

A Critical Analysis of External Invasions in Afghanistan

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Abstract:

For the past four decades, Afghanistan has been a country in turmoil. Afghanistan's young generation has yet to witness peace. The Soviets were the first to invade Afghanistan, followed by the United States a decade later. Invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet soldiers began in 1979 and lasted until 1989. The Soviet forces killed thousands of Afghan men, women, and children. People flocked to Iran and Pakistan in significant numbers. After a bloody civil war, the Taliban rose to power and established a government in Afghanistan, subjecting Afghans to Taliban brutality. From 1996 until 2001, the Taliban dominated the country, enforcing draconian restrictions. The terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, altered global security norms. America blamed Osama Bin Laden for the September 11 terrorist attacks and demanded that the Taliban leadership hand over Bin Laden. Mullah Omer, the Taliban's supreme commander, refused to hand up Osama Bin Laden to American authorities. In October 2001, the United States launched an invasion on Afghanistan in order to destroy the Taliban and Al Qaeda nexus. America has failed to vanquish the Taliban rebels in Afghanistan after 20 years of conflict. In Afghanistan, the United States has spent over \$3 trillion and lost over 2500 soldiers. The United States has reached a deal with Taliban terrorists to terminate the country's longest war.

Keywords: *Afghanistan, USA, Taliban, World War, Pakistan, Western Border.*

Introduction:

The political and security situation in Afghanistan has always been complicated. Before the turn of the twentieth century, Afghanistan's borders had been defined. Afghanistan's central government has been unable to maintain control over the country's territory due to their weakness. Since the dawn of time, foreign troops have encroached on Afghanistan. With Tehran, Moscow, Beijing, and Islamabad as neighbors, Afghanistan occupies a critical geopolitical position. Afghanistan provided the majority of the kings in the Indian subcontinent. For the past two centuries, Afghanistan has been the cause of discord

between Moscow and London. Afghanistan has been a point of contention between Moscow and Washington since the Indian subcontinent gained independence from the British (Puri, 2017). Moscow and London were at odds in Afghanistan, and it was clear that whoever won there would have a say in world politics. The contemporary history of Afghanistan begins with the assassination of King Nadir Shah, who was assassinated by a Hazara student. Following Nadir Shah's assassination, his son Zahir Shah assumed power and ruled Afghanistan for the next four decades. Zahir was a well-educated man who received his schooling in both

France and Afghanistan. King Zahir Shah put enormous trust in his uncles Mahmoud and Hashim, who both became prime ministers during his reign. King Zahir Shah's cousin, Muhammad Daoud Khan, was also Afghanistan's prime minister. The diplomatic ambassador of Afghanistan submitted his credentials to US President Woodrow Wilson in 1921 (Karamat, Muzaffar, & Shah, 2019; Khalil, Perveen, & Ali, 2015).

Second World War:

Until the Second World War, the United States was hesitant to build ties with Afghanistan. Afghanistan initially supported the Nazis in Germany during World War II, but when Russia and Moscow attacked Iran, Afghanistan was pressured to evacuate German envoys (Leary, 2006). Kabul complied with the requests and the German ambassadors were deported. Afghanistan has served as a de facto buffer between major geopolitical powers. The King and his ministers tried everything they could to acquire favors from both Russia and Washington at the same time. Although the United States assisted Afghanistan in agriculture and other areas, it refused to sell guns to the Afghan military (Amin Tarzi, 2009). The military of the United States has been allied with Pakistan's. Kabul demanded weaponry from America during President Truman's administration, but America refused to tell who their enemy was (Sheehan, 2005).

Pakistan gained control of Afghanistan's western border:

Pakistan inherited the Western border with Afghanistan when the British withdrew from the Indian subcontinent. The validity of the Pakistani border was not accepted by the Kabul regime. Afghans claim that an imperialist nation used force to impose it on the country. People in tribal areas, however,

voted to live with Pakistan after a referendum, and the British acknowledged its legality with explicit intents. Afghanistan has never accepted the Durand Line, and it was in response to this that Afghanistan voted against Pakistan in the United Nations in 1947 (Riffat, 2015). People in tribal areas, however, voted to live with Pakistan after a referendum, and the British acknowledged its legality with explicit intents. Afghanistan has never accepted the Durand Line, and it was in response to this that Afghanistan voted against Pakistan in the United Nations in 1947 (Javaid, 2016). Instead of the Kabul regime, the United States built connections with Pakistan. During the Cold War, Pakistan leaned toward the United States and the United Kingdom for military and economic assistance. In 1954, Pakistan became a member of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), which was formed to combat the Soviet Union's advance into Asian countries. Pakistan joined the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), which linked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) to restrain the Soviet Union and China, the following year, in 1955 (Javaid & Mushtaq, 2014; Malik, 2021).

