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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

STATE TERRORISM AND TALIBAN'S RULE (1996-2001) IN AFGHANISTAN

M.A. Dissertation

BAHRUDDIN, D. QUCHQAR

Istanbul 2021

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ABSTRACT

STATE TERRORISM AND TALIBAN'S RULE (1996-2001) IN AFGHANISTAN

Terrorism is one of the most important problems of the world, as an action that is obscure where, when, and how emerges, it causes violence and fear among society, gives physical, psychological, and financial relapses. Terror is carried out by certain groups (ethnic, religious, leftist-revolutionary, political), particularly state terrorism is the most violent. The essential contribution of this dissertation is focusing on the conceptualization of 'Terrorism', and specifically analysing the government of the Taliban in terms of state-terrorism, which also reveals the dissertation's uniqueness. Moreover, this thesis also examined terrorism from two different perspectives: 'Ancient-terrorism' and 'Contemporary-terrorism'. And to what extent state terrorism is compatible with the government of the Taliban, and how the organization was established, to whom, and what kind of service it served in Afghanistan in 1996-2001. The thesis analysed the Taliban's terrorist activities before and after 2001 and their current position as well. According to findings, the Taliban is a legal organization that signs treaties with the USA. In this thesis, academic articles, books, newspapers, based on academic information are utilized as resources that revealed deeply about the five years of Afghanistan under the administration of the Taliban. In the method, the data compiled from the sources were classified within the framework of the specified concepts and hypotheses and evaluated with critical, scientific, and comparative methods. The thesis was concluded with suggestions and recommendations, by revealing what the Taliban did in the name of Islam, and by examining the status of women in the society during their administration.

Keywords: Afghanistan, ethnicity, Jihad, Taliban, terrorism

ÖZET

DEVLET TERÖRÜ VE AFGANISTAN'DA TALIBAN DEVLET YÖNETİMİ (1996-2001)

Terörizm, günümüz itibariyle dünyanın en başta gelen sorunlarından biri olarak tanınmaktadır. Nereden, ne zaman, nasıl ortaya çıkacağı belli olmayan bir eylem olarak toplum arasında ani vahşet ve korkuya sebep olmakla birlikte ruhi, fiziki ve mali zararlar vermektedir. Terör belli bir kesim (etnik, solcu devrimci, dinci, siyasi vb) gruplar ve devlet tarafından gerçekleştirilmekte olup; altında yatan sebepler onların ideolojilerine göre mantıklı görülerek, bu yolla hedeflerine ulaşmayı amaçlamaktadırlar. Bu tezi değerli kılan çalışma 'Terör' kavramı ve tarihi araştırılarak, Taliban devletinin 'devlet terörü' açısından incelenmesidir. Bununla beraber terörizm iki ayrı bakışla yani 'Eski-terörizm' ve 'Çağdaş-terörizm' olarak ele alınmıştır. Taliban'ın devlet terörü ile hangi kapsamlarda bağdaştığı, kimler tarafından kurulduğu, hangi hedefler doğrultusunda yürüdüğü, kimlere hizmet ettiği, 1996-2001 yılları arası Afganistan'da ne tür bir devlet sistemi yürüttüğü, 2001 yılı öncesi ve sonrası hangi şekillerde terör eylemlerini devam ettirdiği ve günümüz itibariyle bulunduğu konumu incelemiştir. Bulgulara göre Taliban legal bir örgüt olup ABD ile antlaşmalar imzalamıştır. Bu tez, bilimsel olarak Afganistan'da yaşanan 5 yıllık Taliban Hükümeti'ni akademik metinler ışığında detaylı ve somut olarak ortaya koymuştur. Tez yazımında kaynak olarak akademik makaleler, kitaplar, gazeteler, ve internet sitelerinden yararlanılmıştır. Yöntemde kaynaklardan derlenen veriler, belirtilen kavramlar ve hipotez çerçevesinde tasnif edilerek eleştirel, bilimsel ve karşılaştırmalı yöntemlerle değerlendirilmiştir. Taliban devletinin İslami Şariat yönetimi ile hangi seviyede bağlantılı olduğu izah edilerek, yerel yönetimde İslam dini adına neler yaptığı ortaya konularak ve yönetimleri süresince kadınların toplum içinde hangi statüde yer aldıkları incelenerek, güvenlikle ilgili öneri ve tavsiyelerle tez sonlandırılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Afganistan, etnik, Cihat, Taliban, terörizm

PREFACE

It is a fact that Afghanistan is burning in the fire of civil war for about 40 years and before that there was not also a good situation to be proud of. After around 10 years of resistance of Mujahedeen, eventually, in 1989 the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan. That was considered the victory of Mujahedeen. Though, the country was torn and burned in the fire of the war. The Mujahedeen were appreciated by the Islamic world, and later on, they fought each other on sharing power, which caused the emergence of the Taliban in 1994. The Taliban established their government in 1996 and collapsed with the intervention of the USA after the event of 9/11. The intervention was condemned by some people and claimed that the USA had no right to conduct a military attack on Afghanistan, and the Taliban were doing good in the country. Hence, I was curious about the governing system of the Taliban in Afghanistan between 1996-2001. Therefore, I tried to analyze their regime in terms of ‘state terrorism’, where I have responded to the question of whether ‘the government of the Taliban between 1996-2001 was a terror state or not?’.

Completion of the thesis was not an easy job in terms of financial shortage and natural causes like Covid 19 which took a lot from the world. However, it’s finally completed with all due complexities, I am thankful to my dearest family, close friends, and my thesis Advisor Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kemal Bayram who supported me to reach this achievement. Especially I am grateful to Ilim Yayma Vakfi and Prof. Dr. İdris Sarysoy who financed me during these hard times.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)

HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)

IEA (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan)

IRA (Irish Republican Army)

ISI (Inter-Service Intelligence)

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria)

PKK (Partîya Karkerên Kurdistanê) The Kurdish Workers' Party

UN (United Nations)

WW I (World War One)

WW II (World War Two)

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INTRODUCTION

Who are these terrorists, killing people brutally, and how did they become terrorists? And why does a person need to join a terrorist organization? However, these questions are the common ones that come to mind when you think about terrorism, and everyone knows that terrorists are human beings from among us, they are only differentiated by their ruthlessness, brutality, and cruelty. Though, responding to these questions is a real difficult matter it needs distinct research to be conducted on terrorists' socio-psychological life. This thesis has focused on terrorism and tried to analyse the government of the Taliban in terms of the characteristics of state terrorism.

It's hypothesized that the government of the Taliban in Afghanistan between 1994 and 2001 contained features of a terror state. In contrast, it's believed that in 1994 at the beginning of the government of the Taliban was appreciated by the people of Afghanistan, but after 9/11 their government was recognized as a terror state because of supporting the Al-Qaeda extremist group, which caused the US intervention in Afghanistan. Even before 1994 as an organization Taliban were not different from the fighting militias of the time in the country. The important question here is that 'Is really the government of the Taliban was a terror state?' According to the findings of this thesis government of the Taliban was a totalitarian, and dictatorship regime which contained characteristics of a terror state.

From the academic point of understanding, analysing the Taliban and al-Qaeda relations, and intervention of the US in Afghanistan, and the conceptualization of 'terrorism' and examining the government of Taliban in terms of state terrorism and examining terrorism from two different perspectives: 'Ancient-terrorism' and 'Contemporary-terrorism' makes it valuable. On the other hand, the history of terrorism is based on the ancient history of human beings, where assassinations and barbarism took place. Certainly, it was not as terrifying as it is in today's order. Therefore, it's possible to research the two phases separately.

Furthermore, the history of the term 'terror' and 'terrorism' and its empirical use in the course of history and its radical change after 9/11 has been taken into analyse, which can be pinned as the emergence of modern terrorism and Islamic radicalism. According to major belief in the last two decades, most of the fundamentalist organizations have risen from among the Muslim communities; such as the Taliban, Hezbollah, ISIS, PKK, Uzbek Islamic Movement, and others. They all are known to be extremists but only distinguishable in terms of their understandings, and sharing point among them is their recognition as Muslims. However, relating them to terrorism is open for discussion.

Moreover, Afghanistan is also one of the Countries where the majority of the population is Muslim, and it is struggling with terrorism for almost twenty years. Civilians are dying constantly in suicide attacks,

bomb blasts or people are being kidnaped, and then killed by terrorists. The present and previous Afghan governments were not able to establish a stable peace in the land for the last 40 years, which led the country to be included among the index of fragile states (Fragile State Index, 2020). Hence, in the first six months of 2020, 2957 civilian casualties were resulting from the war among the Taliban and the government, and there is only an 11 percent decline in casualties in contrast to the last year (Saif, 2020).

The passage above literally states that this year the Taliban killed 16 people every day, and in previous years they were more active to kill the civilians and the Afghan government was there as a symbol watching their action movies. Indeed, the government does nothing but always send condolences to the relatives of the victims, and people also unbelievably think that there is a government that is ruling the country. Indeed, not having political awareness, and ignorance of the people led the country into the existing conditions.

Therefore, this research paid deep attention to the concept and history of ‘Terrorism’ and its conceptual meaning, and characteristics of state terrorism in the first step. Which also includes the historical and theoretical background of terrorism, and types of terrorism. This chapter also focused on ancient and modern terrorism and furtherly ‘state terrorism’ taken under consideration as the main value of this part. Also, explanation about the relations between failed states and terrorism, the effect of globalization on terrorism, and the use of terror in international politics are the topics consisted of the first chapter.

The second part of the dissertation is separated to include the geopolitical characteristics and a short history of Afghanistan. That has consisted of the history of the Afghan kingdom, Anglo-Afghan wars, modernization period, the establishment of the republic, and the communist regime, the intervention of the Soviet Union, and the emergence of Mujahedeen. Finally, this chapter is concluded by providing information about the ethnic background of today’s Afghanistan.

The final chapter of the thesis is separated to focus on the establishment of the Taliban and their ally with al-Qaeda (1996-2001), civilian casualties during their government, and beyond. Specifically, the thesis focuses on the administration of the Taliban, their education system, government regime and tries to answer the questions; What the Taliban was doing during the past 20 years, and how they took the power once again?. Furtherly, the dissertation endeavours to analyse the question of to what extent terrorism is compatible with the Taliban, and what position they are holding now in the region. Moreover, the US intervention in Afghanistan after 9/11 was also included in this chapter.

The literature written on terrorism did not focus on the government of the Taliban in terms of state terrorism. However, there is a lot of books and academic articles written on the Taliban, which all condemn it as a terror organization but have not analysed it as a terror state. Thus, the authenticity of this dissertation is relayed on consideration and analysis of the government of the Taliban in terms of ‘state-terrorism’.

I have planned to write this thesis in two academic terms, each part of the thesis equally divided to be completed in the time portion aimed. The first five weeks the sources related to the subject have been googled and separated to be used. The first part of the dissertation was completed and sent to the supervisor for evaluation in the ninth week. In two weeks the first part of the thesis was evaluated by the professor, during this time I was working on the draft of the second part. Till the beginning of the second term, I focused on the correction of my mistakes, marked by the supervisor. The second part of the thesis also followed the same strategy.

Here I hypothesise that the government of the Taliban between the years 1996-2001 was contained characteristics of state terrorism. Therefore, I have researched to find out about the features of state terrorism in theory, and resources are gathered from the different online academic journals like; J-store, Elsevier, Google-books, Routledge, Research-Gate, Dergi-park, etc. and have intended to compare that the attributes of state terrorism and the Taliban's state (1996-2001). Three maps, three graphs, and three tables were used to support my hypothesis. The data compiled from the sources were classified within the framework of the specified concepts and hypothesis and evaluated with critical, and scientific, methods. To test my hypothesis first I drove all features of state terrorism clarified by the scholars and then I used to compare characteristics of and the Taliban's government (1996-2001) and state terrorism, in the light of theories. However, due to security issues, it was not possible to conduct a survey in Afghanistan to make stronger our dissertation, thus it has been confined to be written in the light of the academic papers.

The thesis is concluded by explaining at what level the government of the Taliban was connected with state terrorism, and with suggestions and recommendations in the field of security, and the elimination of terrorism from Afghanistan.

PART I

1. HISTORY AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF TERRORISM

Theoretically, the thesis pursues and circulates around the concept of terrorism, therefore, in the first step it is necessary to pay attention to the history and theoretical background of terrorism and make it clear to understand the concept as explicitly as possible. Thus, this part is going to consist of the history of terrorism, clarification, and conceptualization of terror and terrorism, types of terrorism, the modern phase of terrorism, state terrorism, and as subtitles ISIS, terrorist groups as proxy warriors would be taken into consideration. Moreover, failed state and its impact on the rise of terrorism, the acceleration of globalization, and its effects on terrorism would be analysed. Finally, the first part end, by paying attention to terror as an instrument of international politics and imperialist aspirations.

1.1. History of Terrorism

The term terrorism backs to the first centuries of human history, though, this phenomenon has considerably risen after World War Two (WWII), and over 80 percent of the literature related to terrorism has been written after the devastating event of September 11, 2001. In contrast, if necessarily a period of history should be given a title, the first five decades of the 20th century would best suit to be called 'Age of Terror'. Because, the biggest slaughter of the history of human beings has been done in this era, and according to estimations 80 million people lost their lives. Though, terror has been there for all ages, as Hegel said that the "History is a slaughter-bench" (Villa, 2008: 98; Chaliand & Blin, 2007: 2-3).

The documented terror action from the first century BCA, which is attempted by Jewish they killed people with daggers in the centre of Jerusalem to indicate being opposite to the Roman rule, which is noted to be as a sign of separatist and nationalist terrorism. However, Hoffman regards it as religious terrorism and claims that some of the terms today we use in English are also derived from Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim terrorist groups. For example, 'Zealot' can be addressed as a Jewish terrorist group, etymologically that is defined as "fanatical enthusiast" or "immoderate partisan", and the word "thug" a similar example for Hindi terror act, which is rooted in the seven-century religious order, the Thugs used to murder to serve Mah-Kali the Hindu goddess of the terror. According to a few, they used to kill around one million people until its suppression in the mid-19th century. An example of Muslim terror is the Shi'ite Ismaili sect which is also called *Assassins* who fought against Christians who wanted to conquer Syria and Iran between years 1090-1272, the word 'assassin' means "*one who undertakes to put another to death by treacherous violence*" literally the word is derived from Hashish, or Hashishian the people who eat Hashish. (2003: 83-84; Hoffman, 1995: 271-272).

Terror has been radicalized through history, with the developmental technology and invention of mass destructive weapons it has reached its peak. For example, remote bombing is a gift of technology for the terrorists to spread violence, in which they place mass killing material in crowded areas and controls with a cell phone or a computer from far away, and explode it without harming themselves. According to Chomsky and Vltchek, even warfare took entirely a different face it is shifted from the man-to-man fight, and replaced with the latest mass killing weapons and drones which are considered to be synonymous with terrorism. Because, one side is killing people and destroying villages like playing a video game without harming themselves, and it is a complete disaster for the other side with mutilated and injured bodies (2017: 172).

At the end of the 18th century, the term terrorism has been used in a positive sense, but later on, it's changed to be a concept of abuse with criminal and offensive inclination. In the years of the French Revolution mainly between March 1793 and July 1794, the term terrorism is recognised as a similar concept for "reign of terror" afterward it has gained extensive implementation in the glossaries as a system of terror. However, the theme of terrorism has been used with an extensive meaning, as to become senseless, almost covering any, and not necessarily political brutality. It was being used like the term 'guerrilla', any person with a perspective of an organized coercive, compulsive threat and intimidation recognized to be a terrorist (Laqueur, 2002: 6). Hoffman (2003: 3) in the very beginning of his book "Inside Terrorism" ironically states that terrorism was closely related with the ideals of democracy and virtue in terms of its original context. And quoted thought of Maximilien Robespierre who is a French revolutionary leader; believed that the primary source of a popular government during peace is virtue, but when there is a revolution, virtue must go hand in hand with terror for democracy to gain glory. Furthermore, Hoffman directly quoted Maximilien's famous sayings "*virtue, without which terror is evil; terror, without which virtue is helpless*" and he also declared that "*Terror is nothing but justice, prompt, severe and inflexible; it is therefore an emanation of virtue*".

Terror can be seen historically in despotic and autocratic regimes either it can be considered the state or army. On the other hand, terror might be accepted as legal action in times of war, even if it is exerted on the public. Contemporarily bombed areas like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dresden¹, Coventry, and Tokyo can be noted (Chaliand & Blin, 2007: 2-3). Terrorism is a morally, emotionally charged, and politically controversial theme, which is raised as an inescapable, critical, and censorious characteristic of the statutory landscape and a view for both domestically and internationally. As with any venture to articulate the definition of a controversial concept, the mention of the concept 'terrorism' also undecives a series of depictions. Thus, its emergence as a ruthless and crucial matter has obliged the scholars to have an explicit meaning that in related circumstances the inclusion should be based, and in

¹ On February 13-15 of 1945, the Dresden City almost totally distracted by the Anglo-American air force dropping some 3,100 tons bomb during the WWII, which is marked as a symbol of 'terror bombing', as a result 25,000-35,000 civilians including women and children have been killed (form more information see <https://www.britannica.com/event/bombing-of-Dresden>).

that way, individuals, political communities, domestic and international organizations, and states conduct and govern their affairs. Initially, this term has to be distinguished from the other similar activities which are not terror, the conceptual separation is that it is distinct from the ordinary casual crime actions, legal counter-terrorism or state responses, and national freedom combats². However, having the above all counter concepts to characterize terrorism is occupied or fraught by complications, and the most considerable complexity is counter-terrorism, due to the fact that both 'terrorism' and 'counter-terrorism' produces violence and fear and subjects a wider spectators' purposively and instrumentally which impacts civilians and non-combatants. Therefore, it is hard to distinguish legal state responses from violent terrorist activities, and it may require a deeper concern on the range of responses of states, what they do and what they decide not to do, and the methods in which they avoid acting in the front of political violence activities (Ramraj et al., 2005: 2).

As it is implicitly stated above that it is hard to make clear that counter-terrorism is not terrorism but from the descriptions about the meaning of terrorism, it can be said that any organized, and calculated action which creates fear and violence can be realized as a terror act. Therefore, there should not be any kind of distinction between terrorism and counter-terrorism, and from another point of view, any action which causes social and psychological violence needs to be noted as violence. There shall not be sympathy for counter-terrorism unless the counteraction is for the sake of saving people and bringing peace then that is a kind of different case. Otherwise, if the counteraction is harsh and devastating for the society without concern about the damages it means that there is no difference between terrorism and counter-terrorism because they both do the same for the people and create a situation of chaos.

With this, the sovereignty of the state shall be maintained safe but if the state itself is in a corrupt position there is no sense of rule of law and legality. The sovereignty of a state is safe until it provides justice for the entirety of its citizens without making any differentiation among them. Otherwise, there will not be any division between a gang of bandits and the state, the dissimilarity among them is the state is sovereign which is given by the people to maintain justice and security; but a gang is not backed by the people and does not have any legal authority to the eyes of the people. Augustine criticizes the rule of unjust kings and gave the example of Alexander the Great and a pirate; he claims that there would not be any difference between a pirate and an unjust king or vice versa, or a kingdom (state) is only a bigger form of a gang, basically in his eyes; a pirate and a state owns the equal legitimate domains if they equally maintain justice (Mattox, 2012).

Briefly, it can be said that the term terror is one of the ancient concepts, which is effectively used in different periods of history by states and specific groups. In the course of history, terror was used by religious and non-religious groups to show their existence, power, and to have control over the land, etc.

² Freedom fighters are the people who fight against the external enemies for the sake of freeing the motherland from the hands of colonials, or fighting against inequality and an unjust government. In contrast, terrorists are the people who kill civilians and create fear among the society to reach different goals, they are mostly proxies of the external powers.

Mostly the reason behind the terror act seemed to be maintaining power, gaining power, and keeping the political position.

1.1.1. Terror and Terrorism

Terrorism is a devastating phenomenon based on political, and ideological intentions. From the etymological point, the word is derived from the word terror, which is authentically described as a system or a regime of terror (Primoratz, 2004: 15). It means the use of cruelty and violence to approach political aims, and empirically it is known as creating fear and fright in society to force political and ideological goals. It is claimed that terrorism occurs both against the state or the state organizes it for the sake of political interests. While considering the insurgencies against the government it can be seen that the intention is a political revolution with a small level of symbolic violence. Terrorist acts carry a political message and manage to go beyond harming the financial resources of an enemy. Victims or objects of these attacks have little intrinsic value to the terrorist group, but a delegate from a larger audience seeking the response of the terrorists (Crenshaw, 1981: 379). According to Hoffman, the fundamental characteristic of “terrorism” is as follows, it is a calculated, organised, and systematic act. However, what makes it difficult to come with a clear definition is maybe because its meaning is constantly altered over the past two centuries (2006: 3).

Walzer, (2006:3), believes that terrorism is the act of creating a widespread and extensive fear by killing innocent non-combatants including women and children. With a different definition, it is a kind of strategy appointed by non-state or state actors to maintain position and reach political aims, terrorists in general target civilians, they depend on violence bombing expending fear, and there is no specific motivation pertinent to their attacks. Throughout history, this brutality has been documented from the first century Sicarii Zealots, Mongol raiders who used to demolish cities to make sure that they are enough harsh and ruthless, and the 13th-century Shi'ite Assassins. However, there is a weak conceptualization related to these topics in the literature, but terrorism is considered to be a subject that takes place between vandalism and genocide. Contemporary terrorism is realized to be a kind of political brutality and recognized with an expansion in terrorist assaults in the international arena and that has been seen in the 1960s. It is believed that most books related to terrorism are written after the 9/11 attack, however, before that there was as well related literature on the subject but the 9/11 curved the attention of the researchers to focus on terrorism (Chen et al., 2008: 4-28; Reuveny & Thompson, 2010: 1; Chaliand & Blin, 2007: 2-3).

Terrorism exists in the world for centuries as a tragedy and buskin for victims, and because of its unexpected, rapid, and sudden happening, it has always got inordinate attraction, and from a historical point of view, it has not been just a nuisance it was more than a trouble. More than thousands of people have been killed ruthlessly in terrorist attacks, during the monarchy regime in Iran four hundred people

were burned in the Abadan district of the country in a cinema by opponents of the Shah. On December 29, 1997, four hundred twelve people including women and children were cut off to demise, in insulated settlements in Algeria's Elizane zone. In 1985 Sikh terrorists exploded an Indian airplane that resulted 328 death, in 1988, 278 people were hacked in Scotland's Lockerbie catastrophe that was accomplished by terrorists under the commission of Libya's Colonel Khadafi. In 1982 two hundred forty-one U.S marines were killed in Beirut by suicide bombers, right after three years, in 1985, and Libyan emissary bombed the French UTA plane which caused 171 death (Laqueur, 1999: 3).

In the near past, this phrase is described as the planned use of violence, anxiety, fear defining duress, force, or oppression. By the time its definition, tools, and target are also changing, the booby-trapped vehicle has been used as a bomb in Kansas City and in the event of the 9/11 airplane was the weapon of terrorism. Its expended goals and intentions consisted of political interest, retribution, and even heaven for religious people. Terrorism was always there, besides inducing fear and violence it also causes panic, antagonism, punishment, revenge, resolution, and commitment (Vogel et al., 2003).

It is easy to demonize terrorists. They attack civilians and kill as much as possible, generally, there are children as well among the victims, and they are no more satisfied by simple statements about the weakness of states. They do not have personal intentions and aims behind their actions, their motivations are based on sacred values like justice, religion, etc., which make them indefensible, and usually, they used to say that their attacks are a reaction to oppressive and imperialistic practices of the advanced countries (Flynn & Salek, 2012: 65). In contrast, according to Townshend (2002: 6), wars are also a kind of terrorism because of spreading fear and violence, a war without violence and fear cannot be imagined. Even though, its primary objective is creating an extensive fear among the people. From the historic point of view before invading the cities threat and intimidation were fully injected into the societies.

In recent times motivation for terrorism has slipped from political to fatalistic direction, it is more stimulated by the high number of dead bodies, rather than other motivating factors like religion (Hoffman, 1997: 48) or ethnicity. Because today's terrorism seems to be more nihilistic, however, the terms do not define exactly the same meanings but terrorists partially seem to be nihilistic in some cases. They are more likely interested to have tremendous exterminations and destructions of property and massive death, however, politically induced terrorism tends to have a confinement on the range of cruelty in order to make sure that it does not have an impact on the sympathy of supporters. From the passage above it is understood that more deadly weapons will be used by terrorists to kill and destroy more, soon they may like to use biological mass destruction weapons because those are highly lethal, have small size but are extremely cataclysmic, easy to be used and rapidly distributed, and it is cheaper than nuclear weapons (Byrnes et al., 2003: 28).

