

MS Research Thesis

ELITE TWITTER DISCOURSE ON THE AFGHAN CRISIS

(2021): A THEMATIC ANALYSIS



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(December, 2024)

Declaration

I, Arish Khan, Reg. No: 459.FSS/MSMC/S21, Session Spring 2021, hereby certify that this thesis is being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree in M.S. Media and Communication Studies. This thesis is my original work, and the data/material presented here has not been used to acquire any other degree from any institution. The Similarity Index is below permissibly limited.

Researcher Signature.....

Researcher Name.....

Date.....

Acknowledgment

First, I offer my sincere thanks to Allah Almighty for his blessing. The completion of this research work became possible with the blessings of Allah Almighty. Furthermore, my parents deserve special recognition for their love and support, which was instrumental in my success. Their prayer and encouragement were a constant source of strength for me. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. Muhammad Junaid Ghauri. His expertise, guidance, and invaluable insights have been invaluable throughout my research work. Their unwavering support, constructive feedback, and dedication have significantly contributed to the quality and success of my academic pursuits. I am also thankful to the faculty members of Media and Communication Studies for their knowledge, passion, and commitment to education. Their mentorship, inspiring lectures, and intellectual discussions have been instrumental in expanding my understanding of the subject matter and enhancing my overall learning experience.

Sincerely, Arish Khan.

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my family, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been my foundation throughout this journey. To my mentors and colleagues, who have guided and inspired me with their knowledge and insight.

Most importantly, I dedicate this work to those affected by the Afghanistan crisis, whose resilience and strength in the face of unimaginable adversity continues to remind me of the power of human spirit. May this research contribute, in some small way, to a deeper understanding of the complexities of global events and their impact on individuals.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of Twitter as a platform for discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis in August 2021, specifically focusing on global perspectives regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the Taliban's takeover. The research specifically explores how key Twitter influencers framed the event as a Taliban victory, a U.S. defeat, or a significant humanitarian catastrophe. Employing corpus-based methods, the study analyzes large collections of tweets that emerged through selected hashtags and trends, providing a nuanced understanding of elite engagement with the crisis. Key thematic findings include widespread criticism of the Trump administration's Doha Agreement and the chaotic execution of the U.S. withdrawal under Biden, as well as concerns about the safety of Afghan workers, women, and refugees. The study contributes to understanding how elite voices on Twitter shape global narratives and influence public perceptions of international crises.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Communication studies have devoted a lot of attention to the impact of social media Web platforms on political activities. Social media websites on the internet are a developing arena for elite political activism. Social media websites provide fertile ground for political elites to disseminate propaganda, and conduct psychological operations to sway public opinion.

As we've seen, elite Twitter conversation analysis needs to be able to identify its appropriate research question before anything else. What is "elite Twitter discourse" exactly? Elites are tiny groups of people with disproportionately high levels of authority and influence. Traditionally, elites have been defined as Conversation, elite Discourse studies how class privilege is defined, mediated, and legitimized through language and communication, or simply discourse. It does so from the viewpoint of those individuals and locations that frequently stand to benefit the most from inequality. Elite discourse refers to how elites and/or eliteness are portrayed in language and communication, as well as how language and communication are used to uphold privilege and power and to produce status.

In the study at hand, we will define "Elite Twitter Discourse" as the issue or aspect most discussed on Twitter regards the Afghan Crisis during August 2021.

An awareness system like Twitter makes it possible for information to flow quickly, widely, and instantly (e.g., Kwak, Lee, Park, & Moon, 2010). The platform provides a variety of ways for users to exchange news from different sources, which creates a stream of thoughts, feelings, and information that enables a multifaceted experience of ambient news (Hermida, 2010). This has been noted by Papacharissi and Oliveira (2012). Twitter is used by individuals and different political players in political discourses to express ideas and disseminate information about political events (Small, 2011). Multiple points of view on political debates may be found in the Twitter stream (Yardi & Boyd, 2010).

This article has examined the behavior of a privileged group of political actors on Twitter, to assess the degree to which their status affords them the ability to advance the Afghanistan crisis via the social media platform.

We will carry out a study to comprehend the differences in the narrative and analysis provided by various Afghan policy specialists of the nations having direct or indirect stake in the crises in Afghanistan against the backdrop of the fall of Kabul on August 15. We have done this by examining their writing on social media, especially Twitter. This exercise aims to demonstrate the (in)consistency in the claims and story about Afghanistan. To explore how different countries looking at Afghanistan issue. For example US experts writing about American and NATO troops while Chinese expert looking Afghanistan issue with humanitarian lens and other country maybe talking about political crisis. To evaluate each expert group's communication in terms of tone and emotion. We were interested in finding out who these experts thought was most important and whether or not they agreed on anything regarding Afghanistan.

1.1 Problem Statement

Social media platforms, particularly Twitter, have become key arenas for political discourse, allowing individuals and elites to engage with global events in real time. With their widespread use during pivotal moments like the Afghanistan crisis of August 2021, these platforms shape how geopolitical events are understood, discussed, and framed. Elite Twitter discourse, defined as the most frequently discussed issues surrounding an event as determined by hashtags and trends, plays a critical role in influencing public opinion and shaping narratives. The Afghanistan crisis, marked by the rapid Taliban takeover and the U.S. withdrawal, sparked global debates. Elite Twitter discourse surrounding this event provides insights into how various political actors, experts, and stakeholders from different countries frame the situation—whether as a Taliban victory, a U.S. defeat, or a massive humanitarian crisis. Given the global nature of the Afghanistan crisis and the role of social media in disseminating information, understanding elite discourse on platforms like Twitter is crucial for comprehending how geopolitical events are portrayed and understood across borders.

This study will analyze elite Twitter discourse to explore how different national and political elites framed the Afghanistan crisis. By examining the predominant themes in elite Twitter conversations, this research will highlight the power of social media in shaping international perceptions of political events, offering a clearer picture of the global narratives constructed around this significant geopolitical crisis.

This study will be anchored in **Framing Theory**, which posits that media and communication act as mechanisms for constructing meaning by selecting and highlighting certain aspects of a story while downplaying others. In the context of elite Twitter discourse, framing theory helps explain how political elites and influencers shape public understanding of events by framing them through specific lenses, such as a military defeat, a humanitarian disaster, or a political victory. By identifying the frames used in elite

Twitter discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis, the study aims to uncover how different actors strategically emphasize certain aspects of the event to influence public opinion and political narratives. This theoretical framework will guide the analysis of tweets, hashtags, and trends to assess how framing impacts global perceptions of the Afghanistan crisis.

1.2 Research Objectives

- To explore the elite Twitter discourse regarding Afghanistan crisis during August 2021
- To explore predominant themes regarding Afghanistan crisis within the elite Twitter discourse.

1.3 Research Questions

- What kind of predominant themes are available in elite Twitter discourse regarding Afghanistan crisis?
- How the elite Twitter discourse has portrayed the Afghanistan crisis 2021?

1.4 Operationalization of Key Terms

1.4.1 Afghanistan Crisis

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), also referred to as the Taliban, seized power in the middle of August 2021. After Taliban fighters stormed into Kabul, they quickly withdrew American forces from the country and completed the overthrow of Ashraf Ghani's government.

1.4.2 Elite Discourse

In the study at hand, we will define “Elite Twitter Discourse” as the issue or aspect most discussed on Twitter regards the Afghan Crisis during August 2021.

The Topic which is most frequently and repeatedly discussed on in term of Hashtags and trends with regard to Afghan Crisis is what we call Elite Discourse.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Historical Context of the Afghanistan Crisis

The history of Afghanistan, particularly since the late 20th century, is deeply intertwined with foreign intervention, internal strife, and the rise of the Taliban. The initial stages of the Taliban's rise to power began in the 1990s following the Soviet withdrawal and the resulting power vacuum. In 1994, several factions, supported by Pakistan, coalesced to form the Taliban, eventually seizing control of much of Afghanistan in 1996 (Johannssen & Strand, 2021). Their regime was marked by a strict interpretation of Sharia law and the destruction of cultural monuments, such as the Buddhist statues in Bamiyan.

The international community's response to the Taliban regime was one of condemnation, especially after the Taliban's affiliation with Al-Qaeda, which led to the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. In response, the U.S. launched Operation Enduring Freedom, quickly toppling the Taliban government but failing to fully dismantle the Taliban's influence (Brown, 2016). Over the next two decades, the U.S. and its allies fought an ongoing battle against the Taliban, while attempting to stabilize Afghanistan and establish a democratic government (Johannessen & Strand, 2021). Despite massive international investment in the Afghan government, the Taliban never ceased to pose a significant threat.

This historical backdrop is crucial in understanding the rapid fall of Kabul in August 2021. After a long and costly engagement, the United States' decision to withdraw troops following a peace agreement with the Taliban in 2020 ultimately led to the Taliban's swift takeover of Afghanistan (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022). The sudden collapse of the Afghan government raises questions regarding the long-term impact of foreign intervention, the effectiveness of U.S. strategy, and the fragility of the Afghan state.

2.2 The 2021 Taliban Takeover and the U.S. Withdrawal

The 2021 withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, and the ensuing collapse of the Afghan government, marked a critical turning point in the region's political landscape. On February 29, 2020, the U.S. and the Taliban signed a peace agreement, setting a timeline for the withdrawal of foreign troops by May 1, 2021 (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022). However, the agreement was ambiguous and did not lead to the hoped-for peace or stability. When President

Biden extended the deadline to September 11, 2021, the Taliban accelerated their attacks on Afghan forces, causing the Afghan military to disintegrate rapidly.

By mid-August 2021, the Taliban had made significant territorial gains, and Kabul fell with startling speed on August 15. The collapse of the government and the subsequent scenes of chaos at Kabul's airport symbolized the perceived failure of U.S. and allied efforts to build a stable and self-sustaining Afghan government. The aftermath was not only a military failure but a humanitarian crisis, as millions of Afghans faced an uncertain future under Taliban rule. The U.S. government and its allies faced intense scrutiny regarding their handling of the withdrawal, the implications for regional security, and the humanitarian consequences for the Afghan people.

2.3 The Role of Social Media in Shaping Perceptions of the Crisis

In the digital age, social media plays a pivotal role in shaping public discourse and political perceptions. Twitter, in particular, has become an essential tool for political elites, journalists, and citizens to engage with major global events. During the Afghanistan crisis, social media platforms served as both a conduit for real-time information and a battleground for competing narratives. The framing of the U.S. withdrawal and the Taliban's return to power was influenced by a variety of actors, including political leaders, analysts, human rights organizations, and ordinary citizens (Papacharissi & Oliveira, 2012).

Through hashtags, viral posts, and official statements, political elites used social media to frame the events as either a success or a failure, depending on their political affiliation. For instance, in the U.S., some political leaders framed the Taliban's victory as a tragic consequence of years of mismanagement, while others saw it as a necessary step in ending America's "forever war." Meanwhile, international actors, such as the United Nations or regional powers like China and Russia, also utilized social media to frame the situation in ways that served their political and diplomatic interests.

Social media thus amplified the competing frames around the crisis, reflecting divergent political views and shaping global perceptions. These platforms allowed for the rapid dissemination of images, videos, and commentary, adding to the urgency and emotional weight of the event (Small, 2011). However, this also led to the spread of misinformation and polarized

discourse, with elites and ordinary citizens alike using social media to influence public opinion on the crisis.

2.4 Research Gaps and Contribution of This Study

While much research has focused on traditional media's role in framing political events, there is a notable gap in understanding how social media, particularly platforms like Twitter, contributes to the framing of global crises. Specifically, the role of political elites in shaping narratives on Twitter remains underexplored. Previous studies on framing have focused on mainstream media or the role of social media in citizen-driven activism (D'Angelo, 2002), but less attention has been paid to how political elites use social media to craft frames that influence public opinion.

