

Peacebuilding Committee

Issue of Developing a Long – Lasting Solution for the Ongoing Conflict in Afghanistan



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Forum: Peacebuilding Committee

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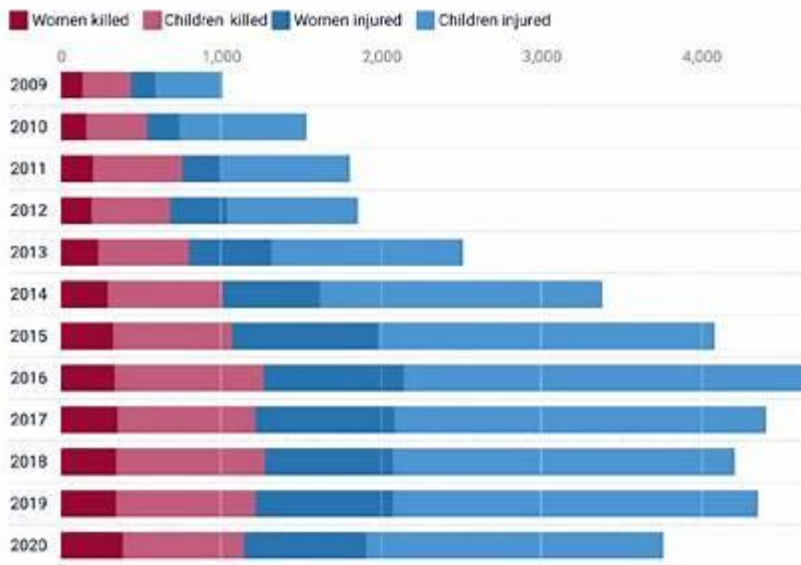
Position: Head Chair



Introduction

The current state of Afghanistan serves as a reminder for the fragility of a Region which encounters multiple crises on multiple levels while having different kinds of ethnicities and political groups. It also serves as reminder for what international involvement, even with success at first, could lead to in the End. It has been a Issue of upmost importance for more than two decades, having seen multiple solutions with none of them succeeding. Leading in the end to the civilian population having to suffer the most.

Women and children casualties, 2010-2020



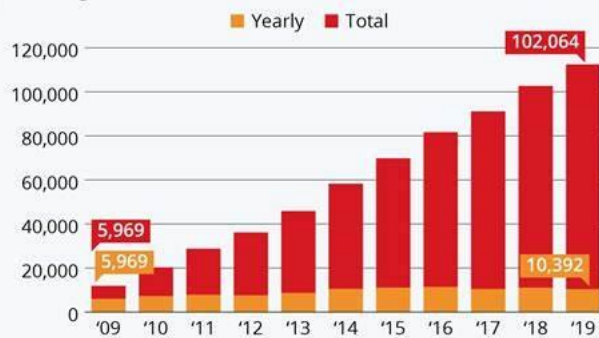
Data as of February 2021

Source: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan



Afghanistan Civilian Casualties Surpass 10,000

Total number of casualties due to armed conflict in Afghanistan between 2009-2019



Casualties include injuries and deaths as a result of armed conflict

Source: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan



This report seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Afghan conflict, tracing its origins, examining the key actors involved, and exploring potential pathways towards a more stable and prosperous future. It acknowledges the multifaceted nature of the conflict, recognizing that there are no easy answers or quick fixes. Instead, it calls for a nuanced and long-term approach that addresses the underlying causes of instability and promotes inclusive governance, regional cooperation, and sustainable development.

While keeping all the current issues in mind, which are responsible for the complexity of the topic, this report remains optimistic and talks about multiple possible solutions.

Definition of Key Terms

- **Taliban:** The Taliban are an Islamist extremist political movement, with military backed forces. They held power from 1996 till 2001, while retaking the position of power in 2021. They base their ideology on the Sharia law, which caused their rule of government to violate different kinds of international law. Earning criticism by different countries.
- **Al-Qaeda:** Al-Qaeda is a transnational militant Islamist terrorist network founded by Osama bin Laden in 1988. The organization has been responsible for numerous attacks worldwide, including the September 11 attacks in the United States. Al-Qaeda's primary goal is to establish a global Islamic caliphate and to wage jihad against perceived enemies of Islam.
- **ISIS-K (Islamic State Khorasan Province):** ISIS-K is an affiliate of the Islamic State (ISIS) active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The group has been responsible for attacks against both the Taliban and international targets. ISIS-K represents a significant security threat in the region, as it seeks to undermine the Taliban's authority and to establish a foothold for ISIS in Central Asia.
- **Sharia Law:** The Sharia Law is a “rulebook” originating from Islamic texts. It dictates how Muslims should live their life. It is not one single book; however, it has multiple versions depending on the interpretation of the texts. However, it is universally seen, in the Muslim communities as a guideline and works as “map” to live correctly.

