

THE BLIND SPOT OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN RELATION WITH INDIA: THE SECOND REIGN SINCE AUGUST 2021

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Introdução

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) is the name of the current Afghan government which is popular with the name “Taliban” also, who defeated NATO with its allies, and is currently controlling, administrating, and governing Afghanistan for the second time since the 15th of August 2021. The Taliban’s relationship with India is a blind spot for both parties for different reasons. One of the main reasons for the strained relationship between the Taliban and India is and was the fact that the Taliban was seen as being supportive of Pakistan, India’s archrival. The Taliban had close ties with Pakistan. In addition, the Taliban’s strict interpretation of Islam and its treatment of women and minorities rights were also sources of tension with India. The Taliban impose strict sharia law in Afghanistan, including measures such as the prohibition of women’s education and employment. These policies were opposed by India and many other countries. Overall, the relationship between the Taliban and India was marked by no communication, no specific path in international relations, and controversial policies with its neighbor’s region.

Afghan history is largely characterized by war and combat, from civil wars to engagements with foreign troops. The IEA adopted a plan to take part in the state’s physical presence of the administration (Akhtar and Khan 2021). In Afghanistan, a paradigm shift is taking place because the international world did not foresee the outcome. The IEA is to blame for the tremendous

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but precarious development accomplished by the Afghan people over the past 20 years (K R and Durairaj 2021).

The IEA's oppressive tactics and total reliance on "state-making" through "war-making" demonstrate how challenging it is to convert an insurgent group into a state structure. The main governance framework that the IEA could set up was a two-track system. The military-political organization created by the IEA, however, lacked statehood in all three areas of legitimacy, authority, and ability, according to the assessment of the IEA's institutional and functional capabilities (Ibrahimi 2017). Hardly, there is information available about the Taliban or the IEA state. This study pinpoints the blind spot via establishing healthy international relations, through the prism of human rights, and state-making.

The Importance of the study

There are many reasons to postulate that it is very important for the IEA and India to clarify its bilateral relations, transaction, protection, and benefits to one another. Some prominent scholars such as Bose & Panda (2016) had discovered that Afghanistan is becoming more significant for India for a variety of economic and security concerns, despite previously not being the main priority of either state's foreign or security policy. Furthermore, Nath (2019) argued that understanding international relations in the areas of India-Afghanistan ties and Afghanistan's importance to India's foreign policy concerning Central Asia and Iran is relevant.

On the other hand, new commercial prospects have forced Afghanistan to leverage its proximity to India to counter its excessive reliance on Pakistan, while Nepal has strengthened its collaboration with China to overcome its dependence on India, creating a new geopolitical dynamic within South Asia (Bhatnagar and Ahmed 2021). Even though, this study would also reveal the paths for balancing relations, internal politics and policies, and the international socio-political environment for both countries.

Methodology

An inductive research method was used in this study. Inductive research is a research approach that involves starting with specific observations and using them to form a general conclusion or theory. It is a bottom-up research approach, in which researchers begin with specific observations and

work their way up to more general theories (Birkinshaw, Brannen, and Tung 2011). This approach is often used in the social sciences, where researchers may observe individuals or small groups and use those observations to make inferences about larger populations.

The inductive research process typically involves several steps as it is explained by some research:

Observation: Researchers observe and collect data from specific examples or cases.

Classification: Researchers group the observations into categories or themes.

Induction: Researchers use observations and categories to form a general conclusion or theory.

Testing: Researchers test the theory through further observation and experimentation to see if it holds up (Birkinshaw, Brannen, and Tung 2011; Chatfield 2020). Inductive research is useful for generating new ideas and theories.

Data collection

The qualitative secondary data was collected from open sources. Open-source qualitative secondary data refers to non-numerical data that is available to the public and can be accessed and used by anyone without any restrictions. This type of data can include text, images, audio, and video. Open-source qualitative secondary data is often collected and made available by government agencies, research institutions, and other organizations. Data from this research is used as open-source qualitative secondary data in this study to support my findings and start pinpointing areas for further research (Chatfield 2020).

