# Beyond the Cultural Faultiness: How Great Powers in Afghanistan Reshape Pashtun Culture,(An Historical and Cultural Impression)

Muhammad Asif<sup>\*</sup> Professor. Dr. KaleemUllah Barech<sup>\*</sup>

## Abstract:

Interests always attracts, in all situations. Same here in case of Afghanistan's strategic location and cultural impression all the international players are playing their games at different level for achievement of their planned goals. As we know that every action has its reaction, when some challenges are responded. So in case of Afghanistan's tussles, Pakistan having vast border with Afghanistan is affected in several aspects. Because the trees of culture of peace in tribal region is watered with the blood of masses. People became habitual of terrorism, even feeling it as a part of their culture. This research work will analyze the interests of international communities in general and the great powers and neighbors of Afghanistan specifically. Moreover, the security threat in whole region, specifically the Pashtoon belts in Pakistan will be discussed, where as the Pashtoon culture of love, hospitality and morality is impressionably changed with the name of extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, the methodology adopted for the completion of this research work is to the extent of content analysis, while describing the issue in a historical perspective.

Key words: Global mediations, Guerrilla war, Culture of Terrorism, Strategic plans, etc.

Geographical and strategic significance of Afghanistan:

Generally, Afghanistan has been a center of international or global mediations, because of its area. Its region is always utilized as an important zone for conquerors as well as that of transporters. Especially, for western world towards eastern world. And in addition amongst India and focal Asia, and so forth roughly, somewhere in the range of 328 years prior Alexander the immense had picked this way. Presently the domain of Afghanistan is more than a universal hall, and it is a focal point of a few defeats in Asia"(1)

Traditionally, the geography of Afghanistan has bolstered the unpredictable techniques, dominatingly the utilization of guerrilla. The regular structure of the district has preferred standpoint of shelter among populace, while taking focal points of the profound valleys of the locale. Also, the arrangement of correspondence is feeble, particularly in the north locale of Afghanistan, however

<sup>\*</sup> Lecturar Department of History, University of Balochistan Quetta.

<sup>\*</sup> Professor, Department of History, University of Balochistan Quetta

made simpler through the section of Salang passage by Soviets, unsteadily interfacing Kabul with northern ranges. Its unsteadiness confronted a few obstacles in the state of many assaults"(2).

Sadly, the fringes of Afghanistan with all different nations are not set apart as indicated by its regular outline. With the goal that it does not have a wide range of control from worldwide mediation. Moreover, uncontrolled outskirts are inclined to unlawful activity of weapons, people and medications and so forth. The length of Afghan periphery has expanded linkages with international community by and large, and neighboring nations particularly.

The geographical study of Afghanistan tells us that, she meets with three different regions of the world. Pakistan is located in the east of Afghanistan, where the population is approximately, 90% Sunni and 7% Shia Muslims. Similarly, central Asian states are located in the Northern regions of Afghanistan, whereas the orthodox Christians found in majority. Furthermore, in a sense of China's location, she additionally arranged in a similar heading with her antiquated culture, this has also implications in associated territories of Afghanistan. Moreover, the intensity of Iranians with Shia impacts is arranged in the western region of Afghanistan. The Iran as well as Bedouin Landmass, with Sunni greater part is situated in the west"(3).

The historical records of Afghanistan give us an impression that she got a vital strategic significance in the result of great wars. In this connection we can easily stat that it is the name of the geostrategic question amongst English and Russian nation on the domain of central Asia in nineteenth century. At the point where these clashing forces neglected to vanquish the district, they wound up plainly consented to keep Afghanistan as nonpartisan state between them. In any case, Afghanistan and its kin opposed against the pioneer control for keeping up their autonomy.

In Pamir Mountains, the Wakhan edging China with Afghanistan. Which is said to be one of the most astounding borders of the world stays shut no less than five months in a year, because of extraordinary climate and snow falling? This association of Afghanistan with china can assume a critical part as vitality passageway"(4).

The archives of twentieth century historical records of Afghanistan reveal us that, Afghanistan was always remained in circumstances of competition of the two outside domains that are American and Soviet realms. Moreover, an enclosing technique was arranged by several states jointly in opposition of the expansion of United states of southern Russia, surely understood as Kennan's regulation procedure. Hence, at the arrival of troops of Soviet Union in 1979, Americans began supporting the revolt in Afghanistan in contradicting the Soviet Union in that region.

Right now, in Afghan irregularity, there are fringe elements concerned; despite the fact that this time the conditions are significantly more diverse,

especially because of its greater volume. It is much essential to get examination for the advantage and also parts of geopolitical based as well as key players in the entire regional locations.

The past position of Afghanistan tell us that, she could keep up a specific level of unprejudiced nature because of its glorious situation; over the span of latest some thirty or thirty one years tragically, it does not passed through peaceful situation in the entire area of its own. It was also a time when USSR and the king of Afghanistan denoted a non-threatening vibe game plan in 1931, to sustain the absence of inclination. The component of the notable icy War, which achieved the USSR up to its interventions in Afghanistan"(5).