Having multiple descriptions of terrorism does not make it clear what does exactly it mean and who is responsible for it as an action, and what is the exact reason behind its occurrence and its proceeding, mostly it is discerned or recognized as an existential threat and ultimatum to the world. This issue especially grasped the attention of academics, politicians, and researchers after the event of 9/11, they tried to make its definition as clear as possible, in terms of what actions or kind of activities should be labelled as 'terrorist activism', though, this is not satisfactorily explicit to be understood by people, hence, currently, there is no encompassing definition for this concept (Haberfeld & Hassell, 2009: 1; Laqueur, 2002: 133). Walzer, (2002: 1), also make sure that it is among the contested concept at the same time he says that there are many concepts that are used as well included among the contested concept; such as democracy that is also not a clearly defined word but we have a description of what is and isn't it in our mind, so we do have a description of terrorism too. In addition, almost all of the political concepts are included among the contested concepts it won't be rational to expect a mathematical definition of any concept, because it is newer clear as $2+2=4$.

To sum up, terrorism is a calculated and organized action to spread violence in society to reach political or religious goals. It can be said that any organized and intentioned action which targets to pump fear into the community can be marked as a terror act without regarding who is/are behind the act. The conceptual meaning of the term has changed during history therefore, it does not have an explicit and generally accepted definition in the academic arena.

1.1.2. Types of terrorism

Expressing terrorism may not be as simple as it seems to be that is why it is necessary to know about the types of terrorism. Because it is already among the contested concepts, and an extremely broad term to describe any violent act to label as a terror act. Thus, to make it clear and specific, typology may help to have a brighter meaning and make it easy to understand.

There is a broadly used typology where the term 'terrorism' is divided into four categories; (1) Religion-based; (2) Nationalist/separatist; (3) Rightist; (4) Leftist or social revolutionary. However, the fifth and sixth types also exist, the fifth is the radicals who launch attacks under the name of saving the rights of animals, and the sixth is considered to be a hybrid or mixed type of it. Moreover, the most catastrophic one is state terrorism which is also known as political terrorism or terrorism from above. And there is also state-sponsored terrorism which can be labelled under state terrorism. The phenomenon has at least a root of 2000 years in the history of human beings. Throughout history, the term terrorism has taken many forms and in the first decade of the twenty-first century it has appeared in the form of Islamic fundamentalist organizations, though, violence and destruction also have seen to be done by extremist rightists as well and, those kinds of activities require to be responded and encountered, in the literature

which is called counter-terrorism. Thus, for an effective response, we need to understand the phenomenon and the pertinent radicalization processes of the concept (Koomen, 2016:1).

The conceptualization of the term 'terrorism' seems to be easy but it is not as it comes into view. In terms of ideological interpretations, the theme is not clear enough to be understood, particularly when it comes to the part of the states. In this relation, a comprehensive expression of the sources of terrorism is not an easy task, hence it is possible to make a useful beginning by creating a theoretical order for distinct kinds and levels of motives. Terrorism is a form of political behaviour that results from the deliberate choice of the terrorist organization, which is essentially a logical actor (Crenshaw, 1981: 380).

Now if we give an answer to the question "what terrorism is?" It can be said that any action spreads an extensive fear among society by killing people intentionally, randomly without discrimination in a very mysterious and unknown way. Furthermore, it is the creation of compulsive intimidation and also, a violent attack of a recognized or unknown group upon the state, for the sake of publicity or political motives that also can be considered a terror act (Coady, 2004: 4; Primoratz, 2004: 16).

In consequence, there are many types of terrorism which are religious, political, revolutionary, nationalist, etc. However, a similar thing among all types of terror actions is mostly the political motives, even most of the attacks done under the name of religious terrorism are also prone to earn political power. In some cases, while an organisation or a group is considered terrorist in the eyes of some can be as the freedom fighters in the eyes of others.

1.2. The modern phase of the Terrorism

It's believed that terrorism is an ancient phenomenon. However, it was not considered in terms of what we know in a modern sense, the theme of terror was not used as it is used by the academic and political world. The events which happened in ancient times seemed to be terror acts because from the theoretic point of view they have carried characteristics of terrorism. Though, those times the terror acts were named differently, such as barbarism, assassins, etc. Therefore, here we focus on the modern phase of terrorism.

Overwhelmingly, terrorism appeared in 1968 in a modern sense, and in the 1970s and 1980s, most of the terror groups were belonging to the left-wing of the European continent. In the 1950s the first terror groups have been seen in South America but there was a dramatic decline in their number by the 1970s respectively in those years other terror organizations have appeared. Furthermore, the early revolutionary groups were generally replaced by terrorists advocating religion, Islamic militants not directly backed by the state. On the other hand, the phrase Islamic Militants or Islamism who are considered to be Islamist fundamentalists claim that they are the only true Muslims which is a clear sign and characteristic of being fundamentalist, hence there is a lot of practitioners who are nor terrorists nor

fundamentalists. Therefore, any Muslim can raise the question on the falsehood of the term Islamic terrorism, however, there is also IRA (Irish Republican Army) and no one is calling this group as Christian terrorist nor Catholic terrorist, it shows that Islam is being abused by those groups that are acting under the name of Islam (Cooper, 2004: 1-2; Reuveny & Thompson, 2010: 2). After the Arab-Israeli war and victory of Israel provoked the Arab World and reappearance of the Islamic fundamentalists in the arena, at that time Islamic revolution of Iran, and the emergence of Mujahedeen with the intervention of the Soviets in Afghanistan also can be noted (Hashim, 2001: 15).

Furthermore, terrorism is recognized as one of the most important problems of the world in the 21st century, especially the countries where the majority of the population is Muslims are the ones who suffer the most from this terrible situation. As an action that is not known where, when, how it will emerge, but besides causing violence and fear it also causes physical, psychological, and financial relapses. This crucial movement is carried out by a certain part of the society, state, or internal and external organizations financially supported by external and internal powers. Since human life is understood to be the core value of all humanity, it can be rigorously claimed that terrorism is exactly the opposite thought of that value, because of creating fear, chopping heads, burning alive, and mass killing by suicide attackers, or shooting by a machinegun. The best-known example from Istanbul is the event of Reina Nightclub, while around 600 people were gathered to celebrate the entrance of the New Year 2017, in the nightclub a person with a machinegun attacked and killed 39 and injured 65 people (T24, 2017).

In addition, Hoffman (2001: 418), believes that there is almost no difference between old-terrorist groups and contemporary terrorist groups in terms of clarity of their motivational, political, ideological aims behind carrying out a terror act. Few of the terrorist groups are filled by religious radicalism rather than abstract political goals and motivated by unchangeable hostility toward the West to take revenge. In contrast, secular terrorists mostly claimed credit for their actions and explained the reasons behind their attacks, but few of the lethal attacks on civilians in the past years did not claim by any party.

In a nutshell, from the modern point of understanding 'modern terrorism' appeared after the mid-20th century. That was not linked with religious terrorism, mostly it was carried out by the leftist groups in both European and American continents. Later on with the emergence of religious militia groups such as Al-Qaeda, Hizb-I Ikhwan, IRA, etc. terror has got a religious face. And the event of 9/11 projected to the whole world a real scene from the modern terror act.

1.3. State Terrorism

The state is there to provide security, basic needs, a world standard of living, and well-being for its nation. When we try to merge the word terror with the state it sounds strange. Because it is conjectured that the state is the protector, not the destroyer, therefore, we cannot think of the terror acts led by the

state. Even though, the states are more capable of carrying out terror acts to have control over specific groups and maintaining power than the terror organizations. Hence to know about state terrorism it is necessary to focus on the topic as deep as possible.

To begin with, if we look at the nature of the foundation of states it can easily be seen that the states have been established by force. Gerth & Mills also quote Trotsky's speech at Brest-Litovsk where he said that; "states are founded on force" by approving him, they believed that if there were no social institutions aware of the meaning of violence there would not be administration called 'state'. Under such circumstances "anarchy" would be emerged with a specific meaning of the phrase. Obviously, force is not the norm and the only instrument of the state, however, that is only specific to a state. Pages of the history are witness that the use of violence and physical force faced quite ordinary, the connection between state and violence is exclusively cordial, and the determinative tool of politics is violence, the violent act is backed by the concept called "legitimate" (1946: 78 & 121), which approves and allows the political institutions to use violent means. Due to having legitimate power, the terror act done by the state is mostly ignored by the majority, which encourages the state to be harsher than in the past.

Thus, violence is an important part of creating terror in a society, so it can be claimed that; the cruel and violent action conducted by a state opposite to its own people or another state is called state terrorism. Which is also known as 'terrorism from above' (Smelser, 2007: 234), and the violent attacks which are not related to the state are considered to be defined as "terrorism from below". When political discourse first entered, the word 'terrorism' was used by referring to the reign of terrorism imposed by the Jacobean regime to describe state terrorism. There is also another example of state terrorism, the era of 'Great Terror' in the Soviet Union (Sproat, 1997: 117; Primoratz, 2004: 113). However, state terrorism has been marked to be the harsh and ancient form of terrorism, none of the terrorist groups are compared against the state terrorism that caused more casualties and pain to the people than any of terror groups (Wilkinson, 1981: 468; Nairn & James, 2005: 45), states indirectly uses violence to abolish the opposing parties for the sake of having full control over the nation. Though, in general, governments do not use sources of the state or military units to carry out a terror act, but they use different sponsored groups. Often, state terrorism appears as a chain of assassinations, abduction, and oppression in a country under totalitarian, militarist, or dictatorial regimes (Kastanidou, 2004: 19; Şimşek, 2016: 324). In addition, any torture or even execution carried by the state cannot be marked as state terrorism, when state intentionally makes the prompt victim serve as a symbol for the sake of grabbing the attention of the real target then it is called state terrorism and also Sproat, cites Dallin and Breslauer's definition of terrorism where they defined as arbitrary use of force, assassination by the state against people (Sproat, 1991: 25). Blakeley (2010: 23-24), defines state terrorism as the consequences of repressive, illegitimate action of the state.

Indeed, there is not much difference among the two kinds of terrorism (Non-State Terrorism and State Terrorism), they both carry similar features, such as political intention, spreading fear, targeting specific

groups, organised actions, etc., (Pisoiu & Hain, 2018: 157). In general, political motivations are explicitly can be seen as the main feature of terror acts, as Wilkinson (1974: 11), defines political terror as the use of spreading fear by individuals, states, or any movement. Therefore, state terrorism has been means of foreign and domestic policy for centuries, those are also defined as external and internal terrorism (Cindy & Martin, 2007: 307), and particularly it is rooted form the general ongoing war-making decisions, and those acts are tackled by great powers to passivate less equipped nations with weapons of mass destruction. Also, it is the crop of deranged and corrupted individual worriers and generals though, specifically, state terrorism is the terror act carried out by a state against its own people or another state, in a systematic manner (Selden & So, 2004: 6 & 9). Stohl (2006: 16), marks that the target group of the state terror is firstly dehumanized in the eyes of the actors who carry out the terror act in the name of the state.

In addition, “*political terrorism is goal-directed, employed in pursuit of political objectives. It is calculated violence directed at affecting the views and behaviour of specific groups*” (Shultz, 1978: 8), and Campos II (2007: 108), defined state terrorism as of any used violence to impact, compress and restrain opposition by an established system. Gibbs, (1989: 333), claims that when the official staff of the state engages with a terror act it can be labelled as state terrorism. According to Schmid, (1988: 53), if there is a consistent and routine terror act against the opponents of a government, and if the government does not take meaningful actions to end the violence, then actions are state terror at first glance. Walzer (2004: 130; Held, 2004: 62), defines state terrorism as an act of spreading fear by totalitarianism, and authoritarian regimes against people and oppositions to make them irresistible, Jarvis, & Lister, (2014: 49), argue that state terrorism is not only limited to totalitarian governments of the past centuries. Indeed, as every man is a potential murderer so, (Pisoiu & Hain, 2018: 161), all states including democratic ones as well can conduct terror acts, democratic states enjoy high legitimacy but, which do not also assure the legitimacy of the individual actions. While often, they are examined by the other organs of the state but in some cases like national emergency and war on terror, they also go beyond their legitimacy borders and apply terror acts.

Stohl, (1988: 169), introduces three forms of state terrorism (I), *Coercive diplomacy*, in which threat is openly sensed by the parties (II), *Covert state terrorism* which is consists of two types: (I), *Clandestine state terrorism* is that in which an agent of the state directly involves. (II), *state-sponsored terrorism* is that a group is being financially and weaponry supported by a state and the group carries terror acts on behalf of the sponsoring state, (III), *surrogate terrorism*, financially assisting a state or an insurgent group to make it stronger to practice terror. And, the third form is also consist of two categories: (I), *state-supported terrorism* is that the third parties undertake action which is later on supported by interested states, (II), *state-acquiescence* when a terror act occurs and also undertaken by third parties and not openly backed by the interested state and not explicitly opposed or condemned. McClintock (1991: 147), states that the primary actors of state terrorism are paramilitary troops, and armies, who

conduct random killing, kidnappings, assassinations, etc., on behalf of the state. The table below clarifies state conducted terrors according to the classification of Stohl, (1988: 169), as best as possible.

Nu	Name	Types	Feature(s)
1	Coercive Diplomacy	NA	Open threat
2	Covert State Terrorism	(I)Clandestine (II)State-Sponsored	(I)Direct involvement of an agent. (II)A group is financially and weaponry supported by a state to carry out a terror act.
3	Surrogate Terrorism: Financing a terror organization to make it stronger.	(I)State-Supported (II)State-acquiescence	(I) A conducted terror action is undertaken by a group, later the group is financed by a state. (II) An undertaken action by a group is not openly condemned.

Table 1. Classification of State Terrorism

Furthermore, it is a well-known fact that every organized huge action, like carrying out a terror act requires financial assistance, and other basic needs, thus, terrorists and other criminals as well need financial, residence, safe communications, and weaponry support to fulfil their obligations, which are not easily provided by any organization without the hand of government into the game (Stritzke et al, 2009: 75). On this occasion, the term ‘state-sponsored terrorism’ can be noted, as indirect state terrorism. As (Bayman 2020: 2; Cindy & Martin, 2007: 303), narrate that state-sponsored terrorism is the act of providing financial and weaponry aids by a state to enhance the capacity of an existing terrorist group.

However, terrorism is mostly considered to be an act done by non-state actors, it is among the contested concepts, it is like pornography you don’t know till you see it, there is no clear definition agreed by the scholars (Wight, 2009: 100; Blakeley, 2010: 13; Becker, 2006: 88). However, the history of human beings is full of violence of states, it does not need to go far to the first or second centuries, the First World War can be understood in a case that the new nations were in the era of formation and troops were fighting opposite to troops, but the Second World War was an obvious massacre and genocide. In this sense mass killings in the wars are not clearly marked to be a kind of terrorism or not. For example, the U.S.A. ruthlessly collapsed two of the mass nuclear bombs on two cities of Japan and killed millions of civilians including women and children who were not engaged with the war at all, it was not a face to face war of troops, it was an exact ruthlessness and explicit genocide because they were aware of the consequences of the bombing (Nairn & James, 2005: 224).

On the other hand, under the name of counter-terrorism the states have been examined to be more violent than the non-state terror organizations. Especially when the state begins to kill or incarcerate people with a suspicion of being related to terror organizations. Moreover, in a few countries like India, Pakistan, and the African continent the state terrorism is realized to be the consequence of colonialism (Jackson et al., 2010: 2).

One of the other important ambiguities related to state terrorism is that the academic field is expendably under condemnation for not making a clear and continuous examination of state terrorism. Contrary to "terrorism from above", the indication of almost completely focusing on "terrorism from below" is that only less than two percent of articles among the years 1990 to 1999 focus on state terrorism, and only 12 out of 768 pages in the World Terrorism Encyclopaedia by 1997 is recorded. In part, this stems from the infrequent application of describing terrorism only as a form of non-state violence, see also (Primoratz, 2004: 113).

The reason behind such interpretation is that by questioning the action of the state it may seem to be questioning the sovereignty of the state, and also everyone in the country is the subject of the state which is the authority powered by the people. Therefore, any action of the state is considered legal, which is for the sake of stabilization and development of the country. Though terrorism is a strategy of political violence that any actor can use, including states, and states are more capable of good organisation than the non-state actors, thus, throughout history, they killed many more people and caused much more material and social destruction than "terrorism from below". From a political normative view, the terror studies seem to be prejudiced to examine the "terrorism from above" particularly towards Western state beneficiations acted as a partner that raises the question on the objectivity of this field. In the colonial era and during World War II, most of the Western states attempted to be harsher, and widespread use of terror and torture has been well-documented, the Cold War period, counterinsurgency and pro-riot campaigns, both the right and left-wing states used to be effective sponsorship of the terrorist groups and militias, for the sake of campaigning counter-terrorism, many Western states have appointed terrorism, which are the most prominent examples of state-terrorism. Not having a successful examination of state terrorism or blaming it with the similar ethical certain concept as "terrorism from below" seems to be pro-Western prejudice and some forms of toleration for specific kinds of terrorism implemented by the state (Jackson, 2008: 26).

Murphy and Tamana reference Martin and Jackson, where Martin defines state terrorism which is operated by government agencies and personnel, and oriented by state officials, and backed for intimidation and violence policies. According to the definition of Jackson, state terrorism is a kind of political violence that includes four main features; (I) it is a predetermined strategy of political violence to pursue strategic goals. Therefore, it means political motivation or undesired consequences of this violence rather than random acts of violence. For this reason, spontaneous social uprisings will be removed from such a definition because they are not intentionally planned. (II), it is a form of political

communication whose primary audience is not a victim of terrorism. Thus, he acts to deliberately convey a political message on terrorism. For example, terrorist acts such as kidnapping, torture, and disappearance give all citizens the message that the state is strong and will brutally crush any opposition. (III), by definition, the main purpose of terrorism is to deliberately cause a kind of threat and fear. (IV), terrorism is not primarily directed, and it does not need to target specifically ordinary citizens (Jackson et al., 2010: 49-50).

Managing terrorism first refers to the huge global security effort that is currently dedicated to the war against terrorism. Its primary purpose is to bring Western security technologies within the political rationalities and computational control in order to destroy terrorism or reduce it to manageable rates. In this sense, the aim is to eliminate terrorism through the advancement of good government or at least to make terrorism manageable through the advancement of security technologies. In this relation, political rationalities and security technologies have become a major extension and concentration of almost all sights of Western existence. Though, governing terrorism points out that local and global Western policies are also determined by extensive anxiety of terrorism. The radical uncertainty leads the western societies to be governed by terror with the intention of taking it within the circle of their rational politics and state-owned technologies are subject to reread terrorism continuously. There is also more effort to put in governing terrorism, a deeper suspicion of more terrorist governors coming to govern (Dillon, 2007: 8).

The concept that state terrorism describes a relationship among strong government and suitably weak victims and swashing terrorism refers to an affair between weaker and stronger sides. If the wars are included in analysing terrorism it is obvious that there is violence in it, and the expression of having securing or maintaining control over people seems proper to be called state terrorism, but it is very ambiguous for various political purposes of different non-state terrorist organizations (Smelser, 2007: 46 & 234).

The all-known definition of terrorism, in theory, consists of all kinds of it, including state conducted genocides, and state terrorism which is in the interest of state politics. In the literature, it can be seen that there is a distinguished ambivalence in clustering the two in reference to the same description. State terrorism differs from insurgent terrorism, it is organized and ordinary, multi-purpose systematic killing and degradation by a group of designated frighteners to maintain state or domination of a group of people in power and social order; in a sense, it must be known to the household, and it has the intended effect, not to suppress them rather than provoke political reactions, but is not always hidden from the outside view, but often this is not a delicate balance between being hidden and being known. Moreover, while analysing the course of the great Asian wars in the twentieth century conducted by different states, catches the concerns on those wars civilians and people who were not the warriors are targeted to be harmed, displaced, and even killed in a systematic manner, and that operation is called state terrorism. However, researchers always studied state terrorism and wars together, it is rarely examined within a

single circle or comparatively. Finally, back to the determinants, state terrorism is not the activity of those who feel unprofitable and weak, but violence carried out by the group that owns authority and violence in society. Therefore, while state terrorism creates open spaces for genocide and ethnic cleansing, it seems analytically not recommended to force them into a marriage with a descriptive and notional identification with 'terrorism from below' (Smelser, 2007: 246; Selden & So, 2004: 4-6-21).

In this relation, Cambodian genocide under the leadership of Pol Pot can be addressed, which was noted to be systematic persecution of the people, and forcing the country to adopt communism. That caused the deaths of more than 1.5 million people between the years 1975-1979, in many different fatal ways like execution, starvation, inadequate healthcare (Kiernan, 2003: 586-587; Walque, 2005: 352; Locard, 2005: 125). The Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot were backed by the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Zedong. It is believed that about 90% of the aid came from China to establish a social agrarian republic in Cambodia. Also, this case can be addressed as one of the good examples of state-sponsored terrorism by China during the Khmer Rouge of Cambodia.

For any reason, giving a name would not make any difference in the reality of the case whether it is done by state or non-state actors. Though, state terrorism is much more destructive than non-state terrorism (Jackson, 2008: 378). Both of them exactly do the same thing if there is casualty, violence, and devastation, thus, there is no differentiation between the two, because with distinct understandings they both act similarly.

To sum up, states have better organizational capacity and are also able to erase the obstacles regarding the occurrence of the action. In 'terrorism from below' the organization thinks that they are fighting for the right of their nation, culture, language, etc., and in 'terrorism from above' the state claims that it is protecting the nation, culture, language, etc. As a result, the consequences are identical, the only difference is one has legitimate power and the other has no legitimation in the eyes of people. Indeed, most people are not aware of what is going on, in the political world, and most are not careful about it. On the other hand, the concept is really ambiguous and its uncertainty leads it to be not understood by people in a clear sense because it is widely believed that the state is always great and it does not act wrong or does not abuse power. That is why few of the obvious wrong deeds of the states are always ignored by citizens and the international arena as well or through their organizational capacity, the states easily justify the exercise of power in varying manifestations.

1.3.1 ISIS an Attempt at State Terrorism

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is one of a good example of a terror state, Al-Baghdadi who took the leadership of the organization in 2010, and this group claims to be fighting for the land, which is financially a self-sufficient organization, known as terrorist by the whole world. They used to raise funds from illegal ways, monthly around \$1 million in 2008 and 2009. Under the leadership of Baghdadi, they

started siphoning Iraqi oil, opening gas stations in the north, and extorting money from industrial contractors. In June 2014 it was declared a caliphate by the militant group in Iraq and Syria (Gabriel, 2015: 2). According to an estimate, by November 2014 they raised \$1 to 3 million per day, and at the end of the year, there were about \$2 billion raised. Therefore, this organization is noted to be the best-funded terrorist group by David Cohen U.S. Treasury under Secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence (Stergiou, 2016: 3 & 4).

However, this organization in certain parts of Iraq and Syria tried to indicate that they are killing people for the sake of Islam as God wished to protect the nation and their community. ISIS is recognised to be one of the radical Islamic groups that provide facilities for criminal operations. Moreover, this group used social media effectively they have shared violent videos, even after the terrorist attack of 9/11 (Mehlman, 2019: 1; Laqueur & Wall, 2018; Gabriel, 2015: 3), it is a known fact that in this way they have recruited people from all over the world. According to a few narrations from the people, their agents contacted the social media users to join ISIS, to fight for the sake of God to go to paradise. Mostly, devoted radical Muslims from both genders male and female joined the organization from not only Muslim World but also from all over the world, the women were there for fulfilling the sexual desire of the so-called Jihadists. In this relation, Mehlman as well describes stories of many girls who joined ISIS and states that the recruiter is very skilful to grab the attention of the people and to promise anything which is not in the life of the targeted person and makes believe the person to join the group and fill the voids in life (2019: 31). ISIS has recruited twenty thousand people from different nations including European, Canadian, and American (Gabriel, 2015: 3).