There are several advantages to using open-source qualitative secondary data in research. First, it is typically free to access, which can save time and resources compared to collecting and analyzing primary data. Second, open-source data is often collected and analyzed by experts in the field, which can add credibility to the research. Finally, open-source data is often collected on a large scale and may include a diverse range of participants, which can provide a broader context for the research.

Data analysis

Open-source qualitative secondary data is analyzed through narrative analysis. Narrative analysis is a qualitative research method for data analysis that involves examining the stories and experiences that are conveyed in the data. In the context of open-source qualitative secondary data, also examine the narratives and accounts of people's experiences that are available in public records, online forums, or other sources. For conducting narrative analysis, data was broken into smaller pieces, and examine the content for common themes, patterns, and trends, and its interpretation reflects larger social and cultural trends with interpretive approaches (Chatfield 2020).

Pre-revolution era of India-IEA relations

The relationship between India and Afghanistan has been complex and varied over time, with both cooperation and conflict. In recent years, India has been a major partner of Afghanistan in its efforts to rebuild and develop, providing financial, technical, and training assistance, as well as contributing to infrastructure development and supporting Afghanistan. India has also been involved in regional efforts to promote stability and peace in Afghanistan. However, the relationship between the two countries has not been without challenges, such as border disputes, cross-border terrorism, and competition for regional influence.

The impact of India's expanding ties with Afghanistan, Iran, the Central Asian republics, and all Muslim nations (Wirsing 2007) needs to be understood. To contour its rival, New Delhi must keep Afghanistan and the Taliban at the forefront of its mind (Fair 2011). Moreover, the article by Pate (2018) explained how India's soft power influence in Afghanistan has grown significantly between 2014 and 2017. Nath (2019) also argued that India's approach to Afghanistan is a prime example of a soft power strategy with a long-term objective via India's foreign policy and international relations concerning Iran and Central Asia. On the other hand, factors are pushing India to take a proactive approach towards Afghanistan, and the success of this policy would impact India's ability to become a regional security provider in South Asia (Pant 2010). Motafaker (2018) found that the post-Taliban leveraged racial, religious, and sectarian tensions as well as historical inconsistencies amongst ethnic groups to create new social structures in Afghanistan.

The Current state of India-IEA political and diplomatic

relations

The IEA interim government that was appointed early in their tenure is still in place, and the group has not yet established a permanent governing structure. However, the Taliban quickly reinstated many of their strictest regulations, excluding women from public life and tolerating no criticism. The Taliban administration is described by USIP's Andrew Watkins, along with who is actually in command and how the Taliban have responded to threats to their dominance (Watkins 2022). For the first time since the Indian Embassy in Kabul was evacuated in August 2021 as a result of the Taliban's entry into the Afghan capital, India has dispatched a large team of top diplomats to Afghanistan. Suhail Shaheen, head of the Taliban's political office, told *The Hindu* that the Taliban demanded that India restore its embassy in Kabul during negotiations with the Indian delegation on Thursday. J.P. Singh, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs' Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division, is in charge of leading the Indian delegation (MEA) (Bhat Tacherjee 2022b). Media reporter Basu (2022) said that the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said its diplomatic presence in Kabul was keeping in mind the "historical and civilizational relationship with Afghans." India has increased its assistance to the nation in its war-torn region. However, the promise of wheat delivery from Pakistan with the aid of a transit facility showed that Delhi is leaning more toward engaging the Taliban covertly through international agencies like the World Food Program (Bhat Tacherjee 2022a).

Concerning trade and economic ties, relations are ongoing. Afghan business goods are exporting to India. India has provided duty-free access to its market for Afghan exports and has signed a bilateral trade agreement with previous Afghan government to encourage trade and investment between the two countries (India 2010). India has also established several economic and business partnerships with Afghanistan, with Indian companies investing in various sectors of the Afghan economy, including energy, telecommunications, and infrastructure. Despite these efforts, the economic and trade relationship between India and Afghanistan has not been without challenges. Some Afghan businesses have complained about the lack of access to the Indian market, and there have been concerns about the balance of trade between the two countries (Wani, Mir, and Akhter 2017).

