

The American Involvement in Afghanistan (2001-2014): Implications for India

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| Received: 05.03.2019 | Accepted: 18.03.2019 | Published: 30.03.2019

DOI: [0.21276/sjahss.2019.7.3.19](https://doi.org/10.21276/sjahss.2019.7.3.19)

Abstract

Original Research Article

In the International Relations the US has played a dominating role and tried to established hegemony over the nations of world. Afghanistan reappeared on the world centre stage following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. With the tragic event that cost the lives of many innocent people and enormous damage, began the war on terrorism and ushered in a new phase in the drawn out civil strife in Afghanistan. US involvement in Afghanistan has seen a major impact in the International affairs. Afghanistan's political scene has been dominated by violence fuelled by opposing ideologies and competing political interests. In these years it has endured five major regime changes, each accompanied by tremendous violence that paralyzed any efforts towards political stability. The country was politically and economically ruined, and all major state systems that facilitated central governance, such as roads, taxes and justice systems were destroyed or decentralized to the local level. Following the September 11, 2001 incident, the primary objective of US was to dismantle Al' -Qaeda and the Taliban. The secondary goal was to transform Afghanistan into a stable and secure country that would never again be a haven for global terrorist networks. This article examines the U.S. response to global terrorism and its campaign in Afghanistan from 2001 to today. The main aim of this article is to understand the US approach in Afghanistan. Second, the analysis evaluates the lessons learnt and some possible strategies for achieving long-term stability and security in Afghanistan. Apart from this the article tries to focus on "what are the Implications seen in India after US involvement in Afghanistan (2001-2014)?"

Keyword: US, Afghanistan, India, Intervention, reconstruction.

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INTRODUCTION

Intervention has been defined as a states use of military force against another state when the chief publicly declared aim of that military action is ending human rights violations being perpetrated by the state against which it is directed. It involves the threat and use of military force as a central feature and also interfering in the internal affairs of a state by sending military force into the territory or airspace of a sovereign state that has not committed an act of aggression against another state [1]. The subject of humanitarian intervention has remained a compelling foreign policy issue [2]. After the end of the cold war U.S hegemony and unipolar dominance had begun. U.S had played a very key role in world politics [3]. According to the George Bush, "a new world order" emerged and US emerge as the single greatest power in a multi polar world. The increasing role of interventionist role of U.S and its allies in global politics has met with some degree of success but has encountered enough setbacks to reinforce the view that the role of U.S hegemony will be challenged from various quarters.

Afghanistan is at the world focus since 9/11 with international cooperation towards reconstruction and development. As, Afghanistan is turmoil ridden country so political instability loomed large there. Numerous factors responsible for this instability as highly centralized political system, demarcation of internal stake holders (most probably warlords) due to controversial background, connecting ongoing insurgency and terrorism with 'Pashtoon alienation' and interest oriented usage of this notion by self-seeking politicians, inadequate international aid has exacerbated already worst insecurity. Since 2002 Afghanistan government is seek to convert 'land locked' Afghanistan image to 'land bridge' among Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Far East and This will generate enormous revenue and can be capable to stabilize the country [4]. Furthermore, after 9/11 events (Black Tuesday terrorist attacks in the USA) the USA became conscious on the international war against terror. As a result 9/11 attack the USA has launched "operation enduring freedom" to eliminate Al-Qaida. The USA started the war in Afghanistan in 2001. While the US formally ended combat operations in Afghanistan in December 2014. Though it has been ended but there

have been a series of terrorist attack as suicide, roadside bombs, and direct attack by small arms grenades and weapon that used during the period (2001-2014).

This American Intervention in Afghanistan has brought lots of changes and development towards India too. India has very good relations with Afghanistan and America. India has developed their economic ties with the both countries. Along with this, lots of critical circumstances have to be seen in India after this American Intervention in Afghanistan.

This research will highlighted the main purpose of US Intervention and Afghanistan's political and economic condition under the US engagement in Afghanistan. In the same way the research will focus on Implications for India After this American Intervention. Here main emphasis lies on that whether the US engagement has improved or exacerbated the situation.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To examine the Interventionist role of America in Afghanistan.
- To analyze the implications for India after US intervention in Afghanistan.

