



Research Paper

Retrenchment of US and Afghan Women: The Gender Perspective on Afghan Crisis and Way Forward

Subrat Kumar Ratha

Masters' Student, Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

Deeksha Bordoloi

Masters' Student, Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

ABSTRACT

With an equivocal understanding, the unrest political catastrophe and erosion of women's dignity imposes a sharp investigative insight to acknowledge the position of Afghanistan in the circle of geopolitics and human rights. Historically, Afghan land has been utilizing, particularly after the foreign invasions, to facilitate the geopolitical gain because of the geographical centrality of the country. The invasion of USSR, During the cold war, was the foremost acceleration of intra Afghan upheavals that went under a series of crisis against women, propagated by rape, murder, sexual abuses and illiteracy. Afghanistan was threatened by Islamic fundamentalist groups when USSR withdrawn her military presence but after some years of internal violence, the mission of Enduring Freedom, laid by USA, revived the military obduracy for compensating 9/11 attack on US trade centre. The violation of women rights was uninterruptedly expanded by attacks and bombings, moreover the abdication of women from basic necessities paralysed the Afghan land to be a secure place for women survival. Having experienced the death of military personnel, USA was signed an agreement with Taliban to shut down the US military guns and prepare to leave from this dubious situation forever with an optimism of prosperity and self determination of Afghan people. The sagacity of US benevolence has placed the future of Afghanistan and its women under an invisible timeline where all the major internal actors are supposed to come up with their determined absurdities. This paper is an attempt to focus on some major problems in Afghanistan, primarily the condition of women and their future under a complex Geopolitics.

KEY WORDS - Geopolitics, Afghanistan, Human Rights, sexual Abuses, Illiteracy

Received 12 May, 2021; Revised: 23 May, 2021; Accepted 25 May, 2021 © The author(s) 2021.

Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

I. INTRODUCTION

Geopolitical interface between the rival nations altered the older conception of power relation and domination, after a magnificent improvement at the level of military engagement and soft power diplomacy, now the geographical location has been taken as the foremost goal to be achieved for engaging into a greater hegemony over the others. For many centuries, probably since inter-state invasions, the Eurasian region has been treated as a pivotal space for great powers to maintain their position. Geopolitical theorist Halford J. Mackinder developed his heartland theory in response to the 19th century competition between Great Britain and Russia (Gilchrist, 2019). The "Heartland Theory" denotes the sensitive position of Afghan land and the great importance for the power seekers, moreover Mackinder clarified the geographical location of Afghanistan to control the entire Eurasia. But despite an external perception, the condition of Afghanistan is much worse for their indigenous people because of the constant war, insurgencies, human trafficking, women violence and so on. Afghanistan has been affected by decades of never-ending conflict (Chakraborty, 2021). These conflicts are being carried out under a triangular circle, organized by Taliban, Afghan and US forces. From a gender perspective, the survival of women in Afghan land has been resulted as impossible for its uncertain future with a suffered history. The constant presence of US military force did not recover the country's condition as she was promised since 2001, however the humanitarian crisis in Afghan land tries to open up the arms and eyes of the world to evaluate the domestic crisis, apart from who gets what? It wasn't supposed to be like this for Afghanistan, the country of 35 million people where America has waged its longest war (Bohn, 2018). Women, as much as any other demographic in Afghanistan, have a pressing interest in ensuring a just and sustainable

peace in their country after fighting hard for their rights for the past 20 years (Narain, 2021). The curtailment of women political and economic rights leads to their vulnerability in all the sphere of life, as a whole the Afghan women have never realized a free and open society due to the strict adherence of Islamic laws and the regional groupings for their narrow and short-term gains. Having watched a crime against women since the invasion of USSR, all the women have been praying for a better tomorrow despite an invisible uncertainty. Women have suffered deeply during Afghanistan's 40 years of war, and they desperately long for peace (Barr, 2020). The peace for Afghanistan would only be realized when the women condition gets satisfied. Under the recent peace deal with Taliban, US promised to withdraw her military troops but the questions on women seem to be unaddressed, therefore the praying lips for Afghanistan must have to include those women whose wombs and blessings were nurtured the Afghan Race but failed to protect their sons and husbands due to the powerlessness both at the moral and political level. A prosperous Afghanistan would look like a land of gender equality, good governance and basic civil and political rights, thus an analysis on these issues are supposed to be a real framework for never ending peace for Afghan (Wo)men.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To understand the historical background of Afghanistan as a Graveyard.
- To examine the external invasions in Afghan land for Geopolitical gain.
- To unveil the condition of women in Afghanistan under Taliban and External military Troops
- To consider the Peace agreement under US and Taliban for peace, Development and Prosperity.
- To identify the future of Afghan women after the Withdrawal of US Military Troops.

