

**Forum:** Junior Security Council

**Issue:** The situation of the Taliban occupation of Afghanistan

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## Introduction

The Afghanistan war has been ongoing since October 7th, 2001, when the United States invaded Afghanistan along with its allies and successfully got the Taliban off from power in order to prevent Al-Qaeda, a safe base of operations, in Afghanistan. A group of more than 40 countries (including all NATO members) established a security project in the nations since the main goals were accomplished. Since that time, the war has seen more U.S. and associated forces of the Afghan government fighting Taliban insurgents. The Afghan war also happens to be the longest war in American history.

In the war, more than one hundred thousand people were killed. More than 4,000 ISAF soldiers and civilian contractors, more than 62,000 Afghan national security troops, as well as more than 31,000 civilians and even more Taliban were killed. These numbers are currently still rising as the war is constantly going on.

Afghanistan is still facing major financial downturns, with development falling in 2018 to 1.8 percent. Slow growth represented the impacts of serious drought and increasing instability, with 3,812 civilian casualties reported by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan throughout January and June 2019, and more than 1,1 million Afghans forcibly displaced due to the conflict.

The surge in returns by an estimated 1.7 million documented and undocumented Afghan refugees during 2016-2017 remains a pressure on the country's economy and institutions. Internal displacement and large-scale return within a difficult economic and security context pose risks to welfare for the displaced and for host communities.

There were less than 9,000 US soldiers in Afghanistan at the start of Donald Trump's presidency in early 2017. By early summer 2017, the number of troops grew by around

50%; there were no concrete negotiations to withdraw. In August 2019, the Taliban agreed to agree with the US to decrease troops back to where they had been when Trump was elected, but Trump canceled the discussions after a Taliban attack.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

### ***Taliban***

The Taliban, or Taleban, who relate to themselves as Afghanistan's Islamic Emirate, is a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military group that is now fighting the war in Afghanistan. Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, leader of the Taliban since 2016.

Driven by the hardline religious scholar Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban have been in direct talks with the US since 2018, with both sides looking to end the long-running war that has taken tens of thousands of lives.

### ***Air-Strike***

An attack, airstrike, or air raid is an aircraft-led military operation. Airstrikes are launched by planes such as blimps, rockets, pilots, missiles, aircraft hitting the ground, helicopters fighting, drones.

### ***Civil war***

A civil war, according to the Oxford dictionary, is a war between citizens of the same country. It usually happens due to religious, political conflicts in the country, generally for the motif of power. To win a civil war means that that party can now decide for the country as a whole.

### ***Refugees***

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term 'refugees' as "a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster." They are not limited to any ethnic background, or personality, and different to an IDP they have crossed an international border. All refugees recognized by an international state were once asylum-seekers.

### ***Internally Displaced Person***

An internally displaced person (IDP) is somebody who is pressured to leave his or her home but remains inside the boundaries of his or her country. Internally displaced persons are sometimes referred to as refugees but are not under a refugee's legal definitions. This is due to the fact that they have not crossed an internationally recognized border.

### **Background Information**

Afghanistan is a landlocked Asian country, officially called the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Afghanistan borders on the east and south to Pakistan; on the west of Iran; on the north of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan; and in the northeast of China. Afghanistan lists among many of the world's poorest countries. Poverty is common in both the rural and urban regions of Afghanistan. But the suffering of poverty in Afghanistan has been reported to be located mostly in rural areas. Four of the five poor people are projected to be living in rural areas. There are also a huge number of refugees and displaced people due to the very long ongoing war.

The Afghan war created many terrors, such as the 9/11 terror by the Al-Qaeda operatives, and although they were not from Afghanistan, it is said that eventually, the president at that time, Bush calls on the Taliban regime to "deliver to the U.S. authorities all the al-Qaeda leaders who are hiding in your land or share in their misery.

The Afghan war happened mainly due to the Taliban. The hardline Islamic Taliban movement in Afghanistan has shown to be a potent fighting force and a major threat to their government.

The community that a U.S -led invasion removed from power in 2001 slowly recovered its dominance and now occupies and dominates more territories than at any stage ever. The Taliban are said to have currently already dominated approximately 70 percent of Afghanistan.

The U.S. ambassador Khalilzad and the Taliban's Baradar conclude a deal on February 29th, 2020, that paves the way for a massive drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and provides Taliban assurances that the region will not be used for terrorist activity. The contract says negotiations between intra-Afghan will commence the following month.

On the other hand, Afghan President Ghani says that before entering into talks, the Taliban will fulfill the conditions appropriate to his government. The U.S.-Taliban agreement does not provide for an unconditional cease-fire, and scores of assaults on Afghan security forces are being carried out by Taliban fighters in the days after its signing. U.S. troops are dealing with an airstrike in southern Helmand province against the Taliban.

## Key Issues

With British assistance the U.S. military undertook a bombing campaign against Taliban groups, formally initiating Operation Enduring Freedom. Canada, Australia, Germany and France agreed to help in the future as well. The early period of the conflict primarily includes U.S. airstrikes against al-Qaeda and Taliban groups supported by an alliance of around 1,000 U.S. special forces, the Northern Alliance, and ethnic Pashtun anti-Taliban forces. Most of the war on the ground happened between the Taliban and its Afghan opponents.

NATO, which was initially tasked with protecting Kabul and its region, grew in September 2005, July 2006 and October 2006. Accordingly, the amount of ISAF soldiers is increasing, from an initial five thousand to about sixty-five thousand from forty-two nations, including all twenty-eight NATO member states.

