



Study On Afghan Politics: Political View

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Abstract: Afghanistan is undergoing yet another in a seemingly endless series of radical transitions. Since 1973, the country has changed regimes, political systems, and outside interveners with the frequency that most countries hold national elections. This turmoil has led to decimated institutions, widespread fear and trauma, rampant short-termism, and deep distrust within and between all major factions. The current shift from the NATO military surge is marked by a 90-plus percent reduction of international forces and concomitant economic slowdown, continued assertions of dominance by Afghanistan's neighbors, and Afghan security forces shouldering the primary burden of counterinsurgency. In 2014, Afghanistan undertook the first democratic transition of power between heads of state—though the result was controversial and led to a negotiated power-sharing arrangement labeled the National Unity Government (NUG). Despite sixteen years of massive international military, economic, and political assistance, the country remains beset by a debilitating array of conflicts driven by both internal and exogenous factors. The Taliban insurgency, with support from within Pakistan, continues to take territory. Militants affiliated with the self-proclaimed Islamic State are making inroads and have punctuated their presence with a series of high-profile terror attacks. Levels of violence continue to rise, and with them alarming numbers of civilian casualties. Economic migrants are leaving for Europe and neighboring countries, contributing to a brain drain and lost investment. And criminality in the otherwise peaceful cities causes fear among the slowly growing middle class.

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Introduction:

In recent years the **politics of Afghanistan** have been dominated by the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan by the United States and the subsequent efforts to stabilize and democratize the country. As of 2005 the system of government in Afghanistan is in transition. A new constitution has been adopted, and an executive president democratically elected, and parliamentary elections took place in September 2005. The current president Hamid Karzai became the first ever democratically elected head of state in Afghanistan in late 2004. He now has begun the process of reconstruction. Still, the country lacks a legislature. Elections for this branch of government were supposed to have finished by mid 2005. The members of the Supreme Court were appointed recently by the president to form the judiciary. Together, this new system will provide a new set of checks and balances that was unheard of in the country. Also, the system is quite new, implementation of which began only 2004, just after decades of war between different factions and warlords. The remnants of the warlords are almost non-existent. Afghanistan political development may be, arguably, the fastest in recent history. The United

Nations and other governments and organizations play a vital role rebuilding this new democracy's political environment.

Background:

Politics in Afghanistan has historically consisted of power struggles, bloody coups and unstable transfers of power. With the exception of a military junta, the country has been governed by nearly every system of government over the past century, including a monarchy, republic, theocracy and communist state. The constitution ratified by the 2003 Loya jirga restructured the government as an Islamic republic consisting of three branches of power (executive, legislative, and judiciary) overseen by checks and balances.

Afghanistan is currently led by President Hamid Karzai, who was elected in October 2004. Before the election, Karzai led the country after being chosen by delegates of the Bonn Conference in 2001 to head an interim government after the fall of the Taliban. While supporters have praised Karzai's efforts to promote national reconciliation and a growing economy, critics charge him with failing to reign in the country's warlords, inability to stem

corruption and the growing drug trade, and the slow pace of reconstruction.

The current parliament was elected in 2005. Among the elected officials were former mujahadeen, Taliban fighters, communists, reformists, and Islamic fundamentalists. Surprisingly, 28% of the delegates elected were women, 3% more than the 25% minimum guaranteed under the constitution. Ironically, this made Afghanistan, long known under the Taliban for its oppression of women, one of the leading countries in terms of female representation.

The Supreme Court of Afghanistan is currently led by Chief Justice Faisal Ahmad Shinwari. Dominated by fundamentalist religious figures, the court has issued numerous questionable rulings, such as banning cable television, seeking to ban a candidate in the 2004 presidential election for questioning polygamy laws, and limiting the rights of women, as well as overstepping its constitutional authority by issuing rulings on subjects not yet brought before the court. Though many believed that Karzai would make reforming the Supreme Court a priority of his administration, as of 2006 he has yet to do so.

The Former Taliban Regime

On September 27, 1996, the ruling members of the Afghan Government were displaced by members of the Islamic Taliban movement. The Taliban declared themselves the legitimate government of Afghanistan; however, the UN continued to recognize the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference left the Afghan seat vacant until the question of legitimacy could be resolved through negotiations among the warring factions.

By the time of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan after the September 11 terrorist attacks only Pakistan recognized the Taliban government, though Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had in the past.

The Taliban occupied 95% of the territory, called the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The remaining 5% belonged to the rebel forces constituting the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which the United Nations had recognized as the official government in exile.