General Overview

The roots of the Afghan conflict can be traced back to the Cold War era, when Afghanistan became a battleground for competing Soviet and American interests. The Soviet invasion in 1979 triggered a decade-long war against the Mujahideen, who were supported by the United States and other countries. The withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989 led to a power vacuum and a subsequent civil war among various Mujahideen factions.



The Taliban were formed during the mid-1990s, they established the Islamic emirate following their seizing of Kabul in 1996. Their Islamic emirate followed the rule of the Shari'ah Law, which foresaw a measure such as but not limited to as suppression of women rights and human rights. After their 2001 attack on the United States, 9/11, the U.S. led an invasion, aimed at removing the Taliban and destroying Al-Qaeda.

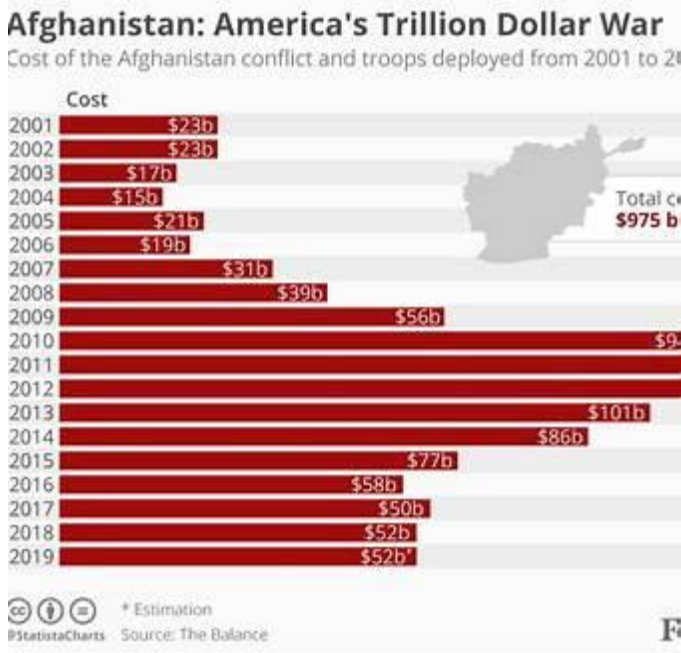
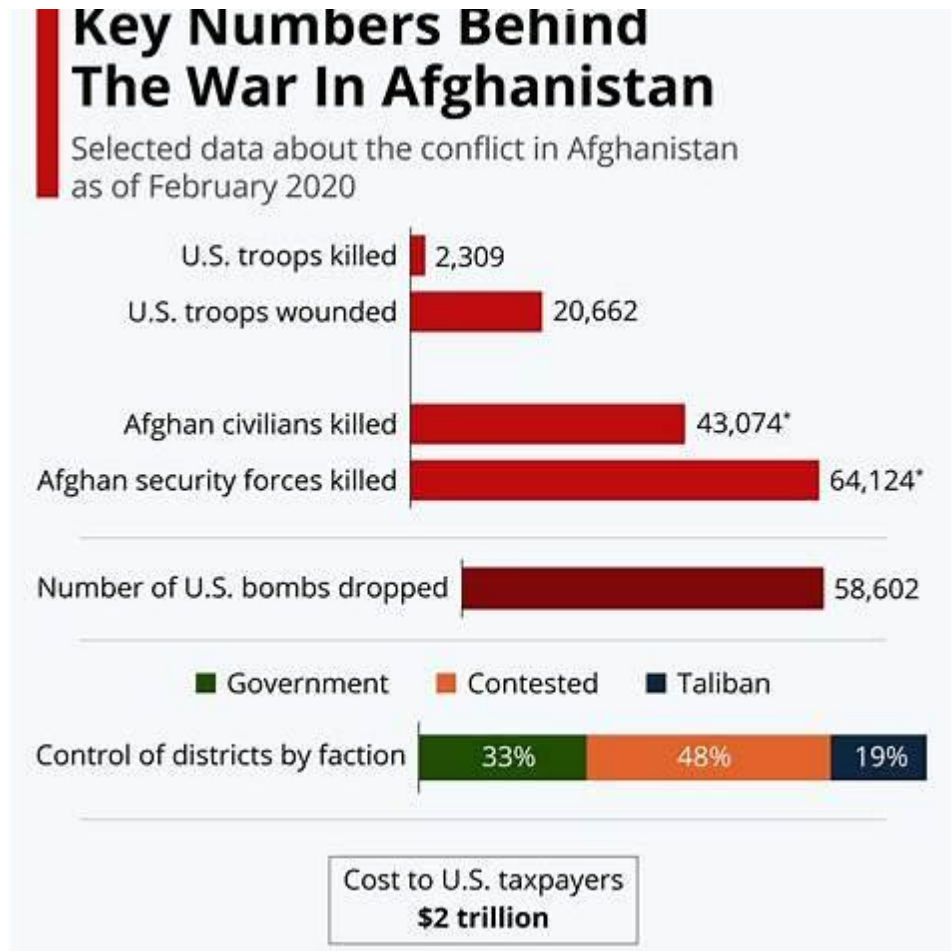
Despite the success of removing the Taliban from power and having almost complete control over Afghanistan, the U.S. and its allies failed to establish a working and long-lasting government, having still to face the challenges of corruption, security and economic development. Those challenges and failures led the conflict to be fought for almost two decades.