Afghanistan's geopolitical interests and strategic considerations

Regarding geopolitical interests and strategic considerations, Afghanistan is a strategically important country at the crossroads of Central, South and West Asia and has been subject to significant external influences and regional dynamics throughout its history. Fair (2010) argued that India's interests in Afghanistan are not just related to Pakistan but also, and perhaps more importantly, to India's goal to be perceived as an extra-regional state advancing toward great power status. For energy security, regional security, and domestic security, India's strategic considerations take Afghanistan's connection to Central Asia and Iran into account (Nath 2019).

According to Saqib (2019), three main factors have affected India's engagement with Afghanistan: first, finding a balance between relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan; second, domestic political changes and the preferences of Afghanistan's internal political parties; and third, shifts in the global political landscape. Moreover, the study argues that this new cooperation can be attributed to geopolitical causes related to India's ascent, accompanying changes in economic interests, and the shifting security environment in the Middle East and Afghanistan (Siyech 2020). However, some authors claimed that India and Pakistan take advantage of their landlocked neighbors to advance their national interests. This claim is based on an analysis of historical, economic, and geopolitical issues (Bhatnagar and Ahmed 2021).

The economic and security interests of India and China have sought to shape regional dynamics and influences in Afghanistan, competing for influence with other regional powers such as Pakistan, Iran, and Russia. This has raised concerns about the potential impact on the balance of power and stability in Afghanistan. Some authors conclude that the internal problems that are part of Afghanistan's current political system led to and are related to the country's current foreign policy (Daurov and Sazhenov 2020).

Challenges in Afghanistan

Afghanistan faces several significant domestic challenges that have had a major impact on its development and stability. One major challenge is the ongoing conflict and insurgency in the country. The conflict has resulted in widespread violence and instability and has had a negative impact on Afghanistan's economic and social development. Another major challenge is the lack of economic development in Afghanistan. A third major challenge is the lack of political stability in Afghanistan. Other challenges facing Afghanistan include a lack of basic services such as education, healthcare, and

electricity, and widespread human rights abuses, including violence against women and children (Bagai 2014). Girls and women no longer have the right to an education or a job, and many of them are forced into sexual slavery after becoming married to Taliban soldiers. Sikhs and Hindus from Afghanistan have started emigrating to India to avoid persecution (Chellaney 2022).

Afghanistan faces several significant international challenges that have had a major impact on its development and stability. One major challenge is the ongoing conflict and insurgency in the country (Geneva Academy 2022), which has attracted the attention of various international powers, who have sought to shape the outcome of the conflict and protect their own interests in Afghanistan. The conflict has also had a negative impact on Afghanistan's economic and social development and has fueled regional instability. Another major challenge is the lack of international support and engagement in Afghanistan (The World Bank 2022).

A third major challenge is the threat of cross-border terrorism in Afghanistan (Syed 2022). Afghanistan has been a major hub for terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda and the Taliban, who have used the country as a base for operations against neighboring countries and the international community (Guha 2022). This has had a negative impact on regional stability and security and has fueled international tensions. Addressing these international challenges will require the cooperation and support of the international community, as well as the commitment of the Afghan government and people to building a more stable, prosperous, and inclusive society.

International recognition of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) poses another challenge. Strong political and economic ties will attract international investment, boost regional trade, and ultimately increase much-needed government revenues. The Taliban want to eliminate any challenge to their authority. They specifically do not want any regional power to help Afghans who oppose their regime militarily and financially, as India, Iran, and Russia did in the 1990s. The Taliban also believe that international acceptance and strong relations, particularly with Western donor nations and organizations, will bring the nation humanitarian aid and developmental aid. The Taliban government has often requested diplomatic recognition from the world community, claiming that it has met all requirements for this.

