

An Ambush by Taliban in Afghanistan's Democracy: A Scourge for South Asia.

Dr. Ramesh kumar¹ & Vaibhav²

Abstract

Democracy is developed with respect to time. In modern democratic state, it is perspicuous with universal political rights. The imminent change in the regime of Afghanistan revoked the democracy. The demagogue of Afghanistan especially the Taliban terrorists will govern the country by Sharia and Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalism and the Democracy are the opposite poles of earth. Islamic fundamentalism, especially in reference of Taliban, hampered not only democracy but also it is strictly against with the spirit of toleration in democracy. In post cold war era it was most volatile non state actor threatening the international solace, security and desires to extinct the democracy. The secularism and pluralism are the essence of modern democratic states but the agenda of religious fundamentalism is to mobilize the masses according to religion which is the core ideology of Taliban.

Key words:- Democracy, Terrorism, Human rights, Scourge

1. Dr. Ramesh kumar, Associate Professor, (HOD) Department of Political Science, Central university of Haryana.

2. Vaibhav, Department of Political Science, Central university of Haryana
(Mahendargarh) 123031, India
email.- vaibhav98yadav@gmail.com

Introduction

At the outset it appears pertinently that the contemporary wraith of terrorism moves under the wheel of radical religious belief. This type of terrorism is also called as the new terrorism because it is trifled with religious dogmas, instead of secular motivation in traditional terrorism. New terrorism has broader objectives which makes their demands inflexible and uncompromised. An empirical study also reflects that 64 out of 96 terrorist groups are rectified as being religiously motivated. The insurgency waged by Islamic terrorists has undermined the writ of the state in much of the rural hinterland, severely restricting the franchise. Political rights and civil liberties are curtailed in practice by violation, corruption, patronage and flawed electoral process. The concept of law was totally obsolete and converted in tyrannical law. The essence of democracy was completely converted in the authoritarian state.

The problem of democracy as discussed by James Bryce “major problem of democracy are self interest and the irresponsibility of power” are the weapons to obsolete the democracy. Both the problems discussed by James Bryce are nuance to Afghanistan’s Taliban government. The major aim of this paper is to identify the ambush of Taliban in Afghanistan’s democracy and how it is scourge for not only the Afghanistan but also for the south Asia. The paper is mostly based on secondary data.

