

## Current Affairs

Question:

Some scholars term Afghan Peace deal as the US withdrawal deal. Do you agree answer the question while discussing the contours of the Afghan peace process?

Answer:

Introduction:

The Afghan peace deal, often referred to as the US-Taliban agreement signed in Doha on February 29, 2020, is frequently termed the "US withdrawal deal" because its primary focus was on setting the terms for the withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan. This perspective is valid, but it is also essential to understand the broader contours of the Afghan peace process to see the full picture.

According to the president  
of Afghanistan:

"peace is the priority  
of the Afghan people, but  
we must ensure that  
the process is inclusive,  
respect the rights of the  
citizens, and leads to a  
sustainable and just  
outcome."

Afghan peace deal,  
particularly the US-Taliban agreement,  
mark a significant step towards  
peace, the true measure of its  
success lies in the subsequent  
processes.

Contours of the Afghan Peace  
process:

(1) Background

US Goals:

The United States aimed  
to end its longest war,  
reduce military expenditure, and  
bring troops home while

ensuring that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for terrorist activities against the US and its allies.

### Taliban Goals:

The Taliban sought the removal of foreign troops, the release of their prisoners, and international legitimacy.

### (2) Doha Agreement provision:

#### • Withdrawal of foreign troops:

According to

"Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)"

The agreement stipulated that all US and NATO forces would leave Afghanistan within 14 months, conditional on the Taliban meeting certain security guarantees.

#### • Counterterrorism Assurances:

The Taliban committed to preventing terrorist

groups, including al-Qaeda, from operating in areas under their control and to sever ties with these groups.

#### • Intra-Afghan Negotiation:

The deal called for talks between the Taliban and the Afghanistari government to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace settlement, including a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.

#### • Prisoner exchange:

A significant aspect was the exchange of prisoners, which was intended to build trust between the conflicting parties.

### (3) Implementation challenges:

#### • Intra-Afghan Dialogue:

progress was slow and fraught with disagreements. The Afghan government and the Taliban had divergent views on governance, human rights, and the

the role of Islam in the legal system.

### • Violence level:

Despite the agreement, violence continued in Afghanistan, with the Taliban conducting numerous attacks and the Afghanistan government forces retaliating complicating peace efforts.

### • Political Uncertainties:

The Afghan government faced internal divisions and political instability, which hindered cohesive negotiation efforts.

### Analysis:

Withdrawal deal vs Peace

### process:

The Doha Agreement facilitated the withdrawal of US and NATO forces, labeling it solely as a withdrawal deal overlooks its broader intentions and provisions aimed at establishing a peace process. The

The agreement was designed as a stepping stone towards a more comprehensive peace, including intra-Afghan negotiations and political reconciliation.

However, the subsequent focus on troops withdrawal overshadowed other aspects. The international community, including the US, emphasized the exist of foreign troops, often sidelining the need for a robust and inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue. This focus contributed to the collapse of the Afghan government and the rapid Taliban takeover in August 2021, raising questions about the sustainability efficacy of the peace process initiated by the Doha Agreement.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, while the characterization of the Afghan peace deal as a

"US withdrawal deal" is understandable given its immediate outcomes, it does not fully encapsulate the deal aimed to initiate a comprehensive peace process, but the practice emphasis and subsequent developments leaned heavily towards facilitating the US exit. Thus, it reflects both a withdrawal agreement and a complex, though ultimately faltering, attempt at fostering peace in Afghanistan.

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