METHODOLOGY

The present research is based on secondary sources of data. But I have done the research partially empirical. This research has followed the historical, analytical, descriptive, and interview methods. At the same time data has been collected from two different sources i.e. primary and secondary. The primary sources of data has been collected from different officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, officials from the embassy of Afghanistan and USA, New Delhi, and experts on this area from different Research institute and think tank in Delhi. I have adopted interview method to collect the primary data. The secondary data has been collected from all published works i.e., reference books, journals, periodicals, magazine, newspaper cuttings and using different web-sites.

Profile of the study area

Afghanistan as a state came into existence in 1747. It was founded by Ahmad Shah Abdali. Geographically, Afghanistan is a land locked country located with south-Central Asia. [5] Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan in the South and East, Iran in the West, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north and in the far north east, china. Afghanistan has population of approximately twenty million, dividing into twenty ethnic groups more than fifty in all. People speak one of official languages Pashto and Dari. There are thirty different languages in Afghanistan due to myriad factions [6].

American Intervention in Afghanistan

American interests in Central Asia in general and Afghanistan in particular are comparatively of recent origin. American foreign policy towards Afghanistan was basically reactive and limited to the policy of containing Russia so that it did not spread its influence beyond Afghanistan towards the oil-rich Gulf States [7]. The 9/11 attack has brought drastic change in the world history. Following 9/11 attacks on US, the government of America launched anti-terrorist coalition which provided opportunity to Afghanistan to thwart the Taliban threats. These incidents changed the whole security scenario of the world. Afghanistan initially supported and welcomed American military presence in fighting against terrorism but later, she showed her disillusionment against the US. The main purpose of the American Intervention in Afghanistan was to dismantle the terrorist and Taliban bases from Afghanistan. To catch the main culprit of the 9/11 attack was one of the important aim.

American involvement in Afghanistan has discussed in various way. During 2001, the very foremost purpose of the US involvement in Afghanistan was military purpose. Gradually US aim of the engagement has changed in the later period. Further American foreign policy was very much give importance to the Humanitarian and political ground of Afghanistan.

American military involvement in Afghanistan:

The September 11 attack was a series of coordinated attacks upon the United States on September 11, 2001. 9/11 was a turning point in the presidency of George W. Bush and US foreign policy, leading directly to US support for the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, where al-Qaeda was based. Indeed, the US government has had a very ambivalent relationship with the Taliban prior to 9/11. The 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon dramatically affected American Politics. In the aftermath of 9/11, the United States became engaged in very expensive foreign wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that were more or less tightly connected to combating terrorism and from which the United States has been able to disengage only very slowly [8]. American believed that it is Osama bin Laden who is guilty of planning the horrendous events of 9/11. Further America started Operation Enduring Freedom to dismantle terrorism. This Operation has started by America with the help of NATO force. International community has send lots of fund or military aid for the operation [9]. On October 7, 2001, the United States launched military strikes against the Taliban regime in revenge for the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, said to have been masterminded by bin Laden from his base in Afghanistan. Shortly after the September 11 attacks, the US demanded the Taliban surrender Bin Laden to the appropriate authorities, but the Taliban rejected the ultimatum. US military

intervention followed. At the UN-supported Bonn conference in December 2001, representatives from four Afghan factions agreed to establish a broad-based interim government. The US-backed Pashtun leader Hamid Karzai, exiled under the Taliban, was installed as Afghanistan's new interim president. NATO took the lead of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan on 11 August 2003. The United Nations ISAF main objective was to enable the Afghan government to provide effective security across the country and develop new Afghan government to ensure Afghanistan would never again become a safe haven for terrorists. ISAF was one of the largest coalitions in history and is NATO's most challenging mission to date. At its height, the force was more than 130,000 strong, with troops from 51 NATO and partner nations. In support of the Afghan government, ISAF assisted the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the conduct of security operations throughout the country, helping to reduce the capability of the insurgency. Despite the presence of the International Security Assistance Force, deployed in December 2001 to defend the Afghanistan Transitional Authority and gradually expanded to cover the whole country by the second half of 2006.