Rise of Taliban:-

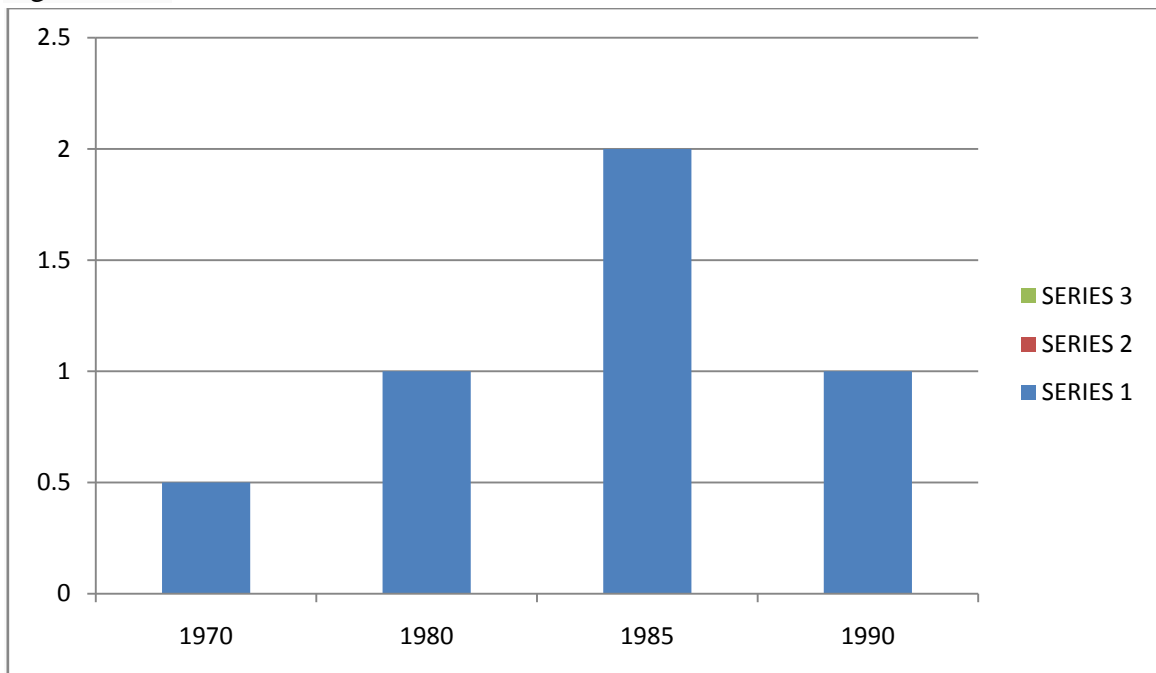
After the second world war the situation is completely changed. The cold war has already begun and the world has become bipolar. The United nation and the former USSR has raised as two major power blocs in the world history and it is also blamed that these are the powers who created the Taliban. Yet, Britain was also the victorious partner of the USSR but a new type of rivalry came to stay between USA and the USSR. The USA, USSR and the Pakistan played a vital role in the creation of the Taliban. The ideological war between the two super powers desired to enhance their ideology. In order to tackle the Communism, the USA sponsored the various military alliances. In the time period of the cold war Pakistan was always stayed nuance to the USA. The entry of Pakistan in south Asia treaty organisation, the bilateral agreement between USA and Pakistan and providing a lot of military assistance to the Pakistan reflected the malafide intention of America. It was generally believed that USA is establishing its outpost in south Asia to counter the communism.

The other reason of the USA to sustain its presence in the south Asia through the Pakistan was that India was always a natural friend of the USSR. The containment of the Truman doctrine in reference of Greece and Turkey and the Eisenhower doctrine for middle east was reflects the India’s anti USA attitude during that time. Although India did not opposed the aggression of the USSR in Hungary and voted against the 5-R resolution justified India bias towards the USSR¹. The liberation war of Bangladesh and the peace treaty between India and Russia cleared India attitude i.e. it is tilted towards Russia.

The detente in the international order arrived its glance with signing of the Helsinki Final act in 1975. But the international arena suddenly changed with the commencement of the Russia in the Afghanistan. Afghanistan was always the dire hard supporter of communism. The invasion of Russia in the Afghanistan was named as the commencement of new cold war and it was because the USA and the Pakistan were regularly threatening the

Afghanistan. During the time new cold war Afghanistan was governed by the People's democratic party of Afghanistan which formulates its policies according to Soviet Union. It is important to understand the origins of the Taliban during the New Cold War in the 1980s. The political disturbance and the instability between the famous leaders of Afghanistan irritated the USSR. The fallout of this, the Russian head Leonad Breknev ordered the 40th battalion of Russian army to enter in the Afghanistan. There were also some rumours that the Afghanistan's head was enhancing its relation with USA and the aftermath of this information was that the operation Storm 333 was started by Russian armies in Afghanistan². The war between Russia and Afghan guerrillas, known as the Mujahideen, waged a nearly decade-long war against the Soviet occupation. The other powers recognised it as a chance to demise the USSR mainly the America, China, Pakistan and Soudi-Arab etc. They started the funding of equipment and money to the Afghan fighters, the Mujahideen. Even American army agency CIA and Pakistani Secret agency ISI concluded in a tie to empower the Mujahideen groups. The two famous names in that Mujahideen groups are

Osama-Bin-Laden and Taliban. The regular aid to these groups dwelled them at very much extent. The source of World Bank rectified the aid provided by USA (in US\$) to the Taliban even after the Geneva pact is comparatively sufficient to build up a powerful organization.



