

Impact of Indian's Reconstruction on Political Policies of Afghanistan Transformation

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Abstract

The Central Asia region is often associated with South Asia for geostrategic reasons influences by the American involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Growing Alliance with India. In 1990 Indian lost visibility in the region but now is gaining back lost cultural influence in strategic and economic sectors? The history of the India Central Asia relationship is very rich and ancient, going from Antique time to the Mughal Empire. Most newspaper articles, diplomatic declarations, and academic texts on the subject tend to reset India's engagement in Central Asia within a long standing historical framework. The strategically importance of Afghanistan to India appears both geo-political nightmare and a land of tremendous opportunities. If we consider the case of Afghanistan the past eighteen years have witnessed significant changes vis-à-vis people of Afghanistan as they have striven to establish an independent state with a market economy governed under pluralistic democracy. These changes, besides the contemporary antisocial movements in Afghanistan have brought sudden poverty, physical insecurity and bewildering social transformations that led to terrible sufferings of people. However, Afghanistan has demonstrated a firm commitment to stability and made substantial progress in building peace. The country has adopted several measures to ensure stability and economic prosperity to overcome the problems of people. Nevertheless, the region continues to a complexity of problems related to weak and corrupt Governments, divided Societies, Narcotic Trade and its corrosive effects on State and Non State Institutions, radicalized Groups and widespread poverty. All this has made the region suffer in many respects and adverse effects are visible on marginalized groups and weaker sections of the society including poor, children and women. All this has lead to the growth of Transnational Organized Crime and its increasing relevance to the security of states and populations alike.

In this context the present study wants to explore India's role in Afghanistan's reconstruction and political transformation even though there are Challenges and Prospects. The study would also attempt to assess that as the "Post-2014" regional order in Afghanistan is picking up its speed, the major objectives of India is to fight help in the regional stability of the country. Since India of course is a regional power in this Asian continent and as such the India can play a major role in bringing Afghanistan nearer to stability.

KEYWORDS: "Afghanistan", "Balance of Power", "Challenges", "Great Game", "Geo-Politics," "India", "Regional Interest",

Significance

The country Afghanistan establishes a particular place in history. The country has become a catalyst in the great ideological war of twentieth century. The country is struggling for a stable, democratic and prosperous future. The War on Terror in the region in the regime has changed the entire Geo-political landscape in the territory.

All the regional neighbours got affected from it including central and south Asia. However, a remarkable progress had been achieved over the past seven years with the help of international community. India can play an important role in rebuilding peace efforts in the region. India can maintain the ongoing effort to help Afghanistan emerge from war, strife and deprivation is its responsibility as a regional power.

Introduction

The Republic of Afghanistan has undergone several Phases of Transitionsⁱ that proved to be failures and has been also passed through conflict cycles since the end of nearly two centuries starting from monarchical order in the early 1970. The Transitions have an impact on the socio-political order, it has successively de-structured the old socio-political order and has failed to restructured and establish an alternative sustainable political order within the country. Among all the Political Transitions none of the Transitions- be it the one attempt by Sardar Mohammad Daud in 1973,ⁱⁱ by Afghan communists in the late 1970s and 80s, by anti Soviet Resistance Leadership in the early 1990, or by Talibanⁱⁱⁱ in the mid 1990^{iv} could reach their logical conclusions. Some appears to be the case with developments after 2001, which in turn could be under threat from a possibly another inclusive or failed transition in 2014-2015.^v So, there is a contemporary need of peace building in the country to a large extent. The establishments of peace initiatives involve a wide range of activities. One of the activities among them is the Economic Restructuring and Political Transformation.^{vi}

Result Discussion

In the North of Afghanistan lies the Central Asian Republics, xingiang proviance^{vii} of China in the North-East touching the narrow strip of the Wakhan Corridor,^{viii} to the East, South, and Southwest lies Pakistan and the West is Iran. The second major observation is that it is central to the critical and unstable regions of West Asia and South Asia. It is land locked country and serves as a valued corridor for the rich gas and oil resources in the Central Asian Republics to the Arabian Sea. Conversely, it gives access to the market in Central Asia and therefore a country of great interests for regional and world powers.^{ix} The first time when the country was invaded was in sixth century BC, when Darius I of Perssia brought it under control. Afterwards process continued. While as in the modern conquest the country entered into "Great Game" with the introduction of European colonialism in Asia. In the context of 'Great Game' the Russian's were the first who are involved in the imperialistic policies.^x Thus the country was structurally sandwiched during the Great Game, and then the country never managed to come out of that.^{xi}