III. METHODOLOGY

The research signifies the Qualitative method to arrive at the fulfilment of objectives and conclusion. By acknowledging the subject matter, Condition of women in Afghanistan could not be address through an empirical insight due to the shortage of time and resources. After reviewing a bunch of literatures, the researchers were convinced with the accessibility of a more theoretical and normative hypothesis. Secondary sources were utilized during the process of data collections such as academic articles, journals, online materials and annual reports of different International Agencies.

IV. AFGHANISTAN: A GRAVEYARD

The history of Afghanistan shows a detailed analytical figure of the external powers whose possession has been damaged by continuous decline of permanency on the entire land. No country will be able to maintain their presence in Afghanistan thus, it would be an appropriate assertion that – “Afghan land is easier to invade, harder to impose rules and impossible to govern”. Empire after empire, nation after nation have failed to pacify what is today the modern territory of Afghanistan, giving the region the nickname “Graveyard of Empires,” even in sometimes those empires won some initial battles and made inroads into the region (Pillalamarri, 2017). During ancient and medieval history, many attacks and occupations were made against Afghanistan by different cultural and political actors like Mughal, Arab region, Hindu Shahi dynasty, Mongols. But it was not an easy task for the invaders to acquire a sovereign possession, therefore the demise of great empires opened up the brain to acknowledge the pernicious domestic situations such as religious diversities, ethnic conflicts, mountainous region with landlocked territory.

Having realised a series of upheavals, Afghanistan never tired with the external presence but damaged the backbone with its internal groupings and intra-war strategy. The modern Afghanistan has faced three major invasions, like the Great Game, Cold War and War on Terror, by the foreigners but blessed with complex geopolitical situation that rescued its own fractured identity in all times. The last three invaders were suffered with uncertain deaths, geopolitical failures and apologized for their own fate and brutality. British empire granted independence to Afghanistan after first world war, Russia withdrawn its military presence for her internal political promise and US concluded an agreement to withdraw its military troops due to the unprecedented drainage of US blood and moral strength. Wars of the last three “empires” to invade Afghanistan coincided with the age of photography, leaving a rich record of their triumphs and failures, and an arresting chronicle of the land that seems to have changed little in the past two centuries (Nordland, 2017).

The term “Graveyard”, as has been defined at the outset, not only indicates the demise and decline of empires rather a sharp deterioration of human survival, in general the existence of women in Afghanistan has become a crucial outbreak of internal political situations and women rights. The war in Afghanistan has devastated the lives not only of women but of children as well (Neugebaure, 1999). Almost 90% of women in Afghanistan have experienced at least one form of domestic violence, 17% have experienced sexual violence and 52% have experienced physical violence (Addressing Violence against Women in Afghanistan: The health system response , 2015). About 87% of Afghan girls and women experience abuse in their lifetime, according to Human Rights Watch (Glinski, 2021). The worst condition of women was originally occurred when Taliban

established sharia laws after 1996, many women were forced to remain at home with suppressed social and political life. The Afghan land has been proved as a graveyard for women in all indicators, ranging from domestic suppression to public submission. Violation of women rights and dignity is rooted in the shared history of Afghanistan with USSR, US and Taliban, but at the same time entire women community would be pleased to give a permanent farewell to US on 11th September 2021 after four decades of perpetual violence. But the real graveyard will remain the same as it was if there is no priest to do rituals on the cremation.