Source:- World Bank OECD

The destruction and panic created by war now echoing in UN assembly. Literally, a pact was signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan at Geneva to stop the funding of the Mujahideen and USSR will recalls its armies. After the change of the regime in Soviet Union in 1989, Mikhael Gorbachev announced that, the Soviet Union withdrew its forces and the fallout of this began the fall of the Afghan government that was heavily dependent

on them. After the disintegration of the USSR the Afghanistan aid was completely stuck. Even, Russia was focusing on economic development rather than the military assistance. The stoppage of Afghanistan's aid from USSR also played a vital role in the impediment of the democratic government of Afghanistan. After the fall of government in Afghanistan, several Mujahideen groups replete with the ideology of Islamic fundamentalism started the struggle for power. The major groups are engulfed in war with one another. The major Mujahideen groups are following³.

- Hejbe-E-Islami
- Jmiyat-E-Islami
- National Islamic Front for Afghanistan
- National liberation front
- Islamic revolution movement

The one small group which was not engulfed in the war was Taliban. Taliban was created by Mullah Mohammad Omar with only 50 weapon equipped boys. Later than he propounded the slogan of "Danger on Islam" with great zeal and captured the Spin Buldak district of Afghanistan. This was the area where Soviet Union army replenished its all weapons which are now in the control of Taliban. Soon after 15000 people's joined the Taliban and it exalted itself rapidly.

Ideology of Taliban

Today Taliban is the most radical terrorist organization whichever also captured the democracy of Afghanistan. Terrorism is ideologically contested term and also Audrey Kurth outlined the terrorism on the basis of their ideology. Sacred terrorism is new terrorism which is trifled with religious motivating dogmas rather than the secular motivated terrorism. Yet the traditional terrorism inspired by ideological beliefs of Marxism & Leninism was so far the terrorism after the new cold war era. New terrorism is also known as the modern terrorism which has been dubbed 'catastrophic terrorism' or 'hyper-terrorism'. Al-Qaeda has an idea to develop, that type of terrorist organization. Not only Al-Qaeda but also mostly new terrorist organizations are rectified as similar ideologies. The realist theories of terrorism describes them that the motivation behind the terrorism is to seeking the power but the second main tenet of realist about terrorism is that they targets the group of civilians and use clandestine violence because they are too weak to challenge the state policy. If it is applied on the Taliban, this theory is glared at falling.

Mostly the religious and cultural influences, that shaped the Taliban's ideology. The young Madras students lead by young veterans of the anti-Soviet Jihad. It is started in the Kandhar province of South Afghan against western ideology and exploded itself as a powerful terrorist organization. But here the question arises that how these young veterans are promulgated itself on a common questions against the western citizens and started to kill the NATO forces in Afghanistan. The ideology of Taliban has been described as the Pashtun nationalism, Islamic fundamentalism, Deobandi Islamism, Religious nationalism as well as international fundamental Islamic obduracy enshrined by Al-Qaeda. The Taliban mostly emerged out with the help of US and Pakistan. It is hard to accept that Taliban's

ideology has not influenced by the Pashtunic ethnic groups⁴. These have the cultural similarity as well as geo- political importance. The Pashtuns or Pathans (named as Pathans by John C Griffiths) is the largest ethnic group having 40-45% population in that area has been the dominant caste in that region.

Pashtun is the geographical area in which the Pashtuns race is in the dominant position. They shares their border with North-Western provinces of Pakistan. The population of Pashtuns is 40 millions in which 12-15 millions Pashtuns resides in Afghanistan and rest of 28 million are living in Pakistan. They have the cultural similarity which is quit facilitating for Taliban in the context of logistical help and other transformations. However the issue that unites Pashtuns is Pashtunwali⁵ which is “moral and legal code that determines the social order and responsibilities and regulates some key concepts as honour, mutual support, solidarity & revenge”. It is also rectified by various thinkers that there are huge similarity between Islamic religious laws and the Pashtunwali tribal laws.

- “According to Thomas Barfield:- In rural areas..... there is such melding of the Pashtun law and Islamic law that the two are often viewed as inseparable”.
- “According to Antonio Giustozzi:- Another, often overlooked, influence on Taliban is rural versus urban”.

