective how to keep their country safe for our new generation. Indeed, it would be way difficult to make the influence the Taliban's power or to make even small changes within Afghanistan in the short term by direct influence. To be exact it would be difficult to change Talib's ideology, but we already know that their radical approach to the world is offensive. Therefore if it's possible we should somehow influence their power to protect our society from any risk of attack. That's why following the logic of "protect in the long term perspective" we should attract students by creating more scholarships which will be feasible for getting it. As Russian adage says, fight fire with fire (КЛИН КЛИНОМ ВЫШИБАЮТ). Probably you have guessed that I am trying to give a link between the origin of creating Taliban in Pakistan and hosting students in Central Asia. As I mentioned before, the Taliban was organized under the supreme of Mohammed Omar, he created a group that brainwashed the generation, to be specifically children, who escaped with mothers because of the war in Afghanistan between the USSR. Therefore, it's important not to surrender the belief that one-day the Afghanistan will be changed in favor of peace. The new generation within their system who will be taught in Central Asia will have their view toward the world. However, another question, will it be possible for Afghan students to get an education in our space? That's another question where I am lack of competence to surely claim that it will work. But logically saying the Taliban administration is seeking any opportunity of getting acknowledgments from the world to increase its internal stability, including increasing the GDP, attracting more financial and humanitarian aid, etc. They could believe that by sending students abroad, students can absorb knowledge which soon will help with raising the trade turnover, quality of hospitals, the quality of education and generally solve most issues regarding instability that touches Talibs. Its highly possible that Afghanistan will need qualified laborers in vital spheres such as education, medical,

etc. However we already have such an exchange program, Kazakhstan with Uzbekistan have already taken some students from Afghanistan. But the scale is too small for that exchange program, few numbers students from Afghanistan are studying in Central Asia. Thus, it's important to pass the idea to their mind that it would be a prudent decision to send their students abroad. Because for them it costs nothing, otherwise they will get a profit from it. In other words, their laborers will be more skilled. However, the key point is that people who will return from Central Asia to their country will have a different approach to the world. Probably if civil war will be escalated again because of the inability of the new administration to provide for citizens basic necessities, they will have at least educated people who know what country should they take as an example. Of course, most countries can suggest a pretty similar idea as mine but the thing is that it's not a secret that Talibs can be a skeptic for sending students to liberalized countries. In our case, we should do our best to represent ourselves as actors who are wishing only good for them as we have proved in recent meetings. We don't have other realistic tools that will secure us from external attacks. Central Asia as I mentioned before under the protectorate of Russia, that's why we cant bravely promote close relationships with Talibs or otherwise it will lead to concerns from the Russian side. Therefore Central Asia can only facilitate its military power, enforce its borders and develop its migrant policy that will exclude any identities that has a link to the terroristic movement. Let me share with your scheme how my suggestion will work. First, all countries in Central Asia will create more scholarships for students from Afghanistan. Later on, it's important to show that Afghanistan will be benevolent from this in terms of raising more skilled laborers. Then, once students arrived governments that will host foreign students should be attentive to exclude any possible risks. After that, once they have gotten specific skills they will have quite a different approach toward the world. In near future no matter what will happen at least we will be sure that there is a big number of people who will play against Talib's administration. As the authors of the book "Why National Fail" noted in their book, totalitarian states are not stable in the long-term perspective that's why we

hope that these educated Afghan generations will know what to do. Indeed, a lot of scholars said that soft power works much better than hard power. However, it's important to mention that the scholarship program will be designed as ours "Bolashak" but with more features that will ensure that foreign students from Afghanistan will not be hosted forever in Central Asia to guarantee that Talibs will get skilled laborers back. I guess states which will create scholarships will not bear a big burden because probably developed countries will be interested in this project that's why we can predict financial help from developed countries. Indeed, in 2019 European Union has launched a 2 million euro program which allowed to bear a burden of Uzbekistan's and Kazakhstan's expenses of scholarships for Afghan students.

As the last word, I would include the second quote of famous commander Alexander Suvorov "It is better to meet the danger than to wait on the spot". That's why just fostering the borders is not enough for safety in the long term perspective, as was mentioned before soft power is the best action that we can implement.