Moreover, this terrorist organisation is killing innocent non-combatants, and trying to spread its members into other countries, and they have good relations with the different terror organizations such as the Taliban of Afghanistan. Obviously, ISIS does not stand back from doing any kind of terror activities, like training suicide attackers, butchering civilians, or massacres. According to the report of Haber Turk (2016), ISIS has killed 211 and injured thousands of people only from Turkey in thirteen terrorist attacks between 2014 and 2016 starting from Nigde province, they have organised attacks in different parts of the country. And according to the Global Terrorism Index (2016: 4 & 13), this terror organisation surpassed Boko Haram in 2015, in 252 different cities it was responsible for the death of 6141 people. Only the attack in the train station of Ankara killed 105 people on 10.10.2015, the assailants were members of ISIL.

As it is mentioned above that they use social media in a very effective way from appointing people into the group to uploading videos of terror activities. People watch them as horror movies, we all are witnesses of the video where a group of people burns two people alive, and the person claims that the burning people are Turkish soldiers. Hence, according to the report of Ileri Haber (2016), the case was not clear enough to make sure that they were Turkish soldiers, in this relation, the Turkish politicians

and heads of the Turkish army have no clear answer related to the issue, and parents of the soldiers as well cannot get any news from their sons.

Overall, the terroristic deeds of ISIS, do not decline its statehood but define it as a terror organization that does not have any mercy to its oppositions. They have contained every characteristic of being a terrorist organization, such as chopping heads, burning alive, shooting to death, etc. Coming to its statehood it is a matter of de facto, not de jure, according to the Montevideo Convention of 1933, it contains all features of being a state.

1.3.2 Terrorist Groups as a part of Proxy Wars

Wars are the heaviest and financially devastating actions to be taken by a state or a militia group. Without having sufficient financial support it seems that organizing a war would not be possible, because only having a handful of warriors with no weaponry and finance would not provide ground for war to happen. Thus, it can be said that all wars and terror acts are organized, calculated, and carried in a systematic manner with the financial and weaponry support of internal and external powers. The fighting parties can be proxies fighting against their states or it can be the states fighting opposite proxies.

As it is understood from the meaning of the word “Proxy” it is a war conducted and financially supported by some people or a state who might be internal but mostly to implement political goals and obligations on behalf of the provokers into a society. Indeed, it is similar to terrorism but differs in terms of mass destruction, while terror groups create fear killing non-combatants and civilians for imposing few clusters of regulations and aiming political goals and overthrowing the government, and establishing their state, etc. However, proxy wars are short-term face-to-face combats that are mostly considered to be freedom fighters against unjust governments or as nationalist-separatist groups. In contrast, terror is a sudden occurrence prone to enormous devastation, but the terrorist groups as well mostly are proxies of the external or internal powers with different manners and goals.

Albeit, any fighting party is not realized as a terror group, till the government defines it so. For example, PKK is a fighting group against the Turkish government for almost 40 years, which is notified as a terror organization by the Turkish government. Though this group is not a terror organization in the eyes of most of the European states, even PKK has de-jure offices in a few of the European countries. Cindy & Martin, (2007: 304), claim that Tehran used to support many groups like Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Lebanese Hizballah, and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Which all were fighting groups in their country of origin by the sponsorship of Iran, thus, they can be marked as proxies of Iran.

And throughout this thesis, we will see that the Mujahedeen who fought against the Soviet Union was financially backed by the USA via Pakistan. The Taliban has been supported by Saudi Arabia even now

the Taliban has offices in Kuwait. It makes clear that those kinds of fighting groups can be proxies of the external powers.

Shortly, it can be said that the proxy wars opposite to the state are defined by the state as terrorist acts. However, proxy wars seem to be distinct from terror acts, because they are considered to be wars for the sake of independence, justice, etc. Though, terror acts and proxy wars share a few similarities like; having political goals and being organized, and supported by an external or internal party. But it differs from the point of not targeting civilians, and not aiming for mass killings.

1.4. Failed State and Terrorism

The primary obligation of a state, in theory, is maintaining a secure life for its citizens, and without security, there would not be a notable development in the country, and it leads the state to be marked as a failed state. The question here is that terror organizations lead a state to failure, and a successful state should be capable of counteracting and eliminating terror from its territory. Thus, few of the Middle Eastern countries are devastated and burned into the fire of terrorism, many terror organizations have been established and supported by people, and external state terrorism, due not having a sufficient powerful central government, which forced people to leave their homeland and immigrate to neighbour countries. For example, the Syrian civil war and the emergence of ISIS caused thousands of dead and millions of refugees all around the world.

Therefore, when a state loses legitimacy or the branches of the state couldn't function well enough it leads the state to be considered as a failed state (Piazza, 2008: 470). Besides, in the weak states, the central government does not have full control over the territory, also there is no lasting control over its borders, public services and institutions are highly insecure, the constitution is vulnerable to internal complexities. These symptoms can be seen in low-performing economies, the state failure indicates that the government cannot entirely maintain authority, institutions, or public services. Essentially, in a failed state, there is not a sovereign central government to control the country (Newman, 2009: 422).

There are mainly three elements which are; '*Capacity, Security and Legitimacy Gaps*' lack of them indicates the state's failure; the *Capacity Gap*: is that the state is not able to provide basic needs of the population, which is the minimal goods expected from the state. However, the minimal capacity varies from place to place, which cannot be standardized. The *Security Gap*: where a state is not able to provide minimal security to its people and even cannot defeat the organized armed groups. The *Legitimacy Gap*: (Public recognition, rule of law, legality) is that the notable elites and population of the state do not accept the legitimacy of the authority of the state, which is considered to be the internal *Legitimacy Gap* and that leads the state to experience the external *Legitimacy Gap* too (Call, 2010: 306-308; Hehir, 2007: 313). However, defining the concept of 'Failed State' is not as vivid as it appears to be but fundamentally, it can be said that, a state which is not able to serve its population (Call, 2008: 1494).

The failed or failing states are the open places for the development of terrorism and arm conflict and host illegal commercial networking due to ineffective rule of law, also because those states easily can be penetrated by the terror organizations, there are also facilities to recruit people into the terror organizations from those states. Therefore, the organizations take advantage of the failing and failed states (Piazza 2008: 471). It is also speculated that these states are the transit for chemical, nuclear and biological weapons, also these kinds of states do have poor health care systems which cause to have a higher rate of deathly illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, the failed states also have direct or unwilling negative effects on the region, from the point of providing a breeding ground for terrorism the failed states are a threat to international interests because it thrives international terrorism at the same time (Newman, 2007: 466). In addition, in a failed state poor economy causes and forces the people to compromise with the illegal deeds, such as opium production and trend, and pressurises overseas illegal migrations (Mallaby, 2002: 3). Though, the concept of 'Failed State' emerged as a response to the armed conflicts and problems during the Cold War (Call, 2010: 305).

The recent history with the emergence of the Taliban led the Afghan state to failure, which is one of the good examples of the 'failing due security gap'. However, the Taliban re-established a central government in the country restored the law based on a brutal interpretation of the Sharia-Law, though, institutionally the government was less fail than the preceding government (Bøås, & Jennings, 2007: 479).

To sum up, the failure of the state is a consequence of not well functioning of the branches of the state. That opens ground for the emergence of different phenomena, like terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal taxing, etc. Terror organizations and drug suppliers use the failed state as their safe haven. Due to losing legitimacy and not having a strong economy, the state cannot control the system properly.

1.5. Terrorism and Globalization

There is no fully and clearly accepted meaning of the theme 'Globalization' which is a vividly ambiguous term. Every scholar has defined it according to their understanding, globalization is the process in which an event or a decision in one part of the world affects the other side, and this linkage connects different societies to build a new order in the world. Historically globalization has passed through three stages, in the first stage main route of globalization was the land and sea, in the second phase machinery transportation and communication highly transformed it into a new era, the third one is the era of the internet which has accelerated its process as much as possible (Khan & Estrada, 2016: 1812-1814). However, globalization is not a new phenomenon in the history of human beings, from the history of ancient Greek and Hellenistic culture and its spreading in a few decades from Europe to Asia is a good example of it. Furthermore, the emergence of Islam and its spread whole over the world and

its effect is a well-known fact. However, at those times globalization was moving slowly indeed it was happening, but in the 21st century, it exploded as big as possible.

The globalization process of terrorism was mostly realized right after the attack of 9/11, which was noted to be done by the radical Muslim group so-called Al-Qaeda. However, some scholars like Lim (2002: 703), do not believe in the efficacy of globalization on terrorism, she stated that globalization has a tiny linkage with terrorism and Islam. Most of the terrorist activities which are afflicted the world are more likely to be local, not global, to back her argument she gives the most known examples of rising terrorism locally not globally such as Catholics and Protestants in Ireland; Hindu Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka; Uyghurs in China; Hindu Nationalists in India. Even the event of 9/11 was not exactly an indicator of global terrorism, the leader of Al-Qaeda Usama Bin Laden³ (1957-2011) related to the attack did not mention globalization, he was not pretending to give it a shape of global terror, just he was talking against the U.S military and economic sanctions and bombing of Iraq.

In contrast, the event of 9/11 was a turning point of global terrorism, during those times many people were questioning the future viability of the global economy, it is believed that transactional terrorism is an outcome of economic globalization, which caused the attack on the World Trade Centre. In addition, with globalization and enhancement of cross-border trades, the number of commercial vessels and containers respectively increased, those vehicles provide the facilities of smuggling weaponry or terrorists themselves. The analysis shows that terrorists act logically, they are rational actors because they are able to maximize, rank order preferences, and are goal-oriented, even in some cases they also negotiate with the legal authorities (Li, Q., & Schaub, 2004: 230-31-32). Moreover, global terrorism is international terrorism in which a terrorist or a terrorist group operates and spreads violence or kills people of a country that is not their origin (Zimmermann, 2011: 153).

Briefly, the invention of the internet and its accessibility by everyone accelerated the pace of globalization. In a way, globalization and technological development are beneficial in all fields, it is a fact that the terrorists also enhance their abilities with the help of progressing technology in the illumination of progressing globalization. Occasionally, the terrorist groups effectively use every opportunity as well as possible, on the internet, they target youth and encourage them to join their groups, and globalization provides ground for transactional terrorism. It can be understood that globalization is not the right word to put it side by side with terrorism; because people are not prone to take part in terror acts. Globalization is more likely to be related to the economy and shared values of human beings, such as culture, language, literature, etc.

³ Usama was an Arab from Saudi Arabia son of Mohammad bin Laden who was a highly rich and famous person who owned a construction industry and had restored the Mosque of the prophet Mohammad in Medina and the grand mosque in Macca city. Mohammad bin Laden was the father of 54 children from 22 wives and Usama bin Laden was one of them. He was not a remarkable student and was a shy child, he had no more than four wives at the same time. After the six days of the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 victory of Israel and the defeat of Arab states had a fundamental impact on him (Harshe, 2012: 92).

1.6. Terror as an Instrument of International Politics and Imperialist Aspirations

In the contemporary American political culture, the U.S presidents arouse terrorism as essential collateral in their ideological and political formulation, however, the assurance of this argument remains open to debate. It's argued that terrorism is an ideology that pretends to benefit the stronger party, and some others deny and believe that the term terrorism does not explain and evaluate the conditions or cannot provide guidance for people. Examining the rights of these two opposite opinions directly relies on the expression of ideology which is already included among the contested concepts. However, terrorism is not an ideology but it seems to be an essential function of U.S politics, and which is not a successful one to bring caution and a positive orientation among the members of a party. Hence, it acts as an ideology in the political order, albeit, having a contrasting nature it is not an adaptable behaviour in the American society (Winkler, 2006: 7).

Moreover, in American political understanding, it can be clearly seen that each president has been using terrorism differently. In the 1980s as an election campaign, Ronald Reagan promised Americans that he would respond to the terror issue, but unlike the other era's terrorism dramatically increased from eight percent to almost thirty percent in his presidential period between the years 1983 to 1988. And about five thousand attacks took place worldwide, the Middle East turned to be the concerned spot of terrorism. More than five hundred and fifty Americans lost their lives in that period (Winkler, 2006: 65). In carrying out terrorism in the Middle East and Mediterranean region the US had a big hand, and in many cases such as El Salvador, Guatemala terror operations, and the enhanced oppression in Honduras, the US involvement also can be seen (Chomsky, 1989: 92).

Selden describes Japan and America as examples of the terror state in the twentieth century in most of the Asian wars. Those acts of Japan were noted to be the failure of WWII in 1945, in consequence, the United States of America has grown in quantity, intensity, and violence in the post-war time to the present day. Furthermore, the new form of state terrorism has appeared in the Vietnam and Korean Wars, where the U.S appointed new tactics and strategies using indiscriminate airpower to destroy and kill, in this way the difference among the civilians and troops has been drowned and caused a mass amount of civilian casualty. And one of the other improvements was the widening of bombing towns from there to the countryside with the combination of Agent Orange as a defoliant which costing damage and wrought throughout the villages. Bombing manoeuvres during wars can be defined as the best examples of state terrorism, these kinds of campaigns have been demonstrated by both U.S and the Soviets during the war in Afghanistan, Gulf War, and Bosnia War waged by West European states and the U.S.A as well (Selden & So, 2004: 7).

State terrorism has been played by many states but literally, it was the act of the great powers. In this relation, the base of most wars in Asia has been supported by the U.S.A, such as Gulf War, Korean War, and Indochina Wars, which can be indicated as example conflicts which all are in a way were victims

of the U.S state terrorism. However, the obvious ones are the atomic attacks during WWII in the two Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, genocide in Nogunri⁴ city of Korea, and the massacre of My Lai of Vietnam are well-known records. Though, after WWII, it was the leading force to arrange the war crimes courts in Tokyo and Nuremberg, but it did not face any international tribunal for its deeds. In the 1990s by the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there has been an evident change in the features of state terrorism. As a result of this change the U.S.A restrained from using nuclear weapons in the Indo-China wars, and in the Korean War, which leads it to an unprecedented contribution to long peace in Europe (Selden & So, 2004: 14).

Analysing, the whole terroristic deeds of the U.S.A or Japan won't be possible here but as examples, it is clear that these parties have used terrorism to reach their goals. It specifies that most of the other powers throughout history used terrorism as a tool of creating fear and threat to rule over the weak parties. It has been used as a kind of tactic to win the wars, there were massacres, genocides, homicides, and ethnic cleansing, in all lands in a different way. In the second part of the thesis, we will focus on the history of wars and geopolitical characteristics of Afghanistan, and the background of the emergence of the Taliban.

⁴ In late July 1950, around 400 civilians including women and children brutally killed by the U.S soldiers, under a bridge near No Gun Ri, the victims were South Korean refugees (Choe, S., Hanley, C. J., and Mendoza, M., 1999).

PART II

2. GEOPOLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN

When we write about the Taliban it is unavoidable not to focus on the geopolitical characteristics and a brief history of Afghanistan, because the Taliban has organized and risen from that lands. Therefore, this part of the thesis is separated to give information about the geography, and a brief history of Afghanistan. That includes the history of Anglo-Afghan wars, the modernization period, Soviet Intervention, the emergence of Mujahedeen, and the Taliban. This part is concluded by giving information about the different ethnic groups living in Afghanistan.

2.1. Geopolitical Characteristics of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a landlocked mountainous territory located in South-Central Asia, it shares borders with Pakistan in the south and east; in the west with Iran; Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are in the north; and its border with China is from the far northeast. The country has a drought or semi-drought continental atmosphere with hot summers and harsh winters (Acquah, 2017: 3). However, weather changes radically between the zones, because of the significant alteration in topography. Generally, the humid term starts with winter till the early spring, the whole country is marked as dry, and it would be possible to divide its climate into six different zones.

The Hindu-Kush Mountains divide the country into north and south. Afghanistan is a rich land in terms of natural resources, however, due to the fact that insecurity and terrorism are two of the obstacles of not developing effectively. According to an estimation, its resources are more valuable than the millions of the American dollar. And according to Al-Jazeera and the Diplomat reports, Afghanistan is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources, its rich in talc, gold, copper, marble, lithium, uranium, and other elements, the value of these minerals is roughly estimated to be 1-3 trillion dollars. Hence analysis shows that the government is losing 300m dollars in revenue each year from mining. Having such rich natural resources but not having the opportunity of using them effectively, leads this country to be included in the list of the poorest nations of the world (Hamdam, 2016; Pikulicka-Wilczewska, 2019; Katawazai, 2020).

In terms of geopolitics as is stated above that this country shares a border with key player countries (Hamdam, 2016) in Asian politics. Like China, Iran, Pakistan, and central Asian countries, which means that this land has an especial place in the eyes of superpowers particularly the U.S.A because possibly the U.S wants to keep its hegemony toward the other regional, and superpowers. Therefore, being in

Afghanistan provides facilities for visioning Russia toward central Asian countries, controlling China, Iran, Pakistan, and India over Pakistan. That is why the USA in a way entered the land after the 9/11 attack to shut down Al-Qaeda, though Al-Qaeda was not really activating in Afghanistan.

After World War II, the US opened the Western bloc and the Soviet Union opened the eastern communist bloc and saw the collapse of the British colonial rule in the continent and the Soviet Union emerging as a superpower. Afghanistan has lost its geopolitical value with the departure of the Army of the UK from India until the Western bloc has found an ally in Pakistan to counter Soviet expansion. However, in 1979, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan made the country once again the centre of attention, and the strategic balance of the subcontinent was significantly changed by the intervention of regional players. The geographical strategic importance of Afghanistan on the above ground cannot be ignored and has gained even more importance with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Indeed, the land has raised as a new spot of terrorism (Essays UK, 2018), because there was not a stable government to have overall control of the territory.

The establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the start of the war in Afghanistan in 2001 carried a dramatic change in geopolitical conditions in Central and South Asia. By 2019, major power policy is at the forefront of national security issues. China has forcibly defended its role and effect in the global order and Russia has become a more struggling power. In conjunction with these two developments, Central Asia has the potential for a geostrategic economic corridor supported by unprecedented Sino-Russian cooperation in Eurasia. Above mentioned those two powers are trying to take advantage of post-NATO Afghanistan by denying the continuous penetration of the US in South Asia and securing their regional attention. As America's commitment to Afghanistan remains under greater pressure, China and Russia keep playing the game for long, by backing all parties of the conflict in Afghanistan. On the other hand, Iran also plays the role of adding complexity because of its progressively irritating affairs with the USA and its expanding systematic relationship with Russia. Iran is trying to expand its regional influence, like China and Russia, by increasing the support for the Taliban, as a response to the American sanctions, it is providing further opportunity by proxy. The return of the great power geopolitics changed the strategic conditions of Afghanistan and affected the long-term concern of the USA and its future as well. These conditions reinforce Pakistan's persistent importance to the strategic flexibility of America, especially in an age of great renewed power rivalry (Gilchrist, 2019).

In a nutshell, in terms of geopolitics Afghanistan is located in an important position, because of sharing borders with the previous superpowers like the Soviets and English Empire, and today's rising powers like China, India, and Iran. Throughout history, the territory was home and battlefield to spectacular empires, and after the mid-20th century, the country has grabbed the attention of the Soviets and the USA. As a consequence of the cold war between the USA and the Soviets, Mujahedeen and the Taliban have emerged and that was the initiation of the upcoming unstoppable war in the country.

2.2. A Brief History of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is an ancient country, it has experienced the Bactria, Hellenistic Civilization, Mongol, and Turkic Empires. It was the land of civilizations and it was the battlefield of the warriors throughout history. It has lived its civilization by Turkic Empires like Ghaznavid, Seljuqids, Timurid, Baburid Empires. The last Turkic king of the land was Nadir Afshar who was the most known ruler of the Afsharid Empire, right after his death the power was overtaken in 1747 by Ahmad Shah Abdali who was an ethnic Pashtun general of the Nadir Shah and named the land Afghanistan (the land of Afghans). However, in a modern sense, Abdurrahman Khan is generally accepted to be the founder of Afghanistan in 1880 (Khan, 1998: 489).

Due to the fact that the Afghanization period was started by the government of Abdurrahman Khan, the government ordered Pashtun tribes to settle in the northern part of the land which is considered to be Pashtun colonialism by the local population of the continent. And, central Afghanistan is filled with nomad Pashtuns, where the local population is Hazara people. Since that period Pashtuns have not lost the rule over the land for a long period, they were always the dominant power in the politics in the country. In 1823, 40,000 Square miles of the land was annexed to the British Empire, which divided the Pashtun population into two, which later in 1948 became a part of Pakistan (Khan, 1989: 489). In contrast to Khan's report, the 40,000 square miles of the land has been given to the British Empire under a bilateral agreement between the Empire and Abdurrahman Khan the king of Afghanistan on November 18, 1893 (Britannica; Wikisource.org; Rahi, 2014). However, Afghan people believe that the deed was signed for 100 years period, which means that the land has been given to the British Empire for rent for one century from 1893 till 1993, albeit, which has nothing to do with the treaty. While the establishment of Pakistan in 1947 there was a complex about this issue (CIA, 1961: 1; Schons, 2011), it has not been solved with the second agreement in 1905 as well, Amir Habibullah claimed over the land and refused to accept the Durand Agreement which was signed by his father (Biswas, 2013: 12) till now the line between Afghanistan and Pakistan is not officially accepted by the Afghan state. They claim almost half of the territory of Pakistan belongs to Afghans, and according to the Durand Agreement the land should be annexed to Afghan territory.

In terms of religion, 99% of the country is considered to be Muslim. Islam has been introduced to the land in the reign of Al-Ma'mun in the seventh century, by the conquest of Ghazna by Sabuktegin and his son Mahmud this religion has been spread almost to the whole part of the continent. Islam was not only on a moral and legal basis, it was the main nerve of the society, and also an institution of education. However, in some parts Shamanism was practiced by local minorities. Even today, education in Afghanistan is based on religious teachings, every educated person has knowledge of Islam and the religious leaders are the key figures of the community (Nagamine, 2015: 11-12).

Consequently, with the slipping of power into the hands of Pashtuns, they named the country Afghanistan, which means the land of Afghans. By this they have tried to create an Afghan nation for centuries, however, they have not succeeded. On this occasion, they used different ways like assimilating the other tribes, and to do this they used force and have launched forced immigration from the south of the country to the north.

2.2.1. Anglo-Afghan Wars

In a modern sense, Afghanistan was established in 1880. Before that three Anglo-Afghan wars took place in history, the first war was in 1816, while the King of Afghanistan was Dost Muhammad Khan who was the strongest face of the Barakzai dynasty, who tried to keep the balance between the two powers Russia and the British Empire. Hence, both of the powers were manoeuvring for influence in Afghanistan, the British thought that Dost Muhammad was not able to resist Russia and he is hostile to the British therefore, they directly decided to take the rule of the land. Initially, they lead an unsatisfactory negotiation with Dost Muhammad, and then marched an army to occupy the land, the exiled ruler of Afghanistan Shah Shuja was placed on the throne by the British. Dost Muhammad escaped to Balkh later to Bukhara and arrested there, and escaped from jail went to Afghanistan among his people, in the war in 1840 he sparked well, but the next day surrendered by the British in Kabul and deported with his family to India.

The war was continuing all over the country and British Empire finally realized that their position was indefensible. Therefore, they decided to discuss with Akbar Khan son of Dost Muhammad the conditions for withdrawing from the land, during party one political agent of the British was killed by the Afghans. Eventually, the British army left in 1842, and in the same year, Kabul was attacked by the new governor-general of India, and Kabul was reoccupied. In 1843 Dost Muhammad back to Kabul and took the power again (Britannica, 2020).

The Second Anglo-Afghan War occurred in 1878, during the service of Lord Lytton governor-general of India. At that time Russian influence on Afghanistan was growing to stop the influence or to establish stronger border security with troops, he wanted to negotiate with Amir Sher Ali Khan son of Dost Muhammad Khan about this issue. But Amir refused and did not permit Lytton to enter Afghanistan, and for the second time British Army marched to Kabul and reoccupied it, later in 1879 Sher Ali Khan dead in exile, and his son Yaqub Khan took his place and signed the treaty of Gandamak with British that he is accepted to be Amir of Afghanistan. In addition, he agreed to a constant British Embassy at Kabul and will have a relationship with other states in accordance with the wills and advice of the British Government.

This victory did not last long, in September 3 of 1879 a British envoy and his guard were killed, with this the British army reoccupied Kabul in the October of the same year. Yakub has left his position, till

July 1880 the throne was vacant, this was the year when the nephew of Sher Ali Khan became Amir in his time at the borders of today's Afghanistan drawn by British and Russians (Britannica, 2020).