While the Taliban overwhelming Pashtun character is indisputable, Taliban also recruits its militants from the Afghan refugees (mainly orphans) who were residing near NWFP. They are get pitchfork from not only their homeland but also their culture. Therefore rootless to their ideological influences they were exposed with ill-hated feelings in the Madrsas of Pakistan. The famous report of Thomas Frear published on Dec. 2016 stated about these madrsas is that “they adhere to the Deobandi and Wahhabi schools of Sunni Islam and are funded mainly by Saudi Arabia as well as by wealthy individuals. This lingering Saudi influence dated from the anti-Soviet jihad, during which Saudi Arabia matched the USA in funding for the mujahedeen. These madrasas were run by the Jamiat-I-Ulema-I- Islami (JUI), a Pakistani religious-turned-political party ‘characterised by its fundamentalist interpretations of Islam, its opposition to ijthihad (innovation in adapting to new conditions), its injunctions against any meaningful role for women outside their homes, and its opposition to feudal and tribal structures” is also the reason.

Historically Afghanistan was not formulated according to Islam only. It is due to the destitute conditions of the Afghan refugees and the education provided them in Madrsas is different from their education of homeland. After analysing the similarities between unalterable Devbandi curriculum and Salafi ideas exposed by the Wahhabi branch, Mandaville concludes that the education provided to the young refugees is conservative and the moral religious dogmas are infiltrated them about a concept .This narrow minded concept creates the militants for Taliban which are trifled with the religious dogmas at very high extent. It is also said that Taliban created a miscellaneous type of Hybrid Islamic system which is the mixture of Wahhbism and other religious Islamic dogmas. Importantly it is different from the real values of Islam. It is also said that Taliban also reflects the

political-Islamist principles stated by Sayyid Abdu 'I-A'LA Mawdudi's in their writings and on which his political party was founded. These writings generally mirror the Laissez-Fair type of governance adopted during five year regimes of Taliban⁶. These basic principles are:-

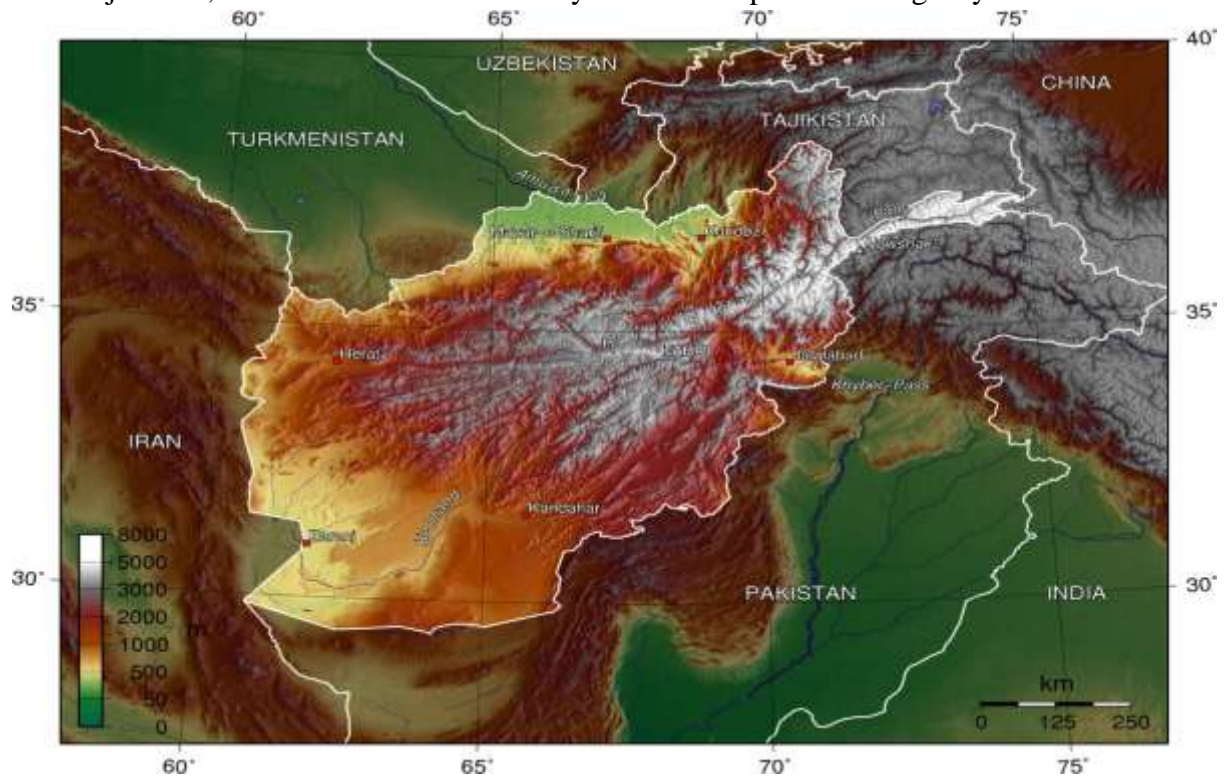
- No one should be allowed to pass orders to make command according to his own will.
- According to Salafi doctrine of Wahhbism, Islamic state 'cannot tolerate the class division based on social status and birth.
- The main principle of the Taliban is international Jihad.
- Taliban is influenced by Al-Qaeda ideology that is also blinkered in the religious outlook to kill the Shia Muslims that they are not real Muslims.