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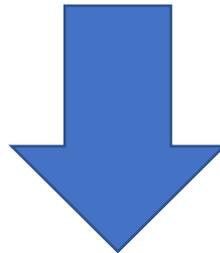
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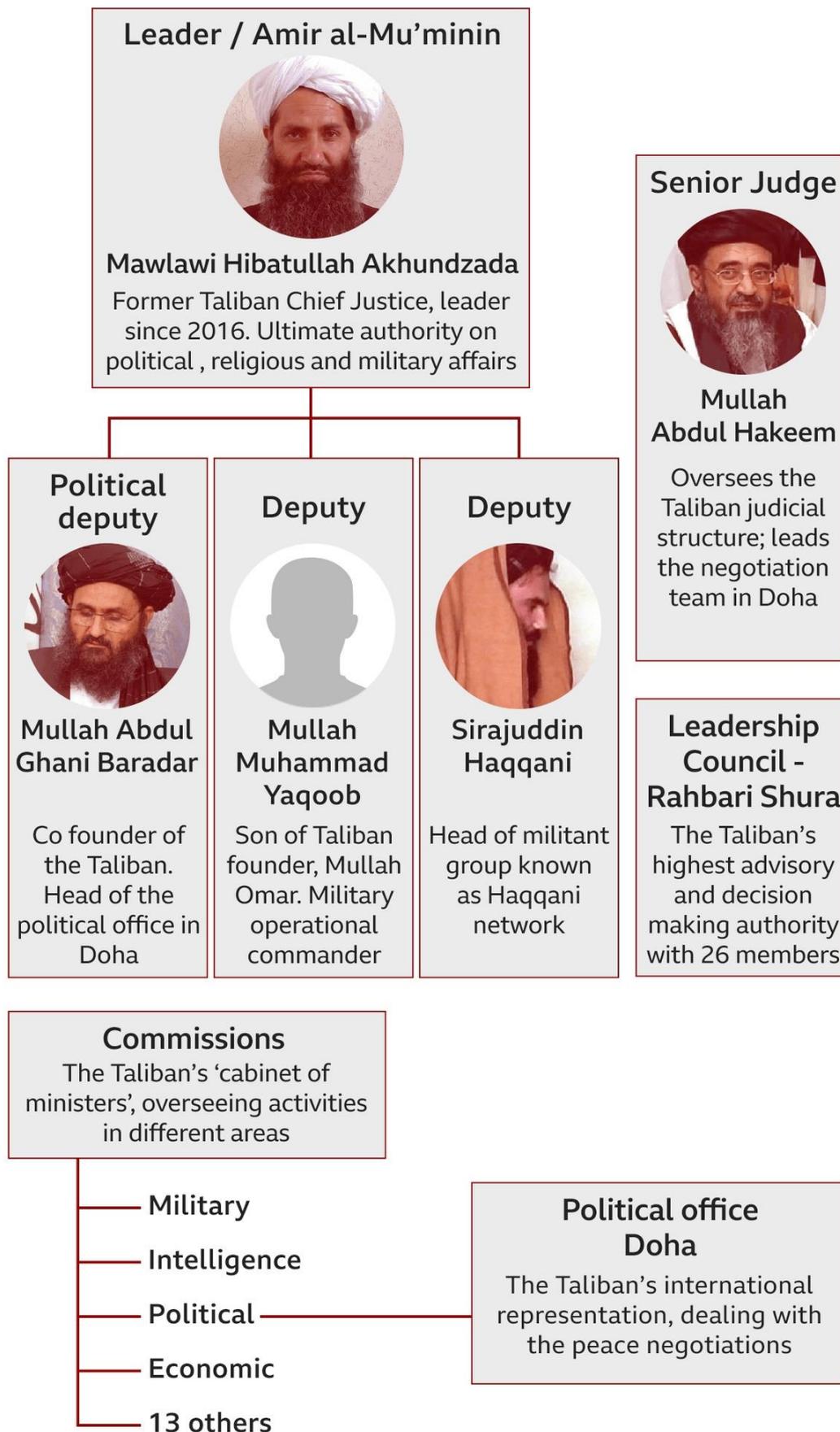
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**All important pictures are down!**



# Taliban leadership structure



# Вывод сотрудников посольств из Кабула

#	СТРАНА	МЕРЫ
1	 Австралия	Дипломатическая миссия приостановлена с мая 2021 года.
2	 Болгария	Дипмиссия приостановлена с марта 2018 года после взрыва у посольства.
3	 Канада	Временно закрывает свое посольство в Кабуле после эвакуации персонала.
4	 Чехия	Дипперсонал покидает Афганистан.
5	 Дания	Временно закрывает свое посольство в Кабуле после эвакуации персонала.
6	 Финляндия	Дипперсонал покидает Афганистан - афганские сотрудники будут релоцированы.
7	 Франция	Перенос дипломатических представительств в аэропорт Кабула.
8	 Германия	Сокращение штата посольства до "минимума".
9	 Италия	Эвакуация всего персонала из посольства.
10	 Япония	Эвакуация всего персонала из посольства.
11	 Южная Корея	Временно закрывает свое посольство в Кабуле после эвакуации персонала.
12	 Нидерланды	Сокращение штата посольства до "минимума". Возможна полная эвакуация.
13	 Норвегия	Дипперсонал покидает Афганистан.
14	 Россия	Эвакуирует около 100 сотрудников посольства.
15	 Испания	Дипперсонал покидает Афганистан - афганские сотрудники будут релоцированы.
16	 Швеция	Дипперсонал покидает Афганистан - афганские сотрудники будут релоцированы.
17	 Турция	Продолжает дипломатическую работу.
18	 Великобритания	Сокращение штата посольства до "минимума". Отправка военных для эвакуации.
19	 США	Перенос дипломатических представительств в аэропорт Кабула. 6000 американских военных отправлены в Кабул для наблюдения за эвакуацией дипломатов.
A	 Китай	Скорее всего признает власть талибов в Афганистане.
B	 Иран	Продолжает дипломатическую работу.
C	 Саудовская Аравия	Эвакуирует всех сотрудников посольства.