In World War I Afghanistan supported Ottoman Empire against the British. Those times Habibullah Khan was the ruler who kept the state neutral and did not participate in WWI, and he was assassinated while he was on a hunting trip sleeping in his tent, on February 20, 1919. After him his son Amanullah Khan became the ruler, he declared full independence from the British, and since that time Britain has had a great influence on Afghan politics. This declaration caused the outbreak of the third Anglo-Afghan war in 1919.

The war was limited to a series of clashes between an ineffective Afghan army and a British Indian army depleted by the heavy demands of World War I. A peace treaty recognizing Afghanistan's independence was signed in Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan) on August 8, 1919, and changed in 1921. Before signing the final document with the British, the Afghans signed a Treaty of Friendship with the new Bolshevik regime in the Soviet Union. Afghanistan thus became one of the first states to recognize the Soviet government, and a "special relationship" developed between the two governments, which lasted until December 1979, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan during the Afghan War (Britannica, 2020).

As a result, it seems that the Anglo-Afghan wars were consequences of the occupation of the British army, and in terms of Afghans they were in the position of fighting against an external power. However, the British had their own reasons behind attacking, and Afghans also had reasons behind killing British agents. Moreover, the third Anglo-Afghan war appears to be a direct result of showing opposition to the British and supporting the Ottoman Empire during WWI.

2.3. Modernization Period in Afghanistan

Applying new rules according to world classes can be counted as modernization. The modernization period in Afghanistan started by Amanullah Khan who tried to modernize his country and civilize his people, in a radical way. However, his reforms have not been accepted by the people, later on, Muhammad Zahir Shah as a young king endeavored to reform and apply a few democratic rules.

It is believed that after the third Anglo-Afghan war Afghanistan got its independence from the UK and Amanullah Khan was titled as '*Gazi*' veteran of the war. He was one of the kings who wanted to bring Western modernization in the country but he did not succeed because Habibullah Kalakani and his men opened war against the government of Amanullah Khan, in the year 1929 Khan abdicated and went to India, from there to Europe lived in exile for the rest of his life eventually dead in 1969 in Switzerland and his body carried to Afghanistan and buried in Jalalabad city. Habibullah Kalakani is also known as '*Bacha-ye Saqaw*' means *son of a water carrier*, who was an ethnic Tajik who ruled the country from 17 January to 13 October 1929 he was supported by religious people openly, hence no state recognized

him as ruler of Afghanistan. Mohammad Nadir Shah from the royal dynasty defeated Habibullah Kalakani and became the king of Afghanistan on 15 October 1929 and abolished the reforms done by Amanullah Khan (Ghubar, 1999: 10-21).

After 5 years of ruling in 1933 Nadir Shah was assassinated by a Hazar man called Abdul-Khaliq, and his 19 years old son Mohammad Zahir Shah became the king of the country. However, it is believed that his paternal uncles used to rule the country in his name, in 1946 one of the king's uncles called Hashim Khan became the prime minister and did everything on behalf of the king. He was a crucial man most of the politicians have been jailed by his orders. In 1946 his brother Sardar Shah Mahmud Khan became the prime minister of the monarch Zahir Shah, Mahmud Khan believed in democracy in his ministry for the first time political parties used to appear. Though, the political parties have protested by thousands of people and eventually banned, albeit, the country was opening to the world student sent to study abroad which helped and nurtured new minds with a different world view. Furthermore, now Zahir Shah was not the 19 years old teenager he was able to make decisions and he appointed a new prime minister who was not from the royal dynasty, and steadily tried to make changes and started with the scarf of the women and first encouraged the government officials to get rid of Burka Hijab of their wives. There was a dramatic change in terms of the economy: many banks opened in the country and international trade started at that time (Azhand, 2019; Ghubar, 237-270).

Consequently, modernization in Afghanistan always faced obstacles because of having a conservative population. In the first step of modernization, king Amanullah Khan was sent to exile by Habibullah Kalakani and abolished the reforms of the king. However, Zahir Shah wanted to be a democratic king and he gave permission to open political parties and send students abroad, and appointed a prime minister who was not from the royal dynasty, in somewhat during his kingdom he succeeded to bring modernization in the country.

2.4. Emergence of Mujahedeen

The word Mujahedeen (Arabic Mujahidun; the people who do Jihad: Holy War) is the name for the people who fight for the sake of God to establish an Islamic state under the rules of Sharia. However, the Mujahedeen of Afghanistan are the people who resisted as a political movement against different political orders, which were organized between the years 1968-1971.

Those were the times when Afghanistan was under the influence of different political organizations such as Marxism, Islamism, and western liberalism operating in different branches of the government, most of them were against the ongoing order and were willing to bring changes in society as well as in the government that open the gate for the revolution (Nojumi, 2002: 84).

Eventually, in June of 1973 with a military coup, the regime has been changed from the monarchy to republican under the leadership of Muhammad Dauod Khan, and the new regime was not tolerant of the oppositions and few of the well-known politicians were put into jail. Like the other parties, the *Afghan Ikhwan-al-Muslimin* (Muslim Brotherhood) group also seemed to be unsatisfied with the new regime, and they decided to take action against it, according to the plan, they have targeted many of the cabinet members of the government but only succeeded to assassinate the Minister of Planning Ali Ahmad Khoram. Obviously, as counteraction, the government started to arrest the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, and many escape to Pakistan including Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Ahmad Shah Masood, Burhanuddin Rabbani who are supported by the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Where they have established the *Hezb-e-Islami* (the Islamic Party) under the leadership of Hekmatyar, and in 1975 to gain national recognition they have launched an operation opposite to the government of Dauod Khan, a militia group led by Ahmad Shah Masood successfully crossed the international border and entered to the Panjshir Valley, from where he began to provoke and mobilize people against the state administration. However, the group could not achieve its goals; they were weak opposition to the government and suppressed many times (Nojumi, 2002: 84-85).

Later on, in 1979 with the intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, these militia groups began to operate opposite to the USSR. Where they have been called to be Mujahedeen, they were not only members of the Muslim Brotherhood, but consist of more than eight different militia groups from all over the country, including *Hezb-e-Wahdat-e-Milli* (the Party of Nation's Solidarity) which is established by Shia followers of Islam.

Overall, the emergence of Mujahedeen was not a sudden occurrence, there was instability in the different branches of the government that was shaking and questioning the stability of the ongoing political order. That made it necessary to bring a reform in the government, and the Mujahedeen were the people who resisted the different political orders like Marxism, and liberalism. This turmoil was eventually turned off by the coup conducted by Sardar Dawood Khan in 1971 and the country was announced to be a republic.

The main bases of the Mujahedeen of Afghanistan in 1985. Jade: Islamic Jamiat. Orange: Hekmatyar. Dark Green: Nasr Organization. Yellow: Islamic Revolutionary Movement. Pink: Islamic Movement. Brown: Younes Pure. Purple: Sayyaf. Blue: Mujaddidi. Light Purple: Gilani. Dark Orange: Revolutionary Council

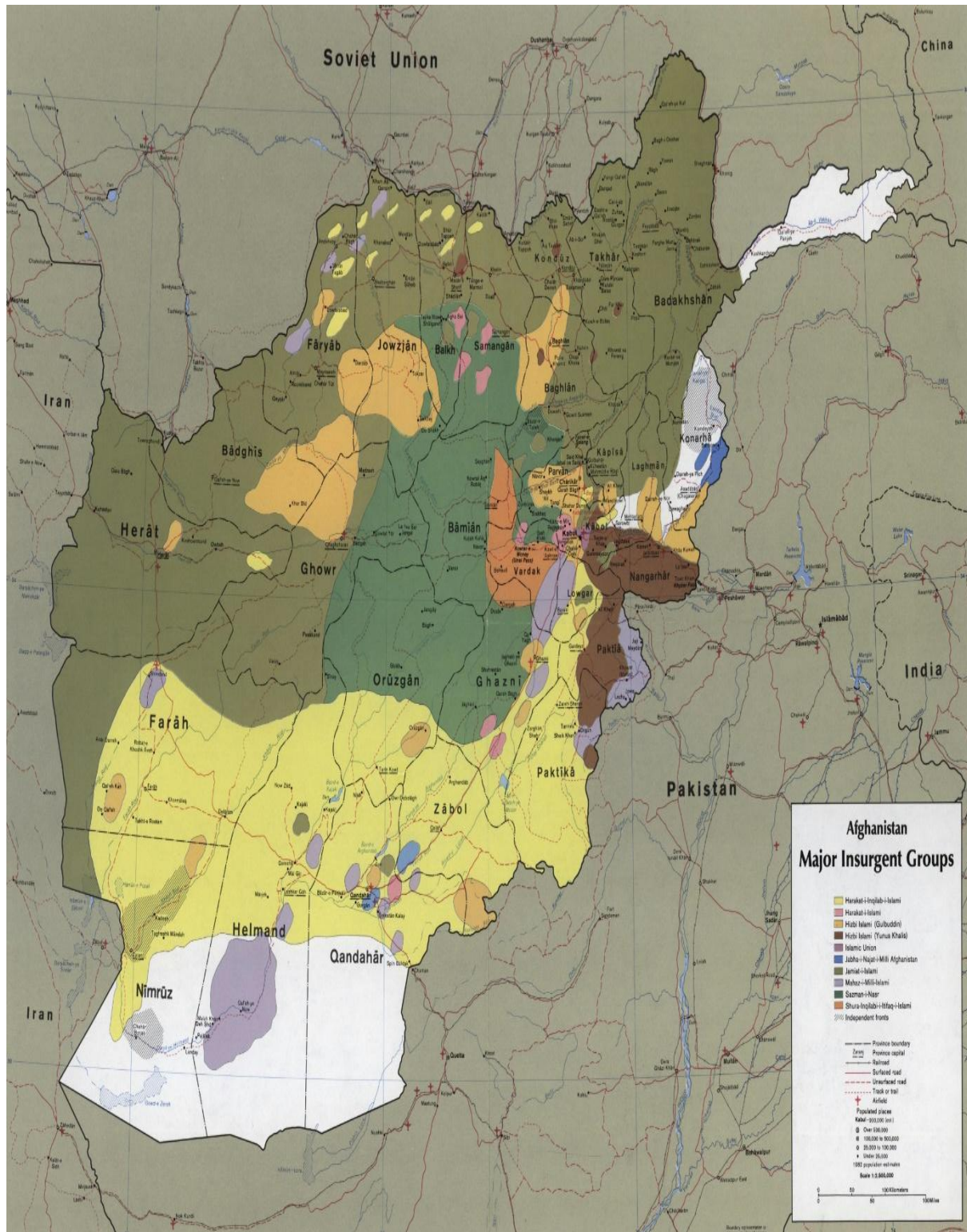


Figure 1. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet%E2%80%93Afghan_War)

2.5. Soviet-Afghan War Emergence of Mujahedeen and Taliban

The intervention of the Soviet Union seems to be the fundamental cause for the emergence of Mujahedeen, though, from the establishment till now the country used to experience wars within decades continuously. A chain of war with British and internal conflicts then the outbreak of the war with Soviet-Afghan War which caused and planted seeds of the ongoing war in the country.

According to an estimation, the war caused about one million dead and forced 6 million to leave the country and left behind widows, disabled and orphan population (Khan, 2012: 212) Indeed, Mujahedeen were the defenders of the land against the Soviet Union but by defeating they lost the war, because of the fact that, after the withdrawal of the Soviets the country became the battlefield for the different parties of the Mujahedeen they have been divided into many groups, eventually, fought between each other and the damage impacted directly the country and the people, thousands of civilians died, forced to leave their homes and disabled. The war was not for the benefit of none of the fighting groups but the external powers like Pakistan, Iran, Russian, and the USA. According to Shahrani (2000: 1), the war among Mujahedeen took the shape of ethnic conflict between Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, and Hazara. Also, it was a proxy war between Pakistan and Iran, because they financially supported different fighting parties, and there is no doubt that the foreign powers during the post-jihad period have interfered and it is a well-documented case.

In December 1979, amid the Cold War, Afghanistan was occupied by the Soviets to support the communist government against the uprising riot (Britannica). Soviets were worried about the loosing of the communist proxy government because right after the intervention the Union has installed Babrak Karmal (1929-1996) as the president of Afghanistan he was in the office from 27 December 1979 – 4 May 1986, and Dr. Najibullah Ahmadzai (1947-1996) became president of the country in 1987 he was in office till his resignation in 1992. The communist proxy governments were ruling the country till their withdrawal. Therefore, in the 1980s the Soviet Union spent billions of dollars on the war in Afghanistan, over 100,000 Soviet soldiers fought. And the Afghan resistance (Mujahedeen) has been strongly supported by a wide range of international actors, such as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, China, Egypt, and especially the USA, the administration of both Carter and Reagan authorized the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to back the Mujahedeen, the CIA spent 3 billion dollars in the Afghan-Soviet war only. Eventually, the Mujahedeen won the war, and in February 1989, the Soviet army was forced to leave Afghanistan. Even after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Moscow keep supporting the communist regime in Afghanistan, Najibullah was the president of the country, though by the collapse of the Soviet Union, in 1991, the chain of the aids also dissolved, and the government could not resist any longer in opposite to the Mujahedeen, eventually in 1992 Kabul invaded by Mujahedeen (Nagamine, 2015: 13; Kearns, 2010: 10; Nojumi, 2002: 197; Dick, 2002: 2).

However, Mujahedeen were not politically thoughtful people; they couldn't agree on dividing power which caused a bloody civil war (Kearns, 2010: 10). Right after that, a group of the Pashtun Islamic fundamentalist who were trained in Pakistan seized Kandahar in 1994 and arranged a campaign to protect the land from the hands of warlords, who are known today as the Taliban. In 1996 Taliban gained control of the land, and the Mujahedeen escaped to the North of the country to establish an alliance under the lead of Burhanuddin Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Masud, who were the main leaders of the Mujahedeen to fight against the Soviet Union.

Moscow, Iran, India, and others support the Northern Alliance, Russia was against the emergence of a fundamentalist government in Afghanistan. Mainly, the Taliban and al-Qaeda allies were providing shelter for Chechen rebellions, Central Asian militias, and others that Moscow noted as a threat. However, in the US-led invasion in 2001, Russia did not participate but she was sharing information with Washington, and also permitted the US-led alliance to transfer logistics and arms via Russian territory (ISW).

From a different point of view, if there were no Soviet occupation there might have not been Mujahedeen in the first place and secondly, the Taliban may not have been launched to fight against Mujahedeen, to devastate the country. However, these all groups seem to be planted and nourished to fight and rise terrorism in Afghanistan. Otherwise, no one without the support of a significant international player would not dare to organize a group of militia for any reason. One issue is clear that from the beginning of the history of Afghanistan, the rebellions have been backed by external powers till today. In the war with the Soviet, finance and arms suppliers were Saudi Wahhabi, and the USA, (Casaca & Wolf, 2017: 95), and few others for the Mujahedeen, and in the war between Mujahedeen and the Soviet troops, Iran and a few others backed Mujahedeen and Taliban has been supported by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Briefly, the intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan was extremely devastating and cruel. Fundamentally, it appears that the war was between the Soviets and the USA, Iran, Pakistan, Arabia, etc. Because Mujahedeen were the militias fighting with the financial and weaponry support of those countries. The war caused around a million dead and wounded, and forced over six million people to leave their homeland.

2.6. Ethnic Groups

All over the world, there are many different ethnic groups, they share the same culture sometimes even they talk the same language. In modern nations, there might be no nation consisting of one ethnic group, and it's normal. Afghanistan is also one of the countries where more than ten ethnic groups live, and the land is home for all. But during the history of Afghanistan, the governments were not successful to establish nationhood among the people in a modern sense.

Nationhood is one of the important issues in Afghanistan to be focused on because the country has not become a nation till now, or the government was not able to create a homogenous Afghan nation. Because of the diversity of ethnic groups living on different continents of the country, there are four big ethnic groups Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, and Turk (Ozbek, Turkmen, Kirgiz...). In the north of the country the population is mostly Turk and Tajik, in the south Pashtun people are living and in the centre, there are Hazara with a high percentage. There is no accurate census, according to some estimations overall people living in Afghanistan are around 38 million, and the most crowded ethnic group is considered to be Pashtun, Tajik, Turk, and Hazara respectively (Nagamine, 2015: 12; Worldometer, 2020). However, while we look at the map of the land we see that the most crowded cities are in the north and centre of the country, where the population is highly Turk and Tajik, and in the south, the cities are not crowded as north but even that the Pashtun government always announced that they are in high percentage and others are the minorities.

Furthermore, this claim always leads them to be the leading party in the government. According to recent estimation the Pashtun population of the country is realized to be 42%, and the second largest group after Pashtun is Tajik by 27%, Uzbek and Hazara are equally 9% Aimaks 4%, and Turkmen are noted to be 3% and 2% of the remaining 6% is Baloch and 4% is unspecified tribes (World Population Review, 2020). From the estimation above it can be analysed that the given percentages are just nothing but a dictation and indication of the majority over the other ethnic groups. Because the Pashtun government is in fear of losing the rule over the country, therefore, it always makes efforts to show the Pashtuns as big as possible. It can be said that the census of the population was always a controversial topic in Afghanistan throughout the last century.

Recently there was an ongoing discussion about giving electronic identification cards to all Afghan citizens. However, people have claimed that on the identification card they want to see their ethnicity as well, and they do not want to carry Afghan classified ID card (Ahamd, 2018), and the government in a way denied to add a section for ethnicity, which caused protests in many cities. Therefore, disbursement of the cards is seized for now, though, some of the citizens living in the capital Kabul owned the cards, but it is not given to all yet.

To sum up, Afghanistan is home to different ethnic groups sharing the same culture and speaking the same languages but unaware of being a nation. It seems that is because imposing the hegemony of an ethnic group over the others led the country into civil wars. Inappropriate political reforms like assimilation and forced immigration carried the state to failure and fragile.

Simplified distribution of ethnic groups in Afghanistan

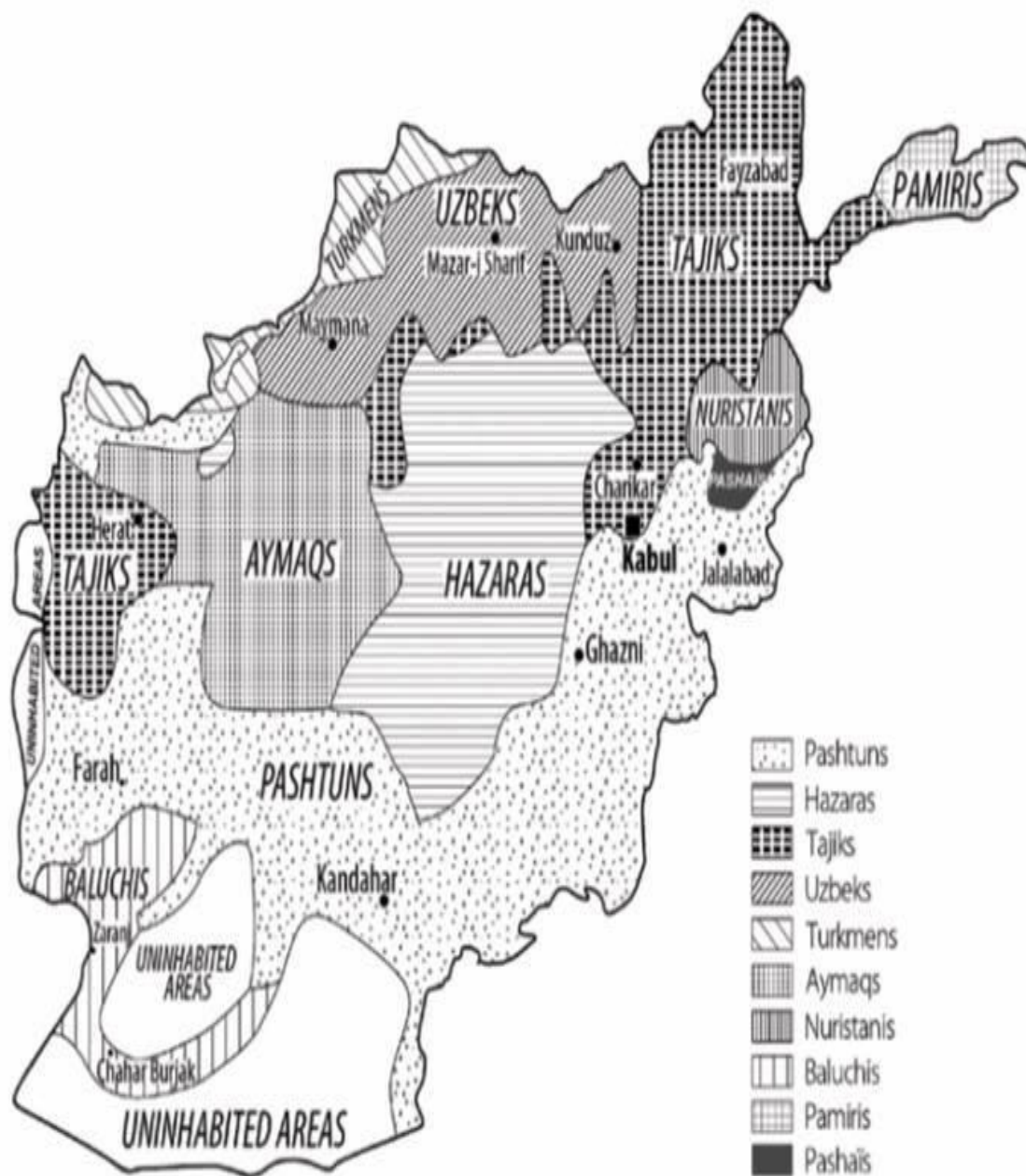


Figure 2. (Dorronsoro, 2009: 15)

Provincial map of Afghanistan



Figure 3.

PART III

3. EMERGENCE OF THE TALIBAN

The final fragment of the thesis is about the emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan which is the main part of the dissertation. This section includes the historical background of the Taliban, reasons behind their emergence, their administration, education system, government regime, Taliban and Al-Qaeda relations, the event of 9/11, and the intervention of the USA in Afghanistan. Further, casualties during the Taliban's previous government (1996-2001) and beyond, their position after 2001 during the governments of Karzai and Ahmadzai would be analysed. The chapter would be concluded by providing information about the Taliban's recent situation and position.

3.1. Taliban

To learn about the Taliban it is necessary to know about the meaning of their name. The word 'Taliban' has an Arabic root derived from the word '*Talab*' means want and '*Talib*' means the person who wants (anything but the word '*talebe*' coming from the same root generally used for students). Generally, the word is referred to the people who seek knowledge, which means is student, with a plural ending 'an' it becomes 'Taliban' (students). The reason behind having been called 'Taliban' is because they have been students of Madrassas (Islamic theological schools) in refugee camps in Pakistan, their leader Mullah Omer and other leaders were also educated in those schools because many had run from the land by the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union at the ends of 1979 (Dogan, 2018: 108; Kearns, 2010: 10-11 & 90). Though, it cannot be claimed that the Taliban are influenced by a particular ideological school; rather, their mentality and behaviour are a mixture of several religious extremist schools. In addition to being influenced by the two schools of *Salafism* and *Deobandi*, the Taliban are also influenced by *Wahhabism*. They do not even compromise with the *Ikhwani* (Brotherhood) and the *Jama'ati*, and their actions are more tribal than school-based, it can be claimed that they think custom and tribe are superior to religion (Firush, 2019). According to one of the leading scholars of the school of *Deobandi* (Shah Waliullah Hindi), the recreation of the caliphate is the basis for the establishment of an Islamic society, from that point view, he sum ups the caliphate in four features: (i) allegiance of the people of settlement (ii) council (iii) nobility (iv) dominance. Thus, the Taliban tried to form the caliphate and also claim to be part of a noble descent tribe and believe that the caliphate is the merit of only *Durrani*⁵, not all Pashtuns (Arifi, 1999: 203; Ayati, 2020: 293).

⁵ One of the leading Pashtun clans

It is necessary to mention here that every one of the organizations in Afghanistan such as Mujahedeen, the Communist regime, and others has been supported by a foreign power, so, it would not be rational to claim that the Taliban are self-made and self-supported organization. There are different perspectives about the emergence of the Taliban, and some believe that the Taliban were the students who are trained in the Madrasas of Pakistan and motivated by Pakistan to operate in Afghanistan. On the other hand, some claim that they were the students of Madrasa based in Kandahar city of Afghanistan motivated by their leader Mullah Muhammad Omar who was a veteran member of Mujahedeen lost his one eye in the Soviet-Afghan war, and he was the first leader and commander of this group till his death in 2013 (Ayati, 2020: 295; Muzhda, 2003: 19-21). According to the report of BBC, during the year 1993, speculation of the establishment of an organization in Pakistan consisting of madrasa students' financed by Saudi Arabia broadcasted. The group was named the Islamic Tahreek-e-Taliban (Islamic Taliban Movement), they entered Afghanistan from the southern border with the slogan of "Islamic Sharia" and in short term, they captured various provinces (Saidi, 2020). According to the report of Subh-I Kabul, Mullah Muhammad Omar was not happy with the outcome of the Afghan-Soviet War, he fought against the Soviets to implement Islamic Sharia in Afghanistan, however, the case after the war was different thus he decided to release the country from the hands of warlords and hence he formed the group with his 50 loyal students in Kandahar (Firush, 2019).