This study addresses this gap by analyzing elite Twitter discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis. It focuses on how political leaders, analysts, and experts used Twitter to frame the events of August 2021, particularly the U.S. withdrawal and the Taliban's return to power. By examining the convergence and divergence of frames across different political contexts (e.g., U.S., NATO, China, and Afghanistan), this research provides insights into how elite actors shape political narratives in the digital age.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

The Researcher will apply framing theory to realize how elites influenced the Afghan crisis using Twitter. The framing effect is the primary way by which elites sway public opinion.

Chong (1993) defines framing as the “essence of public opinion formation”. A framing effect happens when a speaker emphasizes a small number of potentially important elements while explaining an issue or occurrence, which induces listeners to concentrate on these concerns while formulating their judgments (Druckman 2001). Competitive framing may minimize the sensitivity to framing effects on individuals by concentrating on the opposition narrative (Chong & Druckman, 2007; Druckman & Lupia, 2016; Sniderman & Theriault, 2004).

Framing theory has enjoyed contributions from a wide range of disciplines. Framing and frames give us the necessary theoretical background for the problem. According to Goffman (1974), framing offers humans schematic interpretation, allowing them to observe, locate, identify, and define happenings in their personal space and in the universe as a whole. According to Goffman's research, framing is second nature

to people. Thus, the framing process is regarded as a tool of power since frames may change people's worldviews, beliefs, and behaviors (Entman, 1993; Garrison, 2001). In this regard, frames are to "choose some characteristics of a seen reality and emphasize them in a communicative text, in order to advocate a specific issue description, causal interpretation, moral assessment, and/or treatment prescription for the item presented." In particular, framing relies on selection, exclusion, and emphasis as a communicator decides which information to include, which to ignore, and which to highlight by location, repetition, or linkage with culturally relevant symbols (De Vreese et al., 2001; Entman, 1993). Entman (2004) noted that the 9/11 attack was framed in the US news media as an act of war against the US, which caused about three thousand civilian deaths, Al-Qaeda-sponsored terrorism as the attack's cause, moral ramifications condemning the attack as evil and inhumane, and an immediate war against Al-Qaeda and its supporters as the attack's solution.

Traditional framing studies have concentrated on how mainstream media shapes opinion. In fact, news frames shape how individuals see events and establish the framework for public discourse (Neuman et al., 1992; Tuchman, 1978).

The portrayal of events, individuals, and deeds with the aim of influencing is recognized as framing. Researchers have looked into how media and elites produce and promote frames (De Vreese, 2005; De Vreese et al., 2001; Moy & Zhou, 2007; Yang, 2003). According to some scholars, frames create social reality and shape our impressions of daily life by emphasizing certain facts over others through the processes of exclusion and inclusion and the change of components of social reality from common complaints, social circumstances, and grievances to the unfairness and unacceptable actions that demand corrective action (Benford & Snow, 2000; Porta, 2014; Snow et al., 2004).

D'Angelo (2002) and De Vreese, (2005) iterate three core steps of the framing process that is (a) Frame building describes how frames are generated, (b) frame setting describes how frames interact with viewers' dispositions or past knowledge, and (c) the social effects of framing. However, framing strategies are not simply employed by news organizations and journalists. Additionally, governments create frames for information in order to guarantee that the public is given a favorable impression of their policies through the media (Entman, 2004).

Whereas in this study frames will be replaced with how different people reacted to the Afghan crisis. How different groups were looking at Afghanistan via a similar or differing perceptual lens when it comes to Afghanistan? There was a convergence among different people on the issue of Afghanistan. This theory will help us to analyze how different individual used Twitter as a tool to shape or showcase the August

event (backdrop of US troops or takeover of Taliban) or how they are looking at the event as Taliban victory or US defeat. Are they looking at the event is a huge humanitarian or socio-economic crisis? How other countries are looking at the Taliban government in Afghanistan?

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection

The purpose of nuance and balanced analysis will be to examine emerging trends, hashtags, and narratives created by individuals discussing the Afghanistan crisis. We will closely analyze hashtags and trends from Twitter timelines, paying attention to how different voices shaped the discourse around the event.

In this research, we collected 12,663 tweets from August 2021, sourced globally. After merging the data, only English-language tweets from Afghanistan were retained. To ensure relevance, a keyword string search was conducted using terms like "Afghanistan," "Afghans," "Doha Agreement," "Trump and Biden Administrations," "Women," "Withdrawal," "Escape," and "Refugees." These keywords were selected based on their relevance to the core themes of the study, which focus on the political, humanitarian, and military aspects of the crisis. This selection of hashtags and keywords ensures a comprehensive sample that represents the primary discourse around the crisis and aligns with the research objectives. The specific inclusion of terms like "Women" and "Refugees" is aimed at capturing critical conversations surrounding the humanitarian impact of the Taliban's resurgence.

Once the data was collected, we filtered it by geographic location and language, ensuring the sample was focused on tweets related to Afghanistan in the given timeframe. The NVivo 12 software's NCapture tool was used to gather the tweets. NCapture is a free browser extension designed to simplify the extraction of data for use in NVivo, where it is imported as a dataset for qualitative analysis.

3.2 Method

A mixed techniques strategy is used in this investigation. While the data analysis strategy incorporates both quantitative and qualitative methods (including the discussion of outcomes), the data collection process uses a quantitative approach (corpus-based). Tashakkori and Teddlie define a mixed methods design as "products of the pragmatist paradigm that combines the qualitative and quantitative approaches within different phases of the research process" (2008: 22). This method enables researchers to create an extensive database and analyze the findings. Thus, the primary goal of the current paper is to look for themes in the chosen discourse (the appropriate software is utilized to achieve this goal).

Corpus-based methods in media research involve the analysis of large collections of textual data, known as corpora, to draw meaningful insights and patterns. Corpora consist of diverse texts such as articles, books, transcripts, and other forms of written or spoken communication. Researchers use computational tools and techniques to analyze these corpora, enabling them to identify trends, linguistic patterns, and other relevant information within the media landscape.

'Corpus' is defined by Bennet (2010: 12) as a sizable collection of spoken or written texts that have been electronically saved. According to her, corpus analysis is the process of analyzing and identifying language patterns in the chosen corpora. Corpus analysis is one of the best methods for locating significant linguistic patterns in massive amounts of data, claims Baker (2012: 102). Because using a corpus allows researchers to offer findings that may be applied to a larger population, a customized corpus with an emphasis on the Afghan issue has been produced for this study. "Specific pre-established criteria as a guide to selecting the type of texts" define a specialized corpus as a particular kind of corpus (Mateo & Cazevielle 2015: 301). More important than length or size in specialized corpora is representativeness (i.e., the corpus is representative of the chosen issue / topic / token term / facet, etc.) (Meyer & Mackintosh 1996).

Corpus-based methods have become integral to media research, providing scholars with the means to systematically analyze vast amounts of textual data for insights into linguistic patterns, discourse structures, and thematic content. As McEnery and Hardie (2012) highlight, corpus linguistics offers a powerful framework for investigating language use in media contexts, allowing researchers to move beyond individual case studies to discern broader patterns in communication.

Additionally, studies by Baker (2006) emphasize the application of corpus-based methods in media discourse analysis, demonstrating their effectiveness in uncovering underlying structures and uncovering shifts in language use over time. By employing tools like concordance analysis and frequency distribution, researchers can gain a nuanced understanding of the discursive strategies employed in media texts (Baker, 2006).

Moreover, corpus-based studies have been instrumental in examining the representation of specific topics or social issues in the media. For instance, Sinclair and Renouf (1988) pioneered corpus-driven approaches, advocating for the examination of language in its natural context to capture authentic patterns of language use.

In order to delve deeper into the software analysis results, the study has additionally employed the content analysis method. A technique for exploring chosen content to identify or examine a particular topic or subject is called content analysis. Four stages comprise the thorough approach proposed by Kutter and Kanther (2012) to examine the content of corpus materials: (1) identification of key terms, (2) corpus

analysis of lexical representations of key terms, (3) text-mining, and (4) qualitative analysis. This makes it possible to both identify and analyze the important components or outcomes produced by the software in relation to their respective settings. This offers much more in-depth explanations of the results.

The specialized corpus contains around 12000 tweets (of all types) published within the selected time frame in the month of August 2021 from all over the world (as the afghan crisis happened in 2021). The keywords used to select the material is Afghanistan, Afghan people, Doha Agreement, Biden and Trump Administrations, Women, Withdrawal, Escape, Refugees).. Since the corpus software only takes simple text files, the corpus is cleaned after preparation for analysis. This procedure creates a text file with plain text by removing all formatting styles and graphics from the content. The word document is then converted to a.txt file (most corpus analysis applications only handle this file extension). Software NCapture, a feature of NVivo 12 (for collocations and collocation graphs), is used to analyze the corpus.

In conclusion, the corpus-based approach in media research, as advocated by scholars such as McEnery and Hardie (2012), Baker (2006), and Sinclair and Renouf (1988), offers a robust method for systematically analyzing and interpreting large sets of textual data, enabling researchers to uncover nuanced insights into the dynamics of media discourse.

This research will use qualitative study with thematic analysis. The researcher has selected the elite tweets (as the issue or aspect most discussed on Twitter regards the Afghan Crisis during August 2021) of the existing discourse available on Afghan crisis 2021 on Twitter in month of August 2021 in order to address research question of the study.

Finding the corpus's major themes is the next step in the analytic process. Finding out which themes—represented as lexical bundles—are presented most frequently is the goal. This study used Thematic Analysis as a method to analyze the data, i.e., elite tweets. Finding the most important themes in the case we wish to examine is the goal of thematic analysis (Daly, Kellehear, & Glikman, 1997). Finding and analyzing meaning is a frequently employed technique in qualitative research (Crowe, Inder, & Porter, 2015; Clarke & Braun, 2017). Thematic analysis is defined by Clarke and Braun (2017) as methodical processes for deriving codes and themes from qualitative data. The smallest analytical units, known as codes, are used to identify intriguing aspects of the data that may be (maybe) pertinent to the study issue. Building pieces known as codes serve as the foundation for themes, which are (bigger) patterns of meaning supported by a common organizing principle. The researcher's analytical observations can be arranged and reported using themes.

The goal of TA is not just to provide a summary of the data content, but also to pinpoint and analyze important aspects of the data—not necessarily all of them—while keeping in mind that the research question is flexible and may change as themes and coding are developed. TA contains built-in quality procedures, such as a two-stage review process where prospective themes are evaluated against the coded data and the complete data-set (Braun & Clarke, 2006, 2012, 2013). The emphasis is on providing rigorous and high-quality research. The researcher can identify and categorize patterns and themes using thematic analysis method. The technique aids in finding, examining, and summarizing topics in the data corpus. It can also understand several facets of the subject of the study (Boyatzis, 1998). The process of identifying, analyzing, and documenting patterns or themes is known as thematic analysis, and it aids researchers in deriving meanings from data (Clarke, 2006).

One limitation of corpus-based methods is that they rely on predefined keyword strings and hashtags, which may exclude relevant conversations that do not directly match those terms. Additionally, biases may arise from the choice of keywords, which might prioritize certain narratives over others. For example, while focusing on terms like "Biden" and "Trump" captures political discourse, it may overlook broader humanitarian concerns that are not immediately tied to these keywords. Moreover, corpus-based methods may not fully capture the tone or emotional depth of tweets, which can influence the interpretation of underlying sentiments.

To mitigate these limitations, this study combines the quantitative findings from corpus analysis with qualitative methods, such as thematic analysis and content analysis, to provide a more nuanced understanding of the data.

3.3 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Descriptive statistics will be used by the researcher to interpret tweet contents and characterize our sample, which consists of Twitter accounts and hashtags. The researcher is interested in learning more about the people who are tweeting, such as whether they are individuals or organizations, what kind of business they are in or are employed in, and the nationality of their Twitter accounts. A technique used to identify, examine, and elucidate patterns of meaning (or "themes") that emerge in qualitative data is called thematic analysis (TA). Since we'll be using an inductive analysis approach, the data served as the basis for our research. The analysis involved the following steps:

- i) getting to know the data;

- ii) ii) creating interpretative codes first;
- iii) iii) figuring out how the codes related to one another to produce themes; and
- iv) iv) reviewing and redefining themes.

