Research Report

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- fresh ideas, new solutions -

Forum: *Security Council*
Issue: *Maintaining peace and security in Afghanistan and aiding its reconstruction*

Position: *Deputy President*

Introduction

The Afghan country started to develop in the late eighteenth century. It was ruled, with brief interferences, by a progression of rulers whose solidification of force was continually undermined by common wars and outside attacks. The current Afghan borders were delineated in the nineteenth century, as an aftereffect of the "great game" rivalry between Britain and Russia. Britain influenced Afghan foreign policy from the late nineteenth century until the Third Anglo-Afghan War in 1919. In 1946, Afghanistan joined the United Nations.

Mohammad Najibullah's government (1989-1992) attempted to solve the Afghan civil war through military and economic aid, however, without Russian troops on the ground. Najibullah attempted to gain support for his government by depicting it as Islamic, and in the 1990 constitution the nation officially turned into an Islamic state and everything related to communism was removed. Nevertheless, Najibullah did not win any huge backing, and with the disintegration of the Soviet Union in December 1991, he was left without foreign aid. This, combined with the inward fall of his government, led to his resignation in April 1992. A devastating civil war followed.

This is only one of many civil wars. A series of Afghan (civil) wars occurred in the past decades. The most recent war, directly caused by the 9/11 attacks in the US, believed to be done by Osama bin Laden. The USA invaded the country and still hasn't left, due to the lack of security and instability. The United Nations have attempted to solve this issue a few times already, but it is time to provide a safe home for Afghan civilians.

Definition of Key Terms

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
ISAF is an organisation led by NATO. Ordered by the United Nations, ISAF's essential target was to empower the Afghan government to maintain security throughout the nation and grow new Afghan security powers to guarantee Afghanistan could never again turn into a place of refuge for terrorists.

Warlord
A military commander who has seized power, especially in one section of a country.

The "Great Game"

The "Great Game" is a term used by historians to describe a political and diplomatic confrontation between Great Britain and Russia throughout the 19th century over Afghanistan and neighbouring territories in Central and Southern Asia.

Islamic fundamentalism
A movement of Muslims who harken back to earlier times and seek to return to the fundamentals of the Islamic religion and live similarly to how the prophet Muhammad and his companions lived. Islamic fundamentalists favor "a literal and original interpretation" of the primary sources of Islam (The Quran and Sunnah), and seek to eliminate (what they perceive to be) "corrupting" non-Islamic influences from every part of their lives, and see "Islamic fundamentalism" as a pejorative term used by outsiders for Islamic revivalism and Islamic activism.

Good governance
Good governance encompasses governments to be effective. The key attributes for good governance are:

- Transparency
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Participation
- Responsiveness (to the needs of the people)

General Overview

In 2001 the US invaded Afghanistan to look for Osama bin Laden, due to the 9/11 attacks. They did not find bin Laden, but they did topple the Taliban government. In 2004, Hamid Karzai became president in the first free Afghan elections. The new government created a new constitution. Since 2004, the reconstruction has been difficult. The national peace and security worsened because of the resurrection of the Taliban and activities of local warlords.

Regional rulers position themselves as independent warlords, ignoring the central authorities. The governors enrich themselves, fight each other and oppress the population, while the central government is broke. The Afghans would like to further spread ISAFs mandate among the provinces, but the Western coalition denied this request for the time being, for financial and logistical reasons.

Another problem are the refugees. During the decades of turmoil in Afghanistan, numerous inhabitants fled their hometown or even the country. However, in 2002 and 2003, nearly 5 million refugees returned to Afghanistan. This refugee flood caused problems such as food and water scarcity to aggravate.

The country also has trouble with corruption, the absence of decent infrastructure and widespread poverty among the Afghan population.

Major Parties Involved

The United States of America
US troops have been active for a long time in Afghanistan. They attacked suspected

bases of Osama Bin Laden, who killed 2977 people on the 11th of September 2001, one of his many attacks on the US. The US troops were part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), led by NATO. US troops are still active in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan
In the 80's, the Soviets withdrawed their troops from Afghanistan. A series of devastating civil wars followed. Due to the 9/11 attacks in 2001, US troops invaded Afghanistan to kill Osama bin Laden. In 2002, NATO deployed the ISAF. Since 2013, the Afghan army has taken command of all NATO military and security operations. By the end of 2014, NATO officially ended its combat mission. However, violence persists across the country. 2014 is known as the bloodiest year in the Afghan war.