Burhanuddin Rabbani one of the veterans Mujahed believes that the Taliban consisted of the soldiers of the communist regime of Najibullah, ethnic Pakistani warriors, militias of *Sipah-e Sahaba*, and ethnic Pashtun leaders of drug trafficking, and madrasa students. And the political decisions in the organisation were made by the military officials of Pakistan and *Sipah-e Sahaba*. From another point of view, the Taliban are the production of American politics to have an overhand in the arena which is also related to the economic interest of a few countries, especially Pakistan. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar states that the Taliban organisation has been established in Pakistan in 1993 under the government of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan, America, and the United Arab Emirates financially and armoury supported the organization. The USA agreed to found, Pakistan trained, and the UAE financed. However, it will be better to write down; the Taliban consists of ethnic Pashtun madrasa students, teachers (*mullahs*), members of the Jihadist organisations, and Afghans who migrated to Pakistan (Parsania & Amini, 2021: 291-292).

While the communist regime of Dr. Najibullah Ahmadzai collapsed by the Mujahedeen in 1992, they could not agree on dividing power and fought against each other as a result Kabul city was heavily devastated. The country was divided and controlled by different parties, the centre was in control of the Hazara people, the North was in the hand of Aburrashid Dostum who is an Uzbek, and the northeast was under the control of Rabbani belonging to the Tajik ethnicity. West of the country was controlled by Ismail Khan who is also a Tajik, and east by Hikmatyar who is a Pashtun. There was no central government, therefore, incidents of rape, kidnap, robberies occurred and arbitrary taxation has been required of passengers, and the country was living in a chaotic situation. Mullah Omar was an ordinary

clergyman in a village, who hears about the two girls having been kidnapped and raped by militias in Sangisar of Kandahar City. This leads him to organize and mobilize a handful of scholars around him, rescue the girls and hang those rapists in the barrels of the tanks, and later on the group plans to relish the country from the hand of these warlords. And bring peace by sanctioning the Sharia Law all over the land (Nagamine, 2015: 13; Kearns, 2010: 65). According to Rashid (2001: 23), they were not eager to have the political power or willing to establish their own government but cleansing the country from the ongoing chaotic situation, they were considered themselves as the cleaners of the land from guerrilla war. In contrast to Rashid's statement Muzhda (2003: 20-26), says Gulbuddin Hikmatyar was not happy with the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani. Therefore, they fought each other, and the fight was screened in the world media and especially in Pakistan as a war between Pashtuns and non-Pashtuns, which provoked the Pashtuns living there. And the people of Afghanistan were living in worse conditions in a devastated country with having a hope of emergence of a saviour, which provided a safe ground for the emergence of the Taliban and Pakistan took full advantage of the ongoing situation and formed the organization.

In addition, according to the report of Hasht-e Subh, in some regional and international circles, the Taliban are referred to as the political representatives of one of Afghanistan's large ethnic groups that do not have access to justice, has been oppressed, and does not have access to its rights. Therefore, the Taliban have a strong social base in this ethnic area. That is why the war will not end until they don't get their rights, according to Former Pakistani military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf is a well-known proponent of this theory criticized what he called the dominance of minorities in the Afghan government, which produced the Taliban. Amrullah Saleh, the former head of National Security of Afghanistan believes that this theory is based on false information. The Taliban have inflicted the most damage on Afghan Pashtuns and the group destroyed Pashtun villages and set fire to their schools, both during their rule and in the decades since their uprising. Moreover, Pashtun tribal leaders have also been assassinated by the Taliban and assassination has continued since the beginning of the Taliban insurgency in 2005 and is on the rise (2013).

The Taliban are Sunni Muslims who ruled Afghanistan from 1994 till the attack of US troops in Afghanistan. They are considered to be a radical fundamentalist group that pursued a strict interpretation of Islam. According to the interpretation of Ansari (2012: 19 & 33), the Taliban try to be more virtuous than the prophet and caliphs, with an exclusive understanding they believe that they are going to complete the *sharia* of the prophet which led them to radicalism. Though, the *sharia* of the Taliban is more likely tribal code than the *sharia* of Islam. For example, in cohesion to the case of not giving up on ben-Laden, Mullah Omar said that giving him to the USA would ruin his reputation among the tribe, and this shame would be narrated for generations (Sajadpur & Selimi Fer, 2020: 9; Arifi, 1999: 211). This extremist group in the first place tore the country by wars before implementing their fundamentalist

Islamic values, a state which has hand in a tremendous amount of abusing human rights (Kearns, 2010: 90).

Taliban's government called the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan this name has been declared in 1996 by the leader of them Mullah Omar who is called *Emir-ul-Muminin* as well, which has Arabic roots, the title is given to the commander or caliph of Muslims. Their government has been officially recognized by only three countries Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia who as well harboured the Taliban financially and materially. This recognition was because of sharing similar fundamental values and religious orders. The three countries were also dominated by believers of extremism, with minor differences, they all followed different sects of Islam like Salafi and Sunni Islam. These countries were not the only supporters of the Taliban, they have been backed by the people of Afghanistan due to having been experiencing war for decades, because, at the first, the Taliban were realized to be the rescuer of the country. On the other hand, this group has almost consisted of only Pashtun at the beginning therefore, they were significantly backed by the Pakistani Pashtun tribes from the other side of the border (Kearns, 2010: 91). Though, according to Chaliand & Blin, the Taliban have been created and backed by Pakistan with the support of the USA from 1994 to 1996 and became the masters of Afghanistan (2007: 223).

While the establishment of the government of Taliban they used to disarm the fighting militia and Mujahedeen wherever part they took control. Thus, they were regarded in the international arena for bringing order to Afghanistan. And with the foundation of a radical religious order in the land, sympathy and positive view suddenly eroded (Kearns, 2010: 11). On other hand, with the establishment of the government of Taliban by Pakistan, the elites of Central Asian countries feared the invasion of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan by the Taliban, apart from that they also worried about a foundation of a radical Islamic group in Uzbekistan under the influence of the Taliban, especially they were carious of the Fergana Valley where already an Islamic opposition had been seen. However, the victory of founding a government in Afghanistan by the Taliban at least provided, facilitated, and organized the contacts among different Islamic organizations (Nikbay & Hancerli, 2006: 107).

The Taliban attacked the Kabul city capital of Afghanistan on September 27, 1996, in consequence, the city collapsed. The opposite fighters who were Mujahedeen run to neighbouring countries, Hekmatyar who was one of the leaders of fighting parties fled to Iran with a handful of his fellow warriors. Osama Bin Laden reinforced his ties with the Taliban and proposed rapprochement with *Shiite* Iran in the fight against American imperialism which is recognized as the common enemy of both *Shiite* Iran and Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The Taliban leader, Mullah Omer who was the war veteran opposite to the Soviet soldiers, now controlled 80 percent of the country and gained public trust. It is a fact that the people of the country hoped that the implementation of *sharia* law would provide a good life and will put an end to the ongoing robbery and brutal acts committed all over the land. However, the Taliban also like Mujahedeen had not had enough knowledge and capacity of ruling in order to provide a suitable

administration. Hence, that was exactly the opportunity for Osama bin Laden to offer his proposal, who was already a master with great personal charisma and a Mujahedeen leader with established religious credentials (Chaliand & Blin, 2007: 321).

Under the Wahhabi influence, madrasahs continued to preach *Jihad* against the other Muslim sects and the US and its allies. The impact of Saudi Arabian *Wahhabism* in encouraging sectarian hatred in Pakistan and hostility against the US and its allies in Pakistan and Afghanistan, surprisingly in a great way understated related to the literature of terrorism. As it's mentioned above, with the withdrawal of the Soviets from Afghanistan in 1989, the region was no longer considered to be as important as it was in the past in the eyes of the U.S from a geopolitical point of view. This impudent policy was just one of the mistakes the US made over Pakistan, the anger felt against the US in Pakistan, because they left Afghanistan to be fought by a rival, well-armed Mujahedeen organization. In consequence, the Taliban has risen and seized power in Afghanistan, who were under the impact of *Wahhabi* theological understanding infused with a harsh version of Islam, they were against secularism, women's rights, and *Shiite* sects. In 1989, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan provided a golden opportunity for Pakistan to renew the Kashmir Valley's agitation against the Indian occupation. A sudden revolt broke out among Muslims in Kashmir Valley against the power abuses of the Indian government in 1989. Pakistan immediately armed the unemployed groups through the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) with the intention of backing the ongoing revolt, there was already a large number of weapons left over from the wars of Afghanistan. Attacks on military and civilian targets in Kashmir and the possibility of using nuclear weapons that have threatened to break out into full-scale in other parts of India by Pakistani *Jihadist* groups (Law, 2015: 355).

During the presidency of Zia-ul-Haq, the Islamization process in Pakistan has been accelerated, however, by ending his term his successors have followed the same policy toward the country. Benazir Bhutto started her term performing symbolic religious gestures and appeared as an Islamic fundamentalist, during her government as Prime Minister Pakistan accelerated backings and contributed to the territorial gain of the Taliban in Afghanistan (Casca & Wolf, 2017: 116)

In a nutshell, there are different perspectives about the emergence of the Taliban. They were students of a madrasa based in Kandahar city, who rose for the sake of establishing peace in the country. According to another theory, the Taliban were the militia group created by Pakistan with the financial support of the USA. In the beginning, the Taliban were appreciated by the people because they thought that the Taliban are the savers and peacemakers. Also, people were expecting that the Taliban would govern the country better than the Mujahedeen who were fighting and tearing the country for the sake of power.

3.2. Pakistan and its Manipulations in the Domestic Policy of Afghanistan

After the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, Pakistan continued to interfere in Afghanistan, through the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) started to establish the Taliban network as a permanent agent to engage and have influence in the next conflict. It is widely believed that ISI did not stop using the Taliban and other militant groups as 'strategic assets' and as a way to maintain its impact on the region, particularly its plans are based on after the withdrawal of the US Army from Afghanistan. It is a well-known fact that the government of the Taliban has fallen in 2001, however, they have emerged again stronger than in the past. ISI hardly tried to reorganize the Taliban and other fundamentalist groups and their replacement in Afghanistan took over three years. This period was exactly the same as the strategy of ISI in the years 1994 to 1998, while they have sent thousands of armed fundamentalist groups and Pakistani Taliban to fight against the Mujahedeen to overthrow the existing government in Kabul (Tomsen, 2011).

Albeit, many writers hesitate from mentioning the name of the CIA in the establishment of the Taliban, but few of the writers included CIA as well as ISI in the literature to be the reasons for the emergence of the Taliban. During the 1980s, CIA and ISI both supported the warriors in Afghanistan against Russians, they have poured a tremendous amount of money into the land along with military equipment, those financial and material aids fuels the emergence of an extremist Islamist organization in the country (Prince, 2009: 58).

It is believed that Pakistan is using the exceedingly broken and anarchic situation of Afghanistan to fade the peace process because it could create negative circumstances for Pakistan. In addition to continuous support for the Taliban, Pakistan is backing all fighting groups in Afghanistan including HQN (Haqqani Network) and other armed groups, as far as they fight in Afghanistan and back up Pakistan there is no problem it will continue to show a tremendous amount of goodwill to all of them. Pakistan's continuing cross-border terrorism has resulted in the resurrection of the Taliban and an increase in terrorist attacks in recent years, despite the chances of sustainable peace and reconciliation (Casca & Wolf, 2017: 126).

The government of the Taliban was the harbour of Al-Qaeda, in fact, Afghanistan was the place for the terrorists to be trained there. From the year 1991 to 1996, Sudan was headquartered for al-Qaeda. By having controlling Afghanistan by Taliban in 1996 Bin Laden and other fundamentalists were invited to Afghanistan, to establish training camps in the land. They left Sudan and allied with the Taliban, they have financially backed the Taliban which made them be less dependent on other external assistance and provide them the land for focusing on more radical changes in the regime. And in this way, Al-Qaeda expanded its power and gained backing from similar groups from all over the world, like Egyptian Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah, and others (Kearns, 2010: 12 & 17).

In addition, the conflict in Afghanistan has been considered a great opportunity for religious colonialism by the Saudi Wahhabi elite. From the other side, the US saw it as an opportunity to defeat the Soviets into a clash that may discharge and resolve the Soviet resources, eventually, they both achieved their goals. In consequence, the Wahhabi movement established the Taliban which helped to destroy the Soviet Union in the country. However, the USA and Saudi together constructed the Clash Theatre (battlefield), where Zawahiri and Bin Laden based their movement and threatened the stability of Pakistan as well as other governments. The description of this issue as a defensive jihad against the infidel usurper in the same Palestinian defence was unquestionable. The moral justification to support the legitimacy of the war and the Afghan resistance even coercion was supported by a large number of *fatwas*⁶ by Islamic scholars, including Al-Azhar. Many Arabs are asked to join the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan, Pakistani authorities organized the opposition, drawn in Pakistan Peshawar, identifying these groups that deserve the US and Saudi financial protection. Yet they were not a major power in the land to be focused on, however, they earned the nickname “Afghan Arabs” and this group would dissolve the ideological basis of the global jihad after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan (Casca & Wolf, 2017: 95-96).

Bin Laden helped the Taliban to reinforce their control over most of Afghanistan by investing in Taliban training camps in exchange for the sanctuary. From there, he issued a "Declaration of War against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Sacred places" aiming to get the US out of Muslim territories (Casca & Wolf, 2017: 100).

Overall, it can be said that Pakistan was always there in the politics of Afghanistan, during the Soviet-Afghan war they have supported Mujahedeen against the Soviets. After the withdrawal of the Soviets, they did not lose interest in the domestic policy of Afghanistan, because it's believed that they have created the Taliban to have control over the land and it is considered a kind of religious colonialism.

3.3. Administration of the Taliban

The administration of the Taliban was based on their own interpretation of Islamic sharia understanding and Quranic thoughts. There was a leader called *Emir-ul-Muminin* (the lord of the believers), who has to be educated and has to have full knowledge of Islam. The person has the right to stay as a leader till the end of his life if there are no related controversies with the Islamic teachings. The first leader of the Taliban was Mullah Omar who was based in Kandahar city of Afghanistan. Their goal was forming the rule of “Amir Abdul Rahman”. They wanted to control Afghanistan by relying on the Pashtun people and the small share of Tajiks. They renamed their government the “*Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*” and

⁶ “An official statement or order from an Islamic religious leader” <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fatwa>

announced it on Radio Afghanistan. Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia were the three states that recognized the Taliban's government (Firush, 2019).

They had almost all organs of a modern state, such as; defence, foreign, domestic, health, economy ministries, and every province had an appointed governor, as it was in the past, they just replaced the old communist government's officials in all of the government offices. In the past, the constitution was the rule model for the government offices, but during the government of the Taliban, the legislative, executive, and judiciary cases were sanctioned under *Sharia Law* which was badly influenced by their tribal code called *Pashtunwali*⁷ (Rashid, 2001: 83-84 & 90).

Moreover, there was a Supreme Council called *Majlis-e-Shura-e-Ali*, head of this council was Mullah Omar himself, and they have formed a Temporary Assembly under the direct order of Omar to control the capital Kabul, and the assembly consisted of 6 loyal members of the organisation. The cabinet of the Taliban had 17 high-ranking members, 8 of them were *Durrani*, 3 *Ghazai*⁸ Pashtuns, and the remaining members were from the other tribes. The military Council was conducted by Omar and it's consisted of famous warriors. The head of the *Dar al-Afta*⁹ was also Omar however, ben-Laden, Chief Justice of the Taliban Nur Muhammad Saqib who was the head of Supreme Judicial Council, Abdul Ali Deobandi, and other Pakistani Taliban (Alishah, Nizamuddin Shamizi, and General Hamidgul) were members of this council (Ayati, 2020: 298-303).

The Taliban's administration was also similar to Al-Qaeda, in a way they were two groups but operating in one area and spreading terror all over the region and beyond from one place. The radical Arab Muslims have been trained in Afghanistan in the training camps of Al-Qaeda who jeopardized the peace process in Asia and Africa. The camps trained a lot of students from all over the region, and the students who are educated with the Islamic revolutionary thoughts of the Taliban carried the extremist understanding into their countries (Mahan & Griset, 2012: 159-160).

It can be said that the administration of the Taliban in Afghanistan was a direct result of the successful struggle of various groups against the Soviet Russian occupation in this country. In the civil war after the withdrawal of the Soviets, the Pakistani educated Taliban took advantage and established their Capitals in Kandahar. Eventually, they controlled almost all parts of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, they were defeated by the US-led Western Alliance by 2002. Since then, they have been using terrorist activities to regain power, with little prospect of success after the withdrawal of the main Western powers. The Taliban movement expanded from students studying Islam and religiously running schools for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Thousands of people fled as their powers advanced in Afghanistan, in the government of them, tens of thousands of houses were distracted. Girls were not allowed to go to

⁷ Set of rules and ideology of Pashtuns, the most important principles of this collection are human dignity, hatred and hospitality (Arifi, 1999: 207).

⁸ A Pashtun clan

⁹ Centre for sanctioning *Fetwa*

school, and women are forced to wear burqa while they go out of their homes. According to an estimation, over 80% of the marriages were by force, and whoever was caught in women's forbidden education, faced execution (Bernholz, 2017: 35). Arifi (1999: 210) claims that according to the tribal code of Pashtuns; women do not have the right to encounter people outside of the family, they are not independent persons, before marriage they are owned by their fathers and after marriage, they are properties of their husbands.

When the Taliban came to power in 1996, Afghanistan's infrastructure had been destroyed by the continuous wars. A severe shortage of basic necessities, like drinking water, food, shelter, etc., caused disturbing circumstances, the tribal structure through which Afghans provided their social-economic needs was extremely destroyed. Child mortality during the Taliban's rule was the highest in the world. A quarter of children died before the age of five. Although, global charities and donors were very important and valuable in providing services and food, and other basic needs, but the Taliban were highly suspicious of the help and activities of foreign organizations. In 1998, there were 99,000 women in need of help and widows covered by UN assistance programs just in capital Kabul. Due to the war in the northern provinces of Afghanistan, more than 700,000 people were displaced.

The decision-makers of the Taliban, especially Mullah Mohammad Omar, rarely spoke directly to non-Muslim foreigners. In 1997, the heads of international organizations were expelled from the country after protesting against their regime. The Taliban did not allow a female UN High Commissioner for Refugees to speak to the refugees openly, she was allowed to talk with them from behind a curtain. When the United Nations increased the number of Muslim women in Afghanistan at the request of the Taliban, they demanded that all of the female employees of international organizations must have *Maharam* (blood relatives) with them while traveling and working in Afghanistan. In July 1998, the Taliban forcibly closed all NGO offices, in September of the same year, the UN office in Kabul was also closed. Conditions worsened and food prices rose at an unprecedented rate, Planning Minister of the Taliban Qari Din Mohammad said: *"We Muslims believe that God will provide our food in one way or another. Foreign organizations left Kabul on their own, we did not expel them"* (Firush, 2019).

To sum up, it appears that the administration of the Taliban was the implementation of Sharia according to their own interpretation, they were following a similar path with Al-Qaeda. The Taliban's regime seems to be despotic, and nondemocratic, where women had no social and educational merits. During their administration, they used to ban activities of the NGOs in Afghanistan, because they did not believe in help without the opposite expectations.

3.3.1. Education

The Taliban were rustic people they were not familiar enough with urban life that is why urban life appeared strange to them, thus they tried to adjust the city according to rustic rules. Because, those times most of the countryside did not have girls' schools even boys' schools, therefore, according to them

educating girls seemed to be unnecessary, and as far women in the villages were obligate to keep house and children. So, they thought it should be the same in the cities.

In this relation, the Foreign Minister of the Taliban once stated that they have agreed on banning education and working of women with their fighting members, and if they don't show loyalty to this agreement the warriors would leave the battle and go to their villages, thus they had to be loyal unless until the end of the war to this agreement and there was no change until the end of their government in 2001. They were not prone to spend money on modern schooling, even the European Union proposed to give expenditures of 10 schools with a condition of equal separation (5 girls' and 5 boys' schools), at first they have agreed, but later the proposal has been rejected from the capital Kandahar. However, they have allowed Turks to open schools in different provinces, but were condemned for spreading Pan-Turkism. Furthermore, it's believed that urban life and non-religious schools cause infidelity in society. This understanding also led the Mujahidin to rise against Soviet Communist Regime in the country (Muzhda, 2003:109-114).

On the other hand, religious leaders are quite skilled at manipulating ideologies and inspiring young people to join the Taliban to fight against the so-called enemies. The extremist Mullas (Islamic clergymen) used madrasas to teach young people that their highest call is fighting for Allah opposite to the Western invaders, which is known as Jihad. It is well known that while the ideology is religion-based then the youth consider the terror actions as the law of God, which means that the wars are sacred and doomed for infinite rewards. In this way, the youth psychologically caught in the romantic images, and under the impact of the names like freedom fighters and liberation struggles conduct a significant sense of devotion to an advanced condition (Kimmel and Stout, 2006: 175).

The youth members of the Taliban before joining them go to local madrasas in their childhood while they are 12 or 13 years old, to learn the basics of extremism. It is hard to find a mature man joining the Taliban because an adult man knows what is right and what is wrong, therefore, they could not have an impact on him for any reason which is why they target the teenagers. In addition, they think that they are fighting for the sake of God even if they die or not in both ways they are the winner of the war because they believe that after death through struggle and terrorist acts they would be called martyrs (Shahid) which is a high level of becoming a good servant of God and will be awarded by heaven (Janna), according to Islamic teachings, this motivation leads them to go and blast themselves among the mass.

Taliban has thought and make-believe the youth and particularly the people of the southeast¹⁰ of Afghanistan that the Christians are the evils, and the USA is an invader of the regions, by this kind of effective concepts they easily affected the youth to join the Taliban for the sake of Jihad and protection

¹⁰ Most of the Pashtun ethnic group is living in the southeast of the country and the Taliban obviously have more effect on their own ethnic group at the first phase.

of Islam from the American invasion. The radicalization process in Afghanistan encouraged the youth to support or directly engage with terrorism (Kimmel & Stout, 2006: 175), which destabilize the peace process in the region and beyond.

A warning should be taken under a deep concern that there is evidence that some suicide bombers are volunteers or forced by their families to be volunteers, due to being in financial need and the reward for suicide blasters is high enough to be ready to die, and the family accrued by the reward. The financial crisis and poverty urge and force the poor families to send their children to the madrasas where the children learn extremism, they believe that the children at least will get free clothing, education, books, and especially free food. Madrasas are places for learning the Holy Koran and basic teachings of Islam, and *Jihad* is also included among those teachings and it was continuously taught by the *Mufties*¹¹ for centuries. However, the meaning of *Jihad* varies from place to place because etiologically the word *Jihad* is not fighting, it is an Arabic word derived from the word (*Jahede*) that means *effort* and *struggle*. Therefore, most of the Islamic groups who are not radical interpret it as soft as possible, and radicals describe it as harsh, the children also learn a few basics of the modern world there too. Most of the Taliban members were trained in these madrasas, however, the hijackers of the American aircraft in 9/11 were not educated in those centres (Boulden and Weiss, 2004: 119).

During the administration of the Taliban, women almost had no social rights. And girls were forbidden from education in schools, at least the other Islamic countries like Iran, Pakistan allowed the girls to get an education in the schools where only girls are allowed to enter (Bernholz, 2017:91). Only men had the right to go to the schools, the schools were not much different from the madrasas, because the education curriculum was formed by the extremists, and the books were all printed in Pakistan. Most of the teachers were *Mullahs* who were also *Imams* of mosques at the same time, the principles were mostly the people who were educated in the madrasas of Pakistan. In addition, behind the Islamization of the schools in Afghanistan, the Taliban tried to raise and educate the children to be the future warriors for them, and all students over the fourth grade had to have white turbans on their heads, and teachers have forced to not allow students without turbans (Muzhda, 2003: 115). The only difference was the Madrasas provided dormitories for students but the schools did not. Though, girls were allowed to get education from the local informal home-schools which also did not include modern science and were based on basic Islamic teachings like how to pray and how to read the holy Quran and a few other Islamic books.

