

CHALLENGES TO CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN THE ISLAMIC
EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN (1996-2001)

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Abstract

The current research paper focuses on challenges faced in the process of conflict transformation in the First Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. The study was qualitative with historical description and aimed at ascertaining the major challenges faced by the Taliban during its rule over Afghanistan in the period 1996-2001. The conflict transformation theory of Johan Galtung was taken as a guideline for this study. The theory holistically presents how durable peace can be achieved from a conflict-habituated system. Predominantly Pashtuns, the Taliban's support was higher in the rural Pashtun areas as compared to urban areas in Afghanistan during their First rule over Afghanistan from 1996-2001. The Taliban ended the civil war in Afghanistan and gained the support of local Afghans, whereas the absence of proper administration and division of political leadership were the major reasons for their immediate takeover of Afghanistan. The Taliban improved the law-and-order situation in Afghanistan and imposed laws based on Shariah. They also categorically refused all those proposals and resolutions that were against the teachings of Islam and the Quran. After taking over Afghanistan and the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the key challenge was to run the Government and, more importantly, maintain a governance structure able to ensure the well-being of the local Afghans. However, due to strict implementation of the Laws based on Shariah and a non-inclusive Government, the world by and large did not support the Taliban, and that is why their government was not recognized by most of the states apart from the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. The disagreement with international laws and resolutions of the United Nations, allegations of harboring terrorist organizations, and human rights violations led to further measures against them. This resulted in economic and military sanctions against the Taliban government.

Key Words: Conflict Transformation in Afghanistan; Taliban in Afghanistan; First Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

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INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan is a landlocked country whose geographic location on the map shows a gateway and crossroad for many conquerors in this part of the world. The strategic location made it vulnerable and susceptible to foreign interference. That is why this country has to go through different types of transformations. The country has seen different changes in its geographical boundaries many times, besides the country's name has also been changed several times. Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic state which includes Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, and Uzbek with ratios of 42, 27, 09, and 09 percent respectively (Wahab & Youngerman, 2007). From the prism of conflict transformation, the situation of Afghanistan is more complicated for the researchers, because this country has passed through different phases of conflict. The country is rich in natural resources, which itself attracts the attention of foreign and internal powers. Even though the country was in a state of war for decades still Afghanistan managed its territorial integrity and to some extent sovereignty (Stobdan, 1999). It won't be wrong to state that it is the only country that faced different interventions from outside by superpowers of the world; twice by Great Britain, once each by the Soviet Union and the United States of America (Saikal, Farhadi, & Nourzhanov, 2004).

History has revealed that no country in the world has undergone so many conflicts as Afghanistan. The four decades of war in Afghanistan and conflicts involved different factors, and that is why the country has been struggling to develop both structurally and institutionally. Therefore, to study the nature of conflict and conflict transformation itself, the researcher intends to consider different angles, such as the dynamics of the ethnic and sectarian societies in Afghanistan.

The last four decades of war in Afghanistan involved different internal and external factors that directly and indirectly disturbed the peace process and economic development. Besides war and conflicts in Afghanistan is the source of instability and disturbance in neighboring countries. The war and conflict in Afghanistan provided an opportunity for foreign invasion, which resulted in the migration of millions of Afghans to neighboring countries as refugees, thereby creating a challenging task for neighboring countries as well. The diaspora of Afghan citizens also creates a conflict environment outside Afghanistan in neighboring countries. The transformation of conflict in Afghanistan involves different stakeholders at different levels and includes both external and internal factors. During the four decades of war, negative transformation, i.e., the conflict habituated system leading to more conflicts and violence, was promoted more as compared to positive peace and durable conflict transformation, i.e., attaining peace and stability in the region. Therefore, the current study is focused on finding out the reason for negative and potential for positive transformation and challenges faced by the newly established country in Afghanistan.

Schirch (2008) explains that managing conflict involves different challenges such as political, socio-economic, and socio-cultural cultural which require continuous efforts to reduce it in a nonviolent manner and to moderate violence into creating harmony, tolerance, and building an environment for peace and stability in the long term. Whereas the process of peace and stability involves multidimensional challenges comprising infrastructural development, establishment of powerful institutions, and most importantly, the collaboration among communities and groups in building trust among the people and state (Lederach, 2003). In other words, conflict transformation is not only about the understanding of root causes of conflict and bringing constructive changes, but this is a

process of building a positive relationship between the state and the society, which itself is a long-term process (Lederach, 2003; Schirch, 2008).