V. INVASION OF USSR: THE RISE OF DEVILS

During cold war politics, after signed some demonstrative agreements between US and USSR, the process of détente (de-escalation) was at the peak in late 1970. Ideological spectre was hunting the entire world and finally, after an internal conflict in Afghanistan, USSR withdrawn its moral and political settlement from US and replaced the process of world peace with locating the Soviet army in Afghan land. The invasion was intended to be quick operation, as in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 (Baker, 2019). The Soviet Union intervened in support of the Afghan communist government in its conflict with anti-communist Muslim guerrillas during the Afghan war (1978-92) and remained in Afghanistan until mid-February 1989 (Britannica, 2020). The invasion was a culmination of a process whereby the USSR became increasingly, and actively involved in Afghanistan's domestic affairs after PDPA regime emerged in 1978 and failed to procure widespread support for their socialist reforms (Mehra, 2014). The communist insurgency in Afghanistan encouraged USSR to protect the newly formed government by Nur Mohammad Taraki from the liberal reformist leader Mohammad Daoud Khan. Taraki, like his successor Hafizullah Amin, employed suppression and violence – including mass arrests, torture and summary executions – to implement socialist reforms (The Cost of War Afghan Experience of Conflict, 1978-2009, 2009). Moscow sent more than 600,000 to a war that traumatized many young men and women and fed a popular discontent that became one factor leading to the unravelling of the Soviet Union (AP, 2019). The Soviet presence in Afghanistan proved the incapacity of the national government and intensified the Mujahadeen to fight against Soviet troops, however the cities were captured by Soviet by using modern arms and aircraft but the rural areas were controlled by fundamentalist groups. For security issues, around 6 million people were forced for migration, out of the total number, 3.5 million people fled to Pakistan and 2 million people went to Iran. The USSR laid War left a heavy amount of deaths as estimated 8,70,00 afghans were lost their life, 1.2 million people disabled and 25,500 people were died due to landmine bombing. During this period, afghan women were experienced an unprecedented atrocity against themselves though violent attacks, forced marriage, rape, sexual abuses and kidnappings. From Soviet side 1.5 million soldiers died during the war, however the process peace in Afghanistan came up under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev and the withdrawal was completed on February 15, 1989. The US mentality considered this process as a triumph of liberal politics and the end of cold war. The devastation and radicalization of Afghan society resulted in the subsequent decades of continued conflict and warfare and the rise of militant Islamic fundamentalism that shaped the post-Cold War world (Tobin, 2020). The national and ideological interest of USSR destroyed the lives of many, destabilized the socio-political life and changed the lifestyle of women under a threat perception and constant fear.

VI. WOMEN'S VIOLENCE AND SUFFERED HISTORY

Afghan Women unlike the other women in the world have suffered more weighted violence and discrimination of human rights than any other women have ever faced in the world. The dark shadow which dispersed above her fate is still bright and has not seen any ray to overcome it yet. *"We shall teach our sons to protect and stand for women and daughters to value their worth. Our struggle continues but our hope shall never fade away"*-Stated by Zarghuna Kargar, Journalist and Author of Dear Zari. The quote indicates the build in strength which Afghan women has finally achieved after years of suffering and bondage.

Afghanistan accounts to a total population of 34 million out of which 15 million are male and 14.2 million are female. Women Rights in Afghanistan has never remained constant as there never existed a consistency in Governments and violence suffered by ages. Women officially gained equality under the 1964 constitution which was later crushed by the Taliban leaders. However, since the removal of Taliban Troops from Afghanistan in 2001 much improvement has been made to improve the conditions of human rights of women, yet a variety of flaws succumb the situation altogether. Human rights represent the basic rights which a human being should have in order to live a life of dignity, but women and human rights relationship seems broken by many factors. The status of women in Afghanistan has been constantly changing with the upheaval of political regimes. (Women in Afghanistan 'the back story' 2014)

Historical Development of Underdevelopments

Phase 1: Before the Invasion by Soviet Union (1919-1979):

Women had voting rights during 1919 and indeed her status was higher as compared to the present times. She also occupied a prestigious pedestal like the other male members of the Afghan Society. They enjoyed other

beneficial human rights such as right to wear, drive with no fingers pointed towards her. She lived with respect and dignity. During 1960' and 1970's they comprised half of the labour force and harnessed numerable vocational qualifications. However, it was a short beautiful dream for women which was crushed with the overthrow of soviet regime and the emergence of violent and brutal Taliban Rule in the Country.