Indeed, Kearns, claims that the Taliban has formed a government based on Islamic law (*sharia*), which forbids playing chess, television, music, and even flying kites, and also many other activities noted to be blasphemous and profane (2010: 11 & 91). It appears that Kearns thinks that Islam as a religion forbids the forbidden of the Taliban, it is necessary to be mention here that the way of Taliban partially related to Islam but not all actions of them. Islam clearly forbids killing and violence, and even it does

¹¹ The person who sanctions fatwa

not allow using force according to many verses of the Holy Quran, such as chapter 2 verse 256; 4 verse 92-93 and 5 verse 32.

Briefly, the Taliban were not prone to educate girls because they have thought the women are obligated to do chores, and spending on education would be a total waste. However, girls were permitted to get education from the local home school where education was also based on religious teachings. Educating boys were also mostly consisted of religious materials than the modern science, and mostly they have raised and educated the children to be the future fighters in their army.

3.3.2 Taliban's Regime (Totalitarianism, State Terrorism)

Before, focusing on the Taliban's state regime it's necessary to define briefly the 'Totalitarian Regime', according to the prominent descriptions; a system that is not democratic, does not tolerate any individual freedom, and every aspect of an individual life is subordinated to the state, with a centralized authority almost every function of the government such as economy, education, and culture, etc. are under the control of the leadership (Jackson, 2019; Britannica).

Initially, people have appreciated the Taliban because of their decision-making process which was based on collective consultative leadership, they even claimed to follow the early Islamic era, though they didn't ignore the tribal council of Pashtuns called *Jirga*¹². After taking control over 90 percent of the country, the decision-making process radically changed, centralised, and took a shape of dictatorship (Rashid, 2002: 95).

During their government, all men had to be present in the mosques during the five times prayer. On the roof of all shops in the city had to be a white flag that symbolizes the Taliban regime. In the time of prayer, no man dares to keep open his shop, if any man is seen out of the mosque during the prayer time, the person has to be ready to be beaten by the guards called (*Amr-i-bil-maruf ve Nahi-anil-Munkar*) *Enjoin good, forbid evil*. All men had to grow a beard and cut their moustache, hands of robbers physically cut if they are caught by Taliban, adultery strongly condemned if anyone (married man or women) caught they killed by stoning with a handful of people, the stoning punishment has been done many times. According to Gandhara News nineteen-year-old woman was killed by stoning in the Ghor Province of Afghanistan in November 2015, in the August of the same year a young couple was sentenced to death due to adultery, and in 2012 a 22-year-old woman was shot dead because of having open sex (Bezhan, 2015; Saidi, 2020). If the person is not married then he or she is beaten by one of the Taliban members, both are done in an open court in front of the people.

The government of the Taliban was more than a totalitarian regime, it was explicitly applying domestic state terrorism. In terms of Stohl's classification of state terrorism where he divided it into three, the Taliban as an organization best fit to the second and third parts. Because the organization was under the

¹² "Pashtun tribal jirga or council where all clan chiefs took part in deciding upon important issues which the tribe faced" (Rashid, 2001: 95).

direct political penetration and manipulations of Pakistan's state terrorism. Indeed, the Taliban was created, got financial and weaponry support from Pakistan. See table 2. The Taliban used to spread fear as much as possible by killing a victim to grab the attention of the target group, victims are film artists, singers, journalists, social activists, and the people who are strictly opposed to the Taliban regime. According to Nasir, (2021), the Taliban killed a local singer in Kishnabad Andarab, his son confirmed that his father is shot to death by the Taliban in their own yard. Albeit, interfering with the beards and moustaches of men and dress of women, killing men and women for adultery, chopping hands for robbery, lashing the people openly because of not attending prayer or shaving, etc., those acts indicate that they were almost in all part of the social life of the citizens, therefore, their government was/is a total dictatorship which does not care about human right uses arbitrary force which is one of the characteristics of state terrorism. For more information see table 3.

Furthermore, weddings under the government of the Taliban were conducted in concern of their wishes, with no music, and no dance. People were living an oppressive, and psychologically catastrophic life. Even the Taliban's new government is committing terrorist acts when they took power, their first deceptive action was releasing all of the captives and announcing a general amnesty, but as always they were not loyal to their promises. Shafaqna news reports that a young man named Nematullah who was a member of an opposition fighting party before the Taliban took power, was deported from Iran, and captured by the Taliban, and shot to death in Talqan city in the presence of the Taliban's mayor Shaykh Naser (2021). Accordingly, Hasht-e-Subh, Cumhur, and Ufq news report that a new graduate 19 years boy in Badakhshan city was shot to death by the Taliban due to listening to music on Tuesday, October 9, 2021.

There were also rules related to the dressing of women in public, like veiling the whole parts of bodies and heads, which does not make them active in the business. There are abound of this kind of regulations (Bernholz, 2017: 91). It is necessary to mention here that the dressing of the women in Afghanistan has not shared any similar feature with the clothing of the other Islamic countries. Fundamentally, women had no social life but to serve their families. According to the recent report of Hasht-e-Subh, on October 27, 2021, four women social activists were shot to death in Mazar-e-Sharif, their dead bodies were found in a local house. One of the victims was a well-known social activist called Firuzan Safi. However, the government of the Taliban said that suspects have been arrested related to the case (Khalid, 2021).

Antonius & Sinclair reference UNAMA 2007 and interpret that the people of Afghanistan do not strongly support the primary terror organization of the land (Taliban), which is a hope for the possibility of establishing peace in the country. In addition, a minor portion of the people backs the Taliban because of fear and out of very confined options not because of ideological or religious values. Though an important part of the suicide attacks is conducted by the Islamist fundamentalists, and Taliban forces a wide number of volunteers to be suicide bombers. In both Pakistan and Afghanistan the Taliban appoints children and youth to educate and train them as suicide bombers, they ensure the only choice for

education to disappoint and bleak parents. However, the majority of bombers target the Afghan army which is allies with the Western troops, and the occupying forces. In addition, almost 10 percent of Afghan people believe that suicide attacks can be justified, the answer can have its impact on society. The suicide bombers mostly target the Afghan army, because they do believe that the army and the government of the country are proxies of the West (Antonius & Sinclair, 2013: 115 & 117).

In a paragraph above Antonius & Sinclair narrated that a small portion of the people is supporting the Taliban due to fear and limited options. But they also stated in the different pages of the same book that whenever the Taliban asks the people for help, the people helped them because they thought that it is a religious obligation to help them, and the reason behind helping is understood to be that the Taliban agreed to provide stability and protection. It means that the nation has been under the influence of continuous danger and fear, therefore, any organization makes sure to provide a sense of security, people might support regardless of the intangibility of political image (Antonius & Sinclair, 2013: 117).

On the other hand, in the beginning, the Taliban belonged to an ethnic group called Pashtun, and mostly they are supported by the Pashtun people at that time and even now they back them and they are opposite the US and its intervention in Afghanistan. The former supporters of the Taliban strongly condemn the US intervention in Iraq and demonstrate stronger motivation. However, Uzbek and Tajik people seem to be strongly opposed to the Taliban and show strong support to the US (Kimmel & Stout, 2006: 168).

To sum up, the Taliban have mostly consisted of the ethnic Pashtun people who took the power in 1996 after 5 years of ruling they have driven from Afghanistan with the intervention of the USA due to the event of 9/11. The Taliban's regime was one of the fundamentalists and radical regimes of the last decade of the 20th century. The Taliban's regime was analysed to be totalitarian and dictatorship, which contained most of the characteristics of state terrorism.

Nu	Name	Types	Feature(s)	Taliban as an Organization
1	Coercive Diplomacy	NA	Open threat	NA
2	Covert State Terrorism	(I) Clandestine (II) State-Sponsored	(I) Direct involvement of an agent. (II) A group is financially and weaponry supported by a state to carry-out terror acts.	(I) ISI agent involved in creating the Taliban. (II) The Taliban are financially backed and supported by Pakistan and UAE.
3	Surrogate Terrorism: Financing a terror organization to make it stronger.	(I) State-Supported (II) State-acquiescence	(I) A conducted terror action is undertaken by a group, later the group is financed by a state. (II) An undertaken action by a group is not openly condemned.	(I) Taliban accepted many terror acts in Afghanistan, and they are financed by Pakistan. (II) Pakistan, UAE, and other supporters of the Taliban haven't openly condemned their terror act, even Mawlana Fazlur-Rehman who is chief of an opposition party in Pakistan, also an effective political leader, explicitly provoked the Taliban to carry out <i>Jihad</i> in Afghanistan. Also added that Cihad is <i>Fard</i> in Afghanistan.

Table 2. Comparison of the Taliban Organization with the Classification of State Terrorism

State Terrorism	Taliban's administration 1996-2001 & 2021
Imposing fear by the state against its nation or other states in a systematic manner.	The government of the Taliban spreads fear by lashing, hanging, stoning people ¹³ .
Using violence to abolish opposition parties.	There is no opposition in the government of the Taliban.
Indirect use of violence.	The Taliban uses violence directly.
Goal-oriented	The Taliban's terror acts are goal-oriented.
Chain of assassinations in totalitarian regimes.	On October 27, 2021, four women were shot to death ¹⁴ .
Intentionally targeting victims to grab the attention of the larger group.	They kill one artist to spread the news for the other artist to be underground or leave the country ¹⁵ .
Arbitrary use of force	They did use force whenever they wish, even for not attending prayer, or not wearing clothes according to their will.
Illegitimate action of the state	Their legitimacy is under question.
Engagement of state officials in a terror act	Order for lashing, hanging, and stoning given by their high-ranking officials ¹⁶ .
Kidnapping, disappearance, and torture	Artists and social workers are kidnapped, disappear, and tortured.
The state conducted genocide, ethnic cleansing	They have conducted ethnic cleansing against the Hazara people Mazar-e-Sharif ¹⁷ .

¹³ https://www.aparat.com/result/جنايات_طالبان

¹⁴ Khalid, S. (2021). Four Female Activists Died Under Mysterious Circumstances in Mazar-E-Sharif. Hasht-e Subh, November 5, 2021. <https://8am.af/eng/four-female-activists-died-under-mysterious-circumstances-in-mazar-e-sharif/>

¹⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/persian/afghanistan-58590369>

¹⁶ <https://ariananews.co/video/ويديو-سنگسار-محكمه-صحرایی-طالبان.html/>

¹⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports98/afghan/Afrepor0.htm>; <https://www.hazarapeople.com/fa/?p=7734>; <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1998-sep-18-mn-24021-story.html>; <https://af.shafaqna.com/FA/284783>;

Table 3. Comparison of the Taliban's Administration with the Characteristics of State Terrorism

3.4. September 11: Taliban and Al-Qaeda Relations (American Intervention of Afghanistan)

While the Taliban took control of Afghanistan the economy was in collapsing mode, people were living in a complete disaster. Hence alongside the external financial support, the Taliban found another significant financial resource which was drug supply. Though during the government of the Taliban opium consumption and planting were strictly forbidden, it is permitted and produced in large numbers due to the fragile economy in the country. They became active producers and distributors of opium, according to estimations of Anti-drug officials of Taliban and Al-Qaeda together used to earn tens of millions of dollars from drug production and distribution. Also, when the Taliban took the office beside their opium production as the government of the country they have taxed the opium trade. Apart from the Taliban, even the Northern Alliance (Shura-i-Nazar, Junbish-i-Milli) also took advantage of opium production by supervising the opium trade and production, and the alliance also benefited from taxing. Besides Afghanistan's militias, the other foreign movements; such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Al-Qaeda groups were also active in drug trafficking in the country (Mahan & Griset, 2012: 238-339). It seems that all of the fundamentalist groups were fighting for gathering money from the opium trade, none of them are free of drug production or transportation.

In October of 1996, the Security Council stated in resolution number 1076 the continuation of the conflict in Afghanistan provides an efficient ground for terrorism and drug trafficking, which destabilizes the region and beyond. In December 1998, resolution 1214 asked "The Taliban and other Afghan groups to stop fighting, and collaborate to create a comprehensive and fully representative government that would protect the rights of all Afghans and fulfil Afghanistan's international obligations on terrorism. Following the attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-us-Salaam, in October 1999, the Council made an explicit reference to the Taliban's issue of providing safe shelter to Osama bin Laden because the Taliban authorities could not stop providing sanctuary and education. After all, international terrorists posed a "threat to international peace and security". The court demanded the extradition of Osama bin Laden to the appropriate authorities (USA) without further delay, as clearly stated. In 1999 and 2000, the council imposed sanctions against the Taliban regime, including the air embargo, the freezing of all its financial resources and assets, and the arms embargo, respectively, in the 1267 and 1333 resolutions (Boulden & Weiss, 2004: 59).

Chaliand & Blin, state that the training camps of Taliban and Al-Qaeda trained Muslim youth from all around Asia and Europe, and encouraged to fight in Kosovo, Bosnia, Myanmar, Philippines (Mindanao), China (Xingjiang), Kashmir, Chechnya, Indonesia (Maluku and Poso), Nagorno-Karabakh, Dagestan, Egypt, Yemen, Algeria, and Jordan. Smaller and mobile camps in the regional conflict regions of Asia,

Africa, and Latin America which partially compensate for the loss of Afghanistan, are likely to produce third-generation mujahedeen. The camps operating in Southeast Asia since September 11 integrated Palestine, Hodeibia, and Vietnam camps in Mindanao, Philippines, Sulawesi in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo Island, and Rohingya camps on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Ideological training takes place in madrasas and military training takes place in temporary camps that are difficult to spot from the air (2007: 424).

Following the first World Trade Centre attack, Al-Qaeda would continue to evolve over the 1990s in accordance with the globalization process involving the development of economy, technology, communications, travel, and media. The World Wide Web, international travel, and global banking systems were used for jihad purposes, and the interconnectedness of the world attracted the attention of many struggles facing the Muslim population of, Kashmir, Bosnia, Kosovo, Chechnya, Sudan, and the Philippines. Bin Laden succeeded in bringing them together, and the network that emerged under his rule was able to extend jihadist understanding, training, and operational tactics to several local Islamist groups. Though Taliban servers have banned television and other electronic instruments such as video recorders, tape players, and all tomb images, though, Usama Bin Laden used to distribute tapes and lecture videos for the sake of reviving Muslims all around the globe (Casaca and Wolf, 2017: 99-100).

While bin Laden entered Afghanistan from Sudan, he initially chose to base himself in Nangarhar to gain trust and the city was not in control of the Taliban yet. When the Taliban entered Nangarhar, they indicated they would protect Bin-Laden. He fully benefited from the facilities provided by the Taliban, the country was a safe haven for him, and during this term, Al-Qaeda grew dramatically in Afghanistan. Hence, more than 20,000 fundamentalists trained there, and they used to stabilize a strong network of militia training centres, and they also developed links with other extremist groups and increased their rebel and terrorist capabilities. When Al-Qaeda was active in Afghanistan, the group had an extremely hierarchical system led by an advisory council called (Shura) the leader was Bin-Laden. Within the scope of this council, the group had a complex command structure such as military, financial and political committees, the intelligence, and the media propaganda branch. Furthermore, the group had both leadership positions and also special bureaucratic requirements for membership. For example, the commander had to have been a member of Al Qaeda for at least seven years, sufficient knowledge of Islamic law and jihad, and operational experience from Jihad. Additionally, there was a deputy appointed by the commander, who works under him also has to have the same capabilities as the commander. However, application for training jihad in one of the training centres, education level, how much of the Quran he memorized, and medical history of the applicant used to be inquired (Law, 2015: 338).

After the September 11 events, Saudi Arabia broke off ties with the Taliban because it disgraced Islam in the eyes of the world. Though, it was not the only reason, because Saudi Arabia was one of the states which formally recognized the government of the Taliban in Afghanistan, till the attack of 9/11 the

relationship between Taliban and Saudi Arabia was normal. However, after the event, it might have seen its national interests in danger and had to keep good relations with the U.S.A.

Also, the religion which was practiced by the Taliban under the name of Sharia was against the core values of Islam, hence the Great Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also stated that the terrorist actions do not share any common value with Islam. And the Islamic principles do not allow injustice and violation of the laws, even if there are hostility and hatred among the parties. The Al-Azhar Academy of Islamic Studies supported this position, stating that Islam is based on the principle of cooperation, as well as numerous cultures, civilizations, the legal system, and the nation. He also said that jihad in Islam aims to act the victory of law, short evil, and create justice and security. In exceptional cases, such as defending fathers' land, stopping conflict among Muslims, and preserving their faith, armed struggle and violence are allowed. Even under these circumstances, Sharia prohibits intruding on the lives of older people, children, and women, and those who do not take up arms against Muslims (Nikbay & Hancerli, 2006: 415).

Saudi Arabia financially supported the Taliban and also was one of the three states who formally recognized the government of the Taliban as a state, and right after 9/11 they changed their colour and condemned the Taliban because of 9/11 till that time thousands of the civilians were killed by Taliban in Afghanistan no one was condemning them even Pakistani muftis were encouraging people with the slogan of “Jihad is halal” in Afghanistan. Under the pressure of the USA Saudi Arabia has verbally supported the intervention of the USA in Afghanistan. Even if the case of 9/11 does not have any relation with the Taliban the case is accepted to be done by al-Qaeda, which is also a terror organization supported by Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, in the literature on terrorism, it can be clearly seen that the event of 9/11 was a devastating phenomenon done by the so-called al-Qaeda terrorist organization. However, it is written everywhere and believed by all that behind this attack was al-Qaeda, and this view has been thought by lecturers in the universities. But it is really hard to believe that al-Qaeda was that much strong to hijack three American aircraft, and dare to attack the US regime directly. Moreover, al-Qaeda was a small terrorist group and has supported by another minor fundamentalist (Taliban), both trained terrorists in the camps and had no intensive technology to hijack an aircraft, even the Taliban was against using primary technological instruments such as TV, tape recorder, etc., but suddenly their ally crushes the World Trade Centre. Anyway, this case is a complete mystery till now, both parts (US Government and al-Qaeda) are not clear enough to believe in, though, the al-Qaeda accepted that behind the occurrence was them. Hence the question is; with which intelligence and technology did the Al-Qaeda hijack the airplanes?

Apart from going deeper into the issue of al-Qaeda and 9/11. It is necessary to focus on the matter of the US intervention in Afghanistan to fight against the Taliban. The reason behind the intervening was

the UN repeatedly demanded from the government of Taliban to remove al-Qaeda from its territory but they have refused because without the al-Qaeda support the Taliban would not be able to govern the land, also most of the al-Qaeda members were fighting there from the part of Taliban which might be restricted their options, therefore, they might have rejected the UN demand (Mahan & Gtiset, 2012:195). According to Bernhols, by protecting Osama bin Laden the Taliban have committed a mistake, without having nuclear weapons, and dominated a land that would be defeated with modern arms (2017:67). Even before, the event of 9/11, after the bombings of East Africa in 1998, the US demanded bin Laden from the Taliban but they have refused to turn over him (Kearns, 2010: 12). However, the Security Council warned the Taliban before the US took action against them in 2000, to stop providing shelter for the international terrorists and to shut the training centres, and collaborate with the international community to arrest terrorists and take them to court for justice (UN Resolution 1333, December 19, 2000).

Eventually, the USA decided to take military action against the al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, on the 7th of October 2001 and informed the Security Council that it is going to exercise its “*inherent right of individual and collective self-defence*”. In this action, the UK was with the USA, and many other states like Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia was indirectly supporting the USA and other states including Russia and China displayed their backings verbally, the operation named ‘Enduring Freedom’ (Boulden & Weiss, 2004: 62). Furthermore, the Northern Alliance of Afghanistan fought side by side with the US troops opposite to the Taliban, especially an enormous number of the northern youth who were Uzbeks and Tajiks joined the Northern Alliance for the sake of defeating their family and religion from the treat of an unwanted fundamentalist regime of Taliban (Kimmel & Stout, 2006: 175).

Wars are always destructive and harmful for both civilians and fighters. Afghanistan is experiencing war from the beginning of history till now, it seems that the country has not been in a long period of stable peace. There were always conflicts in it, millions died in these wars. The ten years of Soviet invasion left behind almost 15,000 dead army-men and nearly one million civilians, by the intervention of the U.S. there were casualties but not as many as the Soviets (Kearns, 2010: 11).

Consequently, Al-Qaeda was one of the financial supporters of the Taliban, and due to sharing similar religious values, they have operated together. The event of 9/11 was one of the devastating terror acts, which is undertaken by the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization. That caused hundreds of dead and spread fear all over the world, and that was also a harsh example of modern terrorism. Which is considered to be an organized, calculated, and intentioned action to warn the all world at once to indicate existence and power. Moreover, the event of 9/11 opened a way of intervention in Afghanistan for the USA.

3.5. Casualties during and after the government of the Taliban

When the Taliban took control over any part of the land they have sanctioned and coerced several extreme Islamic obligations. By killing thousands of civilians in the north of Afghanistan, the international community started to advance their objections in opposition to the government of the Taliban in 1998. In the government of the Taliban especially the women right always violated, women were not active in any part of the social life while going out they had to be accompanied by a man (Kearns, 2010: 91)

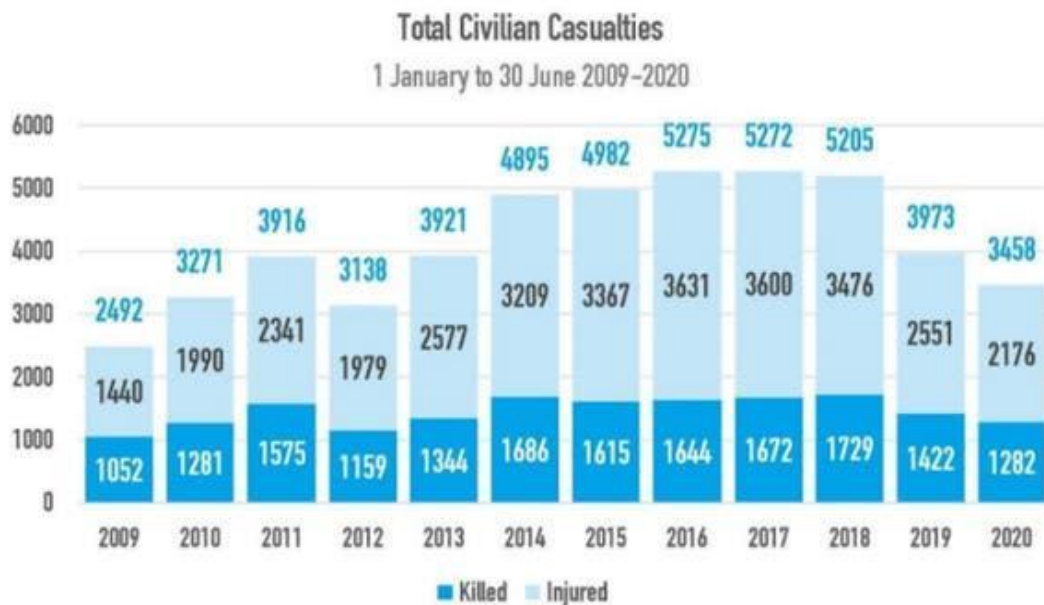
It's believed that in 1997, about 3000 Taliban members were invited to Mazar-I Sharif and killed by General Abdul Malik (Half Uzbek, half Pashtun), which caused the outbreak of the massacres by the Taliban in the following years. Therefore, the Taliban also mobilized to avenge and begin to kill civilians and most of the victims belonged to the Shia people. Because of the fact that the Hazara people generally follow the Shia sect of Islam, and the Taliban are claimed to be the practitioners of the Sunni sect of Islam. Hence, the war of the Taliban was not only for the sake of forming their government, but it also seems to be a war against the Shia due to their religious understanding. In a way, the war was also a religious war, around two thousand Shia people including underage boys were killed in Sheberghan and Mazar-e-Sharif (Northern cities of Afghanistan) and other provinces like Bamyan and other places (Human Rights Watch, 1998). The dead bodies are carried by the local people like someone who carries trash. Apart from that, the two biggest statues of Buddha in Bamyan city were exploded by the Taliban at the beginning of 2001, after the collapse of the government of Taliban the statue has been restored.