Pakistan had grown to be America's most significant regional ally:

Pakistan had grown into the region's most crucial American ally. Nonetheless, in 1954, the United States denied delivering armaments to Kabul and emphasized that Kabul should resolve the Pashtunistan-Pakistan dispute. Moscow saw this as an opportunity to expand its influence in Afghanistan. In 1950, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan reached an agreement to boost their trading ties. Moscow established a trading bureau in Kabul and began

supplying oil to Afghanistan, as well as receiving wool from the country. Pakistan was receiving economic and military aid from the United States (Javaid & Mushtaq, 2014). Afghanistan has opted to seek armaments from Moscow. In 1953, Afghanistan concluded a weapons contract with Czechoslovakia under the prime minister ship of Muhammad Daoud Khan. Daoud also signed a \$32.5 million army contract with Moscow in 1955. (Hilali, 2005). Nikita Khrushchev first visited Kabul in 1955 as the leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and he backed the Afghan position on Pashunistan (Rabbi, 2012). By 1979, Moscow had provided \$1 billion in military aid and \$1.25 billion in economic assistance to Afghanistan. On the other hand, the United States only contributed \$ 25 million to Afghanistan's military budget. At various times, the United States and Russia have provided economic and military assistance to Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, both Moscow and Washington engaged Islamic insurgents, and this study analyses and contrasts the Soviet and American invasions. This study demonstrates the parallels between the wars in Afghanistan waged by both superpowers (Javaid & Haq, 2016).

Soviet invasion in Afghanistan:

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan presented an opportunity for Americans to invade the country. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as the United States, backed terrorists fighting Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan. Pakistan was given weapons and money by the United States to train jihadists to attack the Kremlin. The author also discusses the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan and its support among the general public, particularly in the country's rural districts. Finally, the author discusses

neighboring states' desire to deliver Afghanistan long-term peace. For a long time, Afghanistan has been a focal point for international powers and regional powers alike. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 and stayed until 1980. It depicts the Soviet leadership's attitude toward communist expansionism across the world during the 1970s and 1980s, and it was a costly conflict for the Soviet Union. The failure of Soviet forces in Afghanistan was a major factor in the Soviet Union's demise. The author describes the Mujahedeen's victory over the Soviets in Afghanistan. The author also emphasizes the difficulties that America continues to face in Afghanistan (Skalamera, 2017).

Withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan:

This conflict has proven to be a nightmare for the Afghan people after nearly a decade of killing. Thousands of people died and relocated from their motherland to neighboring countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan. The conflict had harmed the Afghan people and rocked the USSR's foundations, leaving a vacuum in the country following the abrupt withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan. Then came the civil war, and peace in Afghanistan became a pipe dream for both the Afghan people and the international community (Sultana, 2015). The Taliban have increased their power in Afghanistan and have taken over more territory than they did in 2001. For the past four decades, Afghanistan has been at war, and the Taliban has emerged as a new superpower in the country. At the same time, the Taliban defeated America, NATO, and Afghan forces. From 1996 to 2001, the author discusses the rise of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. The author outlines the Taliban

fighters' approach when the Taliban rule fell apart in 2001. The Afghan government and its allies, America and NATO, believed we had vanquished the Taliban and returned in force in 2003, capturing more territory in Afghanistan than previously (Perveen, Khalil, Ahmad, & Khalil, 2015). For world and regional powers, Afghanistan is strategically important. For the past 40 years, Afghanistan has been in a warlike condition. In 1979, Soviet armies invaded Afghanistan to impose a puppet regime. After a decade of fighting, Soviet forces were unable to capture control of Afghanistan and returned home empty-handed. A civil war erupted, and the Taliban developed as a result of the conflict. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the world's security dynamics were altered, and America invaded Afghanistan to eliminate Al Qaeda militants. The authors underscore America's efforts to bring Afghanistan to a lasting peace. Peace in Afghanistan is essential for the country's and surrounding countries' prosperity (Yousaf, 2019).

World powers are drawn to Afghanistan because of its strategic location:

World powers are drawn to Afghanistan because of its strategic location. The invasion of two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, exemplifies its significance. For the past four decades, Afghanistan has been at war. Afghanistan's war not only impacts its people and economy, but it also has an impact on neighboring countries. Peace in Afghanistan is critical for its own development as well as that of its neighbors. Except for China, which shares lengthy borders, ethnicities, and cultures with Afghanistan, Afghanistan's neighbors China, Iran, and Pakistan are all willing to bring

long-term peace to the country (Karamat et al., 2019). Thousands of Afghans were slain in Afghanistan's wars, and hundreds of thousands more fled to neighboring countries. Initially, Soviet soldiers attempted to construct a puppet administration in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Afghanistan was always referred to as the Democratic Republic by the Soviet Union. A group of Afghan officers trained in the Soviet Union took control of the country and declared the Democratic Republic, a communist-run state similar to the Soviet Union. The Soviets put Nur Muhammad Taraki as the person in charge. He began a number of activities in order to carry out the Soviet agenda in Afghanistan. Nur Muhammad Taraki announced land distribution, a change in women's status, and the abolition of Afghanistan's traditional social order. The most essential factor was that Nur Muhammad had minimal popular backing. Religious groups in Afghanistan have expressed opposition to the Soviet communist programme and have declared jihad against the communist administration in Afghanistan. Mujahedeen organizations were formed to safeguard Afghan society's beliefs and traditions. The communist party was split into two sections as well. At the same moment, Nur Muhammad Taraki's Prime Minister, Hafeezullah Amin, assassinated the president and took control of the government. The news was devastating to the Soviet leadership, and it was at this point that the Soviets decided to militarily protect their client state. On December 25, 1979, Soviet armies invaded Afghanistan, assassinated the president, and placed Babrak Karmal in his place (Yaseen & Naveed, 2018). The Soviet Union had determined that Soviet forces would train the Afghan army, establish stability to Afghanistan, and then withdraw from the country within three years. The departure of