Conflicted societies generally experience institutional, capacity, and structural development in the process of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. The implementation of Conflict transformation and peacebuilding is a challenging task because some end up constructively; however, some conclude in increasing the conflict, or the conflict itself takes a new turn. (Reychler, 2001). Similarly, Debiel (2002), suggests that nations that are recovering from war and conflict in their society always experience different challenges and face different consequences in the process of conflict transformation. Likewise, the war-torn Afghanistan faces massive challenges, which include building trust in the world that it will not fall prey to non-state actors. To this end, bringing refugees and internally displaced people (IDP) to normal life is also a major challenge. The other key challenges during the process of transformation are strengthening of institutions, economic development and economic stability, promotion of an equitable way of state legislation and equal rights for all citizens of the state regardless of their ethnic background (Ball, 2002).

The peace-building process in Afghanistan should also include bringing changes in policies, agreements, institutional setups, and security environment, and developmental assistance, as well as managing national and international affairs. All these are the key factors, ignorance of which may create new conflicts for the state, like Afghanistan. Similarly, resilient challenges of land disputes, political, socio-economic governance, and conflicts among the ethnic groups of Afghanistan are the serious threats to stability and peace.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To examine the key challenges faced by Taliban in Conflict Transformation resulting positive peace during the first Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (1996-2001) faced significant challenges in transforming from an insurgent group to a state structure, lacking legitimacy, authority, and capacity (Ibrahimi, 2017). Conflict management in Afghanistan is hindered by insufficient budgets, lack of skilled personnel, security threats, and political pressures (Islam & Khan, 2019). Effective post-conflict reconstruction requires expanding institutionalized economic interdependence and establishing a centralized, credible state with a monopoly on force (Cramer & Goodhand, 2002). Conflict transformation involves creating durable relationships and recognizing justice as a goal, but is complicated by rivalry between factions and civilian casualties (Jeong, 2019). The Afghan population has been alienated by attacks on civilian villages suspected of hosting Taliban forces (Jeong, 2019). These challenges highlight the complexity of conflict transformation in Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted approach addressing institutional, economic, and social factors.

Rashid, (2010) narrate the status of Taliban militant in his book "Taliban Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia", Similarly, Rubin (2003) in his work describe about Taliban; according to him the Taliban took advantage of the ideological void left by the decline and disintegration of the dominant Islamist movements in Afghanistan to rise to power. They adopted an extreme version of Deobandism as their intellectual foundation, represented themselves, and acknowledged no branch of Islam other than

their own. Islamist organizations from Pakistan were promoting the Taliban's radical brand of Deobandism in Afghan refugee camps, which served as the ideology for their reign. Jackson (2009) explains that Afghanistan has seen many internal crises and civil wars due to widespread faction fighting. Afghanistan's ongoing conflict has been greatly exacerbated by the Taliban insurgency, which targeted innocent people with brutality and fear. The violence in Afghanistan has also been exacerbated by interference from neighboring nations like Iran and Pakistan.

Clayton (2012), that due to the Taliban's policies, civil freedoms were curtailed, access to healthcare and education was restricted, and culturally significant landmarks were demolished. Instead of promoting constructive peace, these activities contributed to an atmosphere of dread and instability. The conflict was made worse and efforts to bring about peace were thwarted by the Taliban's support for international terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda. In reaction to the Taliban's support for terrorism, the United States and its allies began military operations in Afghanistan, which resulted in the Taliban government's ouster in 2001. After the Taliban were overthrown, efforts were made to set up a transitional administration and restore the nation. But after regrouping, the Taliban began an insurgency that made it difficult to bring about lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Mobasher *et al.*, (2022) express that to public outrage over the situation, the Taliban first won the support of the Afghan people. However, their control soon resulted in ruthless brutality, tyranny, and the denial of basic rights to the people, producing widespread discontent and hatred. The shura-based governance system used by the Taliban to manage an administration and administer its area was inefficient. The Taliban leadership lacked the administrative expertise required to construct state institutions and manage the country successfully. The Taliban were unable to create an inclusive permanent representative government or institutions that shared political authority because they spent the majority of their time and resources on the war. According to Mariet D'Souza (2009), explains that Afghanistan's Taliban-led insurgency has produced a great deal of violence and unrest, hindering rehabilitation efforts and alienating the Afghan population in outlying districts. The Afghan government's legitimacy and authority have been negatively impacted by the Taliban's regime of intimidation and brutality as well as the failure of the international community's counter-insurgency operation.

