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US-Afghanistan War and its Ramifications

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Dedication

To my beloved mother, who is and will forever be the source of encouragement, patience and support

To my three faithful brothers: Akram , Hamoudi and Saber who believed in me and being caring and helpful, and to whom I wish successful lives

To my dear sister, the person who has always helped and motivated me throughout my life

To me, because I deserve a dedication too!

To my dead mother, may Allah rest her in peace

To my father, who is the source of inspiration and the one who gave me strength in times I was about to give up

To my husband , my support in the difficulties I went through

To my sisters and brothers, who shared their pieces of advice and encouragement to do this work

To my best friend " Fethiza Ali Dounia " who never let me down

To all my teachers and friends

We dedicate this honest work.

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By the name Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Abstract

The war on terror is the recent greatest and longest war of all times. The current study attempts to investigate the most prominent war between the US and Afghanistan that began on 11th, September 2001 to 2021. It highlights the different ramifications and implications of the US-Afghanistan conflict. In order to conduct this study, three questions have been asked. The first inquired on the reasons behind which the US invaded Afghanistan. The second examined the withdrawal strategies along with the ways of ending the war. The third scrutinized the ramifications of US-Afghanistan war. To respond to the questions three hypotheses have been formulated. The first sought to highlight the relationship between the invasion of Afghanistan and quelling the terrorism in its territory. The Second hypothesized that the US intention of ending the can be traced through series of withdrawal policies. The third related to the effects of ending the war which led several ramifications that affect international relations. In order to investigate the validity of our hypotheses, we selected the corpora subject to this study from literature available, using the techniques of the historical and descriptive- methods. Accordingly, the study revealed the following results; Us-Afghanistan war caused serious ramifications on all levels: economically, socially and psychologically on both countries.

Keywords: Conflict, Ramifications, US-Afghanistan War

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANSF	Afghan Government and its Force
AQC	Al-Qaeda Central
AUMF	Authorization for the Use of Military Force
CT	Counterterrorism
COIN	Counterinsurgency
DOD	The Department of Defense
GWOT	Global War on Terror
ISIS-K	ISIS-Khorasan
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
SPA	The Strategic Partnership Agreement

Table of Contents

Dedication.....	I
Acknowledgments.....	II
Abstract.....	III
List of Abbreviations.....	IV
Table of Contents.....	V
The General Introduction.....	1

Chapter One: US-Afghanistan War: Historical Overview

Introduction.....	5
1.1 The Geopolitical Location of Afghanistan.....	5
1.2 The Construction of the Taliban and Al-Qaida Association.....	6
1.3 US-Afghanistan Political Relations.....	8
1.4The Causes of US Invasion.....	9
1.4.1The Impact of 9/11 Attacks	11
1.4.2The Formation of Al-Qaeda.....	12
1.4.3 Taliban and Its Impacts: Regionally & Globally.....	14
1.5 The War Planning.....	16
1.5.1 Military Objectives.....	18
1.5.2 Strategic Objective.....	20
1.5.3 Planning for Major Combat and its Operations.....	21
Conclusion.....	23

Chapter two: US Withdrawal Strategies

Introduction.....	25
2.1 Withdrawal Decision Conditions.....	25
2.2 The Implementation Phase.....	27
2.2.1 Military Surge.....	30
2.2.2 Civilian Surge.....	32
2.2.3 Pakistan Problems.....	34
2.2.4 The Diplomatic Surge.....	35
2.3 The Decision to Withdraw: Costs and Advantage.....	37
Conclusion.....	41

Chapter Three: US-Afghanistan War: Ramifications and Effects

Introduction.....	42
3.1 The Political and Economic Implications.....	42
3.2 The Social Ramifications.....	45
3.3 Taliban Victory.....	48
3.4 The End of the Physical Conflict.....	52
3.5 Rebuilding of Afghanistan.....	55
Conclusion.....	58
General Conclusion.....	60
References.....	63
الملخص.....	74

The General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The conflict between the US and Afghanistan is one of the longest contemporary wars which involve the international coalition of military forces. Less than four weeks after the terrorist events of September 11th, 2001, President George W. Bush addressed the nation from the White House Treaty Room, less than four weeks after the United States was shaken from its hegemonic doldrums. Since 1996, the international community has chastised Mullah Omar's Taliban for their enigmatic social policies and crimes against Afghanistan's minority groups but has failed to engage meaningfully (Timeline, 2021). However, the assassination of 19 al-Qaeda terrorists inspired the US to intervene militarily on behalf of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan's latest civil war to retaliate against al-Qaeda and its Taliban supporters.

The Bush administration's efforts, which received widespread international support, commenced the war on terror which spanned far beyond Afghanistan's borders. The war began on October 7th, 2001, when the United States with some countries of NATO such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and other allies invaded Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom. The ultimate objective of this conquering Osama bin Laden who was the prime suspect in the September 11th, 2001 attacks and was under the protection of the Taliban. These attacks on New York and Washington were one of the reasons for the US-Afghanistan war within which nearly 3,000 people were killed. Taliban swiftly lost control of the country and relocated to Southern Afghanistan and over the Pakistani border.

They launched an insurgency against the Western-backed Kabul government, Afghan national security forces, and international coalition troops from there. Also, Afghanistan has a strategic geostrategic location for its centrality in Asia It is bordered by Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to the north, Iran to the West, and China to the East, and Pakistan to the South. Its significant location captured America's lust for wealth. The war ended in August 2021 with the formation of the Taliban, the Panjshir conflict, and the killing of Osama bin Laden along with the death of many other victims (Timeline, 2021).

2. Statement of the Problem

There have been variety of responses, from military involvement to the traditional methods of peace building. It is critical to consider all forms of spoilers when assessing the spoilers' process of the Afghan peace. Other performers, who have not been yet identified as spoilers, may behave in compromising the experience of the audience. Taking a spoiler perspective on external state actors is equally vital and it is important to assess the extent to which they can be direct, intentionally, or unintentionally. As a result, the instance chosen for this study may help shed light on how foreign states can undermine international peace efforts. One of the issues the study tries to stress is the facilitator's role in peace negotiations and the spoiling potential of the actor, particularly when that actor is a democratic country.

3. Research Questions

To reach the objective of the current study, three questions are raised:

1. Why did the USA invade Afghanistan?
2. How did the war end, and what were the US policies of withdrawal?
3. What are the ramifications of the US-Afghanistan war? And how does that affect international relations?

3. Research Hypotheses

In the light of the cited questions, three hypotheses are formulated:

- 1- US invasion of Afghanistan leads to quell the terrorist associations and controlling the country's wealth.
2. The US intension of ending the can be traced through series of withdrawal policies.
3. The ending of the war leads to several ramifications that affect international relations.

4. Aims of the Study

The study under investigation set out to highlight the different ramifications and implications of the US- Afghanistan war. To reach out this ultimate objective, sub-objective has been pinpointed. First, the study aims to unveil the reason for the US invasion of Afghanistan. Second, US did not withdraw easily and clearly to finish the war, thus this research depicts the end of the war and the policies of withdrawing along with it. Finally, the US-Afghanistan war ending leads to several ramifications and implications which the study tends to reveal.

5. Research Methodology

The current study is qualitative. It uses the historical and descriptive- methods to generate the ramifications and the implications of the US-Afghanistan war. The data is collected from books, journals, and studies. Also, documentaries and political media are dependent on having the data needed.

6. Significance of the Study

This study is significant to understand the reasons and the factors that encouraged the war between US-Afghanistan. It helps the upcoming researchers to undertake the War on Terror from a new perspective.

7. Structure of the Study

The current research is three folds. The first chapter is titled US-Afghanistan's War: Historical Overview. It exposes the geopolitical importance of Afghanistan's locations and US-

Afghanistan political relations. It exceeds to shed the light on the formation of the Taliban and Al-Qaida which led to the invasion. The second chapter is about US withdrawal strategies. It deals with US policies regarding the process of withdrawal from Afghanistan. The last chapter discussed the ramifications and the implications of the war and its effects on international relations.

CHAPTER ONE:

US-Afghanistan War: Historical Overview

Introduction

United States of America (USA) had fought two wars in Afghanistan, one against the Soviet Union in the 1980s and the second after the horrific incident of 9/11; the direct reason behind the American invasion of Afghanistan on October 7th, 2001. Afghanistan is a notoriously difficult country to govern. Empires and nations failed to pacify the modern territory of Afghanistan, named “Graveyard of Empires.” Firstly, in the 19th century, there was a bloody race between Russia and United Kingdom to extend control over Afghanistan due to its geopolitical location which was the part of "Great Game". The three Anglo-Afghan wars made the British realize that the occupation of Afghanistan was impossible. Secondly, in the 1980s Soviet Union was defeated in Afghanistan, and thirdly, in the recent past, the USA left Afghanistan on 30th August 2021 after ending its twenty years-long war. This is enough justification for the nickname. Thus, this chapter provides the historical overview of US-Afghanistan war.

1.1 The Geopolitical Location of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is an island nation. It is in Central Asia, bordering Iran to the West and Pakistan to the East. Afghanistan's landscape is dominated by tall, forbidding mountains and deserts. The jagged mountain peaks are treacherous, and most of the year they are covered in snow. Because it is located at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, the country has international significance. As a result, it serves as a gateway to the Middle East and Central Asia. Its geopolitical significance has grown as a result of its proximity and the activities of its external stakeholders—;Pakistan, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States, China, Russia, and some Central Asian republics.(Kenny, 2016).

Aside from its strategic location, Afghanistan is rich in natural and mineral resources. Bamyan province's Hajigak mines contain iron and other minerals worth \$1 trillion. (Mohammad

Zahir Akbari, 2018). Afghanistan has always been a key to the rivalry for pipeline routes due to its immense resources. Similarly, the unexplored resources and the pretty essential location led the enormous international competition for the invasion of this country which created; indeed, a geopolitical conflict. The terrain of Afghanistan makes it very difficult for any country to win a war there. The USA fought in Afghanistan for almost two decades with the privilege of the best and the most advanced weaponry in the world, but remained unsuccessful to create their hegemony over it. The navy is useless and the air force is not of much importance just because of its unusual terrain, only the land force can fight thereby facing extreme difficulties.

1.2 The Construction of the Taliban and Al-Qaida Association

The Taliban group was founded in 1993-1994 by Afghan Muslim students and clergy, the majority of whom were from rural Pashtun districts. Many of them were former mujahideen, or anti-Soviet troops, who had grown tired of the civil war that erupted after the Soviet Union withdrew in 1989 and the subsequent fall of the Soviet-backed government in 1992 (Britannica, 2022).

Many members of the movement were educated in Pakistani seminaries and chose the term Taliban (plural of Talib, an Islamic student) to differentiate themselves from the Mujahideen (Ahmed Rashid, 2000). Pakistan backed the Taliban because it could "bring order to Afghanistan's chaotic situation and transform it into a cooperative ally," providing Pakistan with "better protection on one of several borders where Pakistani military officers desired "strategic depth" (National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, 2004). The Taliban's practices and beliefs were based partially on the conservative tribal traditions of Pashtuns, who make up a plurality (but not a majority) of Afghanistan's ethnic makeup and have traditionally dominated the territory. Taliban perceived the president Burhanuddin Rabbani's post-Soviet government as incompetent, dishonest, and anti-Pashtun. Popular support for Taliban developed

during the four-year of civil war between the mujahideen groups (1992-1996), as they were considered less corrupted and stronger to deliver stability; as Zalmay Khalilzad, who subsequently became the US ambassador to Afghanistan, remarked, "I, like many, was optimistic about the Taliban" at the outset (Zalmay Khalilzad, 2016). In November 1994, Taliban seized control of Kandahar in the South and launched a series of military campaigns throughout the country, culminating in the conquest of Kabul on September 27th, 1996.

When the Taliban imposed strict obedience to their version of Islam in the areas they controlled, they quickly lost international and domestic support. To enforce their decrees, they used harsh punishments such as public executions. They also prohibited television, Western music, and dancing. Apart from health care concerns, they made it illegal for women to attend school or work outside the home. They publicly executed women convicted of adultery. They somehow managed to govern Afghanistan till 2001 and lost control within the month of the US invasion of the country(Watch, 2020).

Taliban fighters stormed the capital on August 15, 2021, forcing President Ashraf Ghani to flee and the Afghan government to collapse. Taliban returned to power after 20 years following the ouster of the United States from the country under the US-Taliban peace deal. Meanwhile in their second term, the situation is the same as in the first term, due to their harsh laws and restrictions no country has yet recognized Afghanistan(Watch, 2020).