U.S.-led Invasion

After the Taliban's refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden to the US for his suspected involvement in the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the US, a US-led international coalition was formed; after several weeks of aerial bombardment by coalition forces and military action

on the ground, including Afghan opposition forces, the Taliban was ousted from power on 17 November 2001.

Bonn Agreement

In December 2001, a number of prominent Afghans met under UN auspices in Bonn, Germany, to decide on a plan for governing the country; as a result, the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) - made up of 30 members, headed by a chairman - was inaugurated on 22 December 2001 with a six-month mandate to be followed by a two-year Transitional Authority (TA), after which elections are to be held. Some provisions in the agreement have expired, due to the creation of the constitution. Still, the agreement paved the way for the creation of a democratic Afghanistan.

Approval by the Loya Jirga

The structure of the Transitional Authority was announced on 10 June 2002, when the Loya jirga (Grand Assembly) convened establishing the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA), which has 18 months to hold a constitutional Loya jirga to adopt a constitution and 24 months to hold nationwide elections. The Loya jirga was replaced by the National Assembly.

Recent Developments

Under the Bonn Agreement the Afghan Constitution Commission was established to consult with the public and formulate a draft constitution. The meeting of a constitutional loya jirga was held in December 2003, when a new constitution was adopted creating a presidential form of government with a bicameral legislature.

Troops and intelligence agencies from the United States and a number of other countries are present, some to support the government, others assigned to hunt for remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda. A United Nations military force called the International Security Assistance Force has been operating in Kabul since December 2001. NATO took control of this Force on August 11, 2003. Some of the country remains under the control of warlords.

On March 27, 2003, Afghan deputy defense minister and powerful warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum created an office for the North Zone of Afghanistan and appointed officials to it, defying then-interim president Hamid Karzai's orders that there be no zones in Afghanistan.

Eurocorps took over the responsibility for the NATO-led ISAF in Kabul August 9, 2004.

National elections were held on October 9, 2004. Over 10 million Afghans were registered to vote. Most of the 17 candidates opposing Karzai

boycotted the election, charging fraud,^[2] an independent commission found evidence of fraud, but ruled that it did not affect the outcome of the poll. Karzai won 55.4% of the vote.^[3] He was inaugurated as president on December 7. It was the country's first national election since 1969, when parliamentary elections were last held.

On September 18, 2005, parliamentary elections were held; the parliament opened on the

following December 19. On December 20 Karzai's close ally and president of the first mujahideen government, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, was picked to head the 102-seat upper house. On December 21, Yunus Qanuni, Afghan opposition leader and Karzai's main opponent was chosen to lead the 249-seat lower house of parliament with 122 votes against 117 for his closest challenger.

		01-41-0086 هاجي خان وزير
		20-34-0086 داولت خان شينواري
		06-22-0075 واكيل عبدالرحمن
		10-62-0032 هاجي شهزاده
		19-08-0022 سيد محمد حريق
		03-78-0113 صوفی عبدالستار هوتک

Conclusion:

Stability into and through the 2019 electoral process in Afghanistan needs to be a paramount objective if any hope for long-term peace and inclusive economic growth is to be met. It is therefore critical to assess whether the structure of governance and power sharing resulting from the interplay of the constitutional framework and its execution (through elections, creation of commissions, appointments, decrees, and so on) is

likely to lead to political stability going forward. Alternatively, is a potential process of reform—constitutional or otherwise—more likely to succeed? Afghanistan's current problems are in part a manifestation of a more systemic challenge. An electoral democracy in Afghanistan needs to leave less to chance in answering the fundamental questions of whether certain groups will feel included or excluded from the state and its resources. So long as any electoral outcome provokes an existential fear

(whether fully justified or not) in certain communities, elections and their outcomes will likely be unstable. Because mutual trust between parties (groups) is so low (as in all long-term conflict environments) and because collective trust in government and the rule of law is so low, divided and atomized societies often fail to translate the need to share power into a political system that delivers on that demand. Lack of effective ways of power sharing, like winner-take-all presidential systems, can be destabilizing. Rigid schemes to ensure divisions of power can also lead to gridlock and fragmentation. Afghanistan does have a path to political stability, but a serious course correction is needed, and urgently. Growing conflict only decreases the opportunity for a transformative, reformist government to deliver on the aspirations of the Afghan people. President Ghani and CEO Abdullah still have the opportunity to see past this moment and secure the future by taking up the principles embedded in the Bonn Agreement, the 2004 Constitution, and the NUG agreement to create an inclusive political system to rebuild a war-weary nation.

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