3.4 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis in this study is each tweet regarding the Afghanistan crisis during August 2021.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Trump's Doha Agreement

The Doha Agreement was a peace agreement signed by the United States (Trump administration) and Taliban the Taliban on February 29, 2020 in Doha, Qatar,

The United States and the Taliban signed the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan, also referred to as the US-Taliban accord or the Doha Agreement, on February 29, 2020, in Doha, Qatar, with the goal of ending the war that began in 2001 and ending in 2021. The accord, which was negotiated by Zalmay Khalilzad, excluded the Afghan government in place at the time. One of the key incidents that led to the fall of the Afghan National Security Forces was the agreement, which also included covert annexes. After the agreement, the US drastically cut back on airstrikes and gave the ANSF a crucial advantage in battling the insurgency of the Taliban, which resulted in the Taliban seizing control of Kabul on August 15, 2021.

In exchange for the Taliban's promises to combat terrorism, the deal called for fighting limitations for both the US and the Taliban and called for the removal of all NATO soldiers from Afghanistan. In July 2020, the US committed to reducing its military strength from 13,000 to 8,600 within 135 days. If the Taliban maintains its end of the bargain, the US would withdraw all of its forces by May 1, 2021, or in 14 months. The US also declared its intention to lift economic sanctions against the Taliban by August 27, 2020, and pledged to close five military bases in 135 days. Pakistan, China, and Russia backed the accord, and the UN Security Council gave it full approval. India praised the agreement as well.

Many Twitter users “ societyofhonor, skipppmaiden, laidback1954, Ledermand highlighted the Trump Doha Agreement, But there are surprised about the Afghan Government/ Army in the fight with the Taliban.

The “skipppmaiden” further added that in Doha Agreement, the USA Government total Ignores the Afghanistan Government in the Peace agreement process.

Skipppmaiden Trump signed over Afghanistan to the Taliban in 2020 without even consulting with or including the Afghan government. Trump had no plan for getting people out.

“Shoathree, Paula_Dockery” further added that USA also agreed to released 5000 Taliban prisoners (included 400 accused or convicted of murder & major crimes) which the Afghan Govt total opposed but Trump Admin put pressure on them to release all.

Ledermann further added that US agreement do not have anything about the Afghan interpreters, their families or another Afghans that helped the US during the past 20 yrs. out of Afghanistan. trump planed nothing for their removal.

CaDisneyMermaid This agreement is gives everything to the Taliban and nothing to the US or Afghan people. Giving them a firm end date emboldened them creating what we see today. The Taliban does not have to, nor did, live up to its agreement.

alleycat752 Your hero trump gave Afghanistan to the Taliban March 2020. How many Americans or Afghan allies did he evacuate before leaving the WH? None

frodogood103074 The Afghan government did fall many months ago, the day Trump invited the Taliban to the negotiating table without the Afghan government at said table or even part of the conversation. Trump played a game of Risk with Afghanistan and its citizens. Traitor

EverettNecessa2 Trump released 5,000 you mean. Which quite a few ended up in Kabul, one in particular is now a Taliban leader. And handed the Taliban Afghanistan when they had their little "peace agreement" without even telling the Afghan government or military leaders what was going on.

imadork79 @jackiewalorski Why is Afghanistan under Talibam rule? Is it when Trump released 5000 Taliban prisoners? Or is it when Pompeo negotiated with the Taliban and kept the Afghan government "apprised"? Trump made this mess but it's nice to blame Biden for everything.

4.2 Trump & Biden Administrations

VanCity6042 \$85B of American artillery, planes, helicopters, guns, RPG's, ammo, body armor, night vision goggles, etc that the Taliban have taken from the Afghan's. Is that a HUGE miscalculation on behalf of the White House (Trump & Biden) or brilliant maneuvers by the Taliban?

Never_Fascism Trump's disastrous "peace deal" did not bar the Taliban from fighting Afghan govt troops or from capturing Afghan provinces on its own. Trump released 5000 Taliban terrorists from prison!

morey000 deal with the Taliban, without including the Afghan gov't. Or- are you just trying to misinform your audience... again?

DaveAtherton20 and Redzee98 Kash Patel Donald Trump's advisor on Afghanistan explains his exist strategy. "The Afghan government & the Taliban were both told they'd face the full force of the US military if they caused any harm to Americans or American interests in Afghanistan."

Politakes1 Trump's conditions on the Taliban for Afghanistan withdrawal..

Do not threaten or attack U.S. or its allies, Prevent use of the country by any group against the U.S. or its allies, Permanent & comprehensive ceasefire, Form intra-Afghan government

HarrisonKrank I don't know how Trump's exit from Afghanistan would have been but I know for a fact that he would not have given a list of US citizens and Afghan allies to the Taliban. The Taliban are going to try to kill or ransom everyone on that list as soon as Biden misses his deadline.

DuhartKimberlie Trump failed. It was his treaty with the Taliban. He wanted us to leave by May 1st and made no plans to remove Americans, Afghan or equipment from Afghanistan at all. He blocked visas for Afghans and removed no Americans while President except military. Trump failed not Biden.

MC_of_A even putting aside the idea that trump's war in Afghanistan, which was killing Afghan people and allied forces at terrible rates, was somehow stable or peaceful -- the fuck do you think would happen if the US just unilaterally broke their withdrawal agreement with the Taliban?

KrownCityKing Trump gave Afghanistan to the Taliban. He literally signed the deal with them that sold out the Afghan government (which, corrupt as it was, was not the Taliban). Biden was left with 2000 troops & the choice to get out as everyone wanted or tear up the Trump deal and re-invade.

DHanif77 He was referring to Trump administration agreement clause with taliban in feb 2020. That says taliban will not attack any american or occupation forces in Afghanistan but it does not prevent taliban attacking afghan armed forces and ashraf ghani administration. Regards

JoeMomma833 So much for the tRump/Taliban deal. "In return, the Taliban's commitment was signed not to allow Afghan territory to be used to plan or carry out actions that threatened the security of the United States."

harris_erman Who's to blame for Afghanistan? Trump set the table -- without the Afghan government's knowledge or involvement, Trump gave the Taliban a date certain for the withdrawal of American troops:

frostygary Where is the President of Afghanistan? Shouldn't he be held accountable for abandoning his country? Or did he leave because it was out of his control because last year Trump made a deal with the Taliban against the wishes of the Afghan Government?

NydiaFaye Trump's releasing of terrorist prisoners held by the Afghan government 100% caused the Taliban swiftly seizing Afghanistan. One prisoner is the new leader of the Islamic Emirate, and the rest are terrorists working with ISIS-K or the Taliban. TRUMP LEFT BIDEN TO DO ALL THE WORK.

robertgolden14 Trump has negotiated or otherwise caused the release of at least 10,000 terrorists in Syria & Afghanistan while appeasing surrendering territory to Russia, Turkey, the Taliban and betraying the Afghan government, the Kurds, and undermining U.S. NATO security interests.

The User addressed the Biden, asking a different question and blaming in his tweets.

Bareftnlady @JoeBiden Thank you for doing everything possible to provide a safe evacuation. The 45th never had any intention or plan to evacuate our troops, Americans or military personnel from Afghanistan. This is what happens when you negotiate plans with the Taliban and exclude Afghan leaders.

RepMattGaetz "My Assessment of Biden on Afghanistan: Right decision to get out: 5 more weeks, months, or years yield same Taliban Takeover- Incompetent tactical counsel from CRT Generals Austin/Milley in re Afghan capability- Insufficient mental acuity to analyze/question advisors"

THE_MAD_TITAN_ #BidenMustGo b/c he let the Taliban win Afghanistan & cause an evil regime to murder hundreds of Afghan citizens including men women children. This is his fault needs to be held accountable. Biden needs to #resign or be #impeach.

grantstern Just imagine how bad it would be if Joe Biden had pulled the rest of America's troops or three months ago like tfg was pushing for after he freed the Taliban leader, cut a deal with them that excluded the old Afghan government and freed 5,000 prisoners.

RoryStewartUK Biden's Afghan policy reflects the central tragedy of modern politics - all in or all out - with no middle ground.

TheValuesVoter

"Several things can all be true at the same time:

- 1) Afghanistan was always going to end badly.
- 2) Biden did not plan or execute the withdrawal well.
- 3) Trump undermined the Afghan Government by negotiating with the Taliban and started the withdrawal."

RichardHaass Tough but accurate critique of Biden admin policy toward Afghanistan by @KoriSchake in @ForeignAffairs. Things didnt have to turn out this way; we (Trump & Biden administrations) brought it about much more than either the Taliban or Afghan government <https://t.co/bdrYZiWeit>

ELuttwak Once the "Afghan army" collapsed instead of fighting, handing over its weapons, ammunition and vehicles to the Taliban, Biden's choices were to send US forces back to Afghanistan to start all over again, including the Mattis/Petraeus troop training farce, or to call it quits.

TSmith76580570 @vinniewphotos @atrupar Afghanistan should have never been left like this. The Taliban comes to you as an afghan & says become one of us or off w/ your head and the heads of your family. Instant Taliban growth. I'm not even an intelligence operator. The blood is on Biden.

4.3 Worker Targeted

There are twitters regarding workers, how worked with different international organization included U.S government, NATO and etc.. So, the People is vareded about the life of those worker. even the Taliban's leader had ordered a general amnesty. The think that the Taliban will kill them or may be some other punishment for them because of the support and help the US Government and other international organizations against the Taliban in past.

HarrisonKrank "I don't know how Trump's exit from Afghanistan would have been but I know for a fact that he would not have given a list of US citizens and Afghan allies to the Taliban. The Taliban are going to try to kill or ransom everyone on that list as soon as Biden misses his deadline."

Vmsalama After the Kabul fell, on 15 august. The Taliban attack on Afghan intelligence and ministry offices and collect the files, laptops and computers. Those will be used for the target the Afghan who worked with U.S. or Afghan gov't, school teachers, aid workers, diplomats, lawmakers, businessmen. The fate of Afghanistan's women will be even worse.

"Chellaney" the invaders went straight to Afghan intelligence and communications ministry headquarters to collect secret files for preparing "kill lists." Those seizing the files may have been ISI agents as they didn't speak Pashto or Dari.

m_keenum Someone had the bright idea of leaving computers in Afghanistan. One of them has all the Afghan supporters and translators names and phone numbers. The Taliban has this now. They're calling the supporters and arresting them or killing them. Who leaves a computer behind??

ministerBZ Together with 100 countries, we are committed to help Dutch & Afghan people, who have worked with us or are in danger, to continue to travel freely to destinations outside #Afghanistan. We expect from the Taliban that they live up to their assurances.

"mercedesschlapp" further added that Taliban already have lists of the Afghan workers and they send letters that either to surrender or face execution.

"Spoke with the Afghan interpreter who said that his colleagues are receiving letters from the Taliban that they need to surrender or face execution.

tannu_ch The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan's capital has left many people—including women, minorities, journalists, HR activists, and those with important positions in the previous government or US-led force—with existential crises. Afghan Uyghur families are particularly affected.

Some of the user also added that the People have dual- Afghan citizens and their families is also under threat from the Taliban.

Ikeydonkey We're taking people out of Afghanistan who helped coalition forces, or those who were complicit as the Taliban would see it. Does that include the whole of the infiltrated Afghan army?

ConstableCurt Don't forget he also ORDERED our military to give the Taliban a KILL LIST. Complete with biometrics for every Afghan that was working for or with us, and EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN CITIZEN left in Taliban controlled Afghanistan! Also their family members.

p_henry2020 @SenSherrodBrown Senators need to join together and push the State Department to efficiently work with the private sector agencies trying to get Americans, Afghan Christians, Afghan Jews, and Afghans who helped the US out of Afghanistan before the Taliban can kidnap, imprison or torture them!