There is no doubt the Taliban killed more than thousands of civilians in Afghanistan from their emergence till the present day, they did not stop killing people even during the cease-fire. They were not loyal to the bilateral agreements, they have signed treaties with the Afghan government and the USA about ending the ongoing war in the country. However, after signing the agreement with the USA they have killed hundreds of both civilians and soldiers and claimed that we have signed an agreement with the USA to not kill them but we have not promised to stop the war with the Afghan government. According to Washington Post, Afghanistan's National Security Council said *"These heinous attacks occurred after the U.S.-Taliban deal in Doha and the Taliban's commitment to decrease violence because the Taliban see terrorism as the only path."* (George, 2020).

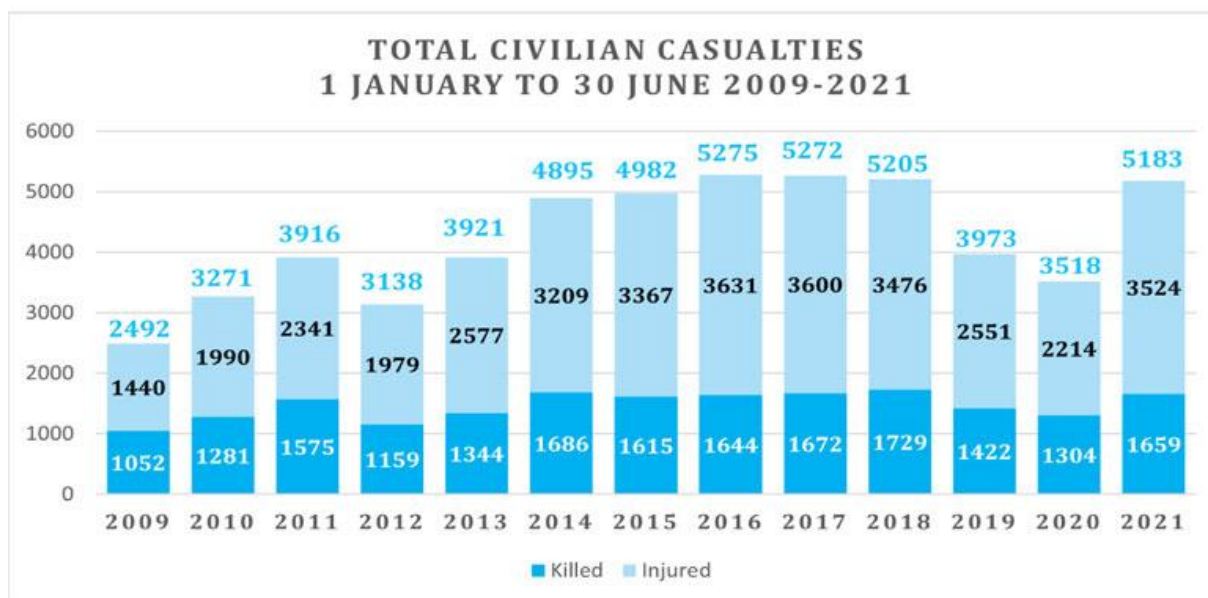
On the other hand, UNAMA reports that in six years the number of casualties in the land exceeded 10,000. Furthermore, high levels of civilian casualties have been systematically and continuously recorded by the UN, which indicates that in ten years the number of casualties surpassed 10,000 by 2019 (UNAMA, 2020; Zucchini, 2021).

Briefly, at the beginning of their government in 1996, the Taliban have violated human rights and intended to kill the Shia people in the country. This changed the circumstances of the civil war into a

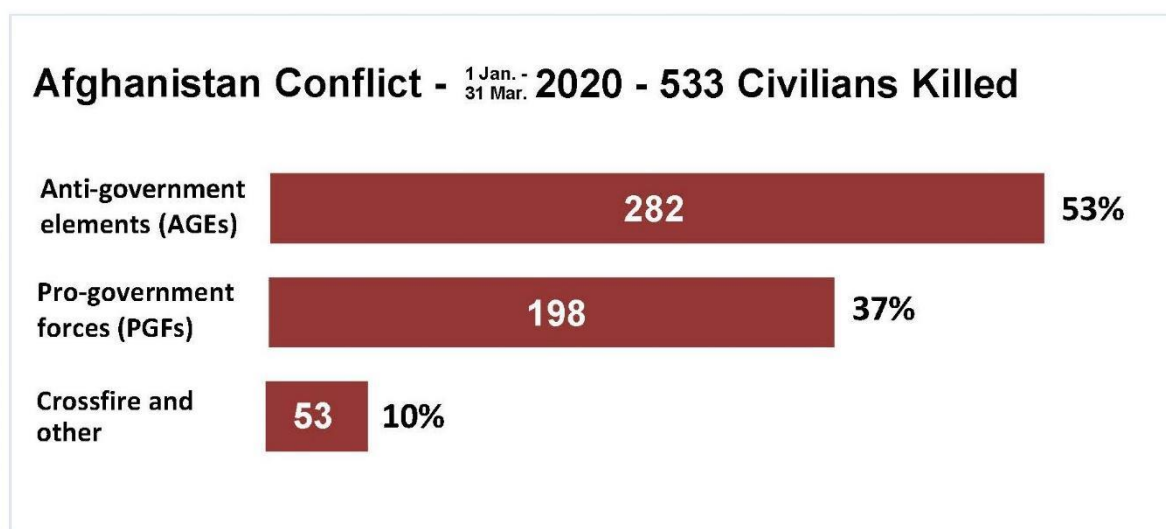
religious war, which allow them to kill thousands of people for the sake of God. They have killed more people in guerrilla wars than face-to-face wars, such as suicide attacks, remote control bombs, attacking university students, etc.



Graph 1. (Afghanistan civilian war casualties, UNAMA, 2020).



Graph 2. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1096382>



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Graph 3.

3.6. Taliban during the Government of Karzai

Karzai was born in 1957 in the southern part of Kandahar City, educated in Kabul and India, his father was chief of the Popalzai tribe which is a branch of Pashtun ethnicity. At first, he was with Mujahedeen in 1992, but by realizing that the West is ignoring Afghanistan the country is going deeper into a chaotic condition. Like the others, he also thought that the Taliban are the pigeon of peace for Afghanistan, but soon he dramatically changed his mind and curved to the west and began lobbying for them till the event of 9/11. Right after the dissolution of the government of the Taliban Hamid Karzai was appointed as the president of the transitional government of Afghanistan in the Conference of Bonn. Moreover, in the first presidential election in 2004, he was elected as the president of the country, in 2009 once again he was elected (Burke, 2014). His government was noted to be the most peaceful and secure, and people enjoyed more freedom in this period than any time in the last 3 decades of war, millions of refugees returned, hundreds of NGOs initiated activity, and the economy was surging. In addition, there was a dramatic change in the participation of women in the workforce it is counted as more than 20 percent, and in 2011 over 8 million students enrolled and nearly 40 percent of them are girls, and a quarter of the parliament as well filled by the women members (Voanews, 2011; Burke, 2014).

However, Karzai was a politician who played for both sides (Taliban and Western forces), in a press conference with villagers he accused the US force and claimed that bombing on January 15, 2014, killed dozens of Afghan civilians, and on the next day of that month mourners have been identified in photos taken from the funeral, but later on, it is revealed that the photos were captured in 2010. Karzai was indulging in political propaganda, refused to sign a security pact with the US which was an alarm that he does not want the foreign forces anymore in the country, and was ordered to release nearly 40

insurgents, a few of them were arrested by the US officers. Lately, his all actions and sayings were exactly planned to subservience to the leadership of Taliban and their Pakistani supporters and curved to create a fracture among Afghanistan and the US. Albeit, once he was asked to join the Taliban as a high-ranked member of them (Chayes, 2014).

He has always tried to make peace with the Taliban, he called them (Bradaran Na-Razi) the *unsatisfied brothers*. According to CNN, while few delegations of the UNSC (United Nations Security Council) visited Karzai coherence to the state of affairs in Afghanistan, he said referring to the leader of Taliban *“Some of you are concerned, or perhaps a lot of you are concerned with my overtures to the Taliban, with my calls to the Taliban to join the peace process, and some of you are very concerned with my last call to Mullah Omar, that if he accepts the Afghan Constitution, and steps forward and declares that he wants peace for Afghanistan, and in Afghanistan, and he comes forward to seek residence that I will give him protection at any cost”*. Also, he had appealed to Obama about the civilian casualties and said *“This war has gone on for seven years. The Afghans don't understand anymore how come a little force like the Taliban can continue to exist, can continue to flourish, can continue to launch attacks with 40 countries in Afghanistan, with the entire NATO force in Afghanistan, with the entire international community behind them, still, we are not able to defeat the Taliban”* (2008).

The New York Times reports that Karzai has arranged secret meetings with the Taliban, he wants to make peace with them without the interference of the western countries. He was willing to achieve what the western allies couldn't or were reluctant to do, he might have also portrayed the Western allies as the enemy. However, he failed to sign a peace agreement with the Taliban, but the high-ranked Afghan officials met their leaders in Saudi Arabia, Emirates, and Dubai which also had no result (Ahmad & Rosenberg, 2014).

Though, during the presidency of Karzai, the mosques were places for the Taliban to teach and nurture future fighters. In a way the mosques have been used as training camps, the Mullah or the clergyman of the Taliban in civil cloths took charge of mosques as Imam, (it is necessary to state here that Imams are appointed by the people and he is also obliged one to teach basic religious knowledge for the children of the district). Thus, this was a great opportunity for the Taliban to place seeds of radicalism into society. Eventually, as ordinary Imams, they begin to teach extremism to the children. However, people are very optimistic about the traditional teachings of Islam, they believe that *“If a person becomes Hafiz (the person who memorises whole of the Quran) he will carry 40 people to paradise”*. The local people thought that what a great honour to be the father of a Hafiz who is the honoured one by God.

In this way, thousands of underage children 6 or 7 years old are forced to join the teachings of the Imams in mosques and should memorise the Quran. Hence, as a Muslim it is an honour to memorise the Holy Quran there is nothing wrong with it, but the Imam of the Taliban has not only focused on the memorisation of the Quran, they also included their extremist ideologies and children are

psychologically were under the impact of their views. Albeit, now those children become adolescents and kill the Afghan army brutally. I know the people who used to go to the mosques then they joined the Taliban and two of them died in the war with the Afghan army.

It can be said that during the presidency of Hamid Karzai, they appeared as civilians and focused on the recreation of a stronger militia than in the past. While the international troops started to leave Afghanistan the Taliban also initiated to grab their covered guns, kill the civilians, and arrange suicide attacks in a different part of the land, to display that they are not yet finished.

3.7. Taliban during Presidency of Ahmadzai

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is two times elected president of Afghanistan, who ethnically belongs to Pashtun. He grew up in Afghanistan and left the country for the sake of higher education and became a scholar, also worked in the World Bank. After the collapse of the government of the Taliban in 2001 by the intervention of the U.S and NATO troops, he returned to Afghanistan aiming to contribute to rebuilding the land, during the transitional government till 2004 used to serve as the Finance Minister of the Country. After the election of 2004, he rejected working with the government but he remained as an effective politician in the state of affairs of Afghanistan. Eventually, in 2013 he ran for the presidential election and was declared to be the president of the country on September 22, 2014 (Ted.com, NA; World Justice Project, NA).

Unlike the other governments, Ghani has been peaceful with Pakistan, always avoiding anti-Pakistani slogans, which garbed the attention of the Pakistani generals who are the foreign policymakers of the country. Hence Pakistani arms dealers did not stop supporting the Taliban, more than 1,500 Afghan troops used to fight in Kunar Afghanistan opposite to the Pakistani Taliban who also committed an attack on the army school in Peshawar Pakistan on December 16, 2014, resulted 150 dead (BBC, 2015).

During the government of Ashraf Ghani, the Taliban have become direct attackers and face-to-face fighters. However, in Karzai's government, they were gathering power and in Ghani's presidency, they have indicated that they are a power that is strong and undefeatable. Indeed, the Taliban ethnically consisted of 90 percent Pashtun, but during Karzai's government, they have nurtured students from all ethnicities, and motivated to join them for Jihad, thus, the Taliban during the government of Ashraf Ghani is not only Pashtuns but the Taliban who are delegating all ethnic groups of Afghanistan.

Suicide attacks dramatically increased in the cities particularly big cities were under danger spontaneous attacks among congested people killed and injured hundreds of civilians. Many terrorists attacked directly to the army quarters of Afghanistan, where they killed hundreds of soldiers. The site of Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) quotes that according to an estimation by the US government officials as of 2019, nearly half of the country is out of the control of the legitimate Afghan government which is noted

to be 53.8 percent and around 12.3 percent of the country is marked as the areas controlled by the Taliban and the remaining 33.9 percent of the districts are marked as contested (CFR, 2020).

Mostly the rural areas have become under the control of the Taliban, only centres of the cities are controlled by the legitimate government. On the other hand, hundreds of people from the civilians grabbed guns to defeat their rights against the Taliban, once again the country entered into a fire war, robbery, illegal side taxing initiated by Taliban like the 1980s, villagers forced to feed them and financially support them. Besides feeding they have to give them tax from their animals and assets which are concerned to be Islamic Sharia Tax, which is not illegal at all. I have interviewed online two people who work in the petroleum transforming business claimed that they are paying 30,000 AF which is equal to 389\$ for each container to the Taliban, many other people also claimed the same but due to security reasons they wanted to be quiet for now. It means that they are making enough money from the illegal taxing method.

Briefly, it can be claimed that the Taliban fully rested and became strong enough and emerged as a parallel state which has each branch of its own, and an active government on the soils of Afghanistan alongside the legitimate failed state of Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

3.8. Taliban Now

There is a well-known saying that “Never underestimate your enemy”. After the collapse of the Taliban in 2001 by the intervention of American troops in the soils of Afghanistan, the Afghan government and even the US thought that the Taliban are 100% gone and will not appear again. Indeed their sudden disappearance leads the fighting parties to underestimate them, hence they were just under-covered, enshroud their weapons, and reappeared as ordinary Pashtun people. It does not mean that they have lost believing in their extremist ideology, though, they were waiting for the American troops to leave the land, which is the right time for an overall mobilization again. The country is not yet safe from terrorist organizations, as ordinary people, they are engaged with opium trafficking around the country, because after one year of their dissolution, Afghanistan has produced considerably 4,100 tons of opium which was a record (Chaliand & Blin, 2007: 342).

Now Taliban is the only leading power in Afghanistan from the perspective of soft and hard power. After exactly 20 years on August 15, 2021, once again they undertook the government without fighting. President Ashraf Ghani run out of the country with the high officials of the state, they were already a parallel state in the state, in other words, it can be said that the country had two governments one was legitimate and was elected by the people and the other was the government of the Taliban imposed by force. People used to pay taxes for both, interestingly both had their supporters, people who were living in the cities appealed to the legitimate government and the villagers had to appeal to the Taliban. The Taliban did not have an official institution but it is to say that they have enjoyed legitimacy in the eyes

of the local people at a certain level, they solved problems in a few hours in a square in the village; for example, if there is a case of adultery, and both sides are also married their punishment is death by stoning among the people if both sides are not married their punishment is being flogged 100 times in front of the people. Robbery cases are also simply solved, if the robber is captured and introduced to the Taliban, punishment for him is cutting one hand.

The parallel government was more effective than the legitimate government because there was no unsolved case by them. While a case is not solved by officials the case went to the Taliban, and in a way, they did solve it. Of course, the cases are solved according to the Islamic *Sharia Law*, and according to the given *Fatwa*¹⁸ by the leader of the group of Taliban, the *Fatwa* is reduced from *Sharia Law*, however, *Sharia Law* is open for personal interpretations. According to one of my well-known sources who does not want to mention his name: in 2020 two-person from a city killed four people and were arrested by the government but by paying a tremendous amount of bail to the government officials one of them came out of jail. While the relatives of the killed people appealed to the Taliban they also did not help them because the killer also poured nearly one million AF into the Taliban. It makes clear that the Taliban are not for justice or sanctioning the Islamic Law but for serving their internal and external patrons.

Moreover, it is a fact that the US and NATO forces could not erase the Taliban from the land, for a few years they have just disappeared, and all thought that they are all gone and won't be able to come back. That was the biggest mistake of all powers, however, it is really surprising that a minor force like the Taliban is not removed from the land by all superpowers. The USA with it is all power forced to have nailed down to accept them as a legal power and sign pacts with them, they have signed agreements in Russia, and Qatar to cease the ongoing war in Afghanistan. They were going to launch a close meeting in Istanbul to bring peace to the country, the date of the conference did not officially announce by the government of Turkey, it seems that the conference is not necessary anymore, because there is no second party to negotiate the issue.

Before, the Doha agreement, Pakistan, Russia, and China emphasised having an early resumption of negotiation among the USA and the Taliban to cease the war in Afghanistan. However, Donald Trump suddenly stopped negotiation with the Taliban after the ribbon of the violent attacks in Kabul where an American soldier was also killed among the others. Despite this, the delegates of the four countries (Russia, China, Pakistan, and the USA) gathered in Beijing for their last meeting about the issue. At the same time, China has made an effort for launching an intra-Afghan negotiation in Qatar, where delegates from both sides (Taliban, and Afghan officials) would be invited to focus on ongoing conflicts of Afghanistan (Gul, 2019).

¹⁸ “*Fetwa is a nonbinding legal opinion on a point of Islamic law (sharia) given by a qualified jurist in response to a question posed by a private individual, judge or government. A jurist issuing fatwas is called a mufti, and the act of issuing fatwas is called iftā’.*” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatwa>

Furthermore, an American president (Trump) discussed with the leader of a militia group (Mulla Abdul-Ghani Bradar) to bring peace, and they have decided to sign an agreement at the very beginning of 2020 on February 29. The US president urged the Taliban to take part in intra-Afghan negotiations and promised the withdrawal of American troops from the land in 14 months. The pact included that the Afghan government will release 5000 Taliban insurgents from the prisons, however, president Ghani refused to release them (PTI, 2020), but after a few days he ordered the release of the Taliban captives. Though the issue of Afghanistan has been discussed in Doha, in this meeting the Afghan officials were not invited, the pact has been signed between the Taliban and the US officials.

The analysis shows that the Taliban is not a militia group anymore, they are an official organization that signed agreements with one of the superpowers of the world. In 2001 they were recognized as terrorists alongside Al-Qaeda, and attacked by the US forces after 9/11 as a result their government collapsed in Afghanistan, thousands of civilians were injured and dead. Now suddenly the USA is curving its head against a militia group and ready to sign an agreement with them. There are two supposedly meaning of this case, firstly, there is nothing called Taliban but an officially obliged organization operating in Afghanistan, by the orders of the USA, who are financially and weaponry backed by the USA as Mujahedeen was being backed, not directly but with the hand of its ally Pakistan. In an interview, the former president of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf stated that *“the Mujahedeen, Al-Qaeda, and Taliban were heroes of Pakistan”*, and the journalist asked: *“if Osama bin Laden and the Taliban were also heroes for CIA?”* He replied: *“of course they were”* (Samachar Plus, 2015). The second observation is that the Taliban are really great people who are fighting for the freedom and development of their land, and now the USA cannot avoid their legal rights and cannot kill innocents anymore. Therefore, it changed its manner and took a position by the side of human rights.

From another point of view, according to the report of the New York Times, it is thought that Russia is taking interest in Afghan affairs. The US intelligence officials believe that Russia provoked and supported the Taliban to kill the US and NATO troops (Gohel & Bailey, 2020; Savage et al, 2020). It is clear that blaming Russia would not provide a better condition in the region, because the war in Afghanistan got a shape of the fight of ‘Tom and Jerry’ the US alongside with the NATO forces couldn’t finish a militia group of at most 5000 untrained people with ordinary weapons. Also, the Washington Post reports that the US officials were conscious to mark that the treaty with the Taliban was not expected to erase violence from the land at all (George, 2020). It means that the USA intentionally planned to re-establish the government of the Taliban in Afghanistan because, before they took over the power as the government, they have signed treaties with the US officials, also meet officials of China and Russia.

After having full control over the land, they are appointing their staff in government offices, which officially means that the Taliban is the government of Afghanistan. In the beginning, like in previous times, some people also seemed happy because of not having routine bomb blasts, robbing, kidnapping,

bribing, and murder cases. However, now it is the fifth month of the government of the Taliban, people are living in a total catastrophe. All kinds of crimes can be seen; disappearance, kidnap, a chain of unknown murders, oppression against particular ethnic groups, no women rights, and they have also banned playing music at weddings. Hunger and poverty are among the highly progressing issues in the country. According to the report of Khabar Guzari Jumhur, a girl named Parvaneh Malek, sold by her family to a 55 years old man named Qurban for \$ 2,200 due to poverty and hardship. And Hasht-e Subh reports that 90 percent of the people of Afghanistan live under the poverty line and recently 8 children were found dead of starvation in Capital Kabul (Muradi, 2021).

To sum up, after the bloody intervention of the USA in 2001 the Taliban suddenly disappeared, they underground their weapons and acted like ordinary men. During the government of the Hamid Karzai, they became imams of the local mosques, and begin to teach children religious lessons. However, in the first period of Ashraf Ghani's government, they were appearing again, but in the second period, the Taliban took control of the villages and became a parallel competitor of the government. Finally, on the 15th of August 2021 once again they took full control of the country.

CONCLUSION

In the beginning, the term terrorism was not used for what we understand from it, however, actions that include fear and violence in today's sense are considered to be terror acts conducted in ancient times. Also, it was not related to any religion, but some scholars claim that the terror conducted by religious people in ancient times are examples of religious terrorisms, such as Zeolts against the Roman Empire considered to be Jewish terrorism and some of the scholars believe that it was an example for the nationalist separatist terrorism, example for Hindu terrorism is sacrificing human beings for the sake of Goddess Mah-Kali, it's believed that over one million people were killed for the sake of fulfilling the ritual ceremony, and Assassins are recognized to be the ancient Muslim terror state. In history, terrorism was once used in a positive sense by Jacobians, in France. Mostly until the end of the 20th-century terror acts were done by the leftist groups in both American and European continents, rightist groups were not engaged with it.

The term terrorism has been used throughout the history of human beings by organised groups and by states mostly in a negative sense and it is included among the contested concepts. It means that there is no accepted and clearly understood definition of the theme. However, scholars defined terror acts as organized, calculated, and systematically conducted acts to spread fear and violence in society. There are also controversies between 'terrorism and counter-terrorism' both of the terms as action creates violence and devastation, but counter-terrorism is considered to be the counteraction conducted to quiet a terror act. It can be claimed that the difference between 'terrorism and counter-terrorism' is that the terror acts are sudden occurrences, but counter-terrorism is a consciously taken action by the state. Though it is not a newly shaped phenomenon, before the event of September 11, the theme was not in the consideration of academia. The event of 9/11 was a turning point in terms of relating terrorism with Islam, even it can be said that the event can be considered the emergence of terrorism in a modern sense. After the event of 9/11 scholars has focused on the concept (terrorism) and over 80 percent of the related literature was produced after the 2000s. However, the nature of terrorism almost has been removed from the minds of people, especially after WWII, and the World Wars often ignored to be taken into consideration from the perspective of terrorism. But obviously, both WWs were creating fear and violence caused millions of deaths all around the world, which shows that it was more terroristic than being just a war, particularly in WWII the USA was acting like a terror state because of dropping atomic bombs on Japan's two provinces where most of the people were civilians.

After World Wars few of the eastern countries also lived in conflicts similar to terrorism under different names such as guerrilla wars, and civil wars. Even though Afghanistan has not participated in the World

wars but it is one of the countries that has never been living in peace and also has been experiencing a continuous civil war for more than 40 years. Starting with the Soviet Invasion emergence of Mujahedeen in the 1980s against the Soviet Union, later on, the establishment of the government of the Taliban in 1996-2001 and till the present days, the country is struggling to survive. The Taliban and their ally Al-Qaeda killed thousands of people in Afghanistan and trained thousands to cause violence in the region and beyond. On the other hand, it is believed that the emergence of the term Islamic-Terrorism backs to those years when Mujahedeen appeared in Afghanistan.

There are different types of terrorism but categorically it can be classified into two 'terrorism from above' and 'terrorism from below' both terrorism from below and terrorism from above have their subcontinents. Basically, terrorism from below contains all kinds of conducted terror by a group without financial or weaponry support of a state, and terrorism from above is the terror act conducted by a state or its proxies in its own territory or the other states. Hence, terrorism from above is considered the most violent and cruel because of the fact that the states have a high capacity for organizing, manipulating, and carrying out any kind of terror act. At the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century, ISIS acted like a terror state by burning alive and chopping heads and mirrored a new phase of terrorism to the world with effective use of social media.