Need for Reconstruction and Political Transformation

The constant conflict in Afghanistan has failed the citizens and also the state authority. While analysing the Afghan history it tells us that the people of Afghanistan put more energy in to conflict than they do into peace. So, the Post War reconstruction is a comprehensive project requires not only state but also international community to intervene.^{xii} Thus the processes of development in Afghanistan have shifted from humanitarian approach to development and reconstruction mode. Thus during the last couple of years, International Community has been progressively, worried about the quality and peace of the development and reconstruction in Afghanistan.^{xiii}

Historical Perspective

The ties between India and Afghanistan were from ancient times. The strategic importance of Afghanistan was so much that to India that it appears both a geographical nightmare and a land of tremendous opportunities for India. The presence of India in the country felt more during the period of king Zahir's Shah's rule. Then in the aftermath of Sep. 11, India also played a major role as the country was the first to setup its diplomatic mission under the aegis of former ambassador, Mr. S K Labah. The Afghanistan's involvement in the SAARC forum was also supported by India. Indian efforts in Afghanistan range from diversity of fields as finance, aid, humanitarian, health, aviation etc. Among the regional countries which are subsequent to Afghanistan, India is largest donor country having instead nearly US 800 million. India remains central to their process of reconstruction in case of Afghanistan.^{xiv}

Agreements

The biggest agreement between the two countries occurs in the October 04, 2011, during the visit of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai to India. During his visit both the countries signed Strategic Partnership agreement "based on mutual understanding and long term trust" outlines areas of common concern including trade, economic expansion, education, security and politics. The agreement was aimed to help guarantee its security as international troops begin withdrawing from the war torn country after more than a decade of fighting and is designed to address the challenges of transition as much as prepare ground for preventing the reversal of gains beyond 2014. This agreement is linked with the drawdown of US forces from Afghanistan.^{xv}

Afghanistan is more of a connector between the surrounding security environments than an insulator. It draws together various security related issues (for example, narcotics-terrorism with an Islamist background) and spills them over to all bordering regions. Given that a politically and economically stable Afghanistan is a strategic priority for India, India maintains that the ongoing effort to help Afghanistan emerge from war, strife and privation is its responsibility as a regional power. Taking into consideration the changing circumstances and the overall analysis of India's Afghan Policy, some vital interests are evident under the following headings:^{xvi}

India's Past with Afghanistan

The role of India in the different regimes was that it was the only country in South Asia which supports the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime although India experiences many security treats but still then India offered support in forms which included intelligence. After the Taliban government was toppled, India actively participated in rebuilding efforts.

India spend about US\$2 billion for development in Afghanistan, and the latest tranche worth US \$100 million was cleared on November 8th, 2012. India and Afghanistan have formed strategic and military partnerships to combat regional militants.^{xvii}

Prospects for the Future

While considering the fact that security is an issue that needs to be improved, and India has made it clear that it will be willing to assist Afghanistan in this issue. Furthermore, security issues in areas of reconstruction have also been highlighted. India would also prefer to make sure that no terrorist training camps are operational in Afghanistan, and would be willing to participate in any Afghan-led operations against insurgents. Nirupama Rao, the Indian Foreign Secretary, stated that “Any integration process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led, and should include ... those who abjure violence, give up armed struggle and terrorism and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution.”

India would like to expand its role in the South Asian region, and accepts a regional arrangement for rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan with close cooperation of other nations. However, Pakistan has expressed opposition to the creation of a regional body which will oversee the economic and security situation in Afghanistan. India would also hope for the various ethnic divisions of Afghanistan to cooperate with each other to ensure sustainable peace in Afghanistan. India has also expressed interests in the large natural gas reserves in Iran, and may decide to build a natural gas pipeline through Afghanistan.

It is also in India’s interests to prevent corruption within the Afghan government, and seeks to strengthen democracy in Afghanistan and has also expressed its desire to abolish the illicit cultivation of opium in Afghanistan, as it is a method by which the Taliban raises funds. Methods that may be taken to reduce this could include but are not limited to increasing security in areas where opium is grown, incentivizing the production of other cash crops, establishing fair trade systems to ensure profitability for farmers, and promoting education and awareness in Afghanistan.^{xviii}

Conclusion

- It is a generalised fact that the Afghanistan has undergone several phases of Transition. The Transition have an impact on the socio-political order, it has successively de-structured the old socio-political order.
- Thus, there is a contemporary need of peace building in the country to a large extent.
- India can also play its role in this extent. India will remain central to their process of reconstruction in case of Afghanistan. India can play a role to expand its role in the South Asian region, and accepts a regional arrangement for building efforts with close cooperation of other nations.

References

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- ^{viii} The Afghan Wakhan Corridor is a narrow panhandle of alpine valleys and high mountains that stretches eastward from the province of Badakhshan following the head waters of the Amu Darya River to its sources in the Pamir Mountains. It borders Tajikistan to the north, Pakistan to the south, and China to the east. Afghanistan Wakhan Mission Technical Report,UNEP,Jeneva,2003,p.3
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