

CURRENT AFFAIRS.

(9)

The 2021 Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan presents regional and global challenges.

Elaborate the anticipated policies of the Taliban government and regional and global response.

OUTLINE:

- 1) Introduction.
- 2) Policies of Afghan Taliban.
- 3) Regional and Global Response to their policies.
- 4) Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION:

After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, there have been changes in policies which are quite surprising. However,

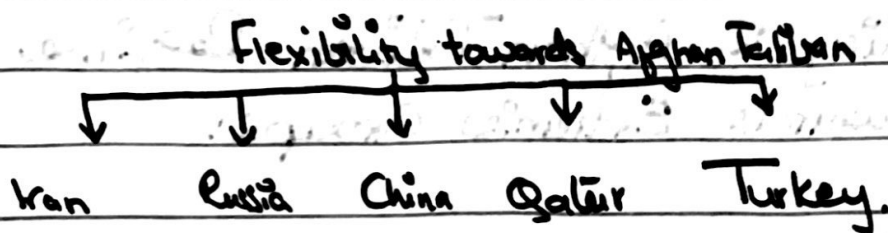
due to hardliners, like the Emir, Haibatullah Akhundzada, the relationship between Afghanistan and other countries might not have a low chance of progress. Afghanistan's policies have invoked regional and global responses, but some amount of time is required to interpret and assess Taliban due to their recent takeover and as the head of the state and they are ~~uplifting~~ facing international pressure due to their policies.

2) Policies of Afghan Taliban:

Policy of International Recognition:

~~Taliban~~ Afghan Taliban have been in an economic turmoil due to the effects which still resonate after the global war on terror and withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. The Afghan Taliban have ~~urged~~ appealed the international community to recognize the country to continue normal

trade with them. Countries like China, Russia and India have showed interest in Afghanistan but some of the countries have their own concerns regarding the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan. Following states have started to show flexibility towards Afghan Taliban:



Hardliner Policies of Afghan Taliban:

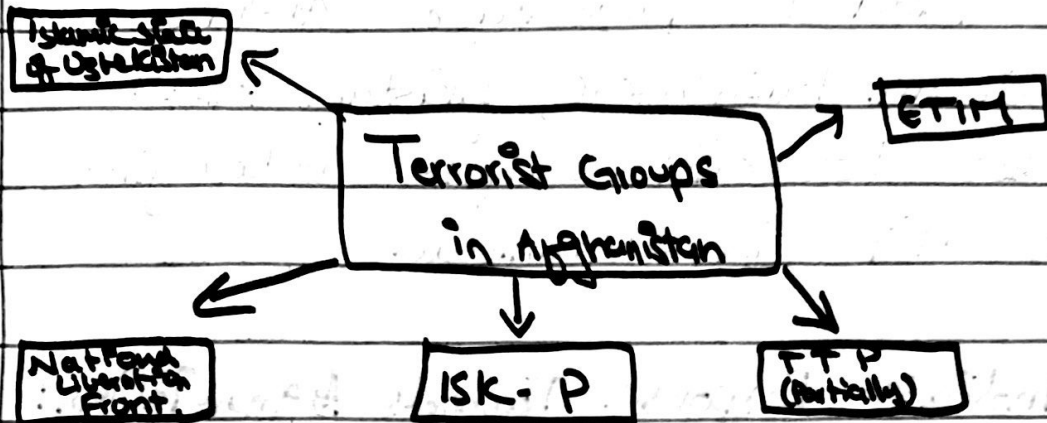
Today, Afghanistan ^{government} consists of hardliners and flexible youth as well. For instance, according to a book, "The Revival of Afghan Taliban" states that Afghan Taliban have clashes among themselves due to the presence of older generation, who are hardliners like Hibatullah Akhundzada and partially flexible representatives like Zabihullah Mujahid. Recently,

Afghanistan put a ban on girls' education, they have barred girls to get ~~edu~~ secondary education and have allowed them to study only till a few classes. This policy has invoked international condemnation especially by the US and other Western countries.

Policy of Afghan Taliban Regime towards Extremist Groups:

Afghanistan, unfortunately has become a hub of difference terrorist groups which are being provided safe havens on Afghan soil. These groups, some of them, demand legitimacy and conduct terrorist attacks as their demands are not being fulfilled. According to Asfendiyar Mir, Taliban do Afghan Taliban do not oppose or take severe actions against groups like ISK-P, TTP, Islamic State of Uzbekistan due to the threat of inflicting backlash from

them. Besides, the groups like TTP have supported Afghan Taliban throughout. Following are the groups which exist in Afghanistan:



Regional Response and Global Response

Pakistan's Response to Terrorism:

Pakistan and Afghanistan had not been able to enjoy good relations in 2023 and 2024. Pakistan remains deeply concerned about the issue of terrorism in Pakistan emanating from Afghanistan. In 2023, Pakistan was surprised at the response of Afghan Taliban, when it said that

Kabul could do nothing about TTP and it was not its concern at all. Pakistan, in response, aimed to send back the Afghan refugees to Kabul to pressurize Afghan Taliban. Furthermore, Pakistan attacked terrorist outfits belonging to TTP in Afghanistan.

India's Response Towards Afghan Taliban:

India has sought to fulfil its geopolitical interests in Afghanistan. According to Pakistani scholars, India has started to economically empower Afghanistan to malign Pakistan. It is evident from Afghan Taliban's less concern for the issue of TTP in Pakistan. India has started helping Afghanistan in building highways like the 202 kilometer highway and dams to fulfil its interest in the region.

China's Concerns and Economic Interest:

China looks forward to recognize Kabul but it has a few concerns. The Uighur movement is its major concern which it wants to tackle through the Wakhan corridor, a strip between Afghanistan and the Uighur. However, China looks forward to expand CPEC to Afghanistan and get advantage from Kabul's copper mines worth 3.5\$ dollars. Thus, terrorism is also an issue which China wants Afghanistan to counter.

US and its concern for Human Rights in Afghanistan:

US, on the other hand, wants Afghan Taliban to stop taking creating harsh policies. US had been ~~providing~~ ^{contributing} 80% ^{to} of Afghanistan's economy till 2021. After withdrawal from Afghanistan US had frozen around \$8 billion

functions of Afghanistan. It has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding human rights in Kabul. It urges the Afghan Taliban to bring back girls' education and empower them in different careers.

Conclusion:

Therefore, in order to assess the Afghan Taliban's regime, the international community should show flexibility and recognize their government gradually to bring economic stability in the region. It has been rightly said that an unstable Afghanistan means an unstable stability in South Asia.

Thus, the Afghan Taliban should be given time to stabilize Afghanistan as it is a war-torn country.