On the other hand Al-Qaeda was constructed. Al-Qaeda, , i.e. the Base, is a multinational militant Sunni Islamic extremist organization founded by Osama bin Laden and several other Arab volunteers during the Soviet-Afghan War in the late 1980s(Wikipedia Contributors, 2022).

During the Afghan War, Al-Qaeda began as a logistical network to aid Muslims fighting the Soviet Union; its members were drawn from all over the Muslim world. When the Soviet Union

left Afghanistan in 1989, the organization disbanded, but its leaders continued to oppose corrupt Islamic regimes and foreign (i.e., American) involvement in Islamic lands. The gang was based in Sudan in the early 1990s before moving to Afghanistan in 1996, when it was supported by the Taliban insurgency.

The September 11th attacks on the United States were carried out by 19 al-Qaeda-affiliated militants in 2001. Within weeks of the September 11th attacks, the US government launched the "war on terror" which aimed to destabilize al-Qaeda and its allies. The United Nations Security Council, whose permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, NATO, the European Union, India, and several other nations have branded Al-Qaeda as a terrorist organization. Since the September 11th, 2001 attacks, it has become the most sought terrorist organization in history, and despite significant casualties, it remains a resilient and potent menace to the United States (Watch, 2020).

1.3 US-Afghanistan Political Relations

The United States established diplomatic ties with Afghanistan in 1935. During the Second World War, in the early stages of a relationship, the US attempted to destabilize the Soviet Union by helping Pakistan, a US ally, which in turn supported the Afghan Mujahideen (Hartzell & Hoddie, 2003). Nevertheless, the resident Najibullah, a communist, hoped-for peace talks, but the United States refused to cooperate with his government. Instead, with the help of its ally Pakistan the US continued to ship military weapons and equipment to Islamic fundamentalists, which presented a threat to regional security (Gargan, 1992 & Burrough, 2009)s continue to suggest that the United States's foreign policy goals in Afghanistan were to prevent the Soviet Union from expanding and to destabilize the country's communist regime. The US achieved its purpose when Najibullah resigned from his office in 1992.

Moreover, the US-Taliban peace talks stretch back to the 1990s, before Al-Qaida stormed US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and even after the bombings in the late 1990s. The US sought to broaden the Taliban's government and oil businesses through the talks (Greenwood, 2013). Consequently, the US sought to keep its company's approach to the oil and gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to South Asia through Afghanistan. In this scenario, the US even threatened Taliban with military invasion if they did not accept their demands and assist the talks, which is essentially extortion on the American side (Greenwood, 2013). However, following September 11th, 2001, terrorist assault on the United States, the United States initiated a military intervention in Afghanistan. The US forged ties with the Northern Alliance, whose joint purpose was to depose Taliban, an Al-Qaida partner (Burrough, 2009).

There have been no political relations between Afghanistan and the United States since the United States left Afghanistan. The US Embassy in Kabul will cease operations on August 31, 2021. The United States and the international community pressed Afghanistan to repeal their harsh decrees, particularly those targeting women. Still, the US has not recognized Afghanistan, and US President Joe Biden signed an executive order allowing approximately half of the \$7 billion in frozen assets from Afghanistan's central bank to be reserved for 9/11 victims. According to the White House, the remaining assets, totaling \$3.5 billion, will be placed in a trust fund for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan (White House, 2021).

1.4 The Causes of US Invasion

The attacks were a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks carried out in 2001 by 19 militants affiliated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against targets in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in US history. The attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., caused widespread death and destruction, triggering a massive counter-terrorism effort in the United States. In New York, 2,750 people were killed, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed after the passengers

attempted to retake the plane); all 19 terrorists were killed (Researcher's Note: September 11 attacks). New York's police and fire departments were particularly hard hit: hundreds had rushed to the scene of the attacks, and over 400 police officers and firefighters were killed.

Under the guise of the War on Terror, the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001, with the support of NATO and more than 40 countries. The main reason for the invasion was the US's military capability to eliminate Al-Qaeda and its support network within the Taliban. It should be noted, however, that no terrorist organization claimed responsibility for the 9/11 attacks, despite the fact that some may have sympathized with the act itself. For nearly two decades, the United States has legitimized its military operations as "Operation Enduring Freedom" (2001-14) and "Operation Freedom's Sentinel" (2015-end). Over 100,000 civilians and 60,000 security forces have been killed as a result of these military operations (UN News, 2020) (Aljazeera, 2019).

In terms of the War on Terror, the global landmark event of 9/11 was undoubtedly the worst act of terrorism committed on US soil. However, the following events, including the justifications for the War on Terror, have been widely condemned. Following 9/11, numerous attempts were made to persuade Taliban members to hand over terror suspects responsible for the 9/11 attacks, particularly Osama Bin Laden (Misra, 2004). Attempts at nonviolent negotiations, however, failed due to the Taliban's lack of cooperation at a critical juncture when failure was not an option for the United States and cooperation with terrorists was not favored by the United States (Misra, 2004). The Taliban's refusal to cooperate in the handover of the Al-Qaeda terrorist led to the US invasion of the country. Afghanistan has since experienced its worst economic and humanitarian crisis.

1.4.1 The Impact of 9/11 Attacks

The international critical events including, wars or acts of terrorism, are conspicuously needless to analysis or interpretation; instead, they “speak for themselves”. The attacks of September 11th, 2001, Are considerably presumed to fit into this category; like the events of December 7th, 1941; to which they are frequently compared. 9/11 attacks, according to American story, was an act of war committed by spoilers who were envious of the American lifestyle and its core values that necessitated a large- scale military response.

The September 11th attacks changed the perception of the world towards Muslims and the jihadists. The USA adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorists and their safe havens. The responsive war on terror destabilized the whole region over the long course of the period. e USA declared war, and, back and forth, hundreds of organizations were declared terrorist entities. The crackdown on terrorists by military forces produced a notable number of refugees which is still a matter to resolve. The September 11th attacks were tragic to the Americans including Muslims who lived and resided in the United States. Since then, Muslims have faced a barrage of retaliation from various segments of the American public in the form of hate crimes, defamatory speech, harassment, job discrimination, and Islamophobia(Cainkar, 2004; CAIR, 2002;Human Rights Watch, 2002; Stewart, 2003; Swahn et al., 2003).

According to a Human Rights Watch study published in November 2002, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) reported a 17-fold increase in anti-Muslim crimes nationwide during 2001 (Human Rights Watch, 2002).According to CAIR (2002),in the first seven days following September 11, Arabs and South Asians reported 645 “bias incidents and hate crimes.” (Swahn et al.,2003).Analyzing newspaper reports from September 11th to October 11th, 2001, 99 incidents of hate crime against Muslims were discovered. The vast majority of these crimes occurred in convenience stores, on the streets, at gas stations, schools/colleges, and mosques. It also impacted the lives of Muslims around the world. The world started to perceive Muslims as

terrorists and an unprecedented level of hatred emerged toward Muslims which still haunts them and will be for so long.

Suicide terrorism is one of the most lethal terrorist strategies used by various terrorist organizations around the world, but the 9/11 terrorist attacks have made suicide terrorism a popular attack strategy among terrorist organizations worldwide. Most terrorist attacks after the 9/11 incident were carried out through suicide bombing which was the product of the 9/11 attacks (Causes & Explanations of Suicide Terrorism: A Systematic Review, 2018). America with NATO commenced a crackdown on terrorists around the world. Pakistan helped America in the war on terror in Afghanistan which led to the loss of more than sixty thousand Pakistan national lives either by American drone attacks or by terrorist organizations. It is considered the hotbed of the terrorist organization also suffered the brutality of American forces. The collateral damage in Pakistan and the surge in terrorist attacks within Pakistan were a result of becoming America's ally. Millions of Afghan nationals also suffered because of the war and even after two decades which led to the instability of Afghanistan. It passed through intense problems which include terrorist attacks and humanitarian crises.

1.4.2 The Formation of Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is a transnational Sunni Islamist terrorist network that operates in over 60 countries worldwide. At the heart of the web is the core group, which will be referred to as al-Qaeda Central (AQC), a disciplined, highly professional cadre of committed revolutionaries that now likely numbers less than 1,000 dedicated members, and possibly less than 500 (Capabilities, 2007: pp, 87).

It is a transnational Sunni Islamist terrorist organization and network of affiliates that, as of early 2022, the US intelligence community described as one of the groups that "probably pose the greatest threat to US persons and interests abroad" and a potential source of inspiration for

domestic violent extremists. Since the September 11th, 2001 (9/11) attacks, the group has been weakened by sustained counterterrorism (CT) pressure (Britannica, 2022).

Al Qaeda was founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden from a network of Arab and other foreign veterans of the Afghan insurgency against the Soviet Union. He planned to back Islamist causes in conflicts all over the world. Following the 1991 Gulf War, the group made the United States its primary target, citing opposition to Saudi Arabia's decision to host US troops. Bin Laden fled his home country that year and relocated to Sudan until the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 1996, when AQ members and other armed Islamists were given refuge.

Prior to 9/11, Al Qaeda carried out a series of terrorist attacks against US and allied targets, including the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which prompted the US to launch airstrikes against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen. In 1999, the United States designated Al Qaeda as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). Following the 9/11 attacks, the United States launched military operations in Afghanistan to depose the Taliban government and expanded its CT efforts globally. Some AQ leaders fled to Pakistan, where US forces killed Bin Laden in 2011. AQ attacks on US and Western targets around the world continued in the years following 9/11, but the group has not carried out a major attack inside the US since then (Johnson, 2021).

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is a Salafi-jihadist militant group and US-designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO) operating in the Sahara and Sahel. The group has its origins in Algeria's civil war in the 1990s and has evolved over the last decade into an al-Qaeda affiliate with regional ambitions. According to US officials, AQIM and its offshoots pose the primary transnational terror threat in North and West Africa, but are unlikely to strike in the US or Europe. The flow of militants from the Sahara and Sahel to Syria and Iraq, where thousands of Moroccan and Tunisian citizens have joined terrorist

groups, has raised concerns about battle-hardened fighters returning to these relatively stable countries (Britannica, 2022).

As of today, Al-Qaeda has very little presence in the world which is probably hidden in Afghanistan or Arab Countries. Al-Qaeda had lost its power and integrity after the war on terror and the death of its leader and founder Osama Bin Laden on May 2nd, 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan which led to the downfall of the organization. Ayman al-Zawahiri is an Egyptian who is now considered the leader of Al-Qaeda and has come after Osama Bin Laden following this death (New Justice, 2014).

1.4.3 Taliban and Its Impacts: Regionally & Globally

The Taliban is primarily made up of Sunni Muslim Pashtuns. This largest Afghan ethnic group historically occupied a large swath of land stretching from central-western Afghanistan through much of the south and up the country's eastern border. Invaders have long attempted, mostly in vain, to overpower the Pashtuns in the region. Since Alexander's invasion of Afghanistan in 326 B.C., many foreign military forces have entered the country, including Persians, Scythians, Kushans, Sakas, Huns, Arabs, Turks, Mongols, British, Russians, and, most recently, Americans and NATO allies. 4 The Pashtuns, who are fiercely independent, have always defended their homeland against foreign intruders. No outside force has ever been able to completely subdue them. The Pashtuns are unwilling to accept any form of strict authority, even if it means causing discord and insecurity (Faris,2020).

Taliban ruled Afghanistan earlier from 1996 to 2001. The recent emergence powerfully is in the second term of the Afghan government in Afghanistan. The later has no good political relations, especially with the ones that provided humanitarian and financial support in the past(Alex Thier and Scott Worden 2017). Taliban bring instability to the country and the region as well. Pakistan is the country that is disturbed most by the act of Taliban and they are still

haunting Pakistan with their illicit acts. The border skirmishes with Pakistan are very frequent although Pakistan has good relations with the Taliban in government. The issue of refugees also brings difficulties for Pakistan. Following the Taliban takeover, millions of dollars in lost income, rising prices, aid cuts, a liquidity crisis, and cash shortages triggered by former donor countries, particularly the United States, have deprived a large portion of the population of access to food, water, shelter, and health care (Aarish Ullah Khan, 2005). More than half of the population, 24.4 million people, including 12.9 million children, require humanitarian assistance. Several disease outbreaks are still active. Afghans will suffer catastrophic consequences if they do not have access to basic life-saving services. “Afghan women and girls are facing both the collapse of their rights and dreams and risks to their basic survival”, said Halima Kazem-Stojanovic, a core faculty member of SJSU’s Human Rights Institute and a scholar on Afghanistan. “They are caught between Taliban abuses and actions by the international community that is pushing Afghans further into desperation every day.” (Human Rights Watch, 2022)

In the era of Ashraf Ghani’s government, Afghanistan had diplomatic relations with other countries. The US embassy was working in Afghanistan. There was no violation of human rights in Afghanistan except those which were performed by the US military. But with the emergence of the Taliban in power, the situation deteriorated. The world has now alienated Afghanistan because of its rulers’ ideology and the blatant violation of human rights in the country. The impact and realization of Taliban government are not fruitful. No one is sure of their behavior and their commitment to aligning themselves with international standards. The reason behind Afghanistan’s alienation from the world is the hardened and non-cooperative behavior of Taliban (Huma Baqai and Nausheen Wasi, 2021).