Phase 2: Rise of Soviet Power (1979-1989):

After a long-stretched rule under Zahir Shah, the Soviet-Afghan War overthrown the Afghan peace after decades. Zahir Shah was overthrown by his cousin, Mohammad Daoud Khan, who was eventually executed by Nur Mohammad Taraki due to failure of ruling the country. Taraki was a cruel and brutal leader and the masses underwent day to day mass executions, torture etc in the name of social reforms. The long-established peace was stumbled under Taraki's rule. One communist faction group finally overthrew taraki in 1979 and Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in the same year. The Soviets faced criticisms and counter attacks from Mujahideen Groups operating as fragmented parts from one end to the other in the country. Afghan masses woke up to bombings, mass killings, violence, sexual assault etc. Women were the worse sufferers as they had to flee in large numbers to Refugee Camps in Pakistan and Iran with the least of basic necessity facilities and the worst among all. Around 870,000 Afghan were killed, among which the majority were women in this guerrilla fight, which was fuelled by the Cold War between Soviet Union and United States. In 1988 finally, Soviets left the Afghan Soil for good and peace was restored under Dr Najibullah Ahmedzai, which was finally collapsed in 1992. (The Cost of War, Afghan Experiences of Conflict 1978-2009 n.d.)

Phase 3: The Dictatorship of the Taliban (1991-2001)

Under the Taliban Rule women fought Nightmares with the application of the brutalized *Sharia Law*. Women were denied the possession of basic human rights to health and education and was brutally punished for violating one. She had to cover herself under the burqa and showing off skin was punishable offence. Rapes and sexual assaults seemed to a daily affair for women in Afghanistan. Life expectancy of women indubitably dropped down to 46 percent. Taliban used Sexual violence against women as a weapon to unleash terror upon the targeted male relatives. (The Cost of War, Afghan Experiences of Conflict 1978-2009 n.d.)

Phase 4: The hope of Change: International Intervention (2001-2004):

Women's condition improved after the US invasion of Afghanistan and removal of Taliban Troops from Afghanistan. Women regained her lost dignity and soon was also recruited with political rights and educational accessibility. Various girl schools were opened and training camps to train the women leaders. Radio Channels rebooted to feature female commentaries. Women was injected with confidence and improved self-confidence.

Phase 5: The Present Screenplay: (2004 onwards):

Afghanistan is rightly proclaimed by international channels to be the worst place for women to survive. Despite international efforts from all links, Afghan women's death rate is quite high and approximately 70-80 % girls are still migrants. If we take example of recent years we can perceive that Taliban Groups continue to bomb and rape the skin of women despite restrictions which shall be discussed in the sections below. (Shankar 2020)

VII. WOMEN UNDER TALIBAN AND "WAR ON TERROR"

The Taliban, most contested and discussed topic of international politics refer to a fundamentalist group which ruled Afghanistan (Kabul) and continued to spread havoc until the U.S Invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Even after 20 years of U.S intervention, the Taliban has grown stronger from its roots and own ups to eighty-five thousand full time fighters ready to sacrifice themselves in the name of their leader. The group was formally assembled in the early 1990's by Afghan Mujahideen or Islamic guerrilla fighters, who had consistently rebelled against the Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan (1979-89) and finally succeeded in its attempts to gain power over Kabul by joining hands with the foes of Afghan i.e. Pakistan's *Inter-services Intelligence Directorate (ISI)*. After the death of the leader of Taliban- Osama Bin Laden, the current leader of Taliban is – *Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada*. (Maizland 2021)

The Horrendous 9/11 Attacks:

September 11,2001 has remained a historic day in the books of world books. Al Qaeda –a militant Islamic Terrorist Group hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks over four reputed buildings of United States. Two planes blow off the twin towers of World Trade Centre in Pentagon, the third plane crashed at Pentagon in Washington D.C and the fourth plane crashed in an open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Around 3000 Americans lost their lives and the economic toll was devastating to overcome. The attacks were planned by Osama Bin Laden the leader of Al Qaeda against America's support to Israel and Persian Gulf War which triggered Laden's intensions.