United Kingdom
Afghanistan and the UK have some history together: the Anglo-Afghan War. More recently, the United Kingdom was one of the US's key allies in the Afghan War. Together, they launched the Operation Enduring Freedom.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
NATO founded and took the lead of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

The Russian Federation
The former USSR or Soviet Union, fought in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989, known as the Soviet-Afghan War.

Taliban
A muslim fundamentalist group in Afghanistan.

Al-Qaeda
A radical Sunni Muslim organisation dedicated to the elimination of the presence of Western Countries in the Middle East and militantly opposed to Western foreign policy. The organisation was founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden.

Timeline of Events

December 1979	Soviet army invades to reinforce the communist government
1988	Peace accords are signed by Afghanistan, the US, USSR and Pakistan. USSR begins withdrawing troops.
1992	President Najibullah's government is overthrown. A civil war follows.
1996	Taliban seize control of the city of Kabul and introduce extreme Islam rules.

1997	Taliban are recognized as legitimate rulers of Afghanistan by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
1998	US missiles strike suspected bases of Osama Bin Laden, who is accused of bombing US embassies in Africa.
September 9th, 2001	9/11 attacks in New York City by Al Qaida, led by Osama bin Laden. Shortly after, US troops invade Afghanistan.
January 2002	Deployment of first group of foreign peacekeepers: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), led by NATO.
August 2003	NATO takes control of security in Kabul
October 2006	NATO takes responsibility for the security of the entire country
December 2009	US President Obama increases US troops by 30,000, to a total of 100,000. He states that they will begin pulling out forces by 2011.
January 2012	Taliban agree to have peace talks with the US and Afghan government.
May 2012	NATO summit supports the plan to pull out foreign combat troops by the end of 2014.
June 2013	Afghan army takes command of all NATO-operations (military and security).
October 2014	US and UK decide to end their combat operations in Afghanistan
December 2014	NATO officially ends its combat mission in Afghanistan.
March 2015	Obama announces a delay of the US troop withdrawal, due to a request from president Ashraf Ghani.

Previous Attemps to solve the issue

ISAF

When NATO founded ISAF in 2001, they attempted to maintain security throughout Afghanistan, with the help of NATO member states. ISAF ended their combat operations in 2014 and the Afghan army took command of all military and security operations led by NATO.

UN operations

The United Nations worked on an election operation that worked with Afghan authorities to register votes and organise elections for 2009 and 2010. They also promote good governance and the rule of law, training of police officers and so on.

Possible Solutions

Unfortunately, in a nation torn by violence, warlord's, the production of drugs and profound suspicion of outsiders and/or foreigners, the aforementioned projects appear to be unrealistic and highly unlikely to succeed. Until Afghanistan accomplishes an enduring and stable peace outlined and bolstered by Afghanis, there can be no prospect of progress, electoral or otherwise.

Therefore, the first issues on the agenda to solve should be violence, the presence of warlord's, and drug production. Alongside this process, the xenophobia should be fought by promoting the good intentions of most foreigners.

Violence, the presence of warlord's and drug production could be fought by the establishment of a special police force with a specialised department for each issue, that consists of both Afghanis and foreigners.

To keep Afghanis from e.g. committing crimes and producing drugs, the country should be rebuilt. A structured and effective plan should be created by UN member states and Afghanis should be appointed as workers on the projects (creating new jobs), who work in groups led by experts.

When the physical reconstruction is (almost) completed, UN missions can be continued. This creates a safer environment for these operations, thus causing them to be more effective.

Useful documents

- UN Security Council Resolution 1386
- UN Security Council Resolution 2189
- War in Afghanistan (2001-present): http://www.saylor.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/War-in-Afghanistan-2001-Present.pdf

Appendix/Appendices

- Afghan war summary: https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War
- War in Afghanistan (2001-2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN9Hmd44W7I

- History of Afghanistan - the last 300 years (1709-2016): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiaX2qpzmVc