1.5 The War Planning

George W. Bush declared the start of a global war on terror less than 12 hours after the 9/11 attacks. Bush and his supporters emphasized the importance of going on the offensive against terrorists, deploying US military force, promoting democracy in the Middle East, and granting the commander-in-chief broad wartime powers. His detractors either question the concept of a "war on terror" or emphasize the need to fight it differently. Most leading Democrats acknowledge the need to use force in some cases, but argue that success will come from reestablishing the United States' moral authority and ideological appeal, conducting more and smarter diplomacy, and intensifying cooperation with key allies. They contend that Bush's approach to the war on terror has produced more terrorists than it has eliminated. President Obama carried forward this war and he was the one who talked first about the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. After Obama, President Donald Trump continued the war and it eventually ended with the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in the term of President Joe Biden on 31th August 2021 after the US-Taliban peace deal. Ever since there is a debate about the outcomes of this war and what the US has achieved in the process(Philip H. Gordon, 2007).

The US adopted a comprehensive strategy for this war. They wanted to destroy terrorists and also control Afghanistan at the same time because of its geopolitical location. It made alliances with military forces and intelligence forces of many countries to fight this war. They attacked with meticulous planning and the most advanced weaponry available at the time. After the United Nations Security Council passed the resolution, the United States invaded Afghanistan with its western allies, known collectively as NATO countries. After expressing its determination to combat threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and recognizing the right to individual and collective self-defense, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1368 on September 12, 2001, condemning the September 11 attacks in the United States(The United Nations Security Council, 2001).

The international community was urged to step up efforts to combat and prevent terrorist activity through collaboration and the implementation of anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 1269. (1999). The Council concluded Resolution 1368 by expressing its readiness to respond to the attacks and combat all forms of terrorism in accordance with the United Nations Charter.(Boulden, Jane; Weiss, 2004).

Whether fighting to defeat Al Qaeda or, more recently, the Islamic State, the United States had been at war for two decades, the longest in US history. Tangible costs of the war on terror include:

- Over 7,000 US troops and 8,000 contractors have been killed.
- 2.5 million Americans were sent to fight in Afghanistan.
- Over 73,000 allied troops and national police have been killed in Afghanistan/Pakistan, and over 100,000 more allied troops have been killed in Iraq and Syria.
- In the post-9/11 wars, four times as many US service members committed suicide as died in combat.
- Certain states and communities in the United States have paid a higher human cost than others, indicating a larger pattern of inequality in military service (BBC, 2021).

According to a new report from Brown University's Costs of War project, nearly 20 years after the United States invaded Afghanistan, the cost of its global war on terror stands at \$8 trillion and 900,000 deaths. According to the report, \$2.3 trillion of the \$8 trillion is attributed to the Afghanistan/Pakistan war zone. The death toll, which is estimated to be between 897,000 and 929,000, includes US military personnel, allied fighters, opposition fighters, civilians, journalists, and humanitarian aid workers killed as a direct result of war, whether by bombs, bullets, or fire. It does not, according to the researchers, despite the many indirect deaths caused by the war on terror due to disease, displacement, and a lack of access to food or clean drinking

water . Whatever the objectives of the war were, whatever the US had achieved, whatever they had not, the thing which is very prominent here is that the war led to the destruction of millions of Afghan nationals, and now after the war has been ended the lives of the Afghan people are in danger. The US war strategy and objective did not seem to prove well for the country (Murtaza Hussain, 2021).

1.5.1 Military Objectives

The military objectives of the USA in the war on terror were the destruction of terrorists and Al-Qaeda and to make Afghanistan a terrorist-free, stable, and peaceful country, to make assure that Afghanistan soil would not be used for the terrorist attack on the USA again. After they ousted the Taliban from the government, the USA made Hamid Karzai, the first elected President of Afghanistan in 2004. They also trained and funded Afghan forces and Afghan police. The USA also wanted to control Afghanistan due to its prime location. It is a gateway country to Central Asia and the Middle East. It borders Iran to the west and Pakistan to the east and south. By controlling Afghanistan USA could keep eye on the Middle East as well as Central and South Asia. It also has the expected trillion-dollar resources of rare earth minerals. The perks of controlling Afghanistan are too beneficial from the military and economic perspective (Leoni Connah, 2021).

AQ operatives carried out a series of terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people. On September 20th, President Obama delivered a national address before a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush demanded in 2001 that the Taliban hand over AQ leaders, permanently close terrorist training camps, and allow the US access to such camps, adding that the Taliban had violated the terms of the agreement “must hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate” (Washington Post, 2001). Taliban leaders refused, citing bin Laden's status as a guest in their country.(Coll, 2018).

According to a September 18, 2001 (P.L. 107-40) authorization for the use of military force (AUMF), U.S. military action began on October 7, 2001, with airstrikes on Taliban targets throughout the country and close air support to anti-Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan. A small number of U.S. Less than two weeks later, Army Special Forces, CIA paramilitary forces, and some conventional ground forces began deploying in Afghanistan(Walter L. Perry and David Kassing, 2002). By November 13, the Taliban had fled Kabul, which was quickly retaken by Afghan forces (known as the Northern Alliance).

As US-backed Afghan forces approached Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban movement and home of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, Taliban leaders reportedly offered terms of surrender, including amnesty for Taliban fighters who laid down their arms. While many Taliban fighters and leaders were killed or captured by US or Afghan forces, others (including Mullah Omar) sought refuge in remote or rural areas of Afghanistan or fled to Pakistan.

In December 2001, Afghan delegates convened by the United Nations in Bonn, Germany, chose Hamid Karzai to lead an interim national government, ushering in post-Taliban governance. There appears to have been no attempt to include the Taliban in those talks. No Taliban members attended the emergency Loya Jirga (consultative assembly) in 2002 that elected Karzai as president (Barnett R. Rubin,2002).

The formation of the new Afghan government also marked the start of a major new mission for US forces and their international partners: assisting in the defense and development of that government and its fledgling military. Karzai attended President Bush's State of the Union address in January 2002, where he stated that the US and Afghanistan were "allies against terror" and that "we will be partners in rebuilding that country."(White House, 2002)The Bush Administration was supported in this approach by Congress, which authorized and appropriated funds for expanded US military and civilian assistance missions (e.g., via the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act, 2002, P.L. 107-327, reauthorized and expanded in the Afghanistan

Freedom Support Act Amendments of 2004, Section 7104 of P.L. 108-458). On May 1, 2003, US officials declared the end of major combat operations in Afghanistan, despite the fact that then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that “pockets of resistance in certain parts of the country remain” (CNN, 2003).

The military objectives of the USA in Afghanistan were so important that the USA prolonged the war for two decades. There is a separate debate on the outcomes and achievements of the USA in the war on terror. Somehow after the two-decades-long fight, the USA had to stand down with its struggle and the Taliban forced them to leave Afghanistan. When the USA invaded the country, they sidelined the Taliban government, and later after two decades at the time of their ouster Taliban were again coming to the power. The USA spent 2.3 trillion dollars (two thousand and three hundred billion dollars (BBC, 2020) in the war in Afghanistan but they remained unsuccessful in achieving their objectives.

1.5.2 Strategic Objective

The preceding assessment leaves little doubt that Afghanistan faces significant challenges in every aspect of national life. Although the country has been successfully revitalized after decades of war—and the outcome has been greatly aided by more U.S. assistance to Kabul than was extended to Europe under the Marshall Plan after WWII—the question of whether such support can be extended on an ongoing basis is heavily dependent on the value of U.S. interests and aims in Afghanistan. Recognizing that the threats emanating from Afghanistan have changed significantly since Congress authorized the use of military force in 2001, it is reasonable to assess whether the original objectives have been met and, if not, whether these objectives remain valid (Asheley J. Tellis, Jeff Eggers, 2017)

The unprecedented trauma of the September 11th attacks prompted the United States to intervene militarily in Afghanistan, to decimate al-Qaeda and its supporters "to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations, or

persons. "Since then, the core of al-Qaeda has been dismantled to the point of incoherence as a result of relentless US and allied military operations. Despite this achievement, the extremist ideology embodied by al-Qaeda persists across a more diffuse movement, and there are residual fears that the resurgent Taliban insurgency will provide a safe haven for transnational terrorist successors to al-Qaeda, such as the self-proclaimed Islamic State, as well as formidable regional terrorist groups, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), provoking major crises involving local nuclear-armed powers India and Pakistan (or even threaten the United States itself should LeT choose to operate further afield).

The primary goal of US military operations in Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of September 11 was to eliminate the possibility of such a haven. This goal was originally intended to be the defeat of the Taliban, but as success on that front proved elusive, the US strategy evolved by 2010 to focus on transitioning conflict resolution to Afghan responsibility, with Washington footing the bill. Given Afghanistan's poor infrastructure, state capacity weaknesses, and the intensity of the insurgency, the other initial goal of stabilizing Afghanistan—through robust economic development and transformed governance—was increasingly seen as unattainable by the start of Obama's second term. By the end of his presidency, both the ongoing conflict with the Taliban and Washington's long-term financial commitment to Kabul had become questionable (Asheley J.Tellis, Jeef Edggers, 2017) .

Following the withdrawal of the United States, US policy should aim to protect the integrity of the Afghan state by attempting to end hostilities with the Taliban on acceptable terms and in ways that mitigate the region's threats of terrorism, instability, and conflict.

1.5.3 Planning for Major Combat and its Operations

"The attack took place on American soil, but it was an attack on the heart and soul of the civilized world. And the world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and

we hope the only one, of the 21st century. A war against all those who seek to export terror and a war against those governments that support or shelter them." (President George W. Bush)

Terrorists attacked freedom on September 11th. The international community has formed an unprecedented coalition to combat international terrorism. President George W. Bush increased homeland security and built a global coalition that:

- began to destroy al-Qaeda's in Afghanistan by driving the Taliban from power; and
- disrupted al-Qaeda's operations and terrorist financing networks.
- Al-Qaeda terrorist training camps were destroyed.
- Assisting the innocent people of Afghanistan in their recovery from the Taliban's reign of terror (News, 2020).
- Assisting Afghans in putting aside long-standing differences in order to form a new interim government that represents all Afghans, including women (News, 2020)..

President Bush was carrying out a comprehensive and visionary foreign policy in the fight against international terrorism. His policy warns the world that any country that harbors or supports terrorism will be considered a hostile regime.

The term "Operation Enduring Freedom" refers to the war in Afghanistan, (Philipps, 2017; Dempsey, 2017) However, it was also linked to counter-terrorism operations in other countries, including OEF-Philippines and OEF-Trans Sahara (Boston University Institute for the Study of Conflict, 2007; Lamothe, 2014).

After 13 years, President Barack Obama declared the end of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on December 28, 2014 (DOD News, 2017). Following non-combat and combat operations in Afghanistan by US military forces were known as Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

The official name used by the United States government for the mission that succeeded Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in the continuation of the War in Afghanistan as part of the larger Global War on Terrorism was Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS). The NATO-led Resolute Support Mission began on January 1, 2015. OFS consisted of two parts: counterterrorism and collaboration with allies as part of Resolute Support (Gen. John F. Campbell, 2018).

By February 2020, there were 16,551 NATO and non-NATO troops in Afghanistan (NATO, 2020). By June 2020, the figure had fallen to 15,937 (NATO, 2020). There were 9592 NATO and non-NATO troops in Afghanistan in February 2021 (NATO, 2021b).

In 2020, the Afghan National Security Forces had a self-reported strength of over 300,000 personnel (SIGAR, 2020). During the August phase of the Taliban offensive in 2021, these forces surrendered or fled to neighboring countries, leaving the Taliban in control of nearly the entire country.

Operation Freedom Sentinel was supposed to end on August 31st, 2021, but it ended on August 30th, with the final withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan (ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR, 2021).

