

*Failed Afghan Prescription and Taliban 2.0:
Regional Stakes & Implications*

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah
International University

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RIPP

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Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University and IPDS are jointly organized a Seminar on "Failed Afghan Prescription and Taliban 2.0: Regional Stakes & Implications" on Wednesday, 25th August 2021, at Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Ground Floor, Evacuee Trust Building next to Islamabad Marriott Hotel, Aga Khan Road, Islamabad

Following Distinguished Speakers from different parts of Pakistan joined the session to share important insight on the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

- Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India.
- Dr. Amna Mahmood Professor/ Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad.
- Prof. Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Chairman, International Relations University of Peshawar
- Dr. Aiysha Safdar, Head, Department of International Relations, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore.
- Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director, Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University Islamabad
- Ms. Farhat Asif, Founder President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies will moderate the session.

Malik Ehsan Ullah Tiwana NA-94 Khushab, Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs said that Pakistan is playing a constructive role for peaceful Afghanistan. Pakistan, with its support and non-interference policy stand, always considers that there should be Afghan led and Afghan owned solution the internal crisis of the country. Speakers of the Seminar were in the consensus that chaotic fall of the Afghan government is a matter of concern for the international community because of the growing humanitarian crisis. They were of the view that the “Neo-Taliban” need to act on their policies of reconciliations, giving rights to women and other commitments to remain engaged at the global scale.

They have also highlighted that Afghanistan crisis results from the failed policies of the previous corrupt Afghan government. The corruption also seeped deep in the society and system of Afghanistan that the Armed forces could not fight the Taliban. Afghanistan’s developing political and security concerns demand comprehensive and multilater engagement.

The Seminar was hybrid and both was online and at the venue of the event. The session was moderated by Ms. Farhat Asif, (IPDS) while the Chief Guest Malik Muhammad Ehsan Ullah Tiwana, Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Dr. Amna Mahmood we, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad, emphasized the positive outcome of entire Afghanistan situation.

Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit analyzed the Afghan situation on three levels: domestic, regional, and international and explained at length the future prospects for regional players in dealing with the Taliban. Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soharwardi, Chairman, Department of the International Relations University of Peshawar shared the mistakes committed by former President Ashraf Ghani in Afghanistan and his opinion on the Taliban’s delay in forming a government.

Dr. Aiysha Farhan, Head of the Department of International Relations at Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, highlighted five of the most asked questions concerning Afghanistan and offered her brief analysis of the situation.

General, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oktay Bingöl, Senior Security and Strategy Advisor of ANKASAM, underscored the positive indicators for the future scenario of Afghanistan. Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University Islamabad, has shed light on the history of Afghan conflict. He stated that regional stability depends on Afghanistan's political scenario, connectivity, and sovereignty. A large number of media persons, journalists, students, and academicians from different parts of the world attended the webinar.

He further added that, in the topic variables are; Afghan Prescription, Taliban2, Impact on Regional Countries. From historical perspective three scenarios in Afghanistan were possible in the wake of the US military withdrawal: negotiated settlement, civil war, or Taliban takeover. We are witnessed to the third scenario, however in each; the Taliban is likely to emerge as the most influential party. The Taliban are a revolutionary movement, deeply opposed to the Afghan tribal system and focused on the rebuilding of the Islamic Emirate. Their propaganda and intelligence are efficient, and the local autonomy of their commanders in the field allow them both flexibility and cohesion. They have made clever use of ethnic tensions, the rejection of foreign forces by the Afghan people, and the lack of local administration to gain support in the population. Taliban 2.0 have emerged as more professional and tolerate image and their success is embedded to the fact although US has invested \$ 83 billion to train Afghan army but it was not clear to the Question Afghans were willing to die for their government.

He said, I think Afghanistan and Pakistan have a long history of tense relations defined by five recurring drivers: sovereignty concerns, security interests, geopolitical dynamics, cross-border ties, and connectivity and trade. The Afghanistan Pakistan relationship will remain challenging as bilateral ties will likewise influence security, political, and economic dynamics in the medium to long term, either after the conflict reaches a stalemate or after a new government takes shape. Under such circumstances, a positive relationship with Pakistan could go a long way in fostering stability and development. However Afghanistan and Pakistan has the chance of building on their cross-border ties for the benefit of regional stability and the well-being of their citizens.

Media Outreach:

More than 10 national media outlets covered the sessions. Few links are attached for the kind perusal of the colleagues.

Dawn News:

- 1- <https://www.dawn.com/news/1642605/pakistan-playing-constructive-role-for-peace-in-afghanistan>

Nation News:

- 2- <https://nation.com.pk/26-Aug-2021/seminar-stresses-for-afghan-led-afghan-owned-solution>

Daily Spokesman:

- 3- <https://dailyspokesman.net/live/pakistan-playing-a-constructive-role-for-peaceful-afghanistan-ehsan-ullah-tiwana/>

Pakistan Economist

- 4- <https://pakistaneconomicnet.com/story/30885/>

China Economy Watch

- 5- http://en.ce.cn/Insight/202108/26/t20210826_36849479.shtml

Pictures Gallery