President George W. Bush announced his war on terror to erase Al Qaeda and Taliban groups headed by Osama Bin Laden and persecute them. (Angerer 2018)

The American “War on Terror”:

Operation Enduring Freedom is the official name used by the Bush Government back then to throw spotlight on the “Global War on Terror”. On October 7, 2001 Operation Enduring Freedom began to ensure the abolishment of Al Qaeda and Taliban Troops from Afghanistan. America bombed set targets in Taliban bases of Afghanistan for a continuous of five days. America was offered help from Austria, Canada, Britain etc in its war against wiping out terror from the maps of the world. Eventually US troops overtook Kabul from the hands of Taliban Terrorists and Peace was established in Afghanistan. In 2004, Afghanistan conducted its first general election and in 2007 another victory marked for USA with the killing of Taliban’s Top military leader Mullah Dadullah. US troops marked their presence in Afghan soil straight for 20 years. (Operation Enduring Freedom Fast Facts 2020)

Afghan: The Ubiquitous Death Trap for Living Women:

With the ushering of modern technology and improved civilization, human minds have also evolved over time and improved itself in terms of outdated religious beliefs which attempt to succumb humans their freedom to a death trap. Despite changes in all dimensions, Afghanistan seems to be far behind in the race. Afghanistan was and is still known as the worst place for women to survive in. Under the Taliban Rule, women drank violence, breathed rapes and shaded blood. Taliban holds that “*the face of women is a source of corruption*” for men not related to them. Women are bound to stick to Islamic rules of Burqa at all public places and gender apartheid existed with no boundaries. The following rights are deprived in Afghanistan for Women:

- 1) **Right to Education:** Women are denied education in Afghanistan. Taliban had shut down all schools for women and only male education is welcomed in that land. Only 10 % women are able to either read or write.
- 2) **Freedom of Movement:** Women are not allowed to move as per their will and desire and requires male permission. She is bound to cover herself in public, without a small inch of skin being showcased.
- 3) **Deprivation of Right to Work:** Women are denied the right to work. Women in Afghan don’t hold any political or social position. Some are allowed to act as doctors but with no males nearby.
- 4) **Right to security:** Physical security seems a long-forgotten dream for Afghan women as she is bound to cover herself in the veil from top to toe and any violation of the orders of Taliban leads to physical abuse in public.
- 5) **Right to health:** Health infrastructure is so flawed that pregnant women give birth in homes with unqualified doctors treating them. Girl child related deaths continue to pile up in Afghanistan. (Afghan Women under Taliba Repression 1998)

VIII. AGREEMENT FOR PEACE: US APOLOGY AND TALIBAN’S REVISION

The military engagement of US, since 2001, has conspicuously been triggering the widespread human rights violation, degradation of women dignity and political fraction in Afghanistan. Before US intervention, from 1996 to 2001, Afghanistan was under the control of Islamic fundamentalist groups. The Taliban’s rule of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 was the darkest time for Afghan women (Tajali & Hoodfar, 2021). US military troops were involved in a war to compensate the 9/11 attack on US trade centre but, after 20 years of constant warfare in Afghanistan, it may be considered that no one was certain about this crisis when US army went for the longest war in the human history. US presence in Afghanistan has been reassessed the democratic jingoism of west and prepared the foundation for Taliban to take counter measures against US troops. The Taliban’s resurgence corresponded with a rise in anti-American and anti-western sentiment among Afghans (Witte, 2020). The deadliest war against Afghan terrorist groups destroyed human lives from both sides, as estimated 2.4 million people have lost their life, out of the total number 3,586 military troops died from US and its allies. Since 2010, women have paid a heavy price for Afghan Crisis, around 3000 died and 7000 injured. With the increase in the number of troops in 2009, the number of American fatalities also increased significantly as 1,534 Americans died in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2012. There are 20,066 Americans service members who have been wounded in action in Afghanistan since 2001 (Martinez & Seyler, 2021).