4.4 Afghan People

its_nabeelsafi They didn't need Sharia or democracy. They just want killing and suffering of innocent Afghan. The youngsters of Afghanistan need to stand and ask the bloody Taliban, you are in power Now tell us who is responsible for today's attack. #KabulAiport

MasterblogBo Due to the Taliban's quick capture of the country and their declaration that they would implement Sharia, or Islamic law, millions of young Afghans are worried about their future.

#Attualità #BBC #estero <https://t.co/LUtFnDm88x>

YogeshRVatsal Only Afghan people can save Afghanistan, not US or Taliban

Omer_Causey The population of Afghanistan is 40 million; the Taliban forces number less than 300,000. If the Afghan people don't want the Taliban in power, they outnumber them 100 to 1. Hard to work up much sympathy for a people that won't (or don't want to) fight for themselves. <https://t.co/R024k7Q36d>

Chief_Exec_com The Afghan people who woking with different international and national org these people want to out of the country.

BBCSanaSafi

fuller_edward We fought for decades, We put in vast funds, to arm defenders, Fathers, Brothers and Sons, We spilled blood, We can't change culture, Military contractors got richer and warlord vultures, Taliban had Afghan support, or they couldn't have won, Afghanistan has spoken, We are done #BraveWrite

shaukatkashmiri the Taliban against only the afghan people and they want to distory the afghanistan only , and they against regions peace and stability.

dhananjaylegal In a large survey, 'Afghanistan in 2019: A Survey of the Afghan People' carried out by the Asia Foundation, 88.7% of the Afghanistan population viewed Taliban as a possible force for good; 64% felt peace with Taliban was possible (Males:69.9%). Taliban barely had a PR or IT cell.

Benjami50122923

@thehill @StateDeptSpox Explanation please... Donations to Afghan citizens is a noble cause but the reality is it will instead go to the Taliban. I would expect the US to treat Afghanistan in the same way they treat Cuba for their human rights violations. So help both or embargo both. My vote is help.

Rasel2019 UN, USA and NATO blocked the banking process in Afghanistan. USA bombing to the innocent civilians. NATO makes propaganda using media. Try to block all Taliban's media.

cbondk007 Lets put you on a plane and take you to Afghanistan for the Taliban to cut your nose off and see if you still feel the same in a week. If you are so bothered about the Afghan people, why aren't you at the Pakistan border helping them, or inviting one to your home to live????

MariamBaraky The people of Afghanistan did NOT choose this "government". So why is an entire nation kept hostage? If you are so confident that a Taliban regime is what the Afghan citizens want then keep the borders open. Afghan citizen should have the free will to leave or stay #Afghanistan

USAANONYMOUS2 The Afghan people had no willingness to fight the Taliban. Now Afghanistan is under Taliban rule. Taliban you got what you wanted. We Americans say Taliban stay out of the US or you will wear a body bag back home. Taliban game time is over. You will be dealt with. You lost.
<https://t.co/2uysWUKFVR>

RobynMendoza9

So let's get the Afghan people out of Afghanistan, but then just abandoned them somewhere else? That's what these Trumpers are saying. They're sure Biden screwed up though. Nevermind that Trump freed 5000 Taliban including a leader from prison or made a /2 <https://t.co/47WdwdEnw1>

dixitsanjeev #Taliban barbarians are back on the streets of #Afghanistan. A glimpse of daily suffering that #Afghan citizens will have to endure, live with. No law, no rules, no governing guidelines-- at your whim, pick citizenry and start beating or torturing or killing. With impunity. <https://t.co/3PTOIUtzCB>

gashbeenziryan1 Be it Taliban or anti-Taliban in Afghanistan, All are Afghan and you can't blame us for your failures, There has been a civil war in Afghanistan since the time when Pakistan was not even independent. Who do you blame for the previous situation?

Yvonne66515606 @JoeBiden If Taliban already is takeover Afghan before withdrawing? When we say no one left behind, who is everyone? All the Afghanistan wants to get out? Or the close family of Afghanistan who worked with Americans?

4.5 Life of the Women

As Per the previous Experience, the international communities are thinking about the Life of the Afghan woman, girls and LGBT communities. In the twists the thinking that Taliban will close all the education institution (Schools, Colleges and universities) of females. They will stop women working in office. They will ban the woman movements in the country.

Democrat @IanDunt I can't imagine what it must feel like to be an Afghan interpreter, journalist, soldier, gay person or anyone else at risk of being murdered by the Taliban and unable to escape Afghanistan, looking at this story and the attention it's getting.

“RealRichardBail” share his opinion that the fate of Afghan women is as true now as it was back in 1990s. Where are all the left liberal progressives now? What matters more - your anti-American ideology or your concern for the fate of your sisters in Afghanistan.

HotlineJosh In the two decades since American-led forces ousted the militants from power, many young women have come to expect basic rights.”

RahelaHSidiqi

The Afghani women also not interest to living in Taliban control Afghanistan, So the thousands of women waiting in Kabul Airport for esp for the country. “ MukandRita” sharing the opinion of Afghan Women (In BBC News story):

RNBreakfast In a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, women judges are 'infidels' who could face imprisonment or death. A group of international judges is working overtime to try and get hundreds of female judges and their families out of Afghanistan.

Some of the twitted pointed that Taliban visit door to door in search of sex slaves and if the girls or his family refuse, then they Shot them.

“**Fnsalsaiif**” Afghan women who had worked for police force in Afghanistan & fled Afghanistan to India after the Taliban takeover told News 18 that the brutal Talinan militants went door to door in search of sex slaves & Taliban either picked up girls or shot them.

“**sanditarium**” further added that young girl will be rewarded to Taliban soldiers, who fighting against the US or NATO.

maytecarrasco74 Afghanistan is going to become a huge prison for women. Specially for these afghan girls or teenagers, forced to marry a Taliban, forced to be sexual slaves for the rest of their life.

BordersUSA and UPCWGS The Taliban has gone to several houses to look for women activists, bloggers, YouTubers, and other prominent women. The Taliban would mark the doors with bright pink or bright-coloured paint with threats to return and "do something" to these women.

khannim24 @cjwerleman They are not sympathetic to or concerned about Afghan women, but they are doing all this just to mount a propaganda campaign against the Afghan Taliban. #Afghanistan

Jerusalem_Post

“Most #women in the country, or at least a significant portion, were mostly overlooked. All that money went toward a very narrow portion of the country, whereas other women were underserved.” #Afghanistan #Taliban <https://t.co/nrKN1ijNR5>

whatthewomensay

merryjoportell

kjfkugkujvj

DearZari Afghan women are staying home or leaving. Interesting to see female Pakistani journalists asking questions at a presser in Kabul. Restrictions currently for Afghan women only. Afghanistan: Taliban tell working women to stay at home <https://t.co/7svIqVt2Fv>

johnnyjr20 Taliban tell Afghan women to stay home because soldiers are 'not trained' to respect them - CNN. For anyone that is an advocate for women or human rights, you should be appalled by this happening. #thankspotus #forgetprogress #wherethelibsat

MySingleVoice

bcrpeanutsmom and The New York Times: Taliban Urges Afghan Women to Stay Home for Their Safety.

Badr_ul_huda #Afghan #Taliban asks lady Doctors and female employees of the health ministry to join back their duties in hospitals in the capital #Kabul and all provinces as soon as possible. There is no restrictions or hurdles from Taliban side.

SarahD872 The LGBTQ+ people of Afghanistan are more vulnerable than ever. The Taliban brutally murder people for their sexuality/gender ID. You can write to your local MP, support @rainbowmigrants or educate those who may not know why helping the Afghan people should be a global priority

EyeOnAfgh

Fleeing Violence Or Forced Marriage, Afghan Women Seek Safety In Tajikistan <https://t.co/7nybUCtb0x>
#Gandhara #Afghanistan

CHRISTLORD #Afghanistan, going from order to disorder or chaos. Not good. Being ruled by the dark.#AfghanistanBurning #AfghanistanCrisis #Afghan #afghanistanwomen #Taliban #kabulfalls #order #chaos #energy #entropy #wednesdaythought #WednesdayMotivation #Wednesdayvibe #ruling #light #dark

Israel4America Women of Afghanistan fear the worst under Taliban where is @Ilhan or @RashidaTlaib do they support the talibán or the women of the world. They say women are oppressed in America but these Afghan woman would gladly take "American oppression" <https://t.co/eNZdPrQUKK> by @WIONews

akankshakullar What does the future of women in #Afghanistan looks like under the renewed #Taliban rule? Will women's rights be upheld or will the Afghan women once again be reduced to prisoners?

Have penned down some of my thoughts in this article for the @SCMPNews

<https://t.co/ZjuuCqSuIv>

for_americans

#Afghanistan is a hotbed for global terror. We should prosecute the #WaronTerror until terrorist groups are destroyed, and all Americans and Afghan people are free from barbaric rule. We are duty-bound to save women and children from the #Taliban. Agree or disagree?

NikolasKozloff Charming: "under #Taliban rule, according to #Sharia law, #gay men in #Afghanistan would either be #stoned to death or crushed to death by a wall being pushed on them." <https://t.co/UZ9OQHANGv> #AfghanistanCrisis #Afghan #LGBT #homosexuality

anthony_arrais "They will set us on fire, behead or stone us".Gay Afghan asylum seekers should be prioritized before all straight Muslim women and all straight Christians who can only face conversion to Islam. It's not like being executed in a barbaric way. <https://t.co/PdsQSJznHs>

angie_keathly Afghan LGBTQ members are terrified to stay in Afghanistan fearing the Taliban will impose a death sentence of stoning or crushing them.Countries are working to prioritize granting them asylum, as they face certain death. #DemVoice1 <https://t.co/8wKE5dGL3G>

rebeccaturnerMD Gay Afghan man raped and beaten by cruel Taliban fighters after desperately trying to flee <https://t.co/ojVgwwvaEC> via @Yahoo They'll never be allowed to leave Afghanistan by air or land:(#LGBTQA @suhailshaheen1

DavidMa16805515

Mr. Biden,

Do you want this job or not?

Afghani Women and girls face rape, murder and slavery unless we stop the Taliban. We can only stop them with our military.

Man up, Mr. President

NPRGoatsandSoda When the Afghan nonprofit Sahar Education found out the Taliban retook the capital, it shut down all its operations – including construction of a new school they were building for girls. How NGOs in Afghanistan are dealing with the Taliban takeover:

Aepotter Afghanistan is at a cross roads. The Afghan citizens who want to leave because of the Taliban will either leave and resettle in other countries. Or they will stay and join the Taliban and women become baby makers for terrorists. Get em out or create more terrorists?

BenKirk_48 I'll link you again to this survey. Most respondents still felt that women should wear either a burqa or niqab. I hope Afghanistan changes one day, but we cannot fundamentally change the nature of another nation while keeping the Taliban/ISIS out as well.

Kezo_IPS The world is now witnessing their assurance in action in different parts of Afghanistan under their control. No respect for human rights or minorities. They don't want to share power with anyone. Taliban govt not Afghan or Afghanistan.

HumaAwan7 @AmraniJanice @TheMossadIL Dont worry about human rights or Taliban know better how to handle problem is that you people don't know Afghan culture and history or tradition u don't ground realities and just blame many people kill Palestine and khasmir or Afghanistan then you are blind dont talk about human

goaloa @revmagdalen @trash_ebooks @MartinDressel Fun fact: In Afghanistan (not yet ruled by Taliban) 4 of 5 marriages are “forced”, & many are child brides. The biggest fear of many Afghan women has been a roadside bomb, or a US bomb from the sky.

