

Date: _____ CSS 2021 Pak Affair

Question

What is Afghan owned, Afghan led solution to Afghan Crisis?

'AFGHAN OWNED', 'AFGHAN LED SOLUTION TO AFGHAN CRISIS:

INTRODUCTION:

Afghanistan is mixed in social, political and economic crisis since decades. Pertaining to the multiethnic and close tribal nature of Afghan society, it is divided into multifarious groups with warring tendencies. This led to civil unrest which has been a source of foreign invasions including British, Soviet Union in 1979 and NATO led Coalition troops after 2001^{sep}. However, all of these incursions miserably failed owing to tenacious and ferocious resistance by Afghan groups leveraging difficult terrain of Afghanistan. The fall

of US led government and seizure of Kabul in **Aug 2021** portray that, like always, the foreign attempts to liberalise Afghanistan has failed this time, as well. Therefore, it unfolds an undeniable fact that the **solution to Afghanistan crisis lies in Afghan owned and Afghan led proposals.**

These proposals are an admixture of various socio-political and strategic policies including political leadership, consensus of Afghan warlords, disarmament of tribal chiefs, international acceptance to the religious nature of Afghan society, eradicating urban and rural developmental gaps, connecting remote areas through transportation, policy of engagement with Taliban government under terms and **unfreezing Afghan assets.** Hence, ^{if implemented,} these proposals ^{possibly} in addition to others, can resolve Afghanistan crisis.

1. OVERVIEW OF AFGHAN CRISIS:

- Monarchy since the time of Ahmed Shah Abdali



- Anglo Afghan Wars (last- 1919)



- Disintegration of Afghan Society into tribes



- Cold War Dynamics and inclination of King towards USSR (1860's)



- Socialism in Afghanistan



- USSR invasion of Afghanistan Owing to US intervention (1979)



- US + Mujahideen led forces and defeat of Soviet Union - Geneva Accord (1988)



- Civil War in Afghanistan 1991-1996



- Taliban Takeover 1996



- US War on Terror after 9/11 and Invasion of Afghanistan



- Resistance of Taliban and fall of US Installed gov of Ashraf Ghani (Aug 2021)



- Taliban Government (2021 - till date)

2. PROBLEMATIC APPROACH TO AFGHAN CRISIS:

United States like USSR implemented fallacious approach to Afghan Crisis using military solution, hard-power means, radical liberalisation and modernisation without considering the close and fragmented nature of Afghanistan's society. Therefore, the withdrawal of US forces is an emblematic endeavor of failure of international efforts to resolve Afghanistan crisis, signifying that the solution lies in Afghan oriented approach to end humanitarian, political, economic and social problems.

3.

AFGHAN OWNED, AND AFGHAN LED SOLUTION:

Afghan owned and Afghan led solution is an amalgamation of multitudinous factors. These

include :

Economic
Support on
Humanitarian Grounds

Disarmament
of non-state actors

Dismantling
Terrorist
Organisations

Political
Consensus
of Warlords

Denouncing Hard
Power Measures

Policy of
Engagement
with Taliban
Government

Legitimising
Afghan Government
Upon Terms

Afghan Owned,
Afghan Led
Solution to
Afghan Crisis

Accepting
Religious Sentiments
of Afghan Society

Unfreezing Assets
to End Humanitarian
Crisis

Foreign Investment
and Developmental
Projects

Policy of Concession
to Taliban regime
for Human Rights

3a. DENOUNCING HARD POWER MEANS BY WORLD COMMUNITY:

Hard power means and military solution led by NATO forces from 40 countries could not dismantle Afghan Taliban. Moreover, they did not fulfill the promise of peace. Therefore, soft power including diplomatic and political means should be adopted by

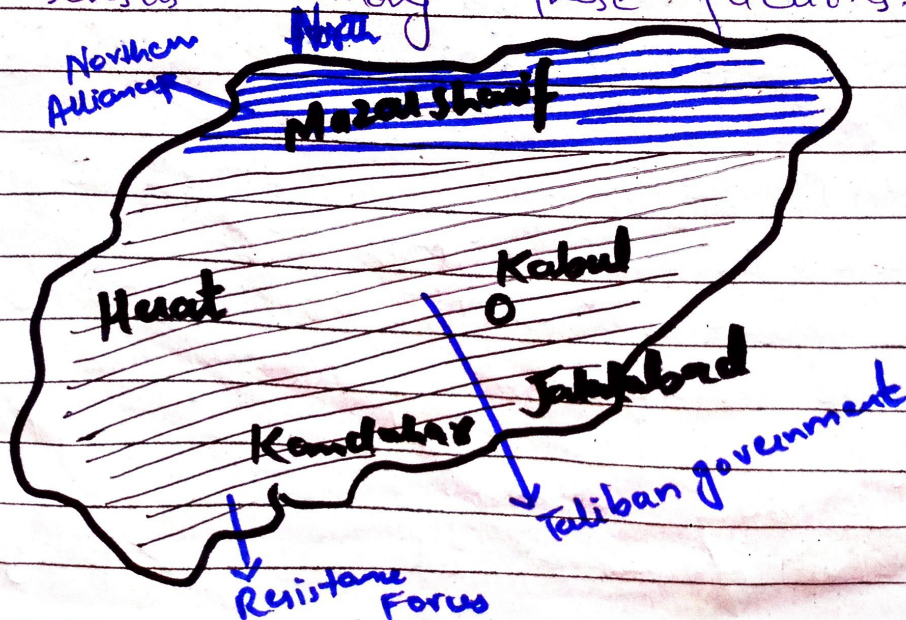
international community.