Yet the two decades of war with NATO forces Taliban has swept the victory in Afghanistan. The group has completed their shocking rapid advancement across the country after the 20 years of war with USA. Despite the Taliban's military victory, it remains to be seen whether they will be able to impose their extremely conservative religious view of society on the Afghan people in the long run. After the Taliban captured the power in Afghanistan they changed the name of country to the "Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan". This name expresses the whole intention of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The Taliban formulates itself on the old conservative ideas of religious fundamentalism and the ideas of religion expressed in writing of Wahhbism .Initially some developments indicated that Taliban will change its orthodox ideological line but after some time this question is automatically answered by Taliban that it prevails the Islamic laws. It is also clarified by the human rights organization reports that some Afghan women fled to Pakistan because they feared that Taliban fighters will force them to marry with them⁷. In fact, the Taliban grant very few rights to women also in their new regime. It is cleared after the statement of the famous leader of the Taliban Abdul Karimi that "Women belong in a dungeon like environment namely the four walls of their home". Also another article published in German, expresses the views of the Talibani leader Hibatullah Akhundzada about women that "They would bear children, run the household and be ready for their husband's sexual desires at any time". This reflects that Taliban is going to run the Afghanistan with their contorted ideology replete with orthodox Islamic fundamentalism because the views given by Taliban Leaders were neither religiously legitimate nor Islamically justifiable.

International Issue

Afghanistan is a landlocked country in south Asia having the complex system of vigorous ideologies. The present situation of the Afghanistan is very drastic. Yet due to globalization the mobility of fear and insecurity is also increased. The homogenization of the world, by the globalization, affects the world positively as well as negatively. The terrorist attack of 09/11, 26/ 11 and several other terrorist attacks is also the ground on which globalization is criticised. The change of democratic regime in Afghanistan, captured by a radical terrorist organization is debatable issue because it disturbed the balance of power which affects not only Afghanistan but also the whole south Asia. Yet after the two world wars security is a major and international issue in international arena. The arms race specially the use of nuclear weapons in world war second and in perpetuity for test of nuclear weapons also made a situation of one's flesh creep for non nuclear states. Literally, the Taliban which is following the ideologies of orthodox Wahhbism and religious fundamentalism is considered as the major threat for the security of south Asia. The topographical harsh area of Afghanistan is also a major factor for cross border terrorism because due to the pebbles and mountain area the border wires can not be stretched. Even the Hind province of the Afghanistan connecting with Pakistan is the major gateway for the logistical transformations from Pakistan. It is the area which pertaining the largest numbers of training camps for terrorist. It is the highly unstable area and also the same is touches the international natural boundaries with China and international boundary with Tajakistan, Pakistan & India which may become the path of insurgency for Taliban.