In 2021, the U.S. and its allies withdrew their forces, which caused a collapse of the at that time established government and gave the Taliban the opportunity to assert themselves as the leading party in power. This led the country to be in the one of the worst situations its ever been, battling humanitarian crisis, economic collapse and the immediate threat of terrorism. The Taliban still have to be recognised by most countries as the official government following their style of rule, violating international law, and human and women rights.

Major Parties Involved

- **The Taliban:** As the main holder of power, the Taliban play a great part in the issue. They seek international recognition and engagement, however these aspirations have yet to be fulfilled with them violating human and women rights, earning harsh criticism by most of the rest of the world.
- **The Afghan People:** The Afghan people consist of different ethnicity and tribal groups, every one of them having their own interests and goals. If a compromise between all of them is found it could greatly help the cause.
- **Regional Powers:** Regional Powers such as Pakistan, Iran and China all share a interest in Afghanistan, because of security, trade and influence. Being affected by the Situation in Afghanistan directly. Their efforts help and damage the goal of creating a long-lasting Solution for Afghanistan.
- **The United States:** As a main cause of the current situation in Afghanistan they keep a sizeable interest, while having a keen interest on combating terrorism and limiting their cooperation with the Taliban. Investing heavily resources.





The United Nations: The general task of the United Nations is to provide humanitarian aid and to support and establish diplomatic ties, with the main goal of creating a fair and just world. This goal is also followed upon by them in Afghanistan, trying to create peace and a lasting democracy.



Timeline of Events

- 1979: Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.
- 1989: Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan.
- 1996: The Taliban seize control of Kabul.
- 2001: September 11 attacks; U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan.
- 2020: The U.S. and the Taliban sign the Doha Agreement.
- 2021: U.S. and its allies withdraw from Afghanistan; the Taliban regain power.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

There were multiple attempts to solve the issue, however non lasted.

The first one was the “The Bonn Agreement” in 2001 which intended to create a transitional government for the change of power to create a democracy.

The Surge strategy in 2009 saw an increasing number of U.S. stationed troops, however had little to no impact and failed to achieve its strategic objectives.

The last attempt was the “Doha Agreement” in 2020, it was agreed upon by the U.S. and the Taliban, which led to the withdrawal of the stationed U.S. forces but in doing so created the opportunity for the Taliban to hold the position of power.

Possible Solutions

With those previous attempts in mind, there are multiple ways to attack the issue of developing a long-lasting solution, while finding a compromise for every involved political group and every involved ethnicity.

- **Fair and representative Governance:** Creating a government which represents every ethnicity and every political group equally. This change is crucial in creating a long lasting and effective government, however, requires every involved party to compromise and requires a good fundament of laws protecting the currently lesser represented minorities.
- **Cooperation between regional powers:** Establishing a dialog between local and regional powers could prevent the outbreak from new conflicts, while simultaneously combating already existing conflicts and promoting the cooperation on national issues such as counterterrorism and economic development.
- **Sustainable Development:** Combating the main and root cause behind the conflicts by developing the country economically, creating jobs, a base of education and healthcare.



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