In 2001 American has send 1300 American military troops as commandos and ground troops towards Afghanistan. Further the U.S. force grows to 2,500 as troops scout the mountainous Tora Bora region looking for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. The Taliban is ousted and an interim Afghan government is established. In the intervening period, the United States has suffered around 2,400 fatalities in Afghanistan. In that time, an elected Afghan government has replaced the Taliban, and nearly every measure of human development has improved, although future prospects of those measures remain mixed. The fundamental objective of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan is “preventing any further attacks on the United States by terrorists enjoying safe haven or support in Afghanistan.”

America's Response towards Afghanistan on Humanitarian ground

Afghanistan is now also known as failed State. Failed State matters not just for humanitarian reasons but for national security as well. These 'failed' states, it is believed, breed instability and provide safe havens for drug production and trafficking, international terrorism and other global crime. Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries in the world, would be a candidate for U.S. development assistance under normal circumstances. But today, as a result of the war on Al Qaeda and the 2001 military effort that removed Taliban rule, Afghanistan is a U.S. strategic priority and recipient to date of nearly \$52 billion in U.S. foreign assistance serving multiple objectives. The U.S. program of assistance to Afghanistan has multiple objectives implemented by a range of actors working in diverse sectors. The main purpose of the program is to

stabilize and strengthen the Afghan economic, social, political, and security environment so as to blunt popular support for extremist forces in the region [10]. Since 2001 most of the fund of US assistance went to the Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF). The second-largest portion of assistance has been aimed at economic, social, and political development efforts. The main provider of these programs is the Agency for International Development (USAID), with the Department of State playing a significant role in democracy and governance activities. American has provided lots of reconstruction fund to Afghanistan and this process of reconstruction of Afghanistan has started since 2002. There are more than 14,000 reconstruction projects under way in Afghanistan, such as the Salma Dam, the Kajaki Dam and many of these projects are being supervised by the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) [11]. In the mean time Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund was establish in 2002. The major development goal is the completion of “Ring road” which is a series of highways linking major cities of Afghanistan. America has poured tens of billions of dollars into the reconstruction effort. Apart from this, these projects have been spent related to governance and development and more immediate humanitarian assistance. These projects include programs to strengthen the local justice system of courts and prisons, expand power generation and transmission, build roads and railways, provide Basic Education, Literacy, and Technical-Vocational Education and Training (BELT) that aims to deliver basic education to communities that the government cannot reach, and administer Partnership Contract for Health (PCH) Services that aim to provide primary care and essential hospital services [12].

Although American development aid fund has focused on the health development of Afghanistan. USAID support combats hunger and strengthens food and nutrition security by providing emergency food assistance to Afghanistan's most vulnerable populations, including pregnant and lactating women, malnourished children five years and younger, internally displaced persons and returnees and other severely food insecure populations. USAID helps improve the quality of basic education by supporting the training of teachers, women, producing quality learning materials, and distributing various textbooks to schools. USAID has helped over 85,000 Afghan girls attend community-based education classes, eliminating the need for Afghan girls to travel lengthy and sometimes dangerous distances to school, which deters them from attending. USAID works directly with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to strengthen the government's ability to administer a nationwide educational system. USAID advisors are helping the MoE to enhance their systems for managing finances, recruit civil servants and teachers, procure educational materials, and monitor and evaluate the performance of schools across the country. USAID and other donors

have assisted the Ministry in drafting and implementing national plans for strengthening Afghanistan's education sector. USAID is helping Afghans to pursue higher education and vocational training opportunities that will equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to meaningfully contribute to the workforce [13].

USAID has helped Afghans boost access to electricity, increase access to potable water, design, build, and maintain roads, and design and construct schools, clinics and hospitals. Security threats, forbidding geography and shortages of trained technicians all have presented challenges. USAID is now supporting the Afghan government's efforts to operate and maintain existing infrastructure, invest in expanding access to electricity, and stimulate international investment. Humanitarian concerns for Afghanistan are as complex as they are persistent. In response to this complex and ongoing emergency situation, USAID is: 1) supporting targeted responses to meet humanitarian and food assistance needs of conflict and disaster-affected populations; 2) building resilience by supporting community-based mechanisms that incorporate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness; and 3) supporting coherent and coordinated national disaster preparedness and humanitarian response systems. These programs provide health, livelihood, food and nutrition, protection, shelter, and disaster preparedness and response capacity to conflict-affected and disaster-affected people. Assistance is particularly focused on internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, including malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID also aims to improve humanitarian response efforts by supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict, improving humanitarian indicators, and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis [14].