Conclusion

The events of the terrorist attack on September 11th, 2001, which were carried out at the Twin Towers of World Trade Center, The Pentagon, and the attempt on the US capitol or White House led to a huge amount of economic and human loss. It was a series of four coordinated suicide terrorist attacks carried out by the militant Islamic network Al-Qaeda. In response, the US launched the Global war on terror (GWOT), popularly known as the war on terror. It was a joint military operation by the US and their western allies (NATO). On a chilly night of October 7, 2001, US forces invaded Afghanistan following the Taliban's refusal to hand over Osama Bin Ladin and Al -Qaeda members to the United States. It was a crackdown against Al-Qaeda

members, Islamic State, and their various franchise groups. The United States overthrow the Taliban Government within a month, and from then on to the end of the US ouster Taliban kept fighting with the US. The overall impact of the two decades-long US war in Afghanistan faded within days of the Taliban's emergence in power.

CHAPTER TWO:

US Withdrawal Strategies

Introduction

The talks of US withdrawal were first started during the time of President Obama. Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party Barak Obama 2008 promised a change and his slogan was "Change we can believe", which was basically to bring back US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. On the other hand, Republican Party wanted to continue this war to its logical conclusion. The US as well as global public opinion was in favor of ending both wars, therefore Obama was elected. After assuming office in 2009, President Obama reviewed the situation in both Afghanistan and Iraq and finally came out with a policy known as the "Surge and Exit Strategy" in December. According to this, it was decided to intensify the war in Afghanistan and after overcoming the resistance, victory would be declared and then the US and other forces would be withdrawn. This chapter provides the US withdrawal strategies in details.

2.1 Withdrawal Decision Conditions

Under the Surge and Exit Strategy, the war in Afghanistan has been intensified and after overcoming the resistance, victory would be declared and then the US along with other forces would withdraw. For intensification, Obama gained the acceptance of Congress to send 33000 US troops. It was also announced that withdrawal from Afghanistan would be ginon 1st July 2011 with no ending date. The USA initiated the reconciliation process after its military failure to overcome Taliban resistance. In 2011, the USA started withdrawing its forces and also announced that it would continue up to 2014. The schedule of exit was that 33,000 troops every year would withdraw starting from 2012 to 2014 (Zaidi, 2018).

In the 2014 elections in Afghanistan, under US active supervision, a unity government was established, with Ashraf Ghani as President and Abdullah Abdullah as Chief Executive (PM). The new Government on its second day signed a strategic pact with the USA and it was agreed that about 10,000 US troops would stay in Afghanistan for another two years (2015-2016).The

troops would not be involved in any combat operations, instead, they would provide training to the Afghan National Army (ANA). To divide the resistance forces, Obama administration made a distinction between the Taliban and Al Qaida, by declaring the latter as its actual enemy and target. Taliban were further divided into Good and Bad Taliban – good (70%) were ready for talks and bad (30%) were ready to fight, having a total strength of 25,000 (International Crisis Group, 2017).

The reconciliations efforts could not be successful as the Americans had three conditions for the Taliban to fulfill:

- a. Renounce violence
- b. Delink from Al-Qaida
- c. Accept the Afghan constitution as legitimate.

Taliban had only one condition; talks only possible if foreign troops are withdrawn. For two years 2015-16, about 10,000 US troops stood in Afghanistan as agreed in the US-Afghan strategic agreement of 2014. On his departure, Obama, left some troops in Afghanistan, so that the new president could devise his policy on the assumption of office (National Security, 2014).

When Donald Trump became the President, he refused to leave in hurry and devised his policy which mentioned three core interests of the USA in Afghanistan; they are respectively;

- a. Deserve victory after making sacrifices.
- b. Quick exit is not an option as this mistake has been made in Iraq.
- c. The threat from the region is immense as there exist 20-designated terrorist organizations and there are two nuclear powers in the region (BBC, 2021).

After years of struggling by NATO forces, they had failed in pressing Taliban resistance which led President Donald Trump's administration to sign a peace deal with Taliban on

29th February 2020, in Doha, Qatar. Initially, the parleys between the US and the Taliban pivot upon four points:

- a. The withdrawal of the US and foreign forces from Afghanistan;
- b. Taliban pledging no use of the Afghan soil for terrorism abroad;
- c. Intra-Afghan dialogue; and
- d. A ceasefire.

Months later, in 2021, President Joe Biden claimed that the deal obligated him to remove US troops from Afghanistan (The White House., 2021). He said the war in Afghanistan was never meant to be multi-generational, as he officially announced the drawdown of all 2,500 US troops in that country beginning May 1st and concluding by September 11th, the 20th anniversary of the war.

2.2 The Implementation Phase

President Obama started the cycle of withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan in 2011. Since then, to the end of his second term, the process had seen many ups and downs in terms of strategies and policies. After President Obama (Michael Nelson,2000). Donald Trump afterwards changed the direction of withdrawal. On August 21st, 2017, President Trump announced a new strategy for Afghanistan; the core principle of which was “a shift from a time-based approach to one based on conditions” He emphasized that "conditions on the ground, not arbitrary timetables, will now guide our strategy America's adversaries must never be aware of our plans or believe they can outlast us"(White House, 2017).

America's goals were to "utterly destroy [the Islamic State], crush al-Qaeda, prevent Taliban from taking over Afghanistan, and prevent mass terror attacks against America from occurring". Sixteen months later, Trump ordered the withdrawal of the US military from Syria, as well as the

withdrawal of half of the American military personnel stationed in Afghanistan. The President explained his decision by stating that the military objective in Syria, defeating the Islamic State, had been met (Trump, 2018). He made no such claim about Afghanistan.

Most terrorism and Afghan specialists were in agreement about the potential repercussions of a hasty US pullout. When President Barack Obama first set a timetable for full withdrawal in 2014, these impacts were taken into account, and these same factors ultimately prompted him to change his mind. Trump administration believed that a hasty withdrawal of the US forces without a negotiated peace agreement would exacerbate the situation. This policy of the Trump administration delayed the process of withdrawal.

After more than a year of negotiations, the US-Taliban peace deal, signed on February 29th, 2020, calls for the withdrawal of all US forces from Afghanistan by May 2021, but only if the Taliban keeps its promises of distancing itself from terrorist groups and actively engaging in intra-Afghan talks for a permanent cease-fire and a political roadmap for Afghanistan. The US agreed to reduce its forces from 13,000 to 8,600 in 135 days and to withdraw all forces within 14 months under the terms of the agreement (Thomas, 2020).

The agreement also calls for the Afghan government and Taliban to exchange prisoners and for US sanctions against the Taliban to be lifted by August 27th, 2020. Certain provisions of the agreement are confidential and will not be made public until they have been implemented and verified (Dozier, 2020). Although Michael Pompeo stated that all senators would have access to the annexes, some members believe that the annexes should be classified (Brufke, 2020).

Following the historic agreement between the United States and the Taliban that established the foundation for the conclusion of the United States' "forever war" in Afghanistan in early 2020. The agreement was negotiated by Trump's administration, and it focused on reducing violence, withdrawing US combat forces, resuming intra-Afghan talks, and the Taliban's

counterterrorism efforts (Maizland, 2020). However, a year later, the agreement has yet to produce tangible results, and Afghanistan continues to be mired in violence and insecurity.

America's disinterest in the war and haste to leave has resulted in lost leverage with the Taliban, especially given the Taliban's strategic patience. Despite Taliban's failure to meet several key conditions, the US eagerly followed through on its troop withdrawal schedule. Taliban agreed to "not allow any of its members, other individuals or groups, including al-Qaeda, to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies" (U.S. Department of State., 2020). However, they have not severed ties with al-Qaeda or other terrorist organizations. Although the Taliban technically took part in the intra-Afghan talks, their sincerity in reaching a political settlement with the Afghan government is unknown. Furthermore, during the first three months of 2021, the Taliban increased attacks on Afghan civilians and organized large-scale offensives (Kube, Courtney; De Luce, 2021).

President Biden announced in April that the US would withdraw all remaining troops from Afghanistan by September 11th, 2021, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, shifting the original May 1st deadline set in the US-Taliban Agreement. NATO forces quickly announced that all Resolute Support Mission troops would be withdrawn within a few months of May 1st. (NATO, 2021). Biden stated that the US would leave Afghanistan "responsibly, deliberately, and safely.... in full coordination with our allies and partners," rather than in a "hurried rush" (The White House., 2021).

Biden's decision is partly motivated by the Taliban's failure to follow the terms of the agreement. However, America's new deadline is absolute, and withdrawal appears to be independent of the Taliban's compliance with the terms of the US-Taliban Agreement. The US withdrawal was completed on August 30, 2021, just days before the 11th of September, when the last US soldier, Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, left Afghanistan. Surprisingly, he had been deployed at least 17 times, four of which were in Afghanistan.

2.2.1 Military Surge

President George W. Bush stated in his address to a Joint Session of Congress on September 20th, 2001, that America's war on terror will not end until every terrorist group with global reach is found, stopped, and defeated. He went on to say that "America will use every diplomatic measure, every intelligence tool, every law enforcement instrument, every economic influence, and every necessary weapon of war" to defeat and eliminate the global terror network (The White House, 2001).

Since 2006, Afghanistan's security situation has steadily deteriorated, owing primarily to a lack of forces required to carry out a successful counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy. As the United States struggled to find a viable solution, they advocated for an Iraq-style surge of forces to help stabilize security and set the tone for political and economic progress in Afghanistan. Both President Bush and Defense Secretary Robert Gates were aware that more forces were required in Afghanistan, but neither had specified the number or type of forces required (Robert M. Gates, 2008). Although the goal of an Afghan surge would be similar to that of Iraq, the challenges of a larger, rural-based population with unique tribal complexities, harsher geography, and an enemy operating from bases outside the country necessitated a different focus and force structure.

The surge in Afghanistan was more abrupt than the surge in Iraq. When President Barack Obama took office in January 2009, approximately 35,000 US troops were stationed to Afghanistan. By December 2009, when President Obama announced the increase during a speech at the United States Military Academy, the figure had more than doubled to 70,000. (West Point). The plan was to deploy 30,000 additional troops over the next 18 months, but the actual level appears to have been slightly higher; the total number of troops in Afghanistan peaked at 110,000 in June 2011. During a televised speech in June 2011, President Obama announced a plan to return 10,000 troops to the United States by the end of the year, with a total

of 33,000 by the end of the following summer (achieved in September 2012). According to the President's State of the Union Address in February 2013 (and reaffirmed two months later in the Administration's budget request for the fiscal year 2014), the plan was to reduce the number of troops from 68,000 to 34,000 by February 2014. President Obama announced plans for only 9,800 troops in Afghanistan by the beginning of 2015, roughly half that number by the end of that year, and a smaller number for normal embassy presence and security assistance by the end of 2016 (Obama B, 2014).

As a candidate, Trump referred to Afghanistan as a "total disaster," claiming that the costly conflict in Central Asia was depleting enormous resources at a time when American taxpayers had more pressing domestic needs. "My initial instinct was to pull out, and historically, I like to follow my instincts," (Johnson, 2021). Trump stated in his first prime-time address from the Fort Myer military base in Arlington, Virginia. "I've heard that decisions are much different when you sit behind the Oval Office desk (Washington Post, 2017)." Trump's choice to remain in the nation's longest war rather than withdraw represented a high shift in his mind set toward Afghanistan since assuming office. He referred to his approach as "principled realism," and represented it as consistent with his administration's "America First" policy. He pledged that US troops in Afghanistan would have a crystal-clear definition of victory, but only provided a broad outline of what that would imply. Trump said, "Our troops will fight to win." "Victory will now have a clear definition: attacking our enemies, annihilating ISIS, crushing al-Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over the country, and preventing mass terror attacks against Americans before they occur (Washington Post, 2017)."

After the US-Taliban peace deal in February 2020, the US needed to evacuate its forces from Afghanistan by May 2021. The US showed reluctance in this pursuit, but on December 19th, 2020, when five rockets were fired at a major US base in Afghanistan, the U.S. military reduced the number of troops in Afghanistan to about 2,500. It was a drawdown that broke a last-minute congressional prohibition. In August 2021, President Joe Biden approved an additional 1,000 US

soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan, reaching a total of US troops at about 5,000 to ensure an "orderly and safe drawdown" of American and allied personnel, as per Biden. US troops also helped in the evacuation of Afghans who had served in the army during the nearly two-decade conflict. In 2011, the United States had approximately 110,000 troops in Afghanistan. That was the highest US troops' presence in Afghanistan in the war's two-decade history (Milley,2021).

2.2.2 Civilian Surge

Since 2001, the United States had troops and civilians in Afghanistan. President Obama stated in his speech announcing the surge on December 1st, 2009, that the goal was "to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to prevent its ability to threaten America and our allies in the future" (U.S. President Barack Obama, 2009). The Taliban had resurrected, making significant gains and jeopardizing the stability of the fledgling Afghan state. The US administration wanted to demonstrate its commitment to the war while also laying out a strategy for exiting it.