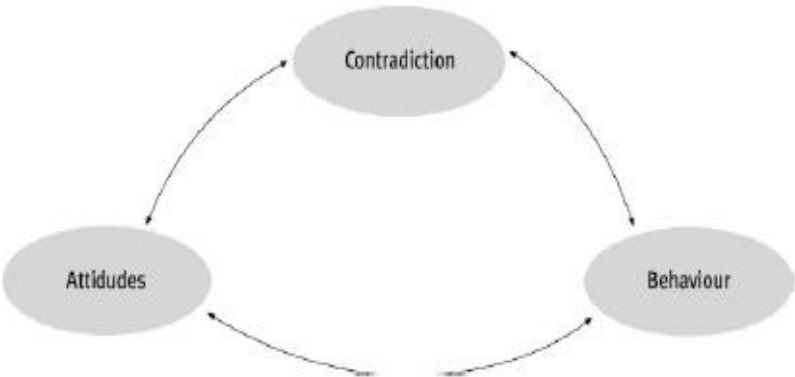
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

JOHAN GALTUNG CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION THEORY

Introduced in the 1950s, Johan Galtung's conflict transformation theory places a strong emphasis on resolving structural and cultural problems as well as other conflict's underlying causes in order to create societies that are just, peaceful, and sustainable. It goes beyond simple dispute resolution to include a more comprehensive process of changing attitudes, actions, and relationships.

The contradictions in the social structure give rise to conflicts, which can be both life-affirming and life-destroying. Then, they show up as behaviors and attitudes. Galtung proposed in the triangle shown in figure 01 that a conflict has three vertices: one is attitude, second is behavior and third one is contradiction.

FIGURE 01.
GALTUNG CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION THEORY



RESEARCH APPROACH

This study uses a qualitative approach, engaging in interviews and document analysis for data collection purposes. The collected data is analyzed thematically. This study critically examines the key events, prominent individuals, and strategic approaches that influenced conflict transformation through a descriptive and analytical perspective. The study will look at political developments, peace talks, governance improvements, and external interventions that occurred during the Taliban era (1996-2001). It will also evaluate how conflict transformation theories apply to the Afghan situation.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS INTERVIEWED (SURVEY RESULTS, 2024)

Respondents	Percentage
Academia	20
Diplomats	15
Military personal	20
Media	15
Politicians	20
Civil Society personal	20
Total	100

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The chances for constructive peace and conflict transformation in Afghanistan were difficult and convoluted under the Taliban's leadership from 1996 to 2001. After years of civil strife, the country was severely divided; the Taliban's rule restored some measure of order. But the strategies and mindset they used did not promote constructive peace over the long term, which is defined by the settlement of fundamental issues and the creation of an inclusive and justices based society. The key challenges which were faced during this era were discuss below:

LACK OF AN INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT IN FIRST ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban founded the first Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in the 1990s, but it was marked by rigorous application of Sharia law, repression of political dissent, and a lack of inclusive administration. An unstable and oppressive atmosphere resulted from the concentration of power in the hands of a small number of leaders as well as the marginalization of various political, ethnic, and social groups. Large gaps between various groups and economic stagnation created an environment that was ideal for violence. The Taliban's emphasis on strict social and religious regulation did little to rectify these