These talks were supposed to clear the way for India to reestablish diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on June 23 that New Delhi has sent a technical team to its embassy in Kabul to closely supervise and organize the distribution of humanitarian aid (Shah 2022). India has seen a significant development

of think tanks in recent decades and is now like China in terms of sheer numbers, while America has more than 1800 think tanks. However, neither the American nor the Indian think tanks were able to foresee the developments in Afghanistan or push for policy changes promptly (Singh 2021). Ironically, the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) has been filling voids left by the Taliban as the latter works to transition from an insurgent and terrorist organization to a state and political system that seeks recognition abroad (Taneja 2022). These are new emerging challenges that brought obstacles in the IEA government's recognition process.

There were concerns about regional security, militancy, and transnational terrorism, and some criticized India for its involvement in Afghanistan. In addition, the ongoing violence and unrest in Afghanistan has complicated the country's military and security cooperation. Both Afghanistan's existence and India's security are at risk, so the two nations should not hesitate in forming this alliance (Nazami 2015).

Conclusion

As a conclusion for this article, we indicate that the IEA has its internal issues and deficiencies, such as power transformation, lack of security assurance to the neighbors, vague rules and regulations, and unclear laws, rules, and treaty enforcement organizations that are a blind spot for outsiders and other countries and could not have normalized diplomatic relations. Even because of these issues, the IEA could not get diplomatic recognition. The IEA has its internal disintegration and is unskilled and inexperienced in the state-making approaches such as unclear power transformation, unclear future responsibilities as a state, and unclear law enforcement. Which leads to unclarified geopolitical strategic considerations and no economic treaty and transaction on state levels.

Due to this as implications for future India relations with Afghanistan, we should mention that India has a long and complex history with Afghanistan, with India seeking to influence the country's development and shape its future. The future of Indo-Afghan relations will depend on several factors, including the outcome of the ongoing conflict and insurgency in the country, the economic and political developments in Afghanistan, and the strategic interests and priorities of India. If Afghanistan can achieve stability and development, it could potentially serve as a bridge and seek to expand its economic and trade ties with Afghanistan and promote regional integration. This could lead to increased cooperation and collaboration between India and

Afghanistan and could potentially contribute to greater stability and prosperity in the region.

However, if Afghanistan remains engulfed in conflict and instability, it could potentially become a source of competition and tension between India and China, as both countries seek to protect their interests in the country. In this scenario, Afghanistan could become a flashpoint for regional rivalries and tensions, which could have negative implications for stability and development in the region. Overall, the future of Indo-Afghan relations will depend on the ability of all stakeholders to work together to address the challenges facing Afghanistan and promote stability and development in the country.

As recommendations, this article indicates that several areas could be the focus to remove the blind spot in international relations, including: it is highly suggested that the IEA frame out and codify its internal and external politics, policies, reassuring Islamic human rights and the state's responsibility. Building strong and accountable institutions in Afghanistan, and the potential for improving the transparency and accountability of the political process. The role of the private sector, the impact of international aid and investment, and the potential for regional integration. The role of regional powers and other stakeholders in the conflict, and the potential for a peace settlement. Codification of these issues would remove the blind spot to everyone, which paved the way for other countries and stakeholders to deal with transactions, understand future responsibilities, decision-making, power transformation, successor, and rule and responsibilities enforcements bodies.

Overall, future research on Afghanistan should seek to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the country and should seek to provide recommendations for addressing these challenges and promoting stability and development in Afghanistan.

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ABSTRACT

India, from a humanistic perspective, has significantly contributed to Afghanistan's development and aid. The inductive research method was applied in the study. The nature of the data was in qualitative form in the secondary mood. The data was analyzed through the narrative analysis technique. The results showed that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) is in the state-making process. Afghanistan is complicated and unstable and how it develops politically will determine how India and Afghanistan will interact in the future. It is recommended that the IEA clarify and formalize its internal and external politics, policies, commitment to Islamic human rights, and responsibility to the state.

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