Following an extensive policy review and debate among key advisors, President Obama decided to deploy additional soldiers in a military surge while increasing civilian-led efforts to build Afghan governing capacity and initiate sustainable economic growth. Civilians from at least nine executive branch agencies operating in Afghanistan under Chief of Mission authority more than tripled in two years, from 320 to 1,142; the Department of Defense's civilian presence increased from 394 to 2,929; and the United Nations' civilian presence increased from 394 to 2,929 in two years (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2012). In addition to USAID, State, and Defense, these civilians came from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Treasury, and Homeland Security.

The primary goal of the surge was to get as many military and civilian forces into the field as possible. The administration placed such a high value on meeting personnel targets that the Kabul Embassy management officer hired a full-time FS2-level Foreign Service Officer, the

second-highest non-executive rank, to keep track of the number of new arrivals. President Obama announced the surge at the same time that he announced the troop withdrawal date: the troops would begin to return home after 18 months. Different people had different perspectives on the length of the civilian presence. Some people believed that after the military left, it would be up to civilians to run the country. Others, on the other hand, were well aware that civilian access to the field was dependent on military presence, and that once the military left, the civilians would follow.

Because there were not enough civilians available to go there and perform the tasks correctly, State and USAID devised incentives to attract direct hires, expanded temporary hiring authorities, and built the infrastructure. Recruit and track a large number of additional personnel from the ground up in some cases. When civilians arrived in Afghanistan, new problems arose. The embassy in Kabul had too many civilians, an organizational restructuring, security constraints, and communication issues among civilian staff. The effectiveness of civilian-military relationships on the battlefield was critical to success. Because of one-year tour lengths, significant leave, and rapid turnover, there was a lack of continuity among all hires, resulting in lost operational experience, time spent bringing people up to speed, and weakened relationships with Afghan counterparts(Erickson et al., 2014)

In a nutshell, Afghan civilian representatives were crucial in resolving grievances that fueled local conflicts in the provinces and districts where they were stationed. Civilian-led reconstruction projects frequently encouraged communities to work together to resolve local conflicts, reducing grievances that the Taliban could exploit. Civilians began to play a larger role in advising the US military following the 2009 civilian surge. According to Kael Weston, a former civilian representative in Afghanistan, the civilian role demonstrated to Afghans that Americans were more of a collaborator in the country than a military force. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of these short-term relationships and reconstruction projects in reducing short-term grievances. However, these victories did not bode well for long-term,

national progress, potentially jeopardizing the effectiveness of civilian representatives as well as long-term US objectives in Afghanistan(Kelly A Ayote et al, 2021).

2.2.3 Pakistan Problems

Pakistan and Afghanistan are South Asia's neighboring countries. The Taliban is primarily active along Afghanistan's and Pakistan's borders, influencing both countries' politics. The mujahideen, who were trained and used by the US and Pakistan in a war against the Soviets in the 1980s, later became known as the Taliban. Following the horrific events of September 11th, Pakistan decided to support the United States' anti-terrorism policy, which meant that Pakistan officially declared war on the Taliban.

After the US invasion of Afghanistan, Taliban fled from the country and sheltered in northwest Pakistan. Taliban came in large numbers, took shelter, and carried out their operations from Pakistan in Afghanistan as well as in Pakistan. It had paid a large price for being a part of the war on terror, some sixty thousand Pakistani civilians got martyred due to terrorist attacks, the most prominent of them were suicide bombing, which was the by-product of Pakistan's role in the war on terror. The US called Pakistan "safe heavens" for the terrorist and carried out more than 400 drone attacks in Pakistan to dismantle Taliban and Al-Qaeda members. Although the attacks killed some of the Taliban, they also killed thousands of innocents, consequently, it led to another serious problem for Pakistan (Jill Kimball, 2021).

In response to these attacks in Pakistan, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) formed. The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a terrorist network alliance founded in 2007 to bring together opposition to Pakistan's military. TTP's stated objectives include removing Islamabad's authority from Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the bordering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, implementing a strict interpretation of Sharia throughout Pakistan, and withdrawing Coalition troops from Afghanistan. Officials from the TTP have also stated openly that the group's goal is to establish an Islamic caliphate in Pakistan, which would necessitate the

overthrow of Pakistan's government. TTP has a long history of collaborating with senior al-Qaeda figures, including al-Qaeda's Pakistani operations chief. TTP is an anti-Western, anti-Islamabad organization that has stated openly that it intends to destroy both countries. TTP has repeatedly threatened to attack the United States since 2008, and a TTP spokesman claimed responsibility for a failed vehicle-bomb attempt in Times Square, New York City, on May 1, 2010 (Abdul Sayed, 2021).

Osama Bin Laden was killed by US Navy Seals on May 2, 2011, in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. In June 2011, a spokesman vowed to attack the US and Europe in retaliation for Usama Bin Laden's death. The Taliban got against Pakistan due to their help to the USA in the war on terror. Since then, Pakistan is facing a continuous series of terrorist attacks on the homeland. The drone attacks by US forces not only led to the civilians' death but also the problem of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) arose. In Pakistan, insurgency, counter-insurgency, and other forms of violence have displaced over 1.8 million people. South and North Waziristan were the two most affected areas as a result of drone attacks. In addition to launching cross-border attacks into Afghanistan from Pakistan's territory, the US used Pakistan as a major supply route for weapons, fuel, and material into Afghanistan (Kris Osborn & Ho Linm 2021).

2.2.4 The Diplomatic Surge

NATO member states and coalition partners, which included some 40 democracies, were not the only ones with a lot riding on the outcome of the Afghan war. Influential players such as Russia, Pakistan, Iran, India, and China all had legitimate interests (Roberts, 2009). There was no solution for peace and stability in Afghanistan without a corresponding multilateral diplomatic surge. There was widespread recognition that the conflict in Afghanistan could only be resolved through a political settlement, despite public debate focusing primarily on military aspects of the conflict. Because a clear military victory by one side or the other seemed unlikely,

if not impossible, the alternative was some sort of agreement between the government and the Taliban.

Daryl Morini, an Australian, wrote an intriguing article in 2010 about the Afghanistan problem from an international relations perspective. Predictably, he stated that efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to Afghanistan are likely to fail in the absence of a proper multilateral diplomatic surge (Daryl Morini, 2010). After ten years of war and consistent efforts to defeat the Taliban, the US launched a "diplomatic surge" to bring the war in Afghanistan to a close.

In an address to the Asia Society on Afghanistan, Hillary Clinton stated that the Taliban's only option was to split from al Qaeda, accept the Afghan constitution, and participate in a peaceful dialogue on the country's future. "They can't afford to wait for us. They can't beat us. "And they cannot avoid this choice," Clinton said in a speech streamed live on the Internet. Clinton stated that the military operation was being matched by two "surges," a civilian effort to strengthen Afghanistan's government and a diplomatic push to end the war. Clinton stated, "We are launching a diplomatic wave to help sever the Taliban-Al Qaeda alliance, end the insurgency, and create a stable Afghanistan and a peaceful region." She also stated that the diplomatic effort would encourage Taliban members to stop fighting and join Afghan-led political talks, though she emphasized that they must renounce violence and al-Qaeda and agree to respect both the constitution and human rights(Reuters Staff; 2011).

After realizing that the seizure of Taliban will be not possible, the US wanted to break a peace deal with the Taliban. They started their efforts to break a deal during the presidency of Barrack Obama, although they carried out military operations simultaneously. On the 29th Feb 2020, they succeeded and the US-Taliban peace deal was formalized with the terms of US forces withdrawal from Afghanistan till May 2021 and some terms from the US also. The US-Taliban negotiations that culminated in a peace deal signed in Doha began with former US President Barak Obama's administration, but remained a secret, according to a spokesperson for the

Taliban's political office in Doha, who stated that it took a long time to reach an agreement with the US, as it had been done a few years ago, but it did not attract much media attention discussed with the media (BBC, 2021).

Suhail Shaheen, the spokesman, told Efe news in an interview on Sunday. Although he did not specify when the talks began, he did state that they began "during the Obama administration." After nearly two decades of war, signing a deal with the United States was a historic step. Although pundits and analysts believe there is still a long road ahead, Shaheen described it as a "very joyful moment for all our members and all the Afghan people." "We hope to achieve another success during intra-Afghan negotiations, and that is to form a government, which will be another joy for us, and then we say farewell to war," he concluded (South Asia Monitor, 2020).

The efforts to make peace in Afghanistan became somewhat successful with the signing of the peace deal, but sadly, it failed within some months, when President Trump canceled the Camp David meeting with the Taliban delegation and said "As far as I am concerned, they are dead." He reacted like this after an attack carried out by the Taliban which killed 12 people, including a US soldier. The US President has made withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan a priority in his foreign policy, but when asked about the 14000 troops still stationed there, he stated that "We would like to get out but we will get out at the right time." The efforts, struggles, and negotiations made over many years for a peace deal had been spoiled with an immediate effect (Afghanistan Peace Project).

2.3 The Decision to Withdraw: Costs and Advantage

As part of the Doha Peace Agreement, President Trump committed to reducing US forces from 13,000 to 8,600 by July 2020, followed by a total withdrawal by May 1, 2021, assuming the Taliban kept their promises(Rai, 2021).At the start of the Biden administration, there were

2,500 US soldiers in Afghanistan, and in April 2021, Biden stated that the US would not begin withdrawing these forces until May 1st, but would complete the withdrawal by September 11th.(Cronk, 2021; The White House., 2021).The Taliban launched their final offensive on May 1, and on July 8, Biden set a new deadline of August 31(Miller, Zeke; Madhani, 2021;Landler, Mark; Shear, 2021).There were approximately 650 US troops in Afghanistan in early August 2021, tasked with guarding Hamid Karzai International Airport and the US embassy in Kabul(Cooper, Helene; Rogers, Katie; Gibbons-Neff, 2021;Swanson, 2021).Despite the rapidly deteriorating security situation, US intelligence assessments as recently as July predicted that Kabul would fall within months or weeks of the withdrawal of all-American forces from Afghanistan(Vazquez, 2021; Merchant, Nomaan; Miller, 2021).

Following Taliban victories across Afghanistan, the Biden administration announced on August 12, 2021, that 3,000 US forces would be deployed to Kabul Airport to evacuate embassy personnel, US citizens, and Special Immigrant Visa applicants(Al Jazeera, 2021;Martin, 2021). In response to the Taliban's rapid advance in the provinces, the United States increased its force commitment to 5,000 on August 14 (DeYoung, Karen; George, Susannah; Pannett, Rachel; Westfall, 2021).Following the fall of Kabul on August 15, another 1,000 soldiers were dispatched, followed by another 1,000 men on August 16, bringing the total number of forces to 7,000. The last US military plane left Kabul airport on August 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Kabul time. It was the hasty evacuation of forces that occurred just one day before the deadline. As a result of the US withdrawal, the Taliban detained approximately a thousand US citizens and Afghans with US or other visas, and the US government refused to let them leave(Gibbons-Neff, 2021;Brown, 2021).

The Biden administration's decision to withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021 was a wise strategic choice that required significant political courage, which eventually changed on August 31st, due to Taliban resistance and rapid capture of areas.The government was correct in its assessment that the US military presence in Afghanistan had

become a strategic liability and a waste of money, with no ability to change the country's underlying political and military dynamics. That is not to say that once the US military departs Afghanistan, positive political and security outcomes will follow. Unfortunately, the threat of a more intense, probably highly fragmented, and violent civil war exists, and the Taliban's formal ascension to power will wreak havoc on the country's political system.

The main objective of the US in Afghanistan since 2001 has been to lessen the threat of terrorism against the US and its allies. When Al-Qaida's capabilities were a tiny fraction of what they are now, that primary goal was accomplished ten years ago. Although the Taliban had already been conducting a fierce offensive against the Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK), the group was active in Afghanistan. Furthermore, President Biden's administration accurately determined that the terrorism threat and violence emanating from Afghanistan were less severe than that emanating from certain places in the Middle East and Africa. The withdrawal decision by President Biden demonstrated the compromises the Biden administration was willing to make in order to reorient US foreign policy away from counterinsurgency campaigns that predominated the post-9/11 world and toward more pressing concerns like escalating military and economic rivalry with China.

The public in the United States overwhelmingly supported troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. As per a Pew Research Center poll conducted Aug. 23-29, 54 percent of American adults believe the decision to remove soldiers from Afghanistan was the correct one, while 42 percent believe it was the wrong one. Another poll, done before the US military withdrawal, found that 69 percent of the public believes the US has generally failed to achieve its objectives in Afghanistan.