differences, which fuelled more dissatisfaction among the marginalized communities. The paper demonstrates how organized criminality, impunity, and the breakdown of the rule of law can result in the criminalization of politics. Under the Taliban, Afghanistan saw a collapse of institutional and legal norms, which resulted in massive violations of human rights and a lack of accountability, further solidifying the country's negative peace (a state in which violence is curbed but underlying tensions persist). The battle was significantly shaped by outside involvement and assistance for different factions in Afghanistan, especially the Taliban. The persistence of conflict dynamics was facilitated by global actors as well as regional forces with vested interests, making the transition to durable peace difficult. When direct violence is absent and the underlying causes of conflict remain unaddressed, it is referred to as negative peace. Instead of establishing order through inclusive and participatory administration, the Taliban were able to achieve a sort of negative peace under the first Islamic Emirate by using coercive measures. Since it didn't address the underlying political, social, and economic issues that had sparked conflict, this type of peace were brittle and unsustainable. Due to the influence of outside parties, the absence of inclusive government, enduring socioeconomic disparities, and the criminalization of politics, the conflict transition of the first Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan produced a bad peace. The peace that was achieved was limited to the repression of violence rather than the establishment of a just and lasting rule due to the lack of measures to address the root causes of conflict. When it comes to talking about conflict transformation and constructive peace, the Taliban's leadership over Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 is complicated and difficult. Because they thought it would bring about peace and security, the Taliban's approach to administration and conflict management under their rule mainly relied on imposing a rigid interpretation of Sharia law. However, severe violence, violations of human rights, and the repression of dissent were frequently associated with this enforcement. The installation of an extremely severe interpretation of Sharia law, which the Taliban said would restore peace in a nation devastated by years of civil war and struggle, was a defining feature of their administration. But this strategy involves massive breaches of human rights, especially against minorities and women, and was extremely coercive. The goal of the Taliban's rule was to eliminate local militias and warlords, which had caused division in the nation. Some forms of violence, especially those resulting from inter-factional conflicts, did decrease as a result of this centralization, but state-sponsored violence and repression took their place.

Afghanistan the concepts of nation and ethnicity, though distinct are closely related. Constitutional texts present an inclusive picture of Afghan nationhood that emphasizes shared rights and responsibilities, cultural values, and a sense of belonging that transcends ethnic boundaries. The fluid and situational character of ethnicity in Afghanistan, as defined by Fredrick Barth's boundary concept, stands in contrast to this inclusive national identity. In Afghanistan, ethnic boundaries are not strictly defined; rather, its their cross linguistic, geographic, and ethnic barriers. One significant turning point in Afghanistan's history is the country's transition from ideological to identity politics. Ethnicity became the main source of strife once the Najibullah administration fell and the mujahideen were victorious in 1992. Many political, ideological, and historical factor both inside and outside of Afghanistan were responsible for this change. The book makes clear that complicated and shifting political coalitions, rather than ingrained racial animosities, were responsible for ethnicity's ascent as a political factor. Sharma objects to oversimplified interpretations that reduce the Afghan conflict to an ethnic conflict or a power struggle. Rather, he

highlights the need of comprehending the mechanisms that enabled ethnicity to play a prominent role in the war. The book frames the Afghan conflict in broader terms by drawing on Lewis Coser's description.

TALIBAN RECOGNITION STATUS OF THE FIRST ISLAMIC EMIRATE

The era of Taliban from 1996 to 2001 was diplomatically recognized by some of the Muslim and neighbor countries. The countries include Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Taliban gave shelter to Saudi based billionaire who was the leader of a group name Al-Qaeda who fought against Soviet Union in 1980s. The head of Al-Qaeda Osama bin Laden was involved in planning future of Afghanistan and also finance Taliban to run state affairs. In military connection Bin laden and their supporters were involved in different attacks on civilian and government officials which were against them.

The United Nation Security Council (UNSC) imposed sanctions on Taliban for giving shelter to Bin Laden and their followers under the rule 1333. In 2000 UNSC imposed sanctions on Taliban for training foreign terrorists and taking financial support from Bin Laden Group. Before Taliban the environment was very tense and fearful due to rapes, murders, target killing and robbing. Women cannot travel alone in Afghanistan, the fear of rape and harassment was commonly stopping women from going outside of houses. The Taliban government took different measures to control these crimes, therefore they were banned from traveling of women alone in all over Afghanistan. The Taliban also restricted women movement and limited female staff in offices.

THE ISSUES RELATED TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN FIRST ISLAMIC EMIRATE

The process of accountability was clear in the era of Taliban. The process of quick and transparent accountability creates problems for newly emerge government of Taliban. In the meanwhile the leadership was divided into small groups. Quick decision and accountability reduced crime ratio in Afghanistan. The leadership followed all religious obligations for accountability. The previous government was unaccountable to the public while government of Taliban was accountable to public. The public accountability was also one of the main reasons in popularity of Taliban. Taliban fulfilled the promise of dutifulness and accountable government which purely followed the teachings of Islam. Previously leadership failed to fulfill their promises in Afghanistan; however the government of Taliban showed a true picture of Islam in the form of repaid accountability process. Commanding the right in Islam is obligation upon every Muslim, therefore as an obligation every citizen of the state need to behave properly for ruling government according to teaching of Islam. Therefore according to different experts/ respondents the primary focus of Islamic emirate of Afghanistan was on ensuring proper governance in accordance with Islamic teachings.