America's involvement in Afghanistan for Political development

Like the reconstruction process of Afghanistan, America also involved in the development of Political factors of Afghanistan. In 2001, the government institutions, civilian organizations, and independent media that tie a nation together were virtually nonexistent. Since that time, Afghanistan has made significant progress toward rebuilding its political system and institutions. Political participation has been developed since the year 2001. Basically it has been to be seen among the Women of Afghanistan which is growing [15]. Since 2001, Afghanistan has adopted a new constitution, organized presidential, parliamentary, and provincial council elections, established Ministries to deliver services to the Afghan people, and developed a vibrant media and committed civil society. Since 2002, USAID has supported participatory, democratic processes that empower Afghan citizens, promote accountability and transparent governance, encourage

national unity, and serve the needs of the Afghan people. By enhancing the ability of key electoral, representative, judicial, and executive branch institutions to serve Afghan citizens and by supporting the growth of media and civil society organizations, USAID is equipping Afghans with the capacity to both advocate for and implement society-led reforms. Gender equality and women's civic and political leadership is essential to the success of these efforts. USAID has helped to support the establishment of a thriving civil society and independent media environment where courageous reporters and activists inform their fellow citizens of current events and hold public officials accountable. The politics of Afghanistan has been mainly influenced by the NATO countries, basically the United States tried to stabilize and democratize the country. In 2004, the nation's new constitution was adopted and an executive president was elected. Hamid Karzai was declared the first democratic elected head of the state in Afghanistan [16].

Implications for India

Afghanistan has great geo-strategic importance and it is the gateway to Central Asia, Middle East, and South Asia. Since the early period it has to be seen a good relation between Afghanistan and India. Accordingly, India emerged as one the main regional actors, who have main objective to developed rebuilding the war devastated country [17]. The relationship between the countries has to be seen steady after the collapse of 9/11 attack. During this period Afghanistan was under the role of Taliban. Indian government supported the northern alliance which was in against of the Pakistan sponsored Taliban [18]. There has a historic relation between Afghanistan and India which has seen since 2000 years ago. In 2001 the US led NATO's attack in Afghanistan that brought the situation very worse. In that situation India has provided reconstruction and rebuilding efforts and Afghanistan made a close alliance and strengthen ties with India. At the same time India supported the coalition government in Afghanistan and India also offered Membership of SAARC to Afghanistan in 2005. As a result Afghanistan became the eight member of SAARC in 2007 [19]. During the NATO led coalition military activities India did not take initiative in various reasons such as: India is a very stable and secular country of Asia. Firstly India did not provide land, air or sea routes to the coalition force because India did not want to sacrifice the core value of national unity. Secondly this war on terrorism was against per known military organization of Afghanistan like Taliban and Al-Qaida. Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan visited India in 2006 and signed in three MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to strengthen the areas of Education, rural development and standardization between the Bureau of Indian standards, (BIS) and Afghan National standardization Authority (ANSA). Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee assured

Hamid Karzai that “Indian people are committed to stand by our Afghan friends in this hour of need. The task of rebuilding and reconstructing Afghanistan is enormous. Our unflinching and unconditional cooperation is available to the Afghan nation, as it pursues the return of prosperity and restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Indian assistance has focused on the construction of human capital and physical infrastructure, improving security, and helping the agriculture and other important sector of the country’s economy. Ouster of the Taliban from power in the aftermath of 9/11 provided an opportunity to India and Afghanistan for restoration of bilateral relations. Besides the reopening an embassy in Kabul in 2002, India currently has four consulates located in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandhar and Jalalabad across the country. After 9/11, India’s interest in Afghanistan is based on developing a bridge between India and Central Asia. In 2006, during the Afghan President Hamid Karzai visit to India; he invited Indian companies to invest in Afghanistan. As a result India invested in the reconstruction of road and infrastructure that would make a path in the linking to the Central Asia [20].