The benefits of the American withdrawal of forces outweighed the costs by a wide margin. On August 15, 2021, the Taliban seized control of Kabul, the nation's capital, capping a large insurgent offensive that had begun in May of that year. As a result, the Islamic Republic of

Afghanistan, led by President Ashraf Ghani, was overthrown, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was reinstated under Taliban rule. The US-Taliban agreement, which was reached on February 29, 2020, was one of the crucial occasions that contributed to the dissolution of the Afghan National Security Forces (Borger, 2022). The ANS forces which the US-trained and weaponized for a long time led to their fall in no time. ANSF did not even resist the Taliban surge, which led to the capture of Kabul without dropping a single drop of blood.

Although the Taliban captured all regional province capitals from August 6 to August 16, when they seized Kabul, the prospect of Afghanistan becoming a failed state still exists. Under such circumstances, Afghanistan will produce and export opium, poverty, refugees, and radicalism once more. The "War on Terror" in America, which has lasted 20 years, is widely regarded as the nation's biggest strategic blunder in modern times. In the first place, there ought to have been no battle (Herd, 2021). President Biden was so disappointed with the Afghan government and its force (ANSF), that he said that "over our country's 20 years at war in Afghanistan, America has sent its finest young men and women, invested nearly 1 trillion dollars, trained over 300,000 Afghan soldiers and police, equipped them with state-of-the-art military equipment, and maintained their air force as part of the longest war in U.S. history. One more year, or five more years, of U.S. military presence would not have made a difference if the Afghan military cannot or will not hold its own country. And an endless American presence in the middle of another country's civil conflict was not acceptable to me. We gave them every tool they could need. We gave them every chance to determine their future. [What] we could not provide them, was the will to fight for that future" (The White House, 2021).

The costs and benefits of this war were much more disastrous for US and coalition forces. They were vanquished by the Taliban following 20 years of conflict. The Taliban were able to recapture the country because the ANSF declined to fight. A collective strategic failure of the Western engagement in Afghanistan may be demonstrated when the "blood and wealth" expenses and expenditures are compared against the benefits and returns of stability. It is easy to

determine the costs, or "inputs" Twenty years of wasted effort, "\$2 trillion" in financial losses, close to 2,500 American dead, more than 1,100 deaths of its allies, up to 70,000 Afghan military deaths, and roughly 50,000 civilian deaths were all the results of the horrifying and terrible war on terror (Haass, 2021).

Conclusion

The process of withdrawal which started during the period of President Obama completed in the presence of the current President Biden Administration, which led to the end of the two-decade-long war in Afghanistan. The withdrawal has seen many ups and downs in its 10 years history, but ultimately, on 30th august, 2021, it reached its conclusion. The US implemented different strategies to carry out withdrawal with the peace¹; the military surge, the civilian surge, and the diplomatic surge were all part of one compact strategy. The US wanted a stable government in Afghanistan after their withdrawal, but with the announcement of the withdrawal date, the Afghan government collapsed in mid-August. Taliban started capturing the main cities of Afghanistan. The US-Taliban Peace Agreement was the beam of light among the catastrophic relations between the US and Taliban. But the Afghan government was not part of the peace deal, which left the window open for the chaos within the country. Following the collapse of Kabul, after two decades Taliban came back into power after their ouster by the US forces in 2001. The cost and benefits of this war are not so promising, from the US perspective they had not achieved much; Al-Qaeda is still sheltering in Afghanistan, although in a very minimum number, the Taliban is back in power and humanitarian crisis have engulfed the country In Afghanistan, 8.7 million people are at risk of experiencing famine-like circumstances, while another 14.1 million experience acute food insecurity at crisis levels. The economic future is bleak and exceedingly unpredictable following the Taliban's return to power in August 2021. It is evident from the results and consequences of two decades of war, that war does not bring good to any country.

CHAPTER THREE:

The US-Afghanistan War: Ramifications and Effects

Introduction

The two-decades-long US-Afghanistan war brought affected Afghanistan. The country confronts on all fronts; economically, politically, and socially. There is a state of famine and also no food for the people. The humanitarian crisis is on the verge. Taliban which was overthrown by the US after the invasion has regained power. They have implemented their hard and human rights violating rules in the state, especially for women. Women have been stopped from studying, being outgoing, and also from jobs. West is pushing pressure on the Taliban to remove their hardliner rules which are violating human rights but the Taliban are resisting. Afghanistan has not received recognition from any country yet. The foreign reserves of Afghanistan have been frozen by the US which was parked in the western banks and now the US has recently permitted to transfer of half of the reserves to Afghanistan and the other half should be kept for the affectees' of the 9/11 attacks. The condition in the country is deteriorating and destabilizing with time. This chapter prevails the ramifications and implications of US-Afghanistan war.

3.1 The Political and Economic Implications

The ramifications and effects of this long war are very devastating. It brought instability and failure to the Afghan people. The US also did not achieve its purpose. AL-Qaeda is still working and Taliban is back in power. There is nothing to praise as a result of the prolonged war. Both sides have suffered a lot, there is no clear success for echa. This war only brought genocide to the civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Center for Prevention Action, 2022). The US conducted the war on terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan also. More than 400 drone attacks were carried out in Pakistan. The number of targeted deaths is very less than the number of civilians and unplanned death. The same is the story in Afghanistan. The civilians have suffered a lot as a result of this war.

The human loss in figures is very disturbing, as of April 2021, more than 71000 Afghan and Pakistani civilians are estimated to have died as a direct result of the war. The loss of human lives is unforgivable for those who are responsible for the bloodbath. Economically, the US has spent trillions of dollars in this war but all have gone in vain. On the other hand, Afghanistan only got worsened with time. The political situation in the country also has nothing to applaudable. Instability and uncertainty are in every corner of the country. The war remained unsuccessful on every front. The humanitarian, economic, and socio-politico loss is very disturbing and devastating to reconsider. Furthermore, the so-called war which was started with the purpose of stability and peace has gone so far in spreading and promoting violence and instability. There are no signs of stability and certainty shortly. Afghanistan has to suffer for a long until there will be a sigh of relief (Watson Institute, 2021a).

The political and economic implications of the war in Afghanistan are not worthy of consideration. The impact of this war only brought destruction and devastation on every front one may consider. The economic cost of the US for the war was in trillion dollars, and the economic cost that Afghanistan paid is far beyond consideration. Politically, after the US withdrawal, the world alienated and marginalized Afghanistan. The condition there is very threatening, and every citizen is facing the consequences of the war. There is an extremely economic and socio-politico crisis in the country. The war brought no peace there as promised, but the chaos is what looks like a crystal-clear result (Amiri, 2021).

Since 2001, the US has spent \$2.313 trillion on operations in both Pakistan and Afghanistan as part of the Afghan War. It should be noted that this amount does not include money that the US government is required to spend on long-term care for American veterans of war or upcoming interest payments on loans made to fund the war. The total cost of the post-9/11 conflicts, which is estimated to be in the trillions of dollars, is much greater than the \$2.313 trillion spent on Afghanistan(Brown University,2021).

Over the course of 20 years and at a cost of 145 billion dollars, the US government rebuilt Afghanistan's security forces, civil government institutions, economy, and civil society. The Department of Defense (DOD) has also spent \$837 billion on fighting wars, costing 2,443 US service members and 1,144 members of allies their lives. Additionally, 20,666 US service members have been injured. However, the situation for Afghans has been much worse. Afghanistan has lost at least 66,000 soldiers. At least 75,000 Afghan civilians have been injured and at least 48,000 civilian deaths have occurred since 2001; these numbers are probably understated. The outrageous costs had a purpose, but as time went on, that purpose's definition shifted(Sigar,2021).The US government hoped to destroy al-Qaeda, dismantle the Taliban movement that housed it, deny all terrorist organizations safe haven in Afghanistan, build Afghan security forces so they could do so in the future, and help the civilian government become legitimate and strong enough to win the trust of Afghans at various points in time.(Mashie, 2021).

The overall goals of the US operation in Afghanistan in 2001 were to combat the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime were targeted by the US to prevent Afghanistan from being utilized as a haven for terrorists who posed a security danger to the US. Although after a two-decades-long war, with the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan the situation deteriorated, Afghan forces did not go for the fight and the Taliban captured Kabul again without bloodshed. Now, Afghanistan's insecurity is causing great anxiety among its neighbors, especially since cross-border militancy and drug trafficking threaten their domestic security and stability. The recent spike in violence in Afghanistan has put regional actors in Central Asia on edge and especially the country has become a liability for Pakistan (Ministry of Finance, 2017).

The Afghan war claimed the lives of millions of people due to the direct effects of violence and the war-induced collapse of public health, security, and infrastructure. Civilians have been killed by crossfire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), assassinations, bombings, and

nighttime raids into the homes of alleged militants. The effects of the war on Afghans' health have been exacerbated by poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, a lack of access to health care, and environmental degradation. The US war in Afghanistan has destroyed the country's economy, and the population is going hungry. Since 2001, the combat zone in Afghanistan and Pakistan has claimed the lives of around 241,000 individuals. Civilians made up more than 71,000 of those deaths. According to The Costs of War Project, this war directly caused the deaths of 241,000 individuals. These numbers do not account for deaths brought on by illness, a lack of access to food, water, or other necessities, as well as any indirect effects of the conflict(Human Rights Watch,2021).

Since the US withdrawal, no country has recognized Afghanistan and there are no political and diplomatic relations of the Taliban-led government with the world. They are enjoying no trades, no foreign investments, no foreign projects, as well as no foreign relations, and any other privileges that a recognized and sovereign state enjoys. Afghanistan's current situation can lead to a fresh wave of violence and terrorism. As the war raged upon them some two decades ago, till then to now the people of Afghanistan are suffering and who knows for how long it will be going on.

3.2 The Social Ramifications

Due to three decades of conflict and upheaval, the Afghan people have suffered enormously. The nation's infrastructure and forests have almost completely been destroyed, millions of people have been killed, and millions more have been forced to flee their homes. Governmental institutions are weak and ineffectual, and the social fabric of the nation is destroyed. The health implications of poverty, malnutrition, inadequate sanitation, lack of access to healthcare, and environmental degradation have been made worse by the war. The country has many problems as a result of three decades of war. Afghans fled to Pakistan, where their homes were demolished, their land and property seized by warlords, the economy was severely harmed, their

kids and daughters were denied an education, and their women were ridiculed. Schools, hospitals, roads, and factories were devastated, and the dread of war has resulted in a plethora of mental health issues. Afghanistan remains one of the world's poorest and least developed countries. Nearly half of the population lives in poverty, more than half of all children are malnourished, and up to 11% of the population is unemployed (Aliase Hassany et al., 2009).

There has been an obvious violation of civil liberties and human rights by the US. Humanitarian international law has seen an unprecedented level of its violation. There were no rights for the detainees and there was a horrific system of investigating and treating them. The problem of Islamophobia, and hate crimes against Muslims, has emerged as a result of this war. The societal system of Afghanistan has been destructed. Multiple atrocities had been faced by the country which surely haunts them till today. The war in Afghanistan has left severe and harsh impacts even after the US withdrawal. This was the war that the US cannot justify, but they kept on trying to justify their horrible acts of barbarism and brutality in the war in Afghanistan (Aliase Hassany et al., 2009).

A concise overview of the violations of human rights, international humanitarian law, and civil liberties committed during the Afghanistan conflict is provided below; Concerns regarding how the US government and its allies treat suspected terrorists and regular US citizens have been raised by human rights and civil liberties organizations in the years following 9/11. In addition to dozens of other countries with lax human rights laws, the US imprisoned hundreds of thousands of individuals in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places. Numerous terrorist suspects were held without being given an official charge or court date, without any way to effectively challenge their incarceration, and without the International Red Cross site visits mandated by international law. As of January 2022, Guantánamo Bay still housed 39 prisoners. Unknown numbers of persons who were taken hostage by the US across the globe were tortured or mistreated by the CIA, military personnel, contractors, and allies of the US. Human rights abuses and awful working conditions have been experienced by immigrant contractors from Nepal working for the

US in Afghanistan and Iraq. Numerous Muslims, people of Arab and South Asian descent, and others have experienced racial profiling, public hostility, hate crimes, and discrimination in the United States. The 9/11 attacks have also been cited as justification for vastly increased US government electronic surveillance and data collection powers, including the ability to gather information on citizens who have not committed any crimes.

The abuse of Afghan prisoners who were turned over to Afghan authorities by the US has raised serious concerns in Afghanistan. The US has also allegedly operated detention facilities where Afghan captives were denied access to legal representation and power to challenge their incarceration. Many reports of "black jails," like the now-closed Bagram Airbase prison north of Kabul, where detainees were secretly held without the inspection required by the Geneva Conventions, emanated from both Iraq and Afghanistan. We learned that the CIA operated a global network of "black sites" where it covertly detained and tortured at least 119 foreign Muslim men, according to a joint study with Human Rights Watch that was published in January 2022(Human Rights and Civil Liberties | Costs of War, 2015).