The recent peace agreement between US and Taliban, concluded on 29th February 2020, was just a rethinking of US about the wrong doings rather than to establish peace and democracy in Afghanistan. The long-delayed talks come after an agreement in February between US and the Taliban, which included a conditional the United States troop withdrawal within 14 months, a controversial prisoner swap and the Taliban’s promise to cut ties with Al-Qaeda (Kerami, 2020). The agreement further specifies that the United

States forces in Afghanistan be reduced to 8,600 within the first 135 days after the signing of the agreement and that the United States and the coalition will withdraw all forces from 5 military bases, also within the first 135 days after the agreement is signed (Farr, 2020). However, the February 2020 Doha Agreement and the subsequent negotiations have failed to bring Afghanistan anywhere near peace, even as the Joe Biden administration is hard-pressed to make a final decision regarding the withdrawal of the US troops (Kaura, 2021). The process of peace deal signified the emerging political debates in Afghanistan and at the international forums, primarily after 11th September 2021 all the military troops will be relocated in their own land but the internal turmoil would remain the same because the negotiation was made to withdraw military presence not to restructure the Afghan land, their women and their peaceful existence. All indications suggest that the United States is simply attempting to broker an agreement that will reduce violence and allow for a withdrawal of troops, not safeguarding or providing basic rights for women and more marginalized religious and ethnic communities (Azad, 2020).

There would be another possibility for the emergence of Taliban due to the political vacuum created by USA, therefore the historical sufferings of Afghan people might be reappeared. The Taliban claims to build an Islamic system in which all Afghans have equal rights, where the rights of women “granted by Islam” are protected (Kerami, 2020). The peace deal at Doha did not claim any specific political order to be adhered by Afghanistan after US withdrawal, moreover the Taliban have threatened the US and her Allies about the attacks if the Troops are not departed on time. Haji Hekmat, a member of Taliban, proclaimed that, “We have won the war and America has lost”, this assertion denotes the failure of US to change Afghan land as it was in 2001 and lastly, they also proved the geopolitical nature of Afghanistan as “Graveyard of Empires”.

IX. WOMEN CONDITION AFTER US WITHDRAWAL: A NIGHTMARE WITH UNCERTAINTY

The Doha Agreement has made resolute attempts to usher in peace within the soil of Afghanistan. The two peace agreements, first signed on September 2016, between the Afghan Government and Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin and the second peace treaty signed on February 29, 2020 between the U.S and the Taliban which shall come into effect if Taliban and other Mujahideen groups upheld the terms of the peace agreement. While the Doha Agreement consist of numerous initiatives for ensuring peace and restoring Human rights, if we closely observe nothing has been mentioned about Women’s Rights in general and no measures are mentioned to improve their already fatal state.

America’s Role so far in Shielding Women against Terror:

The U.S government has acted as the mother-guard for women since 2001 and henceforth their situation improved after the removal of Taliban troops. Americans have always offered a concerning helping hand to free Afghan women from the wounds and cuts which Taliban gifted them with. The United Nations have remained the largest provider of Humanitarian Assistance since 2001 to Afghan Girls and women. It provided a total of 178 million to provide humanitarian assistance to women in 2001. The U.S government has accorded time to think numerous measures which could offer Afghan women their rightful place in society. Numerous NGOs in U.S have devoted their energies to bring in justice to the Afghan Women. U.S Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison introduce the “Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001” to counter crimes against women and children. The U.S has always been key supporters of multi-ethnic representation of the society and polity in Post-Taliban Afghanistan. (Report on the Taliban's War Against Women 2001). Currently 27 percent of seats in the National Assembly and 25 percent of the seats in the Provincial Councils have been reserved for women. A well-organized Ministry for Women’s Affairs have been established to defend women rights and give way to gender equality. Women also constitute 26 percent of civil servants, 24 percent of employees in government run media and private companies. (Ayushi 2009)

Inferring the Future without U.S presence for Women:

Women had been suffering from atrocities which she has been enduring in patriarchal societies, specially, in the Afghan land. Gasping the non- presence of U.S. troops poses a dark shadow over their improving condition under U.S. and how their future would possibly look like? Under the hands of U.S, numerous robust policy frameworks such as Afghanistan Compact, Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan had been operating on field to help women. With the consolidation of power between the Islamist militant group Taliban and U.S. government, now Afghan Women fear for an uncertain future of marginalization and terrific living. Fawzia Koofi has argued that it is hard to believe that Taliban has changed its tactics and found peace in a short span of two decades. She demands to preserve the existing parliamentary system and 25 % reservation for women and to ensure freedom of religion as per choice and not force. Former Afghan Parliamentarian Barakzai stated that women’s future doesn’t seem to take a positive turn under Taliban, as Taliban has always considered women’s issues as mere problems and non-important to be discussed about. In the Doha talks, Taliban clearly stated that women could live happily with Islamic rules, which indicates a negative future for women. Although women participated in the Doha Talks

from Afghanistan, they weren't considered as "meaningful participants" by both parties. Either the U.S. attempted to free itself for diplomatic reasons from the burden of Taliban or they considered peace deal at the bigger picture, even if women's future would largely be effected by the consequences of the agreement. (Saber 2021)