This September 11, 2001, terrorist attack has changed the world view on terrorism. Soon after 9/11, the US security setup changed and Afghanistan and Iraq was pulverized by US soldiers. Following the 9/11 attack India provides substantial support to the US through the course of their counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan. The common concern of the both countries is terrorism and need to develop a conscious strategy to fight it together. For the 1st time Indian government offered their Military base to United States. At the diplomatic level Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited the United States to reaffirm India’s support on counter terrorism efforts in Afghanistan. After 9/11 event Al-Qaeda remains the main threat to the US in central and south Asia. India has got encouragement by the US to take active role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan [21]. The US Defense secretary Leon Panetta visited India for two days to strengthen bilateral strategic and defense cooperation as well as discuss China’s growing assertiveness, especially in the contentious South China Sea, and the unstable Afghanistan-Pakistan region. During his visit to India, he met with Indian Prime Minister, National security advisor Shiv Shankar Menon and the defense Minister A.K Antony, and delivered a speech on the growing US-India partnership. India has initiated to train the Afghan National Army after the US encouragement but inside the region of India. There has no any Indian military presence in Afghanistan. Around 3000 Indian nationals work for reconstruction companies, International aid agencies and government employees who were working at the consultants and embassy in Afghanistan. In course of Humanitarian supports India established clinics and child hospitals; they also provide midday meals to the school children [22].

September 11, 2001 is one of the darkest histories of the world which impact all over the world. The United State has started “War against Terrorism” and “Operation Enduring Freedom” in Afghanistan. Due to this situation Afghanistan became more destructive and terroristic. India always wants a peaceful Afghanistan and so that India has spent considerable diplomatic energy and made investment in developing of Afghanistan’s reconstruction. India is very much peaceful country in the Asian region [23]. Due to the tension of India, Pakistan and China, India always wants to make friendly bondages with the Central Asian countries [24]. The developmental work to prepare an Indian satellite to broadcast Afghan State television programmes, India’s involvement in the construction of road and rail link between Termez in Uzbekistan and Chahbahar in Iran, provided assistance towards Salma dam project and pule Khambri electricity project, establishing of Indira Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children in Kabul, the hundreds of Jaipur feet provided to the victims of landmine blasts, the training of Afghan doctors and nurses, diplomats, and teachers, provided scholarship to deserve Afghanistan candidate by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) are ample proof of the investments India is making to ensure a more stable Afghanistan. At the other way India has played a major role in Afghanistan’s reconstruction in the post Taliban era on the development project since 2002 including its parliament building. During the US invasion in Afghanistan, Indian aid has been mostly infrastructure development, health service, and military equipment like Bullet proof jacket and convoy vehicles. India has opened consultant in Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif in August 2002 and in Kandahar and Jalalabad in December 2002 to coordinate its better effort but the embassy was closed in 26th September 1996 after the Taliban took over Kabul. The withdrawal of US force from Afghanistan would have a bearing on India’s internal security apparatus. After the 15 years of US intervention, it cannot afford to let Afghanistan slide back to the days of Taliban rule. India pushes for Afghanistan to be included in the South Asian Association for Regional cooperation (SAARC) in 2005 [25]. This was the smart move which has given close links between peace in Afghanistan and regional security. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1989, most of the Jihadist entered in the conflict zone including Kashmir of India. After 9/11 attack, Pakistani Militant groups moved to Afghanistan to fight against the western coalition. After The withdrawal of ISAF forces from Afghanistan, groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Harkat ul Mujahideen (HUM), and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) might increase the terrorist activity in Indian Kashmir. Because of the terrorist activity most of the young Kashmiris were joining militant groups. 26/11 Mumbai attack was one of the examples of increasing terrorist activity in India. Lashker-e-Taiba was the responsible for this Mumbai attack in India.