4.6 Students

DeccanHerald Back in Afghanistan everything is closed and the student community is not able to pay their rents, examination fees

NH_India students from the war-torn country who have come to #Bengaluru to study are facing challenges on multiple fronts

Outlookindia | Afghan students in India stuck in a limbo after Taliban takeover. Face dilemma over leaving for home or staying abroad.

cmalave Taliban 'brutally' killed a popular Afghan folk singer just days after it said 'music is forbidden' in Islam. A religion or a particular interpre of it that bans music isn't worth practicing.

4.7 Afghan Forces

AEIfdp Both the US & Afghan governments are now scrambling to mitigate the effects of Biden's decisions. However, there is an important lesson to be learned: Decisions made without concrete plans or robust implementation strategies are wrong.

vkonI US govt bypasses the Afghan govt and hands Afghanistan over to Taliban against a promise that the Taliban never attack or threaten the USA again. And the Afghan people have to just deal with any consequences.

GKZorbis_PhD Afghanistan and US government agencies and corporations collected mountains of data on Afghans. Much too much. Now the data will serve the Taliban to kill or blackmail pro-Western Afghans. A near total lack of imagination, security, strategy and planning.

OFrohI The Afghan officials said they busted an alleged Chinese espionage ring operating in Kabul to hunt down Uighur Muslims with the help of the Haqqani network, a terrorist outfit linked to the Taliban. the ring had been operating for six or seven years.

vinnie5534

@AdamKinzinger Never once mentions or includes the elected Afghan government in these plans . They weren't even a part of the negotiations. And lets not forget the release of 5000 Taliban fighters. And what did we get in return??? NOTHING all the while betraying the people of Afghanistan!

Toxic_Web The Afghan government and the Taliban were both told they would face the full force of the US military if they caused any harm to Americans or American interests in Afghanistan."... while the Taliban just look at Biden as a joke...

TerryGlavin As Afghan Lt. Gen. Sami Sadat explains, the Afghans lost their will to fight, because the US had already stopped fighting, months ago.

AshleyPerry42 People who are painting Afghanistan as a US failure are overlooking facts:

- an Afghan president who fled his country with our \$;
- top Afghan government and military not getting US-paid-for food, supplies, and support;
- and Afghan soldiers giving up or joining the Taliban.

SajidRabbaniPK 'should ask Pak tough questions' about Taliban victory in Afghanistan, but UK and USA should not ask Afghan Army under their training & equipments what went wrong ?

ghelt the Afghan government is gone. There's no option that allows us to keep a small presence in Afghanistan. The Taliban is back, and we either re-surge tens of thousands of troops, or we get out. How many of your grandsons are you willing to send to Afghanistan?

knarfnamduh What a complete & utter horror show! I'd like to know how many Taliban were killed? Or did they quietly exit the area before the massacre began? The more we learn of this whole Afghan exercise the larger farce it becomes! Military ineptitude writ large!

MdFardinKarim1

US weapons seized from the Afghan army must be kept in a safe place. Special unit must be assigned to look after or secure these weapons. Even if these weapons fall into the hands of ISKP or other groups by mistake, it will be a threat to the security of Afghanistan and the Taliban.

DubstepInDPRK This Afghan Army general has the gall to blame the lack of U.S logistical support (aka money) for their downfall. What a joke. This was always a hollow government and military with no willpower or confidence. It would never stand on its own two feet.

ManComeback There never was a government in Afghanistan or Afghan Army. This is why the Pentagon refused to get out, all their lies would be exposed:

raging545 from the info I have seen this is an old #Afghan air force/military bone yard. Almost all of these aircraft are non-functional, missing parts or in need of costly maintenance. In other words mostly junk. Wish the #Taliban the best trying to get them operational.

Lion_Haart I had that story yesterday . .The Afghan National Army was captured by the Taliban radioing Bagram for air support that never came. "Bagram is not necessary, tactically or operationally for what we are going to try to do here with Afghanistan?" Like let those men die?

mrdonnellan The Taliban were always going to take Kabul. The Afghan army & people had opened the gates to them all over Afghanistan. He may well have thought it better and safer to pass over control to an army which totally outnumbered the allies. Or would you have had them slaughtered?

Raghav59290511 Which falls faster? The Afghan Military vs Taliban Or The Indian Middle order once every test series.

71mu37_M They've spent a lot of money training these Afghan Special Forces units, mentoring them, etc. There is no way that the US Military, CIA &/or NATO will just leave them behind to be murdered or recruited by the Taliban.

RalphVeras1 The Afghan Leaders & Forces Hauled Ass Turned Over The Country To The Taliban In Less Than 2 Weeks? What About The WOMEN Of The USA With Their Husbands, Sons Or Daughters In Afghanistan? Is Not All About The Afghans! How Much Longer? & Why Did Afghan Army BETRAY THEIR COUNTRY?

redheadeduni This Afghan family is raising money to be able to relocate to Texas to save themselves from the Taliban. If you have any money to spare, please help them, or re-tweet this.

AileenDS16 Where was or is the outrage over the countless American lives destroyed by the war in Afghanistan? As an outsider, what more could the US do. 20+yrs of support, equipment and training and yet the Afghan military and official's can't keep Taliban with lower numbers under control??

AnaRph121 @calxandr Are u on weeds or something else. Taliban captured afghanistan because the afghan army and afghan residents didn't fight back with them and give them an easy access. Ask ur US and Nato counterparts that why they wasted so much tax money of their citizens n doesn't gain anything!

4.8 Withdrawal

ConsvrtAdvocate and theasherpeck The Taliban calls Aug. 31 a “red line” for U.S. troops to withdraw, which may not give U.S. forces enough time to evacuate every American and our Afghan allies. Biden needs to stress that come hell or high water, we will leave no American or ally behind.

lukemcgee Whether this is accurate or not, the US's determination to leave by such a strict date would be viewed as the impetus behind the Taliban seizing power in the nation. Its handling of the fallout from that will tarnish its legacy in Afghanistan.

GrayConnolly Regarding the "but Trump" points: the Taliban's "commitment and action on the obligations" was a prerequisite for the Allied departure in February 2020. Considering the reconstruction, none of these required giving up on Afghan allies or embassies.

MikeofNewYORK Taliban says, all foreigners may leave. But also NOT all foreigners in Afghanistan are alien. Afghans who hold #USA or other foreign passports are seen as Afghan and likely not allowed to leave say media colleagues in Kabul.

prospect_uk As long as the Taliban held out and the Afghan state failed to develop, then sooner or later the withdrawal of US power was on the cards

UmairJamal15 and talibs_exposed The US could provide Taliban air support for a ground operation or the Taliban could provide US coordinates of ISKP targets...but any successful US operation against ISKP in Afghan cannot be carried out without coordination with the Taliban.

roots_herb They Taliban may not have orchestrated today, as there could have been several players involved, but they may have allowed or aided it. It's a tragedy for the evacuation operations, US soldiers & their families, the Afghan citizens trying to flee the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan

ghozttramp #taliBAN Everything.. are no longer allowing Free Afghan Citizens to choose go to #Kabul airport to leave the new Taliban Rulership of Afghanistan, which is now pushing folk to join da Rebelz on da mountains.. ping pew pong.. donk? (This Propaganda or factz ?

EleniKring @PaulRieckhoff Trump/Pompeo deal forced the decision beyond just keeping a small force on Afghanistan. Either the U.S. had to leave or send in many more Americans to fight dangerous retaliation of Taliban or ISIS. Unacceptable option: 4500 U.S. vs 75,000 Taliban, w/ collapsing Afghan military.

4.9 Excap

Smetienne Foreign policy analysts envisage coalition forces continuing to work with the Taliban (or whoever makes up the Afghan government) following the August 31st U.S withdrawal deadline, in bid to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a global exporter of terrorism. <https://t.co/tsc80FHNVP>

p_henry2020 Senators need to join together and push the State Department to efficiently work with the private sector agencies trying to get Americans, Afghan Christians, Afghan Jews, and Afghans who helped the US out of Afghanistan before the Taliban can kidnap, imprison or torture them!

treyhammett The majority of Afghans that rushed the Kabul airport had only just applied for an SIV or not at all. It's a desperate appeal to flee Afghanistan because the Afghan government fell to the Taliban, not because the Biden administration didn't plan effectively.

JLCurtis4win The international community needs to require the Taliban to efficiently extradite for prosecution any and all persons who wound or kill foreign nationals/Afghan nationals who have received approval to emigrate to a specific host country.

phillipsoninst Like her or not, but very impressed that Hillary Clinton has chartered planes to get people evacuated from Afghanistan. Did Trump help?No. Plus, he set up this debacle due to his 2020 agreement with the Taliban to withdraw troops - and not one Afghan govt official was present.

EnglishHams The US government has promised to use every hour left to help as many people as possible escape from Afghanistan before US troops withdraw.

SadaatHimat The United States should evacuate from Afghanistan those soldiers whose lives are in danger at the hands of the Taliban, whose families are in danger, and whether they are Afghan police or the Afghan National Army.

AlexaJaar1013 The Taliban are not to be believed or trusted. There is no legitimate reason why they cannot extend a completely arbitrary "deadline" nor should they prevent any Afghan citizens, or anybody else who wishes to leave the country from leaving.

JamesrossrJames Heartbreaking As Desperate Afghan Residents Attempt To Escape Taliban Rule while our MAGAs fight in planes because of a mask or not getting the drink on a timely basis we don't know what we have until it is gone

DickSmithy

If the Taliban block or do not allow American citizens and Afghan citizens to leave in peace Then USA and its allies should declare all out war and bombing of Afghanistan within 2 months from now. All out war with no limits is the only thing that Taliban understand.

4.10 UN and UK

PKTheLandOfPure This is not #Taliban nor it is #Afghanistan or the #IslamicEmirateOfAfghanistan but it is #india and the system of #indian government. Now the world should see where are human crises ? @UN @UNHumanRights @cjwerleman #AntiPakPropagandaExposed #Afghan #IslamicState #Talibans <https://t.co/fe1VL2UaOk> UN

RogerCottrell6

UK's last dedicated evacuation flight leaves Afghanistan - follow live <https://t.co/7OhG89nluk> Johnson's betrayal follows news that details of EVERY Afghan who applied for a British visa is now in the hands of the Taliban. Incompetence or something worse? UK

Bloke_On_A_Bike

This may come as a shock to many in #BorisJohnson government but they don't get to decide which Afghan citizens get to leave Afghanistan. Only leverage we've got is UK aid budget so effectively either we're willing to pay ransom for our allies to Taliban or we're not. #r4today UK

MrDJones

..via @SkyNews: 'No hope for them': British Afghan fears family will be executed by Taliban after being left behind in Kabul <https://t.co/6IXrfN6UFw> or <https://t.co/7j35cmShuJ> <https://t.co/bycM0bwcQX> UK

AinleyFalco

troops from the uK or other countries who feel strongly about leaving Afghanistan should join this man asap, Biden said that the Afghan people need to fight against Taliban and protect their country - well, here they are- help them and I hope we in the UK and other countries do. UK

4.11 Russian

Saberibrahimi Russia acts like it had no role in the destruction and mayhem in #Afghanistan. The Soviet Union invasion killed or maimed more than ONE MILLION Afghans, displaced some SIX

MILLION. Not to mention her support for the #Taliban. Now her RT TV portrays Afghan refugees as a threat. <https://t.co/vON5CfhFLX> Russia

The_NewArab

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said on Tuesday that #Moscow opposes allowing #Afghan refugees into Central Asia, or having #US troops there. #Afghanistan #Taliban @mfa_russia

<https://t.co/CMLM0hgIA8> Russia

A_Melikishvili

This right here justifies Russia's concerns that people affiliated with Taliban and/or other radical groups may mix with refugees fleeing Afghanistan because of the chaotic evacuation. Five men suspected of ties to Taliban made it to France apparently. <https://t.co/AJDZfeINtM> Russia

RafaqatAliArman WorldBreakingN9 *and ashoswai* Soviet left #Afghanistan after 9 years & the govt they had left lasted for 3yrs. US stayed in Afghanistan for 20yrs, the govt didn't last 2weeks! No #Afghan soldier wanted to die for Ghani or Saleh!