Afghanistan is arranged at the crossing point of a couple of nuclear powers intending to its more common pioneers, such as Pakistan, India, China, Russia and that of Iran. Moreover, for the interests of atomic weapons its storage, all started struggle to come in international community as an nuclear country. Since they have the uranium change development vital to develop this point of confinement. This social occasion of neighbor countries stipends Afghanistan an extraordinary intrigue.

Furthermore, are a couple POL/MIL relationships in the zone that add to its quality and that we ought to consider when chasing down Afghanistan's conflict assurance? Russia drives the CSTO (Aggregate Security Arrangement Association). This was set up in 2002. This Association has a common monitor arrangement, the hindrance furthest reaches of which adds to the soundness of all the region North Afghanistan against potential ambushes. Imitating the NATO, this affiliation has made JRRF, the Joint Fast Response Powers. It's the Joint Fast Response adequacy has not been exhibited till now, considering that, the legislature of Uzbek might not want to take an intrigue.

All alone part, China facilitated Russia in (SCO) Shanghai Cooperation Association. Alongside Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and that of Russia were the members from SCO. However, Afghanistan has been taken an interest as a recognized visitor in the apex (summit) of association. So that this exceptional thoughtfulness regarding social cum political support of the legislature of Afghanistan.

At the side of the needs and targets of the SCO are ensuring the soundness and battling "psychological oppression, separatism and radicalism". In particular, the affiliation has been expected as China based fighting adjoining "the three wickedness controls". So that is the way Beijing designated the Uyghur's independence in the free area of the Uyghur Xinjiang. In any case, SCO has more prominent estimation, in perspectives of the reality that as it was developed in its establishing sanction, its goals are: "to strengthen regular trust, family relationship and extraordinary neighborliness between the part States; to bolster the gainful cooperation in such circles as authoritative issues, trade and economy, condition protection, society, science and development, guideline, essentialness, moreover unique circles; to join multidisciplinary interest in the upkeep and bracing of peace, security and quality in the region and progression of another vote based, sensible and practical political and money related worldwide demand"(6).

Prosperity or interests of global players and its threat to Pashtoon's belt in Pakistan

### The interests of Russia

Since the insurgency in Russia in 1917, the Soviet Union dependably been irritable for its regions as well as that of its distant approach identified with its local periphery. In this connection, history describes that on 28th December of 1979 combat troops of Soviet Union moved towards Afghanistan, and killed the then president Hafiz ul Amin in Afghanistan, while bringing the Babrak Karmal at the throne of Afghanistan"(7).

As a result, the Pakistanis were threatened by the entrance of Russians in Afghanistan, because they felts themselves, the next target after Afghanistan. There was general perception all over Pakistan that Moscow will extend towards Pakistan after consolidating the Afghanistan's territory"(7). At the same time Pakistan got a chance of getting favor of another power but in opposition of Russia. And the then president of Pakistan, General Zia ul Haq inclined toward capitalist America, while taking decicision of provision of fully support to the Jihad Movement in Afghanistan. So that the Mujahedeen started the Guerilla war against Russian in Afghanistan.

When the war was started in Afghanistan, the native Afghans started migration from Afghanistan to Pakistan; the crux of several surveys tells that it was about three million Afghans who migrated to Pakistan. So the influx brought several problems but diverted the international attention in all aspects"(9).

#### C. Interests of USA in Afghanistan:

Pakistan was declined after the withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan. But after the completion of commission report of 9/11 it was finalized that Afghanistan would decrease the U.S security by authorizing the state to wind up a place of safe house for offenders. But the Afghans had good faith for their significance, that the wealthy CARs will enticing but to ever be overlooked. In simple words the Americans interests in Afghanistan region is pointed as;

 $\phi$  Firstly, the presence of U.S in Afghanistan is similarly pointed its favored technique of "Contain China"

 $\phi$  To ensure the current of Opiates radiating from that of Afghanistan's poppy fields.

 $\phi$  On the street to suspended and stop the expansion of psychological warfare and religious radicalism from Afghanistan.

¢ The U.S is almost seeing the co-specialist framework b/w China, Russia, Central Asian conditions of SCO that realized the establishment of another square in the region.

 $\phi$  The interests of America make the security issue for Pakistan. "In the time of Oct 2001 U.S direction in Afghanistan countless contenders and all the Taliban's Shura for all cause and purposes took refuge in Pakistan, yet at the point of convergence of the edge. Moreover, in area of Balochistan and Khyber Pashtoonkhwa the Taliban and a few other religio-political systems are chipping away at both sides in both nations. Assault of U. S in Afghanistan in Oct, 2001 prompted a storm of Taliban and Al-Qaida's activists into the FATA"(10).