FINDINGS

From the above analysis, it would clear that American involvement in Afghanistan is not for the single purpose. The first and foremost purpose of the US involvement in Afghanistan is to demolish the terrorist and Taliban base from Afghanistan. At the same time America wanted to seized the main person behind the 9/11 attack. Along with this, at the later time America also focused on the economic condition of Afghanistan. It is all known that Afghanistan is one of the poor countries among the Asian countries. To provide economic assistance towards Afghanistan is one of the reasons of America. Afghanistan has destructed all the national property due to the terrorist activities which has done by the Taliban group. Apart from this during the Taliban region women and Human rights violations rate is in the high percentage. To make the country peaceful and prosperous America has very much focused in Afghanistan. Consequently, this US involvement in Afghanistan has impacted the foreign policy of India. India and Afghanistan has a very good relationship since the very early period. India also provided lots of reconstruction fund to Afghanistan. Apart from this India has focused on health, education, trade, food, etc. of Afghanistan. India has developed their interest towards the central Asian countries through the road of Afghanistan. This good relationship between Afghanistan and India brought threat towards the security of India. After this there has been lots of terrorist activity happened in India. Afghanistan has received economic and reconstruction assistance from the international community but yet Afghanistan is not be able to developed. The problems of Afghanistan that has faced mention below:

- Corruption is one of the reason which is creates hindrance in the development of Afghanistan. Most of funds that achieved by the international community went to the pockets of government official.
- Though too some extant American presence in Afghanistan has decrease the terrorist activities from Afghanistan but after 2014 means withdrawal of American troops activate the terrorist group in Afghanistan. These groups are again started the violation in Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan has received the funds from the International community and most of the funds that use in the military development rather than the economic development.
- America has involved in the Afghanistan affairs since 2001. Since the period America has use lots of economic assistance in Afghanistan. Apart from Afghanistan America have more bases of troops in other countries. Therefore America would not want to invest more money in Afghanistan. It has become heavy burden for Afghanistan. So they decided to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan.

- Human rights violation is one of major problem of Afghanistan. Basically during the period of Taliban rule in Afghanistan.
- Due to good relationship between Afghanistan and India, India has faced lots of trouble in security concern.
- Absence of powerful political leader in Afghanistan is one reason which creates hindrance in the process of development.

Suggestions

- The first and foremost is to agree to a ceasefire between the coalition forces and the warrior factions in Afghanistan.
- The international community should made more plans and allocate funds for education, economic development and health.
- Afghanistan needs a leader whom Afghans have great respect and from whom they are willing to accept orders. The leader should engage the tribal elders with important decisions. Not only this but also the decisions-making posts at all levels should be proportionally divided among the different ethnic tribes according to the ethnic composition of the country.
- Education is the solution of all problems. Education can bring changes in the society. So, Afghanistan people should engage in the field of Education without any fear.
- Awareness should be spread among the people of Afghanistan.
- The feelings of Brotherhoods or oneness should be spread among the people of Afghanistan.
- In case of security concern of India, India should develop the security force and on the humanitarian ground India should provide more facilities to Afghanistan.
- US should keep out themselves from the Afghanistan regions. They should focus in Afghanistan as on humanitarian ground rather than military ground.
- More emphasis needs to be laid on developing and strengthening the war torn infrastructure. The Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) need to be more active and instrumental in this regard.
- There is an urgent need to address the massive corruption at all levels. International community should encourage Afghan leaders to draft sweeping anti-corruption legislation, arrest and prosecute corrupt officials at the national and local levels, create inspector general offices in key ministries, provide support to the justice system, and conduct a robust public information campaign.

CONCLUSION

The war in Afghanistan cannot be win militarily the past more than one decade clearly reflect that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Now US forces should withdraw from

Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom - purely combat in nature has achieved neither peace, nor stability but instability, violence nor poverty, in short occupation and turmoil. Since 2014 America has withdraw their forces slowly. Lastly, it can be said that Afghanistan has an opportunity for change but it will require strong political leadership, strategic thinking, new levels of cooperation and coordination, openness, and a willingness to engage with the issues holistically rather than on a piecemeal basis. The international community has demonstrated its unity, commitment, and staying power with respect to Afghanistan. This all bodes well for concerted, sustained efforts in the future to tackle the most important constraints hindering further progress in national reconstruction.

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