It is surrounded by the hills of Great Himalaya and also the most eminent supporter of Taliban, Pakistan is also favouring its terrorist activities in this region. Even that Taliban has the dark past of terrorist attack in USA and also trying to destabilize the NATO forces

in the earlier republic Afghanistan. There is always the possibilities that Afghanistan may become the Hotspot of terrorism after the withdrawn of NATO forces from Afghanistan because during the republican Afghanistan, there is lacuna in the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. In Modi-Ghani era, the congenial relations between Afghanistan and India are also an irritating factor for Pakistan. Also the former republican Afghanistan expressed that Pakistan is the reason for creating the insurgent activities in Afghanistan. So the establishment of the radical terrorism regime in the middle of Asia is the great security threat for not only the south Asia but also the whole world.

Taliban as a Scourge for Central & South Asia:-

Asian continent which is the largest continent of the world is experiencing the lopsided mode of governances⁸. The sovereign countries of the Asia are forcibly converting in the authoritarian regimes such as Myanmar, Afghanistan and also the developing countries are subjugating by the expansionist ideology of super powers. The conversion of the government in Afghanistan is also split an innuendo on the Asian continent democratic structure. The establishment of a terrorist government in Afghanistan is increased the fear of insecurity and there is no counter balance is seems in the economic affairs with neighbour countries. The Iran's interest in western Afghanistan, the economic assistance provided by other countries, the network of drug trafficking, weapons transformation to terrorist group by Pakistan and various other issues will become problematic for the whole Asian region.

Uzbekistan

The society of Uzbekistan is highly esteemed society in which some of well educated, motivated and diligent peoples. Although a few regimes are pointed as notorious, corrupted and brutal regime such as Islam Karimov's regime which is clearly responsible for sprawling the brutalities, child labour & sex rackets⁹. The other reason of arrest of wealth and assets in Uzbekistan is the imprisonment of opposition leaders in false cases. The consequences of this desitute condition of Uzbekistan is that, the young serens are frustrated and started to join the militant groups. The three militant organizations are working during that time- The Islamist movement of Uzbekistan, The Islamik Jihad union, and the Hizb ut-Tahir represent the largest threat for Uzbekistan. All the three organization are sponsored by Taliban and have the links with Afghanistan. The various terrorist attacks in Uzbekistan like IJU gun and suicide bomb attacks in Taskant in March and the Fergana valley attack in May 2009 are done by these organizations. In this reference Uzbekistan become a coalition partner of NATO forces which are fighting against the Taliban. Later US announced in 2014 that the NATO forces are leaving the Afghanistan, it comes nearer to China and Soviet Union. Uzbekistan experiences their needs to sustain the military for its own security and peace it comes nearer to CSTO in 2008 led by Russians¹⁰. Karimov has changed its foreign policy and welcome the aid from other countries for security purpose in this region. Later U.S also recognized the geographical importance of the Uzbekistan and helped the Uzbekistan to stop the disturbance through Northern distribution network.

But after the announcement of USA to leave the Afghanistan is again created the environment of insecurity and terror in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan was also interested to keen the bilateral trade relations with Afghanistan but the backdrops of Taliban regime doesn't seems to accept the economic relations with Uzbekistan.

Iran

Yet Iran-Afghan negotiations are going under the roughness till the presence of NATO forces but after the Taliban regime it may become destroyed. Iran is always against the terrorism and favoured the democratic central government in Kabul. Yet on some instances it has also been seeing that clandestinely it favours the Taliban by providing the short range weapons and also a meeting was held in Tehran with Taliban leader Mullah Ashraf Ghani but it was only the diplomatic policy of Tehran to make negotiation with Taliban¹¹. Iran never favoured the terror specially beside the borders either in eastern or in western region. Iran also opposed the drug trafficking network which was the cornerstone during Taliban's first government in Afghanistan. Iran also doesn't want the long lasting political instability along with their borders, due to this it has also thrown out the Shilte refugees of Afghanistan¹². Even Iran always supported the Hazara community which is the best political organised community in Iran. After the capturing of Government by Taliban in Afghanistan's democracy the future negotiations are seeing lopsided with Iran either it may become positive or negative. Even the terrorism was never favoured by Iran. Due to the same religious population, Taliban may create the instability in Iran. Yet it is a ticklish issue but Tehran always envisages the Taliban as great detriment for its harmony and stability.