X. CONCLUSION: TOWARDS A PEACEFULL AFGHANISTAN

Despite certain spectacular developments, the International Community and Women around the world have seen countless days of struggles and tortures. While many women have succeeded in bringing about justice for themselves by ushering in the right set of human rights to feed their necessities, yet a large diaspora of countries need to crucially look upon the existing laws and give space for new set of laws to suit women's needs and preferences. While many countries lay in the bottom of global gender gap, yet the position of Afghanistan have remained constant in the below for a couple of years. Adding to the existing struggles of women in Afghan, the Doha Agreement sums together new fears for the future of Afghan women under Taliban, recalling the sorrowful past they once lived through. The Doha Agreement, excluding the importance of women issues, marks the mere selfish intension of both parties, where women would again be served as the bait. Numerous questions terrify and shakes the self-confidence moulded by women in the last two decades. To provide a remedy to the loopholes of the negotiation, it is mandatory that the agreement is reviewed well taking into consideration of women problems and ensuring public undertaking by Taliban to follow the same and promise for a safe and secure Afghanistan for women. Freedom of religion and choice should be incorporated in bold letters in the clauses of the Negotiation and women participants should be given way to speak up freely to help understand the problems better and analytically. The future remains quite uncertain and unpredictable, yet from the feminist point of view, the future Afghan would face brutality and surging Afghan government should stand up of women rights, to secure a better future for their women population.

REFERENCE

- [1]. *Addressing Violence against Women in Afghanistan: The health system response* . Eastern Mediterranean : World Health Organization .2015
- [2]. *Afghan Women under Taliba Repression*. International Federation For HUman Rights.1998
- [3]. Angerer, D. (2018, Aug 25). *September 11 Attacks*. Retrieved from www.history.com
- [4]. AP. (2019, February 15). *30 Year on, women recall the "hell" of Soviet war in Afghanistan* . Retrieved from The Hindu : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/news/international/30-years-on-women-recall-the-hell-of-soviet-war-in-afghanistan/article26279366.ece/amp/>
- [5]. Ayushi, H. K. (2009). Status of Women in Afghanistan. *The Asia Foundation*.
- [6]. Azad, S. (2020, April 7). *Afghanistan's Women Are the key to a Lasting Peace* . Retrieved from The Diplomat : <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/afghanistans-women-are-the-key-to-a-lasting-peace>
- [7]. Baker, P. (2019, January 29). *Why Did Soviets Invade Afghanistan? Documents Offer History Lesson For Trump* . Retrieved from The New York Times : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2019/01/29/us/politics/afghanistan-trump-soviet-union-amp.html>
- [8]. Barr, H. (2020, March 5). *A crucial moment for women's rights in Afghanistan* . Retrieved from Human Rights Watch : <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/05/crucial-moment-womens-rights-afghanistan>
- [9]. Bohn, L. (2018, December 8). *'We're All Handcuffed in This Country.' Why Afghanistan Is Still the Worst Place in the World to Be a Women* . Retrieved from TIME: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/time.com/5472411/afghanistan-women-justice-war/%3famp=true>
- [10]. Britannica, T. E. (2020, May 11). *Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan* . Retrieved from Eyclopedia Britannica : <https://www.britannica.com/event/Soviet-invasion-of-Afghanistan>
- [11]. Chakraborty, R. (2021, January 5). *Afghanistan: Behind severe humanitarian crisis* . Retrieved from ORF: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/afghanistan-behind-severe-humanitarian-crisis/>
- [12]. Farr, G. (2020, April 6). *The Afghan Peace Agreement and Its Problems* . Retrieved from E-International Relations : <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/06/the-afghan-peace-agreement-and-its-problems/>
- [13]. Gilchrist, M. (2019, August 15). *The Great Game Reinvigorated: Geopolitics, Afghanistan, and the Importance of Pakistan* . Retrieved from Real Clear Defence : https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.realcleardefence.com/articles/2019/08/15/the_great_game_reinvigorated_geopolitics_afghanistan_and_the_importance_of_pakistan_114667.amp.html
- [14]. Glinski, S. (2021, January 29). *'Violence starts at home': the Afghan women tackling domestic abuse at its source* . Retrieved from The Guardian : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jan/29/violence-starts-at-home-the-afghan-women-tackling-domestic-abuse-at-its-source>
- [15]. Kaura, V. (2021, March 1). *Year on, Trump's Doha accord with Taliban grows into a headache for Biden - and for India* . Retrieved from The Print : <https://www.google.com/amp/a/theprint.in/opinion/year-on-trumps-doha-accord-with-taliban-grows-into-a-headache-for-biden-and-for-india/613463/%3famp>
- [16]. Kerami, K. (2020, September 12). *Before the US and Taliban can strike a peace deal, they will have to confront these tricky issues* . Retrieved from Scroll : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.scroll.in/article/972562/before-the-us-and-taliban-can-strike-a-peace-deal-they-will-have-to-confront-these-trickey-issues>
- [17]. Maizland, L. (2021). The Taliban in Afghanistan. *Council of Foreign Relations*.
- [18]. Martinez, L., & Seyler, M. (2021, April 13). *As US troops prepare to pull out, a look at the war in Afghanistan by the numbers* . Retrieved from abc NEWS : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/abcnews.go.com/amp/politics/us-troops-prepare-pull-war-afghanistan-numbers/story%3fid=77050902>
- [19]. Mehra, U. R. (2014, October 9). *Why Did the Soviet Union Invade Afghanistan in 1979?* Retrieved from E-International Relations : <https://www.e-ir.info/2014/10/09/why-did-the-soviet-union-invade-afghanistan-in-1979/>