T4J1K

Believe it or not in 2001 when he 1st came back to Afghanistan, to my understanding he once said "I will kick your people (Tajiks) from Afghanistan with the help of the American forces, Afghan forces or the Taliban". Mission accomplished. <https://t.co/FtmeuHTo2V> history

4.12 Pakistan

Princessofxrp @tyler When white man don't listen to or amplify Afghan voices but only their own. Pakistan is Taliban! Pakistan is invading Afghanistan. Any pro-Taliban Afghan is a Pakistan proxy. #sanctionpakistan Pakistan is invading Afghanistan. Any pro-Taliban

Hitesh73903548

A virus is anything external that harms or destroys the inside I can easy say the virus in Afghanistan is the Taliban not even Afghani but from Pakistan border region and in pride I can say a new Afghan will be created in Ally countries especially USA by the spirit of those here.

BZulakha

Increased instability or advances by the Taliban in Afghanistan may give Pakistani militants who support their Afghan counterparts more confidence, which would increase insecurity throughout Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions that border Afghanistan.

#PakistanSponsorsPeace <https://t.co/gqKudPjC5a> Pakistan

Neurophysik

Astonished at the confidence of ordinary Indians being vocal about Afghanistan. It's the lack of understanding between terrorist organisations Afghan vs Pakistani Taliban, or ISIS-K. And the bundling of country specific Islamic ideologies. B/c why not, they are all muslims. Read? Pakistan

murtazasolangi

“Afghan Taliban will not cut ties with the TTP, nor will they stop inspiring the religious Right in Pakistan that will now even more eagerly look at the possibility of Pakistan turning into a theocracy”, says

<https://t.co/96pu9jfNWR> Pakistan

AnnelleSheline

Taliban

-Afghan Pashtuns

-Embrace Afghan nationalism

-See themselves as heirs of Pashtun state-builders

ISKP (or ISIS-K)

- Pakistani Pashtuns

-Rebelled against Pakistan

-Want a base for global jihad

@QuincyInst colleague @LievenAnatol for @RStatecraft

<https://t.co/wQjqbLN69I> Pakistan

cbkwgl

Reciprocation Times.

" Pakistan, not Afghanistan, will be the one to handle the TPP issue. It is up to Pakistani ulama and religious leaders—not the [Afghan] Taliban—to determine the legitimacy of the war and adjust their approach accordingly.

<https://t.co/TGIFIsAe67> Pakistan

AnjumKiani

Blanket coverage of Pakistan narrative on international media today where Pakistan is warning the west that it must remain engaged with the Afghan Taliban or it will result in power vacuum giving opportunity for terrorists with international designs. #Afghanistan Pakistan

Zeddary

@chrislhayes @DGisSERIOUS @DanielDenvir "ISIS" or "IS-K" as it exists in Afghanistan primarily began as a mix of Pakistani Taliban and Uzbek jihadists who rebranded themselves post-2014 as loyal to Baghdadi. Because unlike the Afghan Taliban they never enjoyed safe harbor from Pakistan.

Pakistan

GVS_News Will the Taliban export their own philosophy or will they appropriate China's and Pakistan's systems of governance? Will it inspire domestic terrorists who support jihad?

#Afghanistan #China #Pakistan #Extremism #Connectivity #geopolitics #OpEd #JamesDorsey
<https://t.co/oXqVBA1Oxq> Pakistan

back_warrior Further instability or Taliban gains in Afghanistan could embolden Pakistani militants aligned with their Afghan counterparts, deepening insecurity in Pakistan,
#PakistanSponsorsPeace

@back_warrior Pakistan

Pakbest21

#PakistanSponsorsPeace

Increased instability or advances by the Taliban in Afghanistan may give Pakistani militants who support their Afghan counterparts more confidence, which would increase insecurity throughout Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions that border Afghanistan.

@Pakbest21 <https://t.co/TZMwDQB7mo> Pakistan

Abil237

Terrorism first rule start with Propaganda! since when #Taliban care about women and this girl is not even in #Afghanistan or #Afghan her Pashto and English Accent is Pakistani dialect these are clear signs of a terror organization this is all propaganda <https://t.co/iFLTnN3yT2> Pakistan

GeoSket

Reasons Why #Pakistan Might Recognise A Taliban Controlled #Afghanistan ~

- Pakistan Believes The Old Government Enslaved The Afghan People
- The Taliban Are Anti #India
- The Taliban Are An Islamist Organisation, Not An Afghan Or Pashtun One Pakistan

advtariqbaloch

Boldak border where thousands of #Afghan have gathered to enter #Pakistan from #Afghanistan. Why is it hidden from the eyes of the media? Nothing #Taliban or US security forces deployed. Situation is more bad than

#KabulAirport.

#Talibans #KabulAirportBlast #Kabul_Airport <https://t.co/zRDQsxaJsk> Pakistan

MOHANJANGA1

@TarekFatah Fabricated and purchased victory of these Taliban nuts can be applicable to Pak & Afghan - India is not Pakistan or Afghanistan - they are just 70000 - they will be reduced to 7000 soon. They are asking for the end of their race - India will help them & the World. Pakistan

drjhavn1

#Afghanishtan Army also surrendered the modern weapons and military hardware, to #Taliban, worth ~\$35 billion, will make them a formidable force. It may also be diverted to #Pakistan #Iran or #China.

"Melting of Afghan Forces"

<https://t.co/CF3N7nkVEs> via @drjhavn1 Pakistan

My1Khan

Why Taliban speaks Punjabi or Urdu ? Afghan Taliban is better then Pakistani's Taliban and Terrorist groups now they reach Afghanistan . <https://t.co/hSqh7XG46g> Pakistan

SteveL202

Why Pakistan supports the taliban or wants chaos in Afghanistan. No Afghan government has recognized the Durand Line. They want a Pashtunistan. <https://t.co/lZf2glekKk> Pakistan

SanatanFamily

The Taliban violence increase across Afghanistan , and the Pakistani government makes it clear each day that they do not care about severing ties with terrorists or the Taliban. Many Afghan are asking one question of the #UnitedNations when do terrorism #sectiononPakistan begins Pakistan

AfghanUnheard Taliban/Pak ISI does not want Afghan women to go to school or collage or job but Pakistan Women can work as Journalist. Pakistan wants to destroy Afghanistan at any cost. world had fail to prevent the invasion

AgyaatPurush108 It did have a good positive impact on Afghan psyche, and our narrative to the Taliban or whoever rules Afghan that we truly want the good of Afghanistan, unlike Pakistan.

MyIKhan Don't trust Pakistani. They're brotherly welcome is only for Terrorist activity or dollars. Destabilise Afghanistan and called all the countries to investors to Pakistan . Pakistan sending they're Terrorist groups to give bad names to Afghan Taliban by they're Taliban too.

Talha34537576 @IqbalKaKhwab @huzaiifa_mahenti @SameeraKhan Yes it is biasee because we are facing a similar situation. Ttp goes and hides in Afghanistan and thr taliban or the Afghan forces do nothing about it. It is there job prevent stop it. We are waiting now but what would you want as a Pakistani if ttp launches an attack like 9/11

Tamal27233594 @KanchanGupta Sooner or later the people of Pakistan will pay the price if not the army and the politicians. With ISIS, Afghan resistance and Taliban we are heading for a dangerous cocktail of a civil war in Afghanistan

4.13 India

Rezhasan

Indian govt tells political party leaders during briefing on #Afghanistan:
*will wait & watch whether new set-up govt solely by Taliban or power-sharing with other Afghan leaders
*consultations to continue with important stakeholders & regional countries india

DerArschloch

Is this Afghanistan or India? Taliban have blocked internet access of Panjshir. This BJP style of governance shows how radical they've become. It's a shame to see Afghan government behaving like Indian state.
<https://t.co/W9VTw792Km> india

TheQuint

#Opinion | "Supporting Massoud is now the only way to ensure that the future of #Afghanistan is one decided by the Afghan people. It is also the only way to ensure India does not have another perennial enemy at striking proximity," writes @ranvijayhada.
<https://t.co/r4ERuIy6V5> india

dwnews

Students from Afghanistan living in India face a difficult choice: Go back home to Taliban rule or stay abroad and leave their families behind.

And with their funds drying up, many are struggling to make ends meet.

<https://t.co/abYDvoPhge> india

nishaja76905846

#हिंदुस्तान_धर्मशाला_नहीं_है

India should not accept Muslims from Afghanistan. They have a wide option if 57 countries, but why aren't they considered or held accountable?

What can India do if the Taliban want to terrorise Afghan public? It's their internal matter. india

RaoDevulapally

@BharadwajSpeaks The Indian Government should have got those precious sanskrit texts to India in return for the funding of development projects in Afghanistan.

The Afghan muslims (Taliban or others) does not know their value and one day will destroy them like Bamiyan Buddha statues. india

Dr_Maj_UCP

@ssingapuri Trust or Not, how -Does U S foreign policy of Afghanistan affects INDIA'S health unless India is swept away by International blackmail to accept Afghan Muslims against it's own CAA to open it's borders +dump billions into Taliban AF? Secure our borders/airlift Indians/FORGET U S. india

ddpthorat

@rwac48 @BKanad America, NATO, India, UN and most OIC Nations backed Afghanistan Government and the Right Horse..It was Afghan Awam"Peoples"Govt and was upholding Democracy and peace for all..Empowerment of Women & Education..Taliban will have to change or be booted out..Awam Reistance grows.. india

DerArschloch

@Chaiti Is this Afghanistan or India? Taliban have blocked internet access of Panjshir. This BJP style of governance shows how radical they've become. It's a shame to see Afghan government behaving like Indian state. how dare they treat Panjshir like India treats Kashmir? india

Habbash

What happened to anti Taliban pro Indian Afghan resistance you can find them on face book / Twitter and on comment sections on newspapers or on you tube videos strangely not one of them choose to live in Afghanistan . india

Roth_Rohit_Red

The Great #Afghanistan Betrayal - Afghans will step from Taliban ghetto to another in old Delhi or Jamia or Seelampur and curse their idiocy to work with 3rd World country.
<https://t.co/aaVO5k4ig6> India

Ravibr15 Afghanistan has completely wiped out its Hindu and Sikh population over the last 50 years! Under all govts., be it Taliban, communist or whatever Simply because the ordinary Afghan wants it. Why should India care about Afghans? Why is the @narendramodi govt. giving them visas?

annubhaviwari Acknowledging or establishing any kind of contact with Afghanistan would be major failure of modi govt. if we can strike balakot then we can also strike Afghanistan terrorist camp to protect Indian citizens and our beloved afghan citizens .#Taliban #Terrorism

Kezo_IPS @IndiaToday @rahulkanwal @PMOIndia mistake on Afghanistan will be very costly. Taliban may come or go but the Afghans will remain. Maintaining goodwill and friendship with them must be the cornerstone of Indo-Afghan relationship in the light of fluid international situation.

4.14 Refuges

Due to War in Afghanistan for Last 40 to 50 years, war in Afghanistan, Afghan living in different countries as a War refugees, included Pakistan, Iran, Etc,

teresa59420516 Conservative commentator Glenn Beck who has already rescued 5,100 from Afghanistan has claimed the US State Department is blocking his efforts to rescue Afghan Christians from the threat of being 'burned alive or crucified' by the Taliban. Ask yourself why???

snietomunoz At least 25k refugees fleeing Taliban rule in Afghanistan will arrive this week in NJ, living in tents set up at Fort Dix. Advocates are now preparing for a tide of refugees that they're not sure will be a trickle or a tsunami,

news_sledge #Panjshir is the last stand in #Afghanistan against the #Taliban which the Western media prefers to ignore. The Afghan refugees could be encouraged to go there and join the resistance instead of coming to the West and living on benefit or getting low paid jobs!