India

In modern Era the peace, prosperity and security is the priority of every country foreign policy. India always tried to create the peaceful and economic relations with neighbourhood countries. Afghanistan is also the neighbour of India in North region. India always tried to sustain the economic relations and infrastructure of Afghanistan and in last decade the economic relations were more empowered with the efforts of both the countries. Even then India is the first country to recognise the communist government of Afghanistan in 1979 and he always sported him economically and politically. To sustain the economic relations a Strategic partnership agreement was signed between the countries whose aim is to provide the assistance to help in rebuilding of Afghanistan's infrastructure. In 2012 the steel authority of India limited plans to set the \$10.8 Billion project that includes a power plant, road and rail link as well as steel plant, the govt is also searching the coal deposits in Afghanistan. In 2016 the three phase programme was organised by India in which India spent a Huge amount on 92 small projects as well as on the parliament of Afghanistan, Indo-Afghan friendship Dam (Salma Dam) and also announced the 500 scholarship for the children of martyrs of Afghan security forces. Also India is suitable market for the dry fruits of Afghanistan. India imports 85% of its dry fruit from Afghanistan. The bilateral trade at for the year 2016-17 was USD 800 million approx and has the possibilities to be

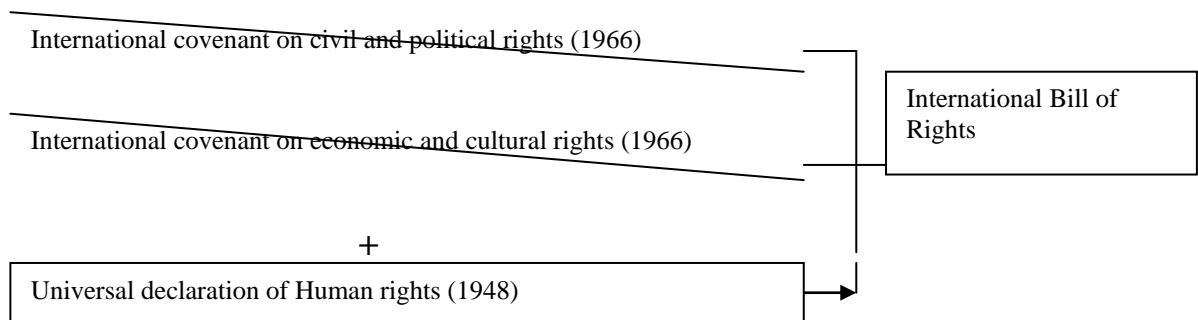
expended further. In 2017 at 2nd SPC meeting was held in New Delhi India agreed to implement some new projects like Sahtoot Dam, water supply for Charikar city, road connectivity to Band-E-Amir in Bamyan province and many more¹³. One of the objective to build Zaranj-Delaram road by India to boost bilateral economic relation. India also announced that ongoing programmes of education, infrastructure and capacity building will continue for a further period of five years from 2017 to 2022 but here is the suspect that Taliban rejoice the rule in Afghanistan and here the question arises that all of these projects will actually reliable for Afghans in current scenario or the 300\$ hundred crores investment of India will go in the dustbin as like the 6000\$ crores expenditure of US which was for train the Afghan's military. Even the negotiations under Taliban regime are strongly implacable. It also affected the trade of dry fruits between India & Afghan relations. Even the north frontier of India shares the boundary with the most volatile region of terrorist activities. In Taliban regime it may become the volcano of terrorist activities for India. The opium production in the North region of Afghanistan & Pakistan is also the reason for drug network in Punjab and Rajasthan border areas. The working of Kabul embassy was also stopped due to the sudden change of government in this reference no possible outcomes appears for near future between India and Afghan relations.