According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Taliban were behind 45 percent of strikes that resulted in civilian deaths and injuries in the first nine months of 2020. (UNAMA). About 27% of the total were pro-government forces. Despite reducing its attacks, the Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State (ISIS), the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), has been behind numerous devastating bombings. For over 44% of all civilian fatalities, women and children were present. All parties to the Afghanistan conflict will start serious negotiations to end the conflict in 2020.However, fighting between Afghan government troops, the Taliban, and other armed groups persisted, resulting in around 6,000 civilian deaths in the year's first nine months, a marked decrease from previous years. US airstrikes and Taliban attacks in urban areas have lessened, but IEDs the Taliban planted and Afghan government airstrikes have killed a sizable number of civilians. Politicians, government officials, and other civilians are increasingly being kidnapped and targeted for death by the Taliban(EveryCRSReport.com, 2017).

The war on terror which started in Afghanistan is also responsible for the worldwide expansion of Islamophobia and hate crimes against Muslims. Muslims are considered terrorists after the 9/11 attacks due to the perception and conspiracy of the west. The west has started its campaign against Muslims as well. Following 9/11, Muslims and people of Arab and South Asian ancestry in the United States became targets of government activities that result in racial profiling. Between 2000 and 2009, the total number of reported hate crimes occurrences in the United States declined by over 18%, but the percentage of hate crime episodes aimed at Muslims surged by over 500%. Furthermore, in 2016, the number of assaults against Muslims in the United States reached 127, surpassing the previous high of 93 assaults in 2001 (Carlson et al., 2021). According to the think tank New America, anti-Muslim activity has "grown dramatically since late 2015," including hate attacks against mosques and Islamic centers, media stories of anti-Muslim violence, and anti-Muslim actions and words by government officials. Since 2016, there have been "over 484 acts of hate violence and 252 incidents of xenophobic political discourse addressed towards South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab American communities across the country," according to South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).

3.3 Taliban Victory

Many people, possibly even the Taliban themselves, were caught off guard by the Taliban's swift victory of Afghanistan. But the US pulling out of Afghanistan is not the nation's first instance of an unexpectedly quick military victory and subsequent quick shift in administration. The rulers of Afghanistan have frequently repeated the errors of their forebears during dramatic power changes throughout the country's history. A decade ago, in the 1990s, the Taliban first came to power.(Center for Preventive Action, 2022).

There's a glimpse of the Taliban's first win in Afghanistan, as well as their founding tale. In the aftermath of the Afghan War (1978–92), the Taliban came into existence. Outside of Kabul,

Afghanistan's new government failed to maintain civil order, and much of the country has been subjected to extortion and assault by local militias and warlords. Faced with huge displacement throughout the conflict, many Afghans found solace in the mujahideen resistance's religious rhetoric and opportunity in Islamic schools (known as madrasahs) in southern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. In 1994, a group of ex-fighters affiliated with a madrasah in Kandahar province effectively subjugated a local warlord and began pacifying the surrounding area. With its promise of security and religious zeal, the faction swiftly expanded into the Taliban movement, which is now known as the Taliban. By late 1996, the Taliban had taken control of the Afghan capital, Kabul, as well as roughly two-thirds of the country. This was the first time when Taliban raised to power and it ended in almost 5 years with the US invasion of Afghanistan (Britannica,2018).

The US invaded Afghanistan after the September 11th attacks in 2001 because the Taliban administration refused to hand up terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. Rapidly losing control of the nation, the Taliban fled to southern Afghanistan and across the Pakistani border. From there, they started an uprising against the Western-backed Kabul government, Afghan national security forces, and the troops of the international coalition. The ANDSF was charged with maintaining security in Afghanistan after the US-led coalition formally ended its military mission there in 2014. The Taliban continued to target rural areas and conduct suicide attacks in significant towns, while the ANDSF battled to manage the land and defend population centers. The fight remained virtually at a standstill for almost six years despite a minor US troop increase in 2017, continuing combat missions, and a change in US military strategy to target Taliban money sources, which included air attacks targeting drug labs and opium manufacturing centers(Center for Preventive Action, 2022).

Across the nation, the Taliban kept claiming territory, including provincial capitals. In May 2018, the group briefly took control of the Farah Province capital, and in August 2018, they

briefly took control of the Ghazni Province capital, keeping the city for about a week before American and Afghan troops reclaimed control(Council on Foreign Relations, 2021).

After more than a year of direct negotiations, the US government and the Taliban signed a peace deal in February 2020 that outlined a timeline for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. The US agreed to reduce its force strength to approximately 8,500 within 135 days and to carry out a full disengagement within 14 months. In return, the Taliban committed to stop terrorist organizations from operating in the region they control and to hold discussions with the Afghan government. The formal cessation of hostilities, however, was not in effect. After a brief break in hostilities, the Taliban quickly began attacking Afghan security troops and civilians again. After being delayed for months and making little progress, direct negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban were finally launched in March 2020, months after their scheduled start date. As the US conducted operations and airstrikes against the Taliban in 2020 and 2021, violence in Afghanistan increased. While this was going on, the Taliban began to target Afghan security forces and the government, expanding their control(Afghanistan Peace Efforts).

On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, President Joe Biden announced in April 2021 that US soldiers will leave Afghanistan by September 2021. In spite of ongoing peace negotiations with the Afghan government, the Taliban stepped up their attacks on the camps and outposts of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and quickly started annexing more terrain. In May 2021, the US military quickened the pace of troop withdrawal. By the end of July 2021, the US had completed nearly 95% of its withdrawal, leaving only 650 troops to guard the US embassy in Kabul (BBC, 2021) .

The Taliban kept up its assault in the summer of 2021, posing a threat to cities under government control and seizing numerous border crossings. Several cities, including Herat in the west and Kandahar in the south, were directly attacked by the Taliban in the first few days of August. The southern Nimruz Province's capital fell to the Taliban on August 6, 2021, becoming

the first provincial center to do so. Following it, successive provincial capitals started to crumble. With only Kabul still under government control, the Taliban quickly seized control of over ten more cities, including Mazar-i-Sharif in the north and Jalalabad in the east. On August 15, 2021, Taliban forces invaded the Afghan capital, forcing Ashraf Ghani, the president, to flee and bring the Afghan government to an end. Later that day, the Taliban said they had taken over the city, invaded the presidential palace, and were establishing checkpoints to maintain security.

Despite earlier intelligence assessments of the situation on the ground, US officials and allies as well as the Taliban itself were shocked by how quickly the Taliban won territory and the ANDSF and Afghan government disintegrated. The Biden administration gave the go-ahead for the deployment of an additional 6,000 troops to assist with the evacuation of US and ally personnel as well as thousands of Afghans who had collaborated with the US and were attempting to flee. A significant migration of refugees leaving the country is threatened by the swift fall of the Afghan government, worsening an already dire humanitarian situation(Center for Preventive Action, 2022).

The United States had completed its withdrawal by the 30th of August, 2021. Taliban emerged once again as the ruler of Afghanistan after two decades. This was the unbelievable victory of the Taliban over the US and its trained Afghan forces. The US, after fighting the two-decades-long war has finally been defeated by the hands of the Taliban. The US bore financial losses of trillion dollars plus the human loss of its soldiers and companion in thousands. It was an eye-opening failure for the US as well as for the world. The superpower of the world has been defeated by the hands of the Taliban, who barely have the resources to fight a war. The US did not accomplish its goal in Afghanistan and left disappointingly. The Taliban are again in power and still pose a threat to the integrity of the United States(Center for Preventive Action, 2022).

3.4 The End of the Physical Conflict

By the year 2012, the United States had concluded that it was time for a shift of mission in Afghanistan. The United States and coalition forces must shift their focus away from direct counterinsurgency operations and toward a new mission of "security force assistance," which involves mentoring and empowering Afghan forces to take the lead in the counterinsurgency struggle. This wasn't just a rhetorical shift. By 2009, coalition troops in Afghanistan had achieved substantial operational achievements, stopped the Taliban's momentum in many places, and significantly increased the strength and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (Restriction, 2009). Increased US forces operated under the NATO cover had severely weakened al Qaeda and Taliban leaders and fighters' capabilities and had wrested significant swathes of southern Afghanistan previously held by the Taliban. These victories came at a high cost in terms of life and cash, but surprisingly, the ANSF was unable to maintain them.

After the September 11th terrorist attacks, a three-phase international conflict known as the Afghanistan War broke out in 2001. The Taliban, an ultraconservative political and religious group that ruled Afghanistan and provided refuge to al-Qaeda, the group responsible for the September 11 attacks, were overthrown in the first phase, which lasted just two months. The second phase, which ran from 2002 to 2008, was characterized by a US strategy of militarily eliminating the Taliban and rebuilding the foundational institutions of the Afghan state. Beginning in 2008, the third phase—a return to conventional counterinsurgency doctrine—was accelerated by US President Barack Obama's decision to temporarily increase the number of US troops in Afghanistan in 2009.

The larger force was used to carry out a strategy to protect civilians from Taliban attacks and aid rebels in their reintegration into Afghan society. The plan included a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, starting in 2011 with a gradual transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan military and police. The new plan largely fell short of its

goals. Many of the Afghan military and police personnel taking up security tasks were ill-equipped to combat the Taliban, and insurgent attacks and civilian casualties stubbornly remained high. By the time the US and NATO combat campaign was finally concluded in December 2014, the 13-year Afghanistan Conflict had been the longest war the US had ever fought.

Early in 2012, American and Afghan negotiators reached an agreement on two issues that had divided the Karzai and Obama administrations. The initial accord, made in March, established a six-month time frame for the transfer of Afghan detainees from US military custody to Afghan custody. The second agreement, signed in April, stipulates that Afghan military will oversee and direct night raids to capture or kill Taliban leaders. Since 2009, these raids—previously led by US special forces—had played a critical role in the anti-Taliban campaign. On the other side, Afghan officials have long criticized the raids, claiming that they violated their country's sovereignty, and that the unexpected assault of private homes alienated the populace and increased sympathy for the insurgency(Witte, 2019).

The US and Afghanistan came to an agreement in May outlining a framework for economic and security cooperation between the two countries following the exit of NATO combat troops in 2014. This deal followed the accords in March and April on prisoners and night raids. The agreement said that the US will continue to support the Afghan government militarily through 2014, but it was unclear whether any US or NATO forces would stay in Afghanistan as trainers or advisors after that time. This was to be determined by a different pact known as the Bilateral Security Agreement. The presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan was very unpopular, but many Afghans worried that a speedy withdrawal would allow the nation to descend into anarchy or civil war.

The issue of keeping foreign forces in the country after NATO combat operations were over remained unresolved until the latter half of 2014. In the latter months of his term, Karzai refused to ratify the Bilateral Security Agreement, which caused a protracted recount that delayed the

election of his successor. After becoming president in late September 2014, Ashraf Ghani swiftly signed the Bilateral Security Agreement. President Barack Obama announced to a group of soldiers on Christmas Day 2014 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii that combat operations in Afghanistan will come to an end in a month (Times, 2014). But in order to continue advising and assisting the Afghan government, the US has committed to keeping a sizeable force presence in the region for the following two years.

The US and NATO officially ended their combat operations in Afghanistan on December 28, 2014, although a smaller contingent of 13,000 troops was kept behind to support and train Afghan forces until a drawdown was complete in 2020. The US presence in Afghanistan was expected to cease with the entire withdrawal of US troops, which started in 2020 and continued into 2021, but the Taliban's resurgence throughout the withdrawal left the country in the same situation as when US forces originally arrived 20 years earlier (Britannica, 2021).

While the United States' combat mission in Afghanistan came to an end, it continued to offer strategic and operational level advisors to the country's crucial ministries and operational security commands to guarantee the existence of the Afghan central government. By providing the advice and resources needed to build the Afghan government's capacity to succeed over the long term, the advisors' visible presence demonstrated the United States' commitment to the country and enhanced Afghan government trust (Washington, 2010). Maintaining American advisors in Afghan government ministries and operational security units had the advantage of providing oversight over American aid and materiel projects abroad. The United States continues to maintain advisors in operational security units and Afghan government institutions.