Soviet forces from Afghanistan took ten years. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans were slain by Soviet troops, while millions more fled to neighboring nations. America, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia were all involved in the war and backed the Mujahedeen in their fight against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan (Iqbal, Iqbal, Uzzaman, Malik, & Munir, 2021; Usman & Khan, 2017). Following the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers, civil war occurred in Afghanistan, with different elements of Afghan society fighting for power. As a result of the civil war, a new religious worldview known as the Taliban arose on film. In 1996, the Taliban aided local Afghans and took control in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, the Taliban established severe Islamic regulations. The Taliban rule was solely recognized by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The events of September 11th, 2001, altered the global landscape. Terrorist strikes in the United States have altered global security dynamics. The United States blamed Al Qaeda for the terrorist assaults. It requested Osama Bin Laden from the Taliban leadership, but the Taliban refused to hand him over and sought proof of Osama Bin Laden's involvement in the 9/11 attack (Mazhar & S. Goraya, 2019). The Taliban were frustrated and other countries refused to recognize the Taliban rule because of their radical policies. On October 7, 2001, the United States launched an attack on Afghanistan, overthrowing the Taliban rule. The Northern Alliance and other surrounding countries backed the United States in its fight against the Taliban. As President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai was backed by the United States. Hamid Karzai declared an amnesty for Taliban militants, but it may not produce the desired outcomes. Hamid Karzai attempted but failed to restore stability to Afghanistan. Afghanistan's current President, Ashraf

Ghani, also attempted to persuade the Taliban to participate in national politics. Despite this, the Taliban consistently rejected his proposal, claiming that the Afghan government is an illegitimate administration (Syed & Javed, 2017). When President Trump entered office in 2016, he took immediate action to bring this long-running conflict to a close. In Doha, the United States began direct talks with the Taliban and, after more than a year of discussions, secured a deal to end the long war. On February 29, 2020, in Qatar's capital city, Doha, the United States and the Taliban signed a peace agreement. America had until May to complete its withdrawal, but President Joe Biden declared that the US would stay in Afghanistan until September 2021. There is concern that civil war will erupt as a result of the American pullout. The Taliban are gaining authority by the day. Ashraf Ghani and other members of Afghan society do not want the Taliban to rule the country. Afghanistan's neighbors are working hard to bring stability and peace to the country. The invasions of Afghanistan by the Soviets and the Americans share many similarities. Following the Soviet withdrawal, a deadly civil war ensued in Afghanistan between several Mujahedeen factions. In 1994, the Taliban arrived in Afghanistan to defend local Afghans from the atrocities of the civil war. At first, the Afghan people were positive about the Taliban. Later, the Taliban's stringent Sharia regulations and human rights violations made them unpopular with the general public. The Afghan people's expectations were shattered by the civil conflict. In Afghanistan, things are now the same as they were in the 1990s. As the Soviet Union did in the 1990s, America will make a quick exit from Afghanistan without laying out a clear strategy for the future. Ashraf Ghani's central authority is weak, and he can't even

rule Kabul without the support of foreign forces. Afghanistan will once again become a battleground, with Afghans suffering in the same way they did after the Soviet exit.

Conclusion:

Afghanistan has been at war for a long time. Within four decades, two superpowers invaded Afghanistan. Both the USSR and the United States tried their hardest to construct puppet regimes in Afghanistan, but both times they failed to establish a strong administration that was accepted by the people. After ten years of damage in Afghanistan, the USSR returned without achieving its objectives. The Soviet Union was unable to deliver peace to Afghanistan and return empty-handed without providing the Afghan people with a viable road plan for the future. Following the USSR's retreat, a civil war started, with many people suffering greatly. People were so dissatisfied that they welcomed the Taliban as well-wishers. After three decades following the Soviet Union's disengagement from Afghanistan, things are still the same. America attempted but failed to govern Afghanistan through a puppet regime. The American war in Afghanistan is the longest in the country's history. It is a white elephant in the American economy; the US wants to stop the Afghan war and believes that a military solution is unachievable. The peace pact is proving to be a ticket out for the United States. After the United States leaves, Ashraf Ghani's weak administration will be unable to combat Taliban militants. The Taliban are stronger than they were in 2001, and they have taken control of key districts. Other terrorist organizations, such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, are active in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is unlikely to come soon, and the war in Afghanistan will have an impact on surrounding countries. There is no distinction between the withdrawal of the

Soviet Union from Afghanistan and the withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan. Afghanistan will become a shelter for terrorist organizations, and it is unlikely that the Afghan people will experience long-term stability in the country anytime soon.

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