- [20]. Narain, V. (2021, May 20). *Women negotiators in Afghan/Taliban peace talks could spur global change* . Retrieved from The Conversation : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/women-negotiators-in-afghan-taliban-peace-talks-could-spur-global-change-159033>
- [21]. Neugebaure, R. (1999). The Impact of Political Conflict on Women: The Case of Afghanistan . *American Journal of Public Health* , 1474-1476.
- [22]. Nordland, R. (2017, August 29). *The Empire Stopper* . Retrieved from The New York Times : <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2017/08/29/world/asia/afghanistan-graveyard-empires-historical-pictures.amp.html>
- [23]. Operation Enduring Freedom Fast Facts. (2020). *CNN World*.
- [24]. Pillalamarri, A. (2017, June 30). *Why Is Afghanistan the 'Graveyard of Empires'?* Retrieved from THE DIPLOMAT : <https://thediplomat.com/2017/06/why-is-afghanistan-the-graveyard-of-empires/>
- [25]. (2001). *Report on the Taliban's War Against Women*. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.
- [26]. Saber, N. (2021). *Afghan Women Risk Losing their Rights in a New Political Setup*. *D W*.
- [27]. Shankar, N. J. (2020). *Women's struggle in Afghanistan: An Insight from a Human Right's Perspective*. *Institute of Development Studies*.
- [28]. Tajali, M., & Hoodfar, H. (2021, March 8). *Women in Afghanistan Worry Peace Accord With Taliban Could Cost Them Hard-Won Rights* . Retrieved from The Wire : <https://www.google.com/amp/a/m.thewire.in/article/south/women-afghanistan-peace-accord-taliban-hard-won-rights/amp>
- [29]. *The Cost of War Afghan Experience of Conflict, 1978-2009*. Oxfam International .2009
- [30]. *The Cost of War, Afghan Experiences of Conflict 1978-2009*. (n.d).
- [31]. Tobin, C. (2020, August 27). *The United States and the Soviet-Afghan War, 1979-1989*. Retrieved from Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History : <https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-832>
- [32]. Witte, G. (2020, October 31). *Afghanistan War* . Retrieved from Encyclopedia Britannica : <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War>
- [33]. *Women in Afghanistan 'the back story'*. (2014). *Amnesty International UK*.