3b. POLICY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHAN GOVERNMENT:

As Taliban government took an effective charge of state so there should be an engagement with it to ease economic sanctions on ground of humanitarian conditions as 22.9 million people need immediate assistance as per Human Rights Watch.

3c. POLITICAL CONSENSUS AMONG WARLOARDS:

Afghanistan is divided into various groups each vying for power. This unrest can be resolved by developing a political consensus among these factions.



3d. POLICY OF DISARMAMENT:

Afghanistan is a hub of lethal weapons in the hands of warlords which pose a serious threat to people's lives. Policy of disarmament is a considerable step which Taliban government should implement. Moreover, gathering these factions under the umbrella of national force can help to minimise tumult in Afghanistan.

The interim government of Syria (2024) run by Ahmed Shara also implemented disarmament to reduce threats against government.

3e. ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO FACILITATE AFGHAN CIVILIANS:

Following the ^{Taliban's} Afghan takeover of Afghanistan, US and EU together froze 9 billion dollars of Afghanistan's assets. The country is grappling with humanitarian crisis. To resolve this, these assets should be released to Taliban government for developmental projects.

3f. INTERNATIONAL POWERS NON-INTERVENTION IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS:

Afghanistan is a close, conservative and puritan society. Past attempts to modernise on the standard of Western liberalisation always failed. Therefore, international community should not interfere in the religious and ideological matters of state.

3g. BRIDGING URBAN AND RURAL GAPS TO HARMONISE THE COUNTRY:

Western projects and NGOs funds largely targeted urban centres, sidelining the rural and remote areas. This created a developmental disparity which is an impediment to national integration of Afghanistan. To overcome this, the government should focus on poverty alleviation measures, transportation linkages and human development in the rural areas of Afghanistan.

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3h. POLICY OF CONCESSION TO TALIBAN GOVERNMENT ON CERTAIN MATTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

The issue of girls education and ^{and} human rights should be tackled considering the ideological roots of Taliban regime. In this regard, world powerful nations like **US, UK, China, Russia** and others should revive diplomatic and economic relations giving certain concessions to Taliban government for **reciprocal gains** in terms of showing leniency towards women and ^{their} integration in public sphere.

3i. FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO TAP THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF AFGHANISTAN:

The untapped natural resources of rare earth minerals offer

an immense significance. Other nations including Pakistan, China, India should consider leveraging them so that local populace can gain advantages by developmental projects. Similarly, foreign investment in Afghanistan is a remarkable way to offer peace to Afghans.

3j. EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST DRUG DEALERS AND TRAFFICKERS TO ERODE THE MENACE OF ADDICTION:

During 2000's, opium yards, and heroine mafia proliferated in the country as powerful political entities provided patronage to them. Consequently, drug culture on streets was at its peak. In fact, Pakistan suffered heavily owing to illegal drug trafficking across border. Therefore, efficacious actions should be taken to ban the cultivation

of tobacco and opium and safeguard the youth from the menace of drug addiction.

3k. MAINSTREAMING TALIBAN GOVERNMENTS BY MEANS OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

Regional organisations like SAARC, SCO, and ELO can play a pivotal role in mainstreaming Taliban government to end ^{the isolation of} Afghanistan. This will ensure an effective step towards regional peace and stability. Furthermore, people will gain advantages through these organisations which will eliminate economic and social crisis of Afghanistan.

3l. ENFORCING TALIBAN GOVERNMENT TO ERODE TERRORISM:

Terrorism has not

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only created havoc in Afghanistan but also in neighbouring Pakistan.

Therefore, making Taliban government accountable to dismantle terrorist hotspots in Afghanistan can prevent another course of suicide bombings, bloodshed, ^{rape} and kidnappings.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Afghan crisis can be mitigated by considering the ^{ethnic} social and political landscape of Afghanistan. Moreover, Taliban government is a face of Afghan state's ~~represent~~ sovereignty, therefore, positive engagement with Taliban government is an effective solution. Similarly, economic and diplomatic engagement of regional and international community is paramount. Afghan owned, Afghan led solution

lies in respecting the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and respecting the will of people.

The country is an amalgamation of a plethora of multiethnic groups which can be united by effective political consensus.

Hence, the failure of foreign intervention is a clear reflection that only the Afghan people can alleviate Afghan crisis.