#### **D.** China's wellbeing

Tragedy of 9/11 brought about a few effects over provincial states close-by Afghanistan, similarly, in the event in Afghanistan on the part of China's interests as well as that of Central Asian states, she wants that Afghanistan ought to be free from the restraining infrastructure across the global forces. Indeed, the coalition forces were not preferred by China. Since they generally debilitated the provincial solidness. Having a business base framework, china has much enthusiasm for the mineral and HR of Afghanistan and Focal Asia, on the grounds that these both areas have a substantial market in normal and mineral assets. Additionally, the profound and neighborly relations amongst Pakistan and China are notable everywhere throughout the world, with the goal that China has likewise interests in well disposed government to Pakistan. In nutshell China needs amicable relations amongst Pakistan and Afghanistan, yet contradicting the fanatic Taliban, only for the reason for dependability in district, for her monetary strength"(11).

# E. India's interests in Afghanistan

Historical records tell us that India and Russia have been friendly with one another; on the other hand Pakistan and India always remain in conflicts. Internationally, both Pakistan and India trying to get veto power amongst international community, just to rise as Asian tiger. By excellence of her impact in Afghanistan, India offering lifts to the antagonistic issues, while making contact amongst the states of Asia. With respect to Kabul water way at the regions of Kunhar and Salma Dam, Pakistan gets benefits in several aspects. Similarly, it repeats in the sense of oil and gas pipelines passing through Pakistan, while connecting Afghanistan with India. Moreover, the strategic relations or ties in Afghanistan's opening departments are basically given privileges to all states for their own interests. So that several channels contend that these conciliatory ties are essentially hostile to Pakiststan's exercise, especially, in the areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pashtoonkhwa. Considering all important connections of Pakistan with Afghanistan in strategic sense, the final results come in a way o0f threat to the entire region. Additionally, the precautionary procedure of Indians in Afghanistan is generally constantly asserted and tested as an unmistakable risk to the entire region. Furthermore, the business class from India is putting resources in business already identified in connection with Afghanistan, but in a very high proportion. This makes clear the program of syndication of economy of Afghanistan as well that of Asia.

#### 20

#### **Concerns of Iran**:

The annals of Afghanistan and Iran history tell us that, both the states have interests with one another, but in sense of cultural, economic and political sense. According to thoughts of Iranians all the issues of Afghanistan have less to do with the strategy of the well known Great Game. Basically is all to do for the security and their prestige. As we know that Afghanistan has close and vast border with Iran, so both states share and interlinked in several aspects of human life such as religion, cultural and political aims. The class having interests in both states always remained in struggle to achieve the dominant position in Afghanistan. Moreover, Iran always searching a way of good relation with Afghanistan. Just for the extension or communication with Central Asia through Afghanistan. The post 9/11 era of Afghanistan and Iran relation give us an impression that Iran surprisingly have good relation with Afghanistan. Because analysts give us an impression that Iran has never been cordial relation with USA"(12).

Threats to Pashtoon's and their culture in Pakistan

All the international players, who have interests in Afghanistan, uploaded the region with several problems and tussles. Whereas the culture of Afghanistan became change in to unacceptable all over the world. This has influenced the entire region but specifically Pakistan's security, national interests, economy and International image. The main threats which become implications, which Afghanistan's issues extend towards Pakistan, are giving as;

"The influx of those refuges, who are already targeted, during the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan became a threat to Pakistani society in general but Pashtoon belts particularly. It was unfortunately, a game played by Pashtoons against Pashtoons but using the religion as tool, which changed the image of their tribal culture into terrorism.

"The illegal drugs transferred to Pakistan territory, where as uneducated and targeted population of the region got a chance of black marketing, which became a treat to their life and society.

"Security, which was the beauty of Tribal regions in Pakistan, is completely replaced in words and out words with insecurity. This not only affected the region but several other aspects of Pakistan's image such as tourism industry, foreign investment and cultural heritage in Pakistan society.

"Development remain a dream of Pakistani society generally, and Pashtoon society particularly. Because the first and foremost demand of masses in Pakistani society is security. Even the suicide attack and bombardments adopted the position in Pakistani culture.

#### **References:**

- (1) Haqqani, H. (2013). Magnificent delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an epic history of misunderstanding. PublicAffairs.
- (2) Rubin, B. R., & Rashid, A. (2008). From Great Game to Grand Bargain-Ending Chaos in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Foreign Aff., 87, 30.
- (3) Mockaitis, T. R. (2007). The" new" terrorism: myths and reality. Greenwood Publishing Group.
- (4) Rubin, B. R., & Rashid, A. (2008). From Great Game to Grand Bargain-Ending Chaos in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Foreign Aff., 98, 112.
- (5) Haqqani, H. (2004). The role of Islam in Pakistan's future. Washington Quarterly, 28(1), 83-96.
- (6) Weinbaum, M. G. (2006). afghanistan and its Neighbors. Special Report,162, 176.
- (7) Hassan, T. (2009). Afghanistan Complex Situation and Its Implications on Pakistan.20
- (8) Kakar, A. (2014). The US-Afghanistan Relations during Obama Era: Implications for Pakistan.
- (9) The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States Available online http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf
- (10) Hassan, T. (2009). Afghanistan Complex Situation and Its Implications on Pakistan.22
- (11) Kamal Matinuddin (1999), The Taliban Phenomenon, Afghanistan 1994 1997", Oxford University Press, pp.133-40-41.
- (12) Ibid, 150-56