WOMEN RIGHTS IN THE ERA OF TALIBAN

Islam gives equal rights to all human being under Islamic jurisdiction. In the Islamic system, the government's role is to protect all the rights of humans. Taliban, while following the teachings of Islam, worked on providing an equal rights system in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. However, these announcements revealed some progress in the attitude of the Taliban in the context of women's rights. The freedom of speech and control press dealing with minority rights remained considerably uncertain and ambiguous. The political leadership of the Taliban was aware that donor countries' aids were linked to the protection of women's rights. Besides that, Taliban understood these controversial elements in Afghan society could affect their image.

Therefore, Taliban followed all the commands of Islam, which is according to Westerners, were against women's rights in society. International communities considered this approach of the Taliban as a conservative element. Taliban further clarified their stance about women's rights in Islam; according to them, Islam has given more rights to women compared to other religions. Islam gives full rights to live a safeguard life with dignity and honor. Women are fully free to marry the right man; they can decide about their marriage; they can refuse or accept according to their own decision. The Taliban believed that a constructive environment must be designed for working women. An environment woman can freely serve society and preserve her honor and family. Women were free to travel with a mahram, i.e. close male relative (Father, Brother, and Husband), and the compulsion of Hijab for females. According to Islam, this evil in society can be minimized, which has played a significant role in the development of a society.

THE TALIBAN'S APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE BASIC ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF AFGHANS

After decades of wars Taliban got the opportunity to settle Afghanistan as the ideal state which they dream. The bureaucracy of Afghans and Taliban jointly cooperate to reestablish Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The employees who were receiving their salaries without attending offices were one of the big challenges to bring them on job. The education sector especially secondary and higher education suffer due to ban on female education in Afghanistan. Ban on women education harmed afghan youth directly and future of Afghanistan indirectly. However, Taliban wanted to establish separate education system for male and female enrollment. The separate educational system was also challenging in two aspects one was financial another was human resources. Besides that the ratio of students in specific area was also not according to the investment on education in that area. There were prolonging areas where the ratio of population was not that much according to the investment required. Another important issue was female security concern; families were reluctant to send their children to school in war zones and risky environment. The security was also one of the major concerns related to women education in rural areas of Afghanistan.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TALIBAN FIRST ISLAMIC EMIRATE

The record of Taliban in human rights was not as much attractive from the beginning. As they entered Kabul by killing Najibullah and hanging his body in down street was the violation of human right act. However, it was a sign of threat to others who speaks against them. Taliban in their rule truly wanted to follow the teachings of Islam and the way human were treated in Islam. People of Afghanistan were used to with the way Taliban was dealing. Najibullah killing was the only major violation which they did in the beginning, however after entering Kabul the human right rules were followed according to the Islam. People of Afghanistan were considering them as an asset of the state to develop Afghanistan. Justice and due rights of human were the key motive of government at that time. Every citizen of the state was given full power to complaint and speaks against any sort of evil which is against Islam and Shira. Taliban tried to provide every due right to their citizens; however government of Taliban were of least feminist movement. The Taliban were profoundly aggrieved in their policy for women. According to them Islam give a distinct respectable status to women. And by following the teaching of Islam women was treated according to sharia. The due rights of women were given to them, however their rights of equality were ignored. According to Taliban women will remain at their houses, men will provide them all those facilities which she needed. From one angle the above

