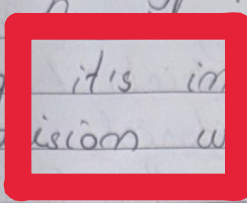


Q: How does the Taliban's transition from a non-state actor to a formal state actor challenge the security paradigm in the post-21st century?  a conceptual analysis by examining its implications and drawing comparison with similar global developments.

Introduction:

The Taliban's transition from non-state actor to a formal state actor challenged the ~~securi~~ modern security paradigms. It brought new challenges for the regional security as well as for the internal security of Afghanistan itself. The security risks includes the sanctuary for non-state actors, Human security at risk, gap between ideology of Taliban and world and risks for internal civil war. The rise of Taliban can be analytically examined with comparing, the hybrid regime of Hezbollah, ISIS's proto-state attempt and Colombian political transition. Hence the return ~~has~~ Taliban in power has created a new challenges for security paradigm in 21st century.

2) Concept of security in 21st century:

The concept of security in International relations has broadened since cold war, encompassing not only military but also political, economic, societal and human dimensions. The 21st century security paradigm reflects multiple theoretical perspectives.



i) Realist's view of security :

Realists view security as the protection of state sovereignty and survival in an anarchic international system. It rely upon the concept of "power", which have major attributes like arms, territorial control and national interest. Therefore, the Taliban's transition from non-state actor to new rulers of Afghanistan provided them with all three attributes. This make a shift in regional balance of power. This transition led to the realignment in security policy of neighboring states like Pakistan, Iran, China and Russia.

ii) Liberalist's view of security :

Unlike realists, the liberalist view is based upon legitimacy of ruler, which does not come through power, rather it comes through cooperation and interdependence. However, the extreme actions of Taliban led to rejection of liberal expectation of legitimacy. From this angle, the Taliban challenge the collective security ~~or~~ structure envisioned by the UN's rules based international order.

3) Challenges to the security paradigm posed by the Taliban's rise as a formal state actor :

The Taliban's new role as rulers, not rebels, introduces conceptual and practical challenges to the post 21st security framework in the following way;

i) Afghanistan: Sanctuary for other non-state actors:

Afghanistan under the Taliban rule is becoming safe heaven for the transitional militant groups. Though the Taliban regime rejects such claims, but the reports of FATE and RATS-SCO in 2024 claimed their strong tie links with AL-Qaeda, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Turkistan Revolutionary Front. TTA consider TTP as a allied party with same ideology ~~th~~ and supports their actions against Pakistan, and deny any cooperation against TTP with Pakistan. This undermines the conventional counter terrorist terrorism paradigms and creating security risks for neighbouring states.

ii) Human security on stake in Afghanistan:

Taliban's believes in extreme, self made and wrong theology of Islam, that is integrated with Pakhtoon ethnic nationalism. Due to which they sanction the women education and persecution of minority "Shia muslims". From the human security angle territorial peace co-exists with human insecurity. Resultantly, the neighbouring countries are burdened with the Afghan refugees since 40 years, creating social and economic restraints for them. This creates tension for border security management for Pakistan and Iran.



iii) Gap between Taliban's governance ideology and the Global Order:

In 2021 Taliban went into an agreement with the US and allies to create a legitimate regime in Afghanistan during transitional period. However, that can not succeed due to Taliban's governance model. They have two wings, first, administrative wing in Kabul and second, policy wing in Kandhar. The Kandhari wing creates extreme policies that challenges the norms of international society, making Taliban's Afghanistan diplomatically isolated. This isolation creates economic challenges and results into parallel grey economic reliance. Like sell of arms and narcotics. The sell of heavy arms creates security challenges not only for region but also destabilizes global security order.

iv) Risks of civil war and internal collapse:

Afghanistan is ethnically divided into four main groups. Pashtuns 42%, Tajiks 27%, Uzbeks 9%, Hazaras and rest makes 22% of Afghanistan. The Taliban's internal cohesion mostly depends upon Pashtuns. Creating tensions between other ethnicities. If governance fails, Afghanistan could revert to fragmented rule by warlords. That would destabilize the security of central and South Asia. Such collapse would reaffirm realist's fear of anarchy and failed state. While also demonstrating the constructivist reality that legitimacy and identity determine long term

Stability.

4) Comparative analysis with similar global developments:

i) Hezbollah's hybrid state model in Lebanon:

Hezbollah is one of the prime example that how a non-state actor can embed itself within formal politics while retaining autonomous power, like the Taliban. It commands loyalty through ideology, provides social services and balances between governance and militancy. However, despite the hybrid model of Hezbollah, the somehow comply with international norms to get some sort of legitimacy. This shows that how hybrid legitimacy can coexist with international engagement, something the Taliban currently lack.

ii) ISIS's Proto-State attempt in Iraq and Syria:

ISIS's 2014 to 2017 sought to create a transitional government in Iraq and Syria, through brutality and territorial conquest. There is major difference between ISIS and Taliban. ISIS believes in "Pan-Islamic caliphate", while Taliban's ambitions are limited within the borders of Afghanistan. This ideology led to the collapse of ISIS. On the other hand, Taliban government have some sort of ethnic legitimacy that makes them successful proto-state surviving through this

iii) FARC in Colombia :

FARC, or the "Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia", was Far-left marxist-Leninist group, that was part arm conflict for 52 years. FARC's demobilized in 2016 into Colombian political system through the peace accord. The transformation of an insurgent movement through negotiation. Unlike, Taliban FARC accepted democratic processes and disarmament. This underscores how negotiated and inclusive transformation, rather than military conquest, yields more sustainable security outcomes.

Concise your conclusion

5) Conclusion :

The transformation of Taliban from non-state actors to formal state actor, has challenged the security paradigm. Such a change can be understood through the modern 21st century's post cold war perspective. Moreover, the security challenges the Taliban posed led to the regional security realignment. Comparing with other similar movements globally, it has been witnessed that, for long term stability, the attributes of legitimacy, inclusivity, co-existence and diplomacy is necessary for Taliban regime.

Good analysis

You have got potential

Good luck!

8-10 sides are generally required for a 20 mark part