The_NewArab Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said that #Moscow opposes allowing #Afghan refugees into Central Asia, or having #US troops there.

iPicNews Afghan refugees he helped to create with a mindless deal with the Taliban. There was no contingency for the allied afghans who helped Americans stay in Afghanistan for the 20 years!

BetterknowYou Airbnb says it will temporarily house 20,000 Afghan refugees: Airbnb will match Afghan refugees with hosts offering their homes for free or at a discounted rate, it said, with all costs covered.

Nitabhalla Thousands of refugees from Afghanistan, most of them from the Hazara ethnic minority, who have long been persecuted by the Taliban, have lived in Indonesia for years as they await resettlement in third countries such as Canada or Australia.

4.15 Media

After the Taliban control, the media (National and international media) activities was limited, The New Taliban want to control free flow of information Like old Taliban. So different international media organization closed the Media office due to safety of the Journalists. Beside that national media also reduce the staff. Journalists also wearied about their lives, they wish to leave Afghanistan.

“**NikkeiAsia**” added that

With the Taliban in power in #Afghanistan, journalists and media workers in the country are fleeing for their lives or going into hiding. <https://t.co/oC7vdkDiOp>

“**SalehaSoadat**” further added that Journalists need to support the Taliban Agenda or self-censorship or to leave the Job.

Afghanistan media is almost shut down. The majority of the Afghan journalist underground or evacuated. On the ground media houses and journalists are under threat to promote the Taliban’s narrative or self-censorship for their survival. <https://t.co/PsIYeBOJoK>

taslimanasreen

Beheshta Arghand, the Afghan TV presenter, who interviewed Taliban without wearing a burqa or hijab left Afghanistan for safety. Eventhough Taliban have been saying they won't hurt women, but no woman trusts them anymore.

AyseJKhan

my article about Afghanistan and taliban Tolerant or Turbulent Taliban 2.0 about afghanistan situation was printed in different newspapers. #Afghanistan is important to us. #Afghan #KabulAirport #Kabul

#AfghanistanCrisis #AfghanWomen #Pakistan #Panjshir #biden #NATO #usa 
<https://t.co/BotiAKZ4OY> media

jeffagriffithy1

We hear from media outlets like CNN that the terrorist threat to the US from Afghanistan will be "moderate", "minimal", or "two years down the road". WRONG. The Afghan army collapse and American withdrawal creates a vacuum among the tribal Taliban groups for Hamas and Jihad.

adammatvya

Much Western reporting on Afghanistan is either pro-occupation or very surface-level analysis. This by Afghan journalist @FazelQazizai is excellent on Kabul security complications and internal Taliban fissures.
<https://t.co/UJm6Fab67z>

PaulRieckhoff

Too many inside the @WhiteHouse and media still don't seem to understand what the how vicious and despicable the Taliban really are. Army vet and activist @TrueBoots explains it VERY well in the new @indy_americans that dropped today. Listen or watch: <https://t.co/u7JuiWKAm1> <https://t.co/32z1EwamPb>

4.16 Future of Afghanistan

Future of Afghanistan is one key theme, the people discussed in the twists. The Afghan was Killed by Soviet Union, Then Taliban, then US Drone's and Now, again Taliban. So the people living in a fear from last 40 to 50 years. The "StarToasters" added his opinion that

@stevetoy @jinglebells1111 @hope_1551 @MazMHussain 9/11 was tragic. ~3000 people were killed. Many more were injured in some way. And for it we became the butchers of Afghanistan and Iraq. We gave them daily fear, daily terror that at any second, they might be killed by Soviet mines, the Taliban, the Afghan mil, or US drones.

After 14 August, 2021. Afghanistan is under the Taliban control, and current Taliban is combination of 20 different Jihadist groups and many of them are not Afghan (Come from the neighborhood). The jihadist group from outside is the biggest thrived to Afghanistan because each group have own interest and they will try that current Taliban govt work and support the ideology of those groups. "orfonline" have pointed is his twists

.@KabirTaneja- “Despite the #Taliban being a predominant part of the Afghan jihadist landscape, it is imperative to remember that more than 20 terror groups have thrived in #Afghanistan. Many of these groups are not Afghan and come from the neighbourhood.” <https://t.co/HF9HEVA5i7>

arianadelawari

Afghan citizens should have had to work for any government or literally do ANYTHING to qualify as one who deserves protection and safety. That is the big lie being masked as a truth. Afghan citizens, every one of them, were HANDED to the Taliban. It ain't right #Afghanistan

There is an other change to current Taliban govt that the international community will accept the current govt or Not.

THSI2020

While addressing the "Future Prospects of Human Security in Afghanistan" organised by @THSI2020 @SaleemKhanSafi pointed out that the future course of action by Afghan Taliban will be defined by whether international community recognise them or not...@DGTHSI <https://t.co/SK2evSaAOQ>

Beside the international community, Main question is the United States will recognize the new Taliban Govt, the “*pollreport*” share the public opinion and 71 per cent of the people say No.

Should the United States recognize the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan – yes or no?

Yes 15%

No 71%

(Suffolk U./USA Today Poll, RV, 8/19-23/21) more: <https://t.co/4ZsDuFTt8E>

The current Taliban govt need Money to run Afghanistan. They need help and support of international community. If the international community not accept the govt, then how they doing the financial support of Afghanistan. The “*Nick63M*” is also highlight the point.

Would a joint international coalition with the Taliban secure an Afghan future or would the World be throwing £100bn down a black hole?

#Tricky

Taliban to beg US, UK for extra cash to run Afghanistan after takeover 'They're broke!' <https://t.co/GuL5ALEwco>

The Afghanistan govt economy is depended (75 per cent) on global funding, IMF, World Bank + U.S. if the international community do not support, then Afghanistan economy will be collapse.

brendon_mckenna

The Afghan economy is based on dependency (BBC) 75% of Afghan budget is from global funding. IMF, World Bank + U.S. have frozen US\$10b and access to funding. Wonder what will collapse first the Taliban or the Afghanistan economy ?
<https://t.co/2gt2E6QB4B>
<https://t.co/LMbZMqEkrf>

There is another Question that Taliban implement the Islamic Economic or stick to liberal economic.

ShakeelRamay

<https://t.co/iz3vsHfhV3>

Few months back I wrote this piece
Will Taliban implement Islamic economic, free of Riba (interest)
Or

Will Taliban stick to Liberal economic? If they stick to it, In this case Taliban govt will not be Islamic govt
@AnsarAAbbasi @OryaMaqboolJan economic

prospect_uk

The result of the Afghan experience will probably be to finish off for the foreseeable future any British—let alone European—willingness to engage in counter-insurgency or state-building operations
<https://t.co/aP1G8pCgsE>

Some of the people thinking that new Taliban do not different from old Taliban, they will be chopping hand of the people,


AD05500716

Terrorist Taliban chopped someone's hand. The global community has turned its back on Afghanistan. They realized they can't beat terrorism, so they surrendered and handed over to Taliban in a silver platter. Afghan! We are on our own now. Join the resistance or accept slavery. <https://t.co/xDsb8Sigat>

thedailyheller

Received from an Afghan graphic designer: "I have fears while living here in Afghanistan. I see no hope now or in the future here and it is extremely hard to live here now. Taliban are everywhere and they are harassing us and our life is at risk." <https://t.co/OTsB0xdKTv>

WeAreMuseums

In Afghanistan protecting your life and your family now means burying books or destroying CDs. Read the Conor Finnegan's article on how Taliban pose threat to afghan heritage at @abcnews  <https://t.co/djIAJ2niyW>

Jay_Beecher

The Taliban are in no position to threaten the US or UK. We should ignore them & continue evacuating Afghan families & western citizens for as long as it takes. 'Consequences' will be justification for war, & to hunt them down like dogs as we did with ISIS <https://t.co/o6MEKTIjQv>

olisbahari

Taliban will have a Donkey Derby in Kabul among men & women very soon.

Women must wear either ninja or penguin clothes.

The top three winners will be able to leave Afghanistan for better freedom a& democracy on Special Immigrants Visa.

The Winning Donkey cannot leave Afghan! <https://t.co/Xab6mpRihq>

ZMAkbas

If the #Afghan #Army

with one part is #USA, with an other #Russia,

with the next #Taliban with an other #ISIS or #Hizbullah ..#Afganistan would end in a #chaos.

The friends and brother/sister States should help #Afghanistan to build an #independent and #regular #uniq State!

AsgharkhanR You Know USA Past 20Years Done Business in Afghanistan Afghan Citizens Enmity Against Talibans Nothing Else They Don't Do Friendship With Foreign Countries Their Foreigners Policy So No Afghan Solider wanted Die for Ghani or Saleh Business Deals of USA

abdulla29925921 Isi rental fighters by the name or tag Or label of Afghan taliban invade Afghanistan by force we never except the extremist organisation government the democratic world have to support as for better future of Afghan nation and world future stability we will fight

4.17 Weapon

bigguypolitics The Afghan military surrendered the equipment to the Taliban. How could the US have stopped that? It's their country, their equipment, their choice to surrender. Or, is Afghanistan a US colony? If it is, you have a point. If it's not, sovereignty is sovereignty.

Na07168669 USA MUST get all Military Weapons & Machinery out of Afghanistan... Tanks, Trucks, Jeeps, Canons, Machine guns, etc. We cannot allow Taliban access to these War Machines only to use them against USA. Also, Taliban must not use them to murder or control Afghan People left behind.

MdFardinKarim1 US weapons seized from the Afghan army must be kept in a safe place. Special unit must be assigned to look after or secure these weapons. Even if these weapons fall into the hands of ISKP or other groups by mistake, it will be a threat to the security of Afghanistan and the Taliban.

kennydojo The Taliban can't utilize the Blackhawks because they haven't got the support infrastructure, software, control or repair capabilities. And all these #GOP lying crumbs damn well know these facts.

keith298 Taliban seize over 100 Russia helicopters from routed Afghan army in humiliating setback the Islamists may not be able to put most of their booty to use, as they lack access to spare parts for the helicopters. Rubbish! use half or less as spares still 50+

Activist_Journo So, the database of US in Afghanistan has been seized by #Taliban. Lets see if the data was only of Afghan people OR of all others too who were working in collaboration with US/on Payroll of

stevenc90128925 Biden refusing to extend the timescale in Afghanistan like he has an option. The Taliban calls the shots now, they have USA in a position were they do as they are told or go back to war. The allies have no power in afghan anymore.

Becky72875829 Are you staging that whole area surrounding Afghanistan with military personnel I mean rows and rows of them or planes circling above? To send a message to the Taliban so they know what will happen if they harm any American's or Afghan interpreters

RichMattison3

So this administration gave the Taliban money..weapons..one fully functioning air base(so far) with aircraft...a list of American and Afghan forces...control of the perimeter of the only way in or out of Afghanistan and some of ya'll are still on board? WTF?

tomkerr87794201

@JeremyVineOn5 Biden has not betrayed Johnson or NATO allies but he has betrayed the Afghan people as have Britain, France.etc. Removing troops from Afghanistan is tantamount to standing back while the Taliban murder innocents. Shame on us

JJlittlewillage

@AOC are these Afghan refugee women being allowed into the US still wearing the burka and hijab? If they are then they are still supporting the Taliban and Sharia LAW. That would mean they have no intention to assimilate to US LAW or Westernize. #Sharia #Afghanistan #Evacuation

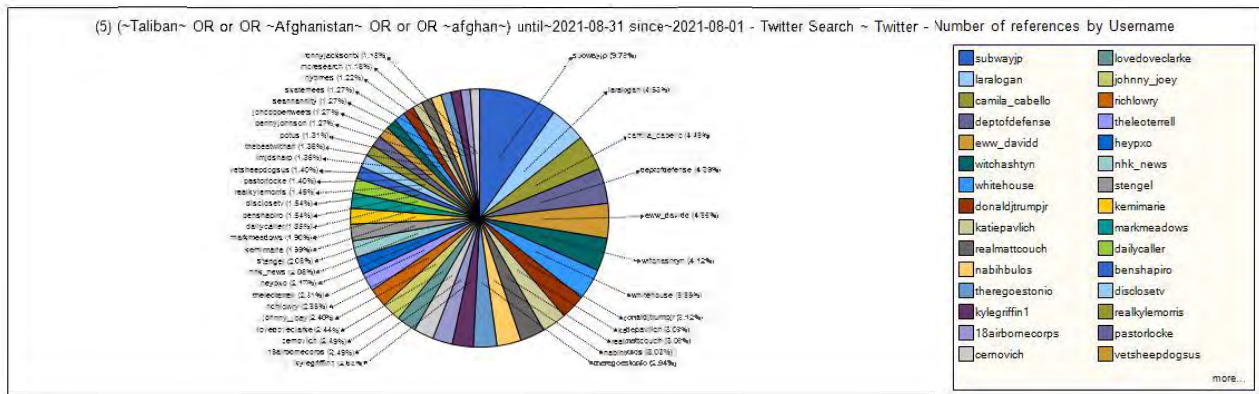


Fig 1: Number of Tweets with reference to Usernames.