statement recognition was given to women as important character of life, whose sole responsibility is to look after the affairs of household. Beside that woman as responsible citizen will be a right hand of their life partner to facilitate them in different stages of life. In the view of Taliban, before Taliban women of Afghanistan were highly suffering from domestic violence and chaos in the society, therefore Taliban wants to honor women with dignity and the only solution of reducing violence against women was to stay women at home. The solution was to be at home and look after children and house affairs and only their close relative was order to treat them with honor.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of rigorous order and the disarmament of rival factions were hallmarks of the Taliban's early ascent to power. Some sorts of violence decreased as a result, especially in the territories they controlled. But a strict application of Sharia law, which included harsh penalties and the repression of dissent, kept this order in place. Due to the Pashtun majority in the Taliban government, other ethnic groups including Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks were marginalized and excluded (Giustozzi, 2010). This exclusion on the basis of race and politics strengthened resistance and hampered attempts to establish a generalized peace. Widespread human rights violations, especially against women and ethnic minorities, were a hallmark of the Taliban's rule. Significant sections of the Afghan population were alienated by their policies, which included prohibiting women from attending school or participating in public life and punishing them harshly for breaking their strict codes of conduct. International sanctions and isolation resulted from the Taliban's sponsorship of terrorist organizations, like as Al-Qaeda. This not only made Afghanistan's economic issues worse, but it also made it more difficult to pursue external mediation or peacekeeping missions. Conflict has persisted because the Taliban were unable to cooperate or make amends with the Northern Alliance, a coalition of soldiers opposing the Taliban. The Northern Alliance persisted in opposing the Taliban's control with the backing of several foreign entities, obstructing the formation of a single national administration (Kamal, 2021). In conclusion, the policies and deeds of the Taliban did not promote positive peace, even though they were able to establish a type of negative peace (the absence of fighting) in some areas of Afghanistan during their control. Rather, under their leadership, Afghan society became more polarized, violations of human rights were sustained, and a state of constant conflict was maintained, all of which contributed to their fall after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The Afghan Taliban behavior towards international community was rigidity and denial. The Government of Taliban demanded recognition as an Islamic state and seat in UN General Assembly. The reason of not recognizing Afghanistan was the negative propaganda against the state of Afghanistan. However, the situation in reality was totally opposite. The reaction of western states after the takeover of Afghanistan was adverse. Therefore, as a result the permanent member of UN was against recognition of Afghanistan as a state. Beside that there were different states which recognize Afghanistan as a state i.e. Pakistan, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The Taliban faced problems in international platforms due to their negative projection in the world. The inflexible government of Taliban found very few friends internationally. The states with friendly relationship included Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The isolation and international sanction on Afghan Taliban created a vacuum in Afghanistan. This behavior of developed nations attracted the people of Muslim world, which brought financial support to Taliban in the form of aid. And people in the Muslim

world who were against western nations and their society started reaching Afghanistan to help them in fighting against western ideas. Volunteer camps were set in different parts of the Muslim world in which financial and arms support were provided to fight against western society. Jihadi units present in different parts of the world started coming towards Afghanistan. The leaders of Taliban welcomed them and among them there were leaders who were the heroes of Soviet Union war. And United States considered them as their best friends and heroes in 1989 war against Soviet Union. Now the slogan was that "It is the duty of every Muslim to save Islam from the Western world". Osama Bin Laden was among those who fought against Western ideas. Mullah Mohammad Umar had a close connection with Bin Laden, people say that he married Mullah Mohammad Umar's daughter. Osama Bin Laden's group, with the name of Al-Qaida, provided financial and military support to the Afghan Taliban. For the survival of their followers and citizens of Afghanistan Taliban's vision of a peaceful Afghanistan was converted into the name of jihad, i.e., fighting for Islam. Besides that, the norms of Pashtun culture were followed, and they welcomed Al-Qaida leadership in Afghanistan. As the influence of these jihadi groups increased, the Taliban became increasingly uncooperative with the western world. The network of the Taliban got stronger and stronger day by day, and their influence in the world increased. The world considered them a threat to peace, and superpowers thought that they were trying to provoke us. The Western World demanded from Afghanistan government remove all those groups that they called militant groups.

RECOMMENDATION

The history of Afghanistan over the past three decades has confirmed that the Taliban are a reality, and the fact that they came to power once again within days after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021 ratifies that they enjoy the support of the local population. Keeping this reality in mind, the World must positively engage with the Taliban Government and help them get out of the state of poverty in the country and help them in addressing core issues faced by the state and its people.

The world must also not repeat the mistakes it made in the First Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from 1996-2001, when it disengaged with the Taliban government, and as a result, the country hosted international terrorists, which led to 9/11 and became a threat to world peace. Therefore, for the sake of world peace, a peaceful Afghanistan is mandatory, and that can only be achieved if the world, especially countries like the USA, China, and Russia, recognizes its role in addressing key issues of the people of the war-torn country.

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