Up until the time of their exit in August 2021, the US maintained a military presence in Afghanistan

3.5 Rebuilding of Afghanistan

"We've seen in Afghanistan that the road to freedom can be hard; it's a hard struggle. We've also seen in Afghanistan that the road to freedom is the only one worth traveling. Any nation that sacrifices to build a future of liberty will have the respect, the support, and the friendship of the united states of America."(President Bush, October 11th, 2002).The activities of many parties, including supranational organizations, are referred to as Afghanistan's reconstruction(World Bank, 2018),(World Bank, 2018), the Afghan government, (Shirzad, Fazalrabi; Nusra, 2018), the US government, other international governments (Trend News Agency, 2015), and citizens (McNerney, 2006), to enhance Afghan administration as well as the country's physical structures and infrastructure These initiatives include educating civil servants, enhancing public safety and basic services, assisting civil society and self-determination, and advancing the rule of law and economic growth (McNerney, 2006). The continuous hostilities in Afghanistan have slowed down reconstruction efforts after more than 20 years of war and unrest there.

Afghanistan was already one of the world's poorest nations before the Soviet invasion in 1979, which sparked more than two decades of conflict and devastation. In 2003, every socioeconomic indicator used to measure human and economic progress showed Afghanistan to be towards the bottom, and its overall human suffering index is among the highest in the world. In 2002, Afghanistan's rehabilitation got under way.

By the time the Taliban were overthrown in November 2001, the populace and institutions of Afghanistan had suffered greatly from 23 years of conflict. According to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, when then-Ambassador Ryan Crocker arrived in early 2002 to open the US embassy, he observed "complete wreckage... There was almost absolutely nothing there" (SIGAR).He recalled interim President Hamid Karzai having "no actual authority and nothing with which to work, no military, police, civil service, or functional society (Ryan Crocker, 2016)." Afghanistan has the world's fourth-worst GDP per capita. "Afghanistan's

humanitarian, rebuilding, and development needs are huge," the World Bank noted in March 2002 (The World Bank, 2002). Its official governmental structures are badly compromised or nonexistent, its infrastructure has been devastated, its economy is in a state of collapse, and its social indices are among the poorest in the world (World Bank, 2002)."

Election administration is something that Afghans have never done before. There was a weak civil society and no independent media. The country's life expectancy at the time was 56 years, which was lower than 83 percent of other nations (World Bank, 2021). Ranking in the bottom 15% of countries, the death rate for children under five was one of the lowest in the world (World Bank, 2021). Both going to school and working were officially prohibited for women and girls. Only 21% of those who qualified for enrollment were in primary education (BBC, 2014). Afghan men and boys, as well as 82 percent of Afghan women and girls, were illiterate as recently as 2005, at a rate of 64 percent for both groups. The US government has invested decades and tens of billions of dollars in initiatives to help Afghanistan close that gap, including:

1. provide training, equipment, and salary support for hundreds of thousands of Afghan police and military;
2. Establish a reliable electoral system through supporting elections, supporting political parties, and providing election officials and observers with the necessary training;
3. Increase Afghans' access to education through constructing, maintaining, staffing, and outfitting schools;
4. Reintegrate tens of thousands of armed combatants who lack other skills, have easy access to weapons, and plenty of opportunities to recommit acts of violence back into society;
5. Develop the private sector by educating business owners, bringing down startup and operating expenses, and fostering an atmosphere that will entice both domestic and foreign companies to operate in Afghanistan;
6. Reduce the government of Afghanistan's endemic corruption to enhance its effectiveness and credibility;

7. Limit poppy production and trade while giving Afghan farmers alternate sources of income;
8. Provide local services to Afghans in the contested zone to encourage them to support the Afghan government rather than the Taliban;
9. Enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare through constructing, maintaining, staffing, and outfitting medical institutions;
10. Provide Afghan officials with the necessary training and authority so they can continue the aforementioned activities when the United States leaves by collecting taxes and efficiently managing their national budget (BBC, 2021).

Over the past 20 years, the United States has invested \$145 billion in efforts to restore Afghanistan's security forces, civil government, economy, and civil society. Additionally, the Department of Defense (DOD) has spent \$837 billion on fighting wars, which has led to the deaths of 2,443 US service members and 1,144 members of allied forces, as well as 20,666 US service members suffering wounded. The number of Afghan deaths has now reached ten. Afghan military has lost at least 66,000 lives (Watson Institute, 2021b). More than 48,000 Afghan civilians have been killed and at least 75,000 have been injured since 2001; these numbers are probably understated. Although a reason was intended for the excessive charges, over time the definition of that purpose evolved (Watson Institute, 2021c).

The US government hoped to destroy al-Qaeda, the Taliban movement that it was housed in, deny all terrorist groups a safe haven in Afghanistan, build Afghan security forces so they could deny terrorists a safe haven in the future, and help the civilian government become legitimate and strong enough to win the trust of Afghans at different points in time. Each goal was considered to bring the US government one step closer to being ready to depart. Even while there have been significant advances, most notably in maternal health, education, and health care, the progress has been illusive, and the prospects for continuing this success are dim.

The US government has employed a Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) to increase the likelihood that its efforts to rebuild Afghanistan will be

successful since its commencement in 2008. In addition to 427 audits, SIGAR has completed 191 special project reports, 52 quarterly reports, and 10 reports on lessons learned. Meanwhile, as a result of SIGAR's criminal investigations, 160 people have been found guilty. This oversight work has resulted in a \$3.84 billion save for American taxpayers.

The US has put a significant amount of money and manpower into rebuilding Afghanistan. As a result, much has changed and much has not twenty years later. The overall picture is gloomy if the objective was to reconstruct and leave behind a nation that can maintain itself and pose little threat to U.S. national security interests. By most standards, security has gotten steadily worse as the Taliban, the US's strongest foes, have taken back power. Afghanistan's reconstruction has been effective on a number of fronts but failing on others. Afghanistan is currently experiencing the worst crisis of any kind—be it human, economic, or sociopolitical—and the general state of the nation is rapidly declining.

Conclusion

The ramifications and effects of the war are very nerve-racking and destructive. Around 240,000 people have been killed as a result of direct war. Out of which more than 70,000 were civilians. Millions of Afghans became refugees and most of them migrated to Pakistan. The humanitarian and financial cost that Afghans have paid is far more devastating than what the US has paid. The war brought the whole nation to the brink of destruction. Every essential thing is rare in Afghanistan. The country is currently facing famine, hunger is the biggest problem for now. Millions of children's lives are in danger. The government does not have the financial resources to run the country. The health system, education system, family system, and institutional system are all getting worse. Different countries from the world are sending aid and support to Afghanistan. The US aid to Afghanistan is more than 782 million dollars since October 2021. Other countries are sending aid as well. India has promised to give 40,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan, and this process is functional now. The war in Afghanistan has left the country

deteriorated and left Afghanistan on the sympathy of others. The country does not have the money even for the employees of government-owned institutes, schools, banks, etc.

The US has tried to rebuild Afghanistan, and for this purpose, they have utilized financial resources in billions of dollars and thousands of human resources. The continuous war in the country did not allow for the proper reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan. Although, they have achieved success on multiple fronts.

The US had not achieved its goal in the war and it is an obvious and shaming fact for the United States. The war which was started by the US with aggressiveness and cruelty for the destruction of Taliban and Al-Qaeda ended with the US withdrawal, the losing capacity from Afghanistan. This war does not bring any betterment in the life of Afghan citizens. Despite the fact they were suffering earlier before the war on terror, the condition has become more worsen and they are suffering even more now.

General Conclusion

The events of the Twin Towers attacks can be considered the starting point in to fight against terrorism. The US and its allied nations (the Nato and other western countries such as France, the UK, and Germany) played a key role in destroying Afghanistan as well as in the emergence of terrorism through the formation of AL Qaeda and the Taliban. Afghanistan witnessed chaos at all levels: politically, economically, socially, and psychologically. It was a war that lasted for two decades destroying the infrastructure and thousands of civilian casualties.

The research aimed at highlighting the ramifications of the US-Afghanistan war. To outreach the underlined aim, sub-objectives were significant to be investigated. Firstly, the causes behind which US invaded Afghanistan must be pinpointed since it helped in understanding the significance of this invasion. Secondly, bringing out the withdrawal strategies that US used. Thus, interrelating both the ramifications along with the war implications will be easily investigated.

For synthesizing the major studies related to the research, the relevant literature review has been conducted. The first chapter deals with a historical overview of the US- Afghanistan War. It portrays the geographical location of the country. Afghanistan has a strategic geographic placement. it is part of the ancient silk road. The chapter refers to the emergence of the Taliban and AL Qaeda as influential terrorist organizations in Afghanistan. These organizations gain power and strength from the west. they are the creation of western countries to reinforce their hegemony over the rest of the world. It comes with the bilateral US-Afghan relations and their development. In addition, the chapter introduces the US military plan during the invasion of Afghanistan. The second chapter tackles the conditions of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan

and how it affected the country at all levels: politically, socially, and economically. The US retreat from Afghanistan occurred under the pressures of the US civilians and the military men. The war costs were a direct reason for this surge. Thousands of us soldiers suffered from severe injuries as well as many US families lost their sons on the battlefields against terrorism. As a result, the US government needed an emergency plan for the military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

For achieving the objectives of the research, we asked, correspondingly, three questions. The first inquired about the reasons behind which the US invaded Afghanistan. The second examined the withdrawal strategies along with the ways of ending the war. The third scrutinized the ramifications of US-Afghanistan war. To respond to the questions three hypotheses have been formulated. The first sought to highlight the relationship between the invasion of Afghanistan and quelling the terrorism in its territory. The Second hypothesized that the US intension of ending the can be traced through series of withdrawal policies. The third chapter related to the effects of ending of the war which led to several ramifications that affect international relations.

In order to test our hypotheses, we selected the related corpora from the literature available and accordingly we implemented the following methods. We used the historical and descriptive method to generate the ramifications of the war. For more accuracy, the descriptive historical method was used to report the historical overview of the war and the strategies of withdrawal that provides the ramifications detected.

The current study resulted in portraying the different ramifications and implications of the US-Afghan war. The US invasion of Afghanistan can be considered as a direct military reaction against the 9th September attacks where Bush's administration decided to fight against terrorism in the name of freedom. The USA wanted to proclaim itself as a global power at all levels: politically, economically, socially, and military. The US diplomacy deviated from its ideal purpose to restore democracy in Afghanistan. The US government helped in developing racism

and Islamophobia in its lands as well as in European countries where most Muslims suffered from the repercussions of the US-Afghan war.

The war resulted in paving the way for the rise of new terrorist organizations such as AL Qaeda, the Taliban, and Daich (the Islamic state). The war influenced the global economy through the economic crisis of 2008 during Obama's administration . The US withdrawal was tragic letting a whole country in chaos and destruction. It seems that history repeated itself since the US-Afghan war can be considered a copy of what occurred in Iraq during the 1990s. It was a war in the name of freedom and democracy.

Further research on the US-Afghan War and its long-term ramifications and implications will be beneficial as the war may have other different implications in the coming years. It is modern warfare that needs further investigations to highlight the importance of peace in the construction of nations. Hence, every aspect concerning the matter should be studied and evaluated.

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الملخص

الحرب على الإرهاب هي أحدث وأطول حرب في كل العصور. تحاول الدراسة الحالية التحقيق في أبرز حرب بين الولايات المتحدة وأفغانستان والتي بدأت في 11 سبتمبر 2001 إلى 2021. وهي تسلط الضوء على تداعيات وانعكاسات مختلفة للصراع بين الولايات المتحدة وأفغانستان. من أجل إجراء هذه الدراسة ، تم طرح ثلاثة أسئلة. استفسر الأول عن أسباب غزو الولايات المتحدة لأفغانستان. أما الثاني فقد تناول استراتيجيات الانسحاب وطرق إنهاء الحرب. وفحص الثالث تداعيات الحرب بين الولايات المتحدة وأفغانستان. للرد على الأسئلة تمت صياغة ثلاث فرضيات. الأول سعى إلى إبراز العلاقة بين غزو أفغانستان وقمع الإرهاب في أراضيها. افترضت الفرضية الثانية أن نية الولايات المتحدة بإنهاء يمكن تتبعها من خلال سلسلة من سياسات الانسحاب. والثالث يتعلق بآثار انتهاء الحرب التي أدت إلى تداعيات عديدة أثرت على العلاقات الدولية. من أجل التحقق من صحة فرضياتنا ، اخترنا المجسم الخاضع لهذه الدراسة من الأدبيات المتاحة ، باستخدام تقنيات الأساليب التاريخية والوصفية. وعليه توصلت الدراسة إلى النتائج التالية: تسببت الحرب الأمريكية الأفغانية في تداعيات خطيرة على جميع المستويات: اقتصاديًا واجتماعيًا ونفسيًا في كلا البلدين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الصراع، الانفراج، الحرب الأمريكية الأفغانية.