Divisions surfaced within member states over troop contributions to Afghanistan at the NATO summit in Riga. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer set a 2008 deadline for the Afghan National Army to start taking care of defense. "I would expect we have made considerable strides by 2008," he said during the summit.

In January 2004, 502 Afghan delegates assembly decided on a constitution for Afghanistan, creating a strong presidential system designed to reconcile the different ethnic groups in the country. The act is considered as a positive step forward towards democracy in Afghanistan. Twenty-six countries' members decided to remove certain regional restrictions on how, where, and where to use the military. Yet tension remained. And aggression rising against non-governmental aid workers. The U.S Defense Secretary, Robert Gates late 2007 blames NATO countries for not sending more troops.

In 2008, the Taliban military commander Mullah Dadullah was murdered in the South of Afghanistan in a joint operation between Afghan, U.S., and NATO troops. President Obama announced a new war effort policy that ties Afghanistan's progress to a prosperous Pakistan in 2009. As described in an interagency white paper, the central objective of the plan is "to disrupt, dismantle, and eliminate al Qaeda and its safe havens in Pakistan, and to avoid their return to Pakistan or Afghanistan."

Obama said in 2011 that the US is conducting preliminary talks with the Taliban leadership on reconciliation. With peace in view, days earlier the UN Security Council broke a package of restrictions against al-Qaeda leaders and the Taliban, making it easier to add and exclude individuals and entities. However, tentative negotiations lead to the talk postponed by the Taliban in 2012, as they accused the US of reneging on efforts to take concrete action for a prisoner swap.

Trump's thoughts on this issue were quite different. Instead of proceeding with what Obama had left, he would move forward on an open-ended military effort to avoid the creation of a "terrorist vacuum." Differentiating his strategy from Obama's, Trump insists withdrawal assessments would be focused on "on-the-ground conditions" rather than arbitrary timetables.

The war is still going on to this day, and even with the many negotiations, there have

been orders to attempt to solve this issue, attacks from the Taliban and the US have still been happening. This results in many more casualties, displaced persons, and refugees as well.

## **Major Parties Involved and their Views**

### ***The ANPDF***

The ANPDF stands for Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework. The Afghanistan National Framework for Peace and Development (ANPDF) outlines the five-year strategic framework for the Country to accomplish its overall self-reliance target.

### ***Al-Qaeda***

Al-Qaeda also conducted strikes on non-military and military facilities in different countries, including the bombings of the United States embassy in 1998, the attacks of September 11 and the bombings of Bali in 2002.

Al-Qaeda is a nationalist, multi-national Salafist Islamic organization created by Osama bin Laden, Abdullah Azzam and many other Arab supporters during the Soviet-Afghan War in 1988. Al-Qaeda functions as a branch/network of Islamic extremists and radical Salafists.

### ***Northern Alliance***

The Afghan Northern Alliance, officially known as the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan, was a combined military front which established in late 1996 after Afghanistan's capital, Kabul was taken over by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The Northern Alliance stopped the Taliban and Al-Qaeda from gaining control of all of Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001. Following the attacks in the United States in September 2001, U.S. air raids accompanied by United Front ground troops removed

the Taliban from control in Kabul.

## **NATO**

The NATO, also known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO is an international organization composed of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other European countries, all of which have agreed to support each other when/if threatened.

## **Taliban**

The Taliban, or Taleban, who relate to themselves as Afghanistan's Islamic Emirate, is a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military group that is now fighting the war in Afghanistan. Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, leader of the Taliban since 2016.

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## **Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
September 11 2001	On September 11 2001 the Al-Qaeda group was responsible for the September 11 attacks which accord in 4 different locations in the United States.
October 7 2001	On October 7 2001 the Afghanistan Civil War was declared as the United States started its invasion in Afghanistan. President

	George W. Bush Demanded the Taliban to hand over leader Osama Bin Laden.
November 14, 2001	On November 14th, 2001 the United Nations Security Council created S/RES/1378 a resolution that went through the situation in Afghanistan reaffirming old clauses and adding new ones.
January 2002	The deployment of peacekeepers of the foreign peacekeeper the Nato-led international security Assistance Force (ISAF) marking the start of protracted fights against the Taliban.
June 2008	President Karzai warns that Afghanistan will send troops into Pakistan to fight militants if Istanbul fails to take action.
July 2008	A suicide bomb attack occurred in Afghanistan in front of the Indian embassy which killed 50 people.
September 2008	President George W Bush sent an extra 4500 us troops to Afghanistan.
March 2009	President Barack Obama unveils new strategy to bring 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan bringing the total to 100,000.
December 2011	58 people were killed in a twin attack at the Shira Shrine in Kabul and in a Shia mosque.
January 2012	The Taliban agree to open office in Dubai to discuss peace talks with the United States
February 29, 2020	The Taliban and the United States have agreed to sign a deal to end their 18-year war. However, on March 1st, the Afghan Government's re-elected president, Ashraf Ghani does not entirely agree with the terms. The treaty mainly outlines that U.S forces will fully withdraw in 14-months if the Taliban also show commitment towards keeping the treaty, and starting peace talks with the current Afghan government.



## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

In 2010 in November a summit in Lisbon which member states agreed to hand control of security Afghan forces by the end of 2014. This was the start to a decrease of violence in Afghanistan.

In 2012 in January the Taliban agreed to an open office in Dubai which would move towards peace talks between the United States and the Taliban organization.

## Possible Solutions

A solution has already been solved which is the deal that the United States made with the Taliban which would end their 18-year war. Afghanistan is starting to redevelop after being at war with the United States for the past 18 years.

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