China

China which is the largest populated country of Asian region is also changing its foreign policy towards the Islam Emirates of Afghanistan. It is damn true that China was always the natural ally of Pakistan but it never tied closely with America. It is also the ideological difference between China and America after the world war second. The establishment of communism in China was always the example of its nuance with former Soviet Union but in contrast China was also the biggest aid provider to Pakistan. It is clearly observed in 1965 & 1971 war that Chinese weapons are used by Pakistan during the war. Pakistan is always engulfed in nurturing the terrorist organizations whether the amid possibilities that Chinese weapons may used by Taliban. Even China is also the victim of Drug transported by Afghanistan. Also the stubborn group of Taliban East Turkestan Islamic Movement was accused for a series of attack in China in the early 21st century. The Tiananmen square incident in Beijing is the example of insurgency created by Taliban in China. The Xinxiang province of China also shares its boundary with Afghanistan which is also seeing as security threat for China. Along with all these security threats China's attitude was not clear towards Afghanistan. After the led out of American forces China also predicts it as an opportunity to acquire the vast natural resources of Afghanistan. Some scholars have suggested that China's relative patience over the situation in Afghanistan is based on its economic ambition. But rather than China is serious about its security. For his part, Wang Yi said that China stands ready to communicate with the United States to "push for a soft landing of the Afghan issue, so that a new civil war or humanitarian disaster will be prevented in Afghanistan and the country will not relapse into a hotbed and shelter for terrorism"¹⁴. It is also damn true that neither China or America wished Afghanistan to collapse into a failed state, nor did they want it become an exporter of international terrorism¹⁵.

Issue of Human Rights in Afghanistan

The issue of human rights are also most concerning subject after the change of governance in Afghanistan. The south Asian region consisting the 24.89% population of the world. Yet various theorist stipulates its according to their perception such as realist considers it as a “soft issue” in international relations as contrast to ‘core’ issue like security and prosperity while liberalists considers the rights are the product of liberal philosophy. In the Global world human rights are the major actor to impose the constraint on the behaviours of governments. Specially the international Bill of rights specifies the need of Human rights.



But these rights can be enjoyed in the democratic notion of government not in tyrannical or terrorist regimes. The Shria laws imposed in the “Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan” is the vast evidence to hampering the human rights. It created the threat for neighbour countries. Ethnically there is no direct parameter that measures the interest of the neighbours countries but if the Taliban is remained on the same line of Islamic fundamentalism and giving the patronage to terrorist, it can become the great threat for several other democracies.

Conclusion

It is a complete disaster in Afghanistan the sudden expansion of the Taliban as such as large extent rendered the feeling of fear and horror. The citizen of Afghanistan are migrating to other countries and Taliban is firing in air openly with AK-47 at airports. Mostly countries of the world are lifting their citizens fastly as because the future of Afghanistan hanging in on the rope of Taliban. After the Kabul fell to the Taliban and the terror announced its victory over the government is scattered the feeling of the terror across the world. Yet the evolution of Taliban was done in the time period of Soviet invasion in Afghanistan during the cold war and the assistance provided by the Pakistan and USA gave a support to enlarge itself. The ideology of Taliban is trifled with strict Islamic fundamentalism which against the essence of democracy. The future od Afghanistan now seems uncertain. Yet the effort are made during democratic regime in Afghanistan but now the situation is completely changes. The shelve of the NATO,US &ISAF forces is to

encompasses a more defensive approach for Afghanistan without radically use of weapons and war material. Even the central Asian countries aim to craet a buffer zone of states to defend against the terrorism in Afghanistan strategically. After 20 years America of presence in Afghanistan America realised that the terrorist organisation receiving the regular aid through other countries and decide to leave the Afghanistan. Due to the geographical harsh area and the ideology of Taliban based on Islamic religious fundamentalism is a security threat for south as well as central Asia. Even Taliban is waiting for led out the NATO forces to capture the Afghanistan's democracy and a planned ambush is done by Taliban rapidly.

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