(~Taliban~ OR or OR ~Afghanistan~ OR or OR ~afghan~) until~2021-08-31 since~2021-08-01 - thematic trends in tweets.

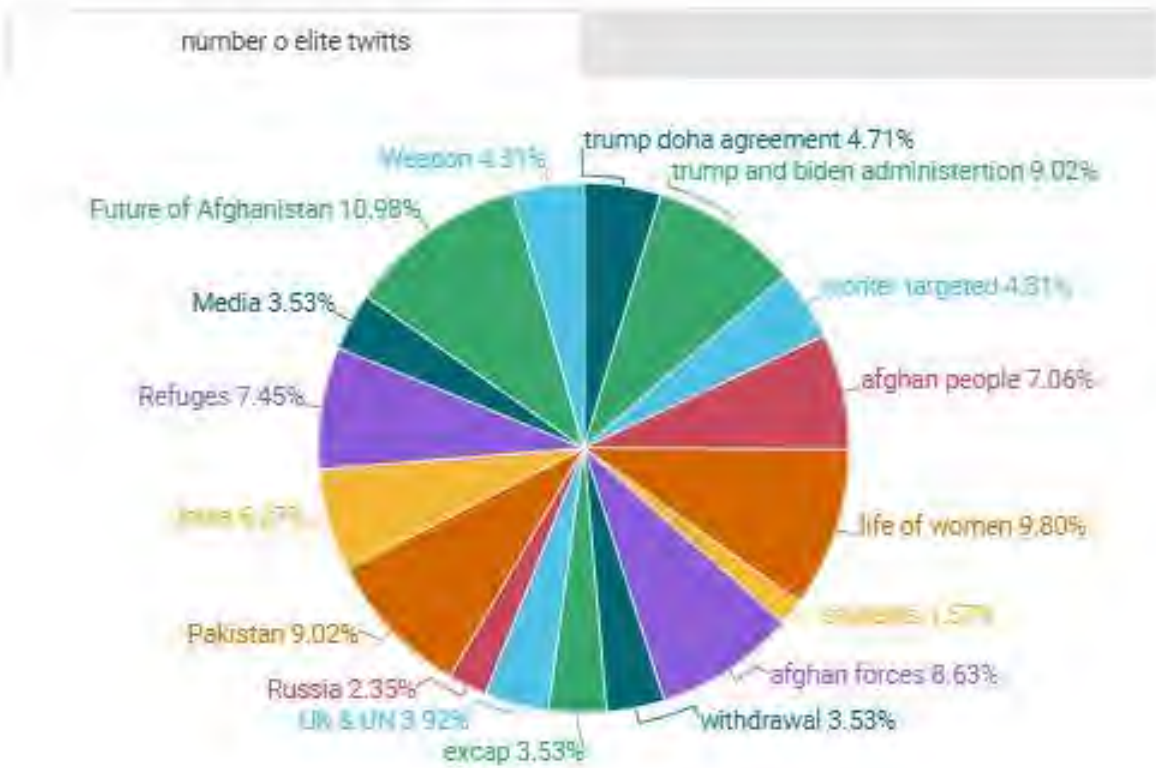


Fig 2: Thematic trends in tweets.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Doha Agreement And Biden

The text portrays the Afghanistan crisis as a complex and multifaceted situation resulting from the US-Taliban Doha Agreement signed under the Trump administration in 2020. It highlights that the agreement, negotiated without involving the Afghan government, laid the groundwork for the withdrawal of US troops and the subsequent collapse of the Afghan National Security Forces. Various social media users criticize Trump for negotiating directly with the Taliban, releasing 5,000 Taliban prisoners, and failing to include provisions for the evacuation of Afghan allies and interpreters. The agreement is depicted as one-sided, favoring the Taliban and failing to secure meaningful counter-terrorism commitments. Additionally, the text underscores that the reduction in US air support weakened the Afghan military's ability to resist the Taliban, leading to their rapid takeover of Kabul. Criticism is also directed at the Biden administration for its execution of the withdrawal, but the primary blame is placed on Trump for setting the stage with an inadequate and poorly planned deal.

5.2 Worker People Women

The text portrays the Afghanistan crisis as a complex and dire situation, emphasizing the vulnerability and fear faced by those who worked with international organizations such as the U.S. government, NATO, and other entities. Despite the Taliban's announcement of a general amnesty, there is widespread skepticism and fear that the Taliban will target these individuals for retribution. Reports suggest that the Taliban have obtained lists and data, potentially exposing these workers to severe punishment or execution. Social media users express deep concern for Afghan women, girls, and the LGBTQ+ community, fearing a regression to oppressive laws and practices under Taliban rule. The text highlights the chaos and lack of planning in the withdrawal process, criticizing both the Trump and Biden administrations. It paints a picture of Afghanistan as a nation abandoned to a brutal regime, with many Afghans feeling betrayed and desperate for escape.

5.3 Withdrawal Or Excap

The text portrays the American withdrawal from Afghanistan as a controversial and fraught process, with opinions divided on whether it constitutes a strategic withdrawal or a hasty escape. The set deadline of August 31 by the Taliban is depicted as an arbitrary but rigid "red line," complicating efforts to evacuate all Americans and Afghan allies. Several voices in the text argue that the rapid withdrawal has catalyzed the Taliban's swift takeover, leading to chaotic scenes at Kabul airport where desperate Afghans seek to flee. Critics highlight the perceived abandonment of Afghan allies and the failure to anticipate the Taliban's resurgence. The narrative underscores the humanitarian crisis, with concerns about the safety of Afghans who assisted U.S. forces and the broader implications for America's international standing. Some commentators suggest continued cooperation with the Taliban to prevent further chaos, while others advocate for more aggressive measures if the Taliban obstruct evacuations. Overall, the text reflects a deep sense of urgency, tragedy, and contentious debate over the U.S.'s handling of its exit from Afghanistan.

5.4 UN and UK

5.4.1 UN

The UN Security Council's latest resolution marks a significant shift, as it now recognizes the Taliban as the state actor in Afghanistan, separating them from terror groups. This reflects a change in how the international community views the Taliban's role in Afghanistan.

5.4.2 UK

The UK's evacuation efforts from Afghanistan have faced severe criticism. The final dedicated evacuation flight has left Afghanistan, with many fearing for the lives of those left behind. There are concerns about the incompetence or possible malicious intent in handling the details of Afghan visa applicants, now reportedly in Taliban hands. Furthermore, the UK government faces criticism for its limited leverage over the Taliban and the dire situations of Afghan families with British ties still in Afghanistan.

5.5 Russia

Russia: Russia's stance on the Afghan crisis is marked by a refusal to accept Afghan refugees into Central Asia, opposing US troops in the region. The historical context of the Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan's destruction adds to the complexity, as current Russian narratives portray Afghan refugees as a potential threat. This reflects ongoing concerns about radical elements mixing with refugees .

5.6 Pakistan

Pakistan: The relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan is heavily scrutinized. There are allegations of Pakistan's influence over the Taliban and concerns about the spillover effect of Taliban gains in Afghanistan, which could embolden Pakistani militants. The potential instability along the Afghan-Pakistani border is a significant worry, with accusations of Pakistan's direct involvement in supporting the Taliban. Additionally, the complex dynamics between different Taliban factions and their impact on regional security are highlighted.

5.7 India

India: India's response to the Afghan crisis includes a cautious approach, waiting to see the composition of the new Afghan government. There is also a notable concern about the impact of Taliban rule on India's security, particularly regarding the potential for increased militancy in the region. The situation for Afghan students in India, facing financial hardships and the difficult choice of returning home or staying abroad, further complicates India's position. The broader geopolitical implications for India, including maintaining relationships with Afghan factions and ensuring regional stability, are critical considerations.

5.8 CONCLUSION

The research aimed to explore two primary questions, what kind of predominant themes are available in elite Twitter discourse regarding Afghanistan crisis? How the elite Twitter discourse has portrayed the Afghanistan crisis 2021? The finding of the study affirms that the elite Twitter discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis of 2021 is multifaceted, reflecting a wide array of themes and concerns. After a thorough analysis of the discourse, several predominant themes have emerged, each shedding light on different aspects of the crisis. These themes include Trump's Doha Agreement, the administrations of Trump and Biden, targeted attacks on workers, the plight of the Afghan people, the lives of women, the impact on students, the withdrawal process, escape efforts, the roles of the UN and UK, and the situation of refugees.

While addressing to the second research Question the findings show us that, a significant portion of the discourse revolved around **Trump's Doha Agreement**, the February 2020 agreement between the Trump administration and the Taliban, which set the stage for the withdrawal of US troops. Elite Twitter users debated the merits and shortcomings of this agreement, questioning its effectiveness and the assumptions underlying it.

The administrations of **Trump and Biden** were frequently compared and contrasted in the discourse. This theme encompassed critiques and defenses of policy decisions, with particular focus on the transition period and the execution of the withdrawal. The chaotic nature of the final days in Kabul drew widespread criticism and analysis, with commentators scrutinizing the timing, execution, and aftermath of the withdrawal process.

Targeted attacks on workers, including journalists, translators, and aid workers, were also a major topic of discussion. These conversations highlighted the dangers faced by those who supported international efforts in Afghanistan and the perceived failure to protect them adequately. The plight of the Afghan population, especially the **Afghan people** in general, was another pervasive theme, emphasizing the humanitarian crisis, economic instability, and the overall impact on daily life. Elite discourse often reflected on the broader implications for Afghan society and the international community's responsibility.

The **rights and safety of women** in Afghanistan were a critical focus of the discourse. Elite Twitter voices highlighted the dramatic shift in women's lives following the Taliban takeover, expressing concern over education, employment, and basic freedoms. Similarly, the impact on **students**, particularly girls, was another prominent theme. Discussions often revolved around the closure of schools, disruption of higher education, and the broader implications for the future of Afghanistan's youth.

Efforts of **Afghans trying to flee the country** were a frequent topic. This theme included narratives of desperation, the logistical challenges of evacuation, and the moral and political implications for Western countries involved in these efforts. Additionally, the roles of international bodies like the **United Nations** and key countries like the **United Kingdom** were discussed. This theme focused on their responses, humanitarian aid efforts, and political stances regarding the crisis.

Finally, the plight of **Afghan refugees** emerged as a significant concern. Conversations on Twitter examined the policies of various countries towards Afghan refugees, the conditions in refugee camps, and the long-term challenges of resettlement and integration.

In conclusion, the elite Twitter discourse on the Afghanistan crisis of 2021 reveals a complex and multi-layered narrative. The predominant themes identified offer insights into the various dimensions of the crisis and the diverse perspectives of the elite voices engaging in this critical conversation. These themes underscore the multifaceted nature of the situation and highlight the ongoing challenges and debates that continue to shape the global understanding and response to the Afghanistan crisis.

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