On the other hand, the Taliban by conducting suicide attacks, bomb blasts in Afghanistan was exhibiting their terror capacities under the name of *jihad* as a proxy of Qatar and Pakistan. The Taliban took full advantage of the failed Afghan Government, during the presidency of Ahmadzai, they have managed to gather militias from all around Afghanistan and Pakistan, which led the state to fall for them.

According to the findings of this thesis, mostly terror groups are established and backed by legal authorities, states, particular groups, and individuals. From one point of view, the Taliban seems to be a creation of Pakistan with the financial support of a few of the Arab Countries and the USA. Even before the emergence of the Taliban, the Afghan Mujahedeen were financially and armoured openly supported by the USA to fight as opposed to the Soviet Union. They have burned the country and killed thousands of people with the financial support of the USA and the country went into chaotic circumstances. Therefore, it can be said that terrorist groups are establishments of the terror states to reach their political interests.

In addition, the Taliban is a fundamentalist terrorist organization because of the characteristics it carries, like killing civilians, spreading fear, oppression, stoning for adultery, organizing suicide attacks, burning people alive, conducting arbitrary use of power against specific groups, abusing women rights, etc. However, while they were governing the country used to act as a totalitarian regime to have overall control of the land. It can be said that the Taliban's state (1996-2001) contained features of a terror state according to the classification indicated in table 3. The Taliban used to control the nation by oppression and implementing terror acts, but according to them, the way of life provided by them was pursuant to

Islamic values and teachings. That means they were doing best and suitable for the nation, according to sharia law, and were providing good and happy life.

When we look at the general characteristics of the region ruled by the Taliban, we will find out that it is a landlocked country in Central Asia full of important mines of all types. The Afghan state has failed to provide and bring basic facilities to its citizens almost from the establishment till now. Right before, the formation of modern Afghanistan the state was facing the intervention of the UK, however, after the modernization period, a militia group emerged under the leadership of Habibullah Kalakani and fought against the government of Amanullah Khan, and he took over the power that led the country into a diversion because this militia group was conservative against modernization. After Kalakani's rule, Nadirshah took power he also abolished the reforms done before and after him, after his son Muhammad Zahir Shah tried to bring a few changes in the society, he also was not enough successful. Zahir Shah's kingdom was also abolished by a coup detent performed by Dawud Khan and his fellow army, though, his kingdom is realized to be the most democratic period of Afghanistan, then Dawud Khan announced the country as the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. His government did not last long too, the communists in the government offices started to appear, which was the beginning of the foundation of the Communist regime in Afghanistan. That caused the Soviet intervention in 1979 and the rise of Mujahedeen against them and by February 15, 1989, after almost ten years of bloody war, the Soviet troops left the country. That was recognized as the victory of Mujahedeen.

From another point of view, the victory was real devastation and collapse, because the country was torn and ruined in the war, and there was no central government. The Mujahedeen fought each other as a result there were thousands of dead, wounded, orphaned, and widowed. Finally, it can be said that the ground for the emergence of the Taliban was provided by Mujahedeen. That took the country in extreme poverty, terror, and relapse for almost six years. The Taliban has created a fear empire and ruled over the land till the intervention of the USA in 2001. The intervention opened opportunities for Afghanistan to be a modern democratic state and a civilized nation. It seems that in twenty years the country went did not develop but was reversed by inappropriate politics of both Karzai and Ahmadzai. They might claim that the country was ruined, and they did not have enough economic capacity, rising terrorism, and the Taliban did not allow them to develop. Hence, these are not the basic reason to not develop. The basic causes of not developing are corruption, not applying educated smart people to the key positions, and not being qualified to rule a country.

In the past twenty years, the Taliban worked hard to take the power, during the presidency of Karzai they became Imams of the mosques where they taught their ideologies to children. In a way, they have been injecting their thoughts into fresh minds. Most of the people and government officials were aware of the Taliban's activities in the mosques but no one stopped them because they believed that the Taliban are teaching Islamic values and there is no problem learning them because they are Muslim too. During the presidency of Ahmadzai, they were a parallel state operating into the villages where the person of

government did not dare to go, villagers believed that the Taliban were more effective than the government. Because the government officials were considered corrupted and did not solve any problem without taking bribes. Ahmadzai never took serious military action against the Taliban, surprisingly he always underestimated them.

In the era of globalization, the previous Afghan government was dealing with non-appropriate politics; like racism which is one of the most important issues of the country, because people were being appointed according to their ethnicity, not in accordance with their capacity. It was disadvantageous for the country because the person did not have any kind of knowledge related to the field where he or she was appointed. Therefore, this problem needed to be solved as early as possible. On the other hand, Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic country where more than ten ethnic groups live, such as Pashtuns, Tajiks, Turks (Uzbek, Turkmen), Hazara, Baluch, Nuristani, etc. and none of the ethnic groups cannot claim to be the leader to have dominion over the land till the end of the world. However, the Afghan government always wanted to assimilate the other ethnic groups to be Afghan, which is one of the unnecessary efforts done by them. Literally, the word Afghan means shouting and crying, and Afghanistan means the land where Afghan people live. In contrast to the meaning, the word Afghan is considered to be another name of ethnic Pashtun people. Thus, acceptance of the Afghan word by the other ethnic groups mostly created problems in the past decades.

On the other hand, Afghanistan lives under the clash of regional languages, which mean is that every ethnicity wants to speak and get education within their own languages and the government was not able to provide such facilities to the people but imposed a mono-language education system that also causes a kind of bias and prejudices among the people.

If the government of Afghanistan wants to develop and willing to compete with other countries of the world, firstly it has to stop promoting ethnic nationalism and has to plant ideas of solidarity and equality among all ethnic groups living on the land and has to make an effort on creating a sense of nationhood. Because, it can be clearly said that Afghanistan is not a nation in a modern sense because every ethnic group operates separately, and even the central and local governments are divided among the leaders of those ethnic groups. Which is an explicit obstacle in front of the development in the country. Secondly, sustainable peace is the most important factor to have an effective development. On this occasion, the Afghan government has to reduce terror organizations from the country. Thus, it is important to sign an agreement with the Taliban to make sustainable peace and to provide a secured life to the people. In terms of concerning human rights and not being a cause for the occurrence of conflict in the country, signing a treaty would be the best way to bring peace to the land. If the Taliban and other terror groups are not ready to sign an agreement to bring peace. There is the only way to solve this problem is to attack them with all hard power and international assistants like NATO to clear the land from the seeds of terrorism, and radicalism. Then, the government might be able to focus on effective policies related to every aspect of the country.

Firstly, the Ministry of Education has to find out the ways of how to be effective and change the education system into world standards. And has to stop non-formal education all over the country, and should appoint educated Islamic Scholars in Madrasas, also it has to appoint Imams of its own in all mosques of the country. Secondly, the Ministry of Culture has to focus on reaching more people to inject positive ideas of civilization by broadcasting examples from developed countries. Thirdly, the government could make difference by employing well-educated and respected people in different sectors, which will also make it possible to go through development and civilization. Because most of the government employees are old and corrupted people. Therefore, they should retire and replaced with the youngsters. The above recommendation paragraphs were written before the Taliban took over the country.

The new government IEA (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan), has to follow the path of democracy, has to establish justice in the society. They have to learn that the state is not obliged to make sure that its nation will go to heaven afterlife, but it is there for sure to provide security, basic needs, goods, and development. Also, they have to focus on employing the people who are expertized in their field, not a madrasa boy who has no experience but just has fought against the previous government.

If the IEA does not follow the modern governing system, their government will not last long, there are already rising powers against them. It is almost half a year from the establishment of their government but no one formally recognized them in the international arena, and the UN also will not recognize them if they continue to violate human rights. In contrast, there are many expecting opportunities too. If the Taliban pursue the democratic path and establish a justice society there are high possibilities that people accept them and give them legitimacy. Also, it opens the way of being a developmental state because it's believed that by the overtook of the Taliban the government offices are erased from the existence of the corrupted people. It is a fact that Afghanistan has youth and educated population that has the capacity to re-establish the fragile economy and civilize the country.

Moreover, changing Afghanistan's governing system from the centralized *sharia* system to a federal democratic system would accelerate the development process in the country. Each of the federal states should have its own rules and regulation according to the codified constitution. In this way, there would be healthy competition among the states in terms of development and education system, the government of the states would feel responsible against their people as well.

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Sosyal Bilimler
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KAMU POLİTİKASI BİLİM DALI

**DEVLET TERÖRÜ VE AFGHANİSTAN'DA TALİBAN DEVLET
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Danışman: Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kemal BAYRAM

İSTANBUL, 2021

ÖZET

Devlet Terörü ve Afganistan’da Taliban Devlet Yönetimi (1996-2001)

Terörizm, günümüz itibariyle dünyanın en başta gelen sorunlarından biri olarak tanınmaktadır. Nereden, ne zaman, nasıl ortaya çıkacağı belli olmayan bir eylem olarak toplum arasında ani vahşet ve korkuya sebep olmakla birlikte ruhi, fiziki ve mali zararlar vermektedir. Terör belli bir kesim (etnik, solcu devrimci, dinci, siyasi vb) gruplar ve devlet tarafından gerçekleştirilmekte olup; altında yatan sebepler onların ideolojilerine göre mantıklı görülerek, bu yolla hedeflerine ulaşmayı amaçlamaktadırlar. Bu tezi değerli kılan çalışma ‘Terör’ kavramı ve tarihi araştırılarak, Taliban devletinin ‘devlet terörü’ açısından incelenmesidir. Bununla beraber terörizm iki ayrı bakışla yani ‘Eski-terörizm’ ve ‘Çağdaş-terörizm’ olarak ele alınmıştır. Taliban’ın devlet terörü ile hangi kapsamlarda bağdaştığı, kimler tarafından kurulduğu, hangi hedefler doğrultusunda yürüdüğü, kimlere hizmet ettiği, 1996-2001 yılları arası Afganistan’da ne tür bir devlet sistemi yürüttüğü, 2001 yılı öncesi ve sonrası hangi şekillerde terör eylemlerini devam ettirdiği ve günümüz itibariyle bulunduğu konumu incelemiştir. Bulgulara göre Taliban legal bir örgüt olup ABD ile antlaşmalar imzalamıştır. Bu tez, bilimsel olarak Afganistan’da yaşanan 5 yıllık Taliban Hükümeti’ni akademik metinler ışığında detaylı ve somut olarak ortaya koymuştur. Tez yazımında kaynak olarak akademik makaleler, kitaplar, gazeteler, ve internet sitelerinden yararlanılmıştır. Yöntemde kaynaklardan derlenen veriler, belirtilen kavramlar ve hipotez çerçevesinde tasnif edilerek eleştirel, bilimsel ve karşılaştırmalı yöntemlerle değerlendirilmiştir. Taliban devletinin İslami Şariat yönetimi ile hangi seviyede bağlantılı olduğu izah edilerek, yerel yönetimde İslam dini adına neler yaptığı ortaya konularak ve yönetimleri süresince kadınların toplum içinde hangi statüde yer aldıkları incelenerek, güvenlikle ilgili öneri ve tavsiyelerle tez sonlandırılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Afganistan, etnik, Cihat, Taliban, terörizm

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GİRİŞ

İnsanları vahşice öldüren bu teröristler kimlerdir ve nasıl terörist oldular? Ve bir insan neden bir terör örgütüne katılma ihtiyacı duyar? Ancak bu sorular terör denilince akla gelen ortak sorulardır. Herkes bilir ki teröristler de içimizden insanlardır, ancak acımasızlıkları, ve gaddarlıkları ile bizden ayrılırlar. Bu sorulara yanıt vermek gerçekten zor olsa da, teröristlerin sosyo-psikolojik yaşamları üzerine farklı araştırmalar yapılması gerekiyor. Bu tez özellikle terörizm, ve devlet terörü açısından Taliban hükümetine odaklanıyor.

Hipotezde 1994 ve 2001 yılları arasında Afganistan'daki Taliban hükümetinin bir terör devleti özellikleri taşıdığı varsayılıyor. Ancak, 1994 yılında Taliban hükümetinin Afganistan halkı tarafından takdir edildiğine inanılıyor. Fakat 11 Eylül'den sonra Taliban hükümeti El Kaide radikal grubunu desteklediği için bir terör devleti olarak kabul edildi ve bu durum ABD'nin Afganistan'a müdahalesine zemin hazırladı. Aslında 1994'ten önce de Taliban bir örgüt olarak, ülkedeki savaşı milislerden farklı değildi. Bu durumda önemli olan soru şudur: 'Taliban hükümeti gerçekten bir terör devleti miydi?' Bu tezin bulgularına göre Taliban hükümeti totaliter, diktatör bir terör devletiydi. Ancak her iki rejimin özelliklerini de bünyesinde barındırıyordu.

Taliban ve El Kaide ilişkileri, ABD'nin Afganistan'a müdahalesi, 'terörizm' kavramlaştırması ve Taliban hükümetinin devlet terörü açısından incelenmesi bu tezi akademik alanda önemli kılmaktadır. Ayrıca bu tezi önemli kılan konulardan bir diğeri de terörü iki farklı perspektiften: 'Eski-terörizm' ve 'Çağdaş-terörizm' olarak incelemesidir. Öte yandan terörün tarihi çok eskilere dayanmaktadır ama kuşkusuz bugünkü düzende olduğu kadar ürkütücü olmadığı biliniyor, bundan dolayı, iki aşama da inceleme altına alınmıştır.

Ayrıca terör ve terörizm teriminin tarihi, tarihsel süreç içerisinde ampirik kullanımı ve İslami radikalizmin ortaya çıkışı olarak sabitlenebilecek 11 Eylül sonrası radikal değişimi incelenmiştir. Genel düşünceye göre, son yirmi yıl içinde köktendinci örgütlerin çoğu Müslüman topluluklar arasından çıkmıştır; Taliban, Hizbullah, IŞİD, PKK, Özbek İslami Hareketi ve diğerleri gibi. Hepsinin radikal olduğu biliniyor, ancak anlayışları açısından ayırt edilebiliyorlar. Aralarındaki ortak nokta, Müslüman olarak tanınmalarıdır. Ancak bunların terörle ilişkilendirilmesi tartışmaya açık bir konudur.

Üstelik Afganistan da nüfus çoğunluğunun Müslüman olduğu ülkelerden biri ve neredeyse yirmi yıldır terörle mücadele ediyor. Siviller her gün intihar saldırılarında, bombalı saldırılarda sürekli ölüyor ya da kaçırılıyor ve ardından teröristler tarafından öldürülüyor. Mevcut ve önceki Afgan hükümetlerinin son

40 yıldır ülkede istikrarlı bir barışı tesis edememesi ülkenin başarısız devletler endeksi arasına girmesine neden olmuştur (Fragile State Index, 2020). 2020'nin ilk altı ayında, Taliban ve hükümet arasındaki savaşta 2957 sivil kaybı meydana gelmiştir ve zayırlarda geçen yılın aksine sadece yüzde 11'lik bir düşüş yaşanmıştır (Saif, 2020).

Yukarıdaki pasaj, kelimenin tam anlamıyla, 2020'de Taliban'ın her gün 16 kişiyi öldürdüğünü ve önceki yıllarda sivilleri öldürmek için daha aktif olduklarını ve Afgan hükümetinin aksiyon filmi izleyenler gibi bir sembol olarak orada olduğu görünüyordu. Hükümet, ölenlerin yakınlarına taziye mesajları göndermekten başka bir şey yapmıyordu ve insanlar inanılması güç bir şekilde ülkeyi yöneten bir hükümet olduğunu düşünüyorlardı. Siyasî bilince sahip olmamak, cahil olmak ülkeyi mevcut duruma sokmuştur.

Bu araştırmanın birinci bölümünde terörizmin tarihine, teorik arka planına ve terörizm türlerine yer verilmiştir. Ayrıca, 'Terörizm' kavramı, 'devlet terörü' detaylıca incelenmiş ve kısaca eski ve modern terörizm konularına temas edilmiştir. Temel değer olarak 'devlet terörizmi' üzerinde durularak başarısız devlet ve terörizm arasındaki ilişkiler, küreselleşmenin terörizme etkisi ve terörün uluslararası politikada kullanılması konuları analiz edilmiştir.

Tezin ikinci bölümü, Afganistan'ın jeopolitik önemi, savaşların tarihi ve Afganistan'da Mücahitlerin ortaya çıkışı ile ilgilidir. Bu bölüm Afgan Krallığı'nın tarihi, İngiliz-Afgan savaşları, modernleşme dönemi, Cumhuriyetin kuruluşu, Komünist rejim, Sovyetler Birliği'nin müdahalesi, Mücahitlerin ortaya çıkışı, ve günümüz Afganistan'ın etnik arka planına yer verilmiştir.

Tezin son kısmı, Taliban'ın kurulmasına ve onların (1996-2001) El Kaide ile müttefikliklerine, hükümetleri sırasındaki sivil kayıplara ve ötesine odaklanmak üzere ayrılmıştır. Tez, özellikle, Taliban'ın yönetimi, eğitim sistemi, hükümet rejimi konularına odaklanmıştır. Taliban son 20 yılda ne yaptığı, yeniden iktidarı nasıl ele geçirdiği, terörizmin Taliban ile ne ölçüde uyumlu olduğu ve bölgede şu anda hangi pozisyonda oldukları, soruları yanıtlanmaya çalışılmıştır. Ayrıca, 11 Eylül'den sonra ABD'nin Afganistan'a müdahalesi de bu fasılda yer almıştır.

Terörizm üzerine yazılan literatür, devlet terörü açısından Taliban hükümetine odaklanmamıştır. Ancak, Taliban hakkında yazılmış çok sayıda kitap ve akademik makale vardır. Bunların hepsi de Talibani bir terör örgütü olarak kınanmış ama terör devleti olarak incelemeye almamışlardır. Bu çalışmanın özgünlüğü, devlet terörü açısından Taliban hükümetinin (1996-2001) incelenmesidir.

Bu tezi iki akademik dönemde yazmayı planladık, tezin her bölümü hedeflenen zaman diliminde tamamlanacak şekilde eşit olarak bölündü. İlk beş hafta konu ile ilgili kaynaklar google'da taranmış ve kullanım için ayrılmıştır. Dokuzuncu haftada tezin birinci bölümü tamamlanmış ve değerlendirilmek üzere danışmana gönderilmiştir. İki hafta içerisinde tezin ilk bölümü danışman tarafından değerlendirilerek dönüş yapıldı. Bu süre zarfında ikinci bölümün taslağı üzerinde çalışmalar devam

ediyordu. İkinci dönemin başına kadar, danışman tarafından işaretlenen hatalar düzeltildi. Tezin ikinci bölümünde de aynı strateji izlendi.

Bu tezde, 1996-2001 yılları arasında Taliban hükümetinin devlet terörü özellikleri taşıdığına açıklığa kavuşturulması amaçlanmıştır. Bu nedenle, teoride devlet terörizminin özelliklerini öğrenmek için araştırmalara başlandı ve kaynaklar aşağıdaki gibi farklı çevrimiçi akademik dergilerden toplandı; J-store, Elsevier, Google-books, Routledge, Research-Gate, Dergi-park vb. Devlet terörü ile Taliban devletinin özelliklerinin karşılaştırılması ve bir sonuç ortaya konulması hedeflendi. Hipotezi desteklemek için üç harita, üç grafik ve üç tablo kullanıldı. Kaynaklardan derlenen veriler belirlenen kavramlar ve hipotezler çerçevesinde sınıflandırılarak eleştirel, bilimsel ve karşılaştırmalı yöntemlerle değerlendirildi. Ancak güvenlik sorunları nedeniyle tezimizi güçlendirmek için Afganistan'da bir anket yapılması mümkün olmadığı için bu tezin akademik makaleler ışığında yazılması ve incelenmesine karar verildi. Ayrıca, Taliban hükümetinin devlet terörü ile ne düzeyde bağlı olduğu açıklanarak, bölgede güvenliğin sağlanması ve terörün Afganistan'dan çıkarılması hususunda öneri ve tavsiyelerle tez sonlandırılmıştır.

SONUÇ

Başlangıçta terör terimi bizim anladığımız anlamda kullanılmazken, günümüz anlamında eski çağlarda gerçekleştirilen korku ve şiddet içeren eylemler terör eylemleri olarak kabul edilmektedir. Ayrıca, terör herhangi bir dinle bağdaştırılmamıştır. Ancak bazı bilim adamları, eski zamanlarda dindar insanlar tarafından yürütülen şiddet içeren eylemlerin, dini terörizm örnekleri olduğunu iddia ediyorlar. Örneğin Zeolt'ların Roma İmparatorluğu'na karşı koymalarını, Yahudi terörü olarak nitelendiriyorlar, ayrıca bunun milliyetçi ayrılıkçı teröre örnek olduğunu iddia edenler de bulunmaktadır. Tanrıça Mah-Kali uğruna bir milyonu aşkın insanın kurban edildiği düşünülüyor ve bu eylem de bilim insanları tarafından Hindu terörizmine örnek gösteriliyor. Eski Müslüman terör devleti olarak Haşâşi'ler gösterilmektedir. Tarihte terörizm bir dönem Fransa'da Jakoben'ler tarafından olumlu anlamda kullanılmıştır. Çoğunlukla 20. yüzyılın sonlarına kadar hem Amerika hem de Avrupa kıtalarında sol gruplar tarafından terör eylemleri yapılmış ve sağ gruplar terör eylemleri ile bağdaştırılmamıştır.

Terör kavramı insanlık tarihi boyunca örgütlü gruplar ve devletler tarafından çoğunlukla olumsuz anlamda kullanılmış ve tartışmalı kavramlar arasında yer almıştır. Bu, temanın kabul edilmiş ve açıkça anlaşılmış bir tanımı olmadığı anlamına gelir. Ancak bilim adamları terör eylemlerini toplumda korku ve şiddeti yaymak için organize, hesaplı ve sistematik olarak yürütülen eylemler olarak tanımlamaktadırlar. 'Terörizm ve terörle mücadele' kavramlarının ikisi de şiddet ve yıkım yarattığı için bir çelişki ve anlaşmazlık söz konusu olması sebebiyle tartışmalar vardır. Ancak terörle mücadele, bir terör eylemini susturmak için yürütülen karşı eylem olarak kabul edilir. Terör eylemlerinin ani ve bilinmeyen bir olay olması, ve terörle mücadelenin devletin bilinçli olarak yaptığı bir eylem olduğu iddia edilebilir. Öte yandan, terör yeni şekillenen bir olgu olmasa da, 11 Eylül olayından önce tema akademinin gündeminde değildi. 11 Eylül olayı terörün İslam ile ilişkilendirilmesi açısından bir dönüm noktası olduğu, hatta olayın modern terörün ortaya çıkışı olarak değerlendirilebileceği de söylenebilir. 9/11 olayından sonra bilim adamları (terörizm) kavramına odaklanmış ve ilgili literatürün yüzde 80'inden fazlası 2000'lerden sonra üretilmiştir. Ancak terörün doğası, özellikle İkinci Dünya Savaşı'ndan sonra insanların zihninden neredeyse silinmiş ve Dünya Savaşları terörizm perspektifinden ele alınmak için çoğu zaman göz ardı edilmiştir. Ama açıkçası, her iki Dünya Savaşı da tüm dünyada korku ve şiddet yaratmış, milyonlarca ölüme neden olmuş, bu da bu savaşların terörizmden daha yıkıcı olduğunu göstermektedir. Özellikle İkinci Dünya Savaşı'nda ABD, Japonya'da halkın çoğunun sivil olduğu iki iline atom bombaları attığı için terör devleti gibi davranıyordu.

Dünya Savaşları'ndan sonra, doğudaki ülkelerden çok azında gerilla savaşları ve sivil savaşlar gibi farklı adlar altında teröre benzer çatışmalar yaşandı. Afganistan Dünya savaşlarına katılmamış olsa da, barış içinde yaşamamış ülkelerden biridir. Ayrıca 40 yıldan uzun süredir sürekli bir iç savaş yaşamaktadır. 1980'lerde Sovyetler Birliği'ne karşı Mücahitler'in ortaya çıkmasıyla başlayan daha sonra Taliban hükümetinin 1996-2001 yılında kurulması ile devam eden ve şu ana kadar da sürmekte olan bir iç savaş söz konusudur. Taliban ve onların müttefiki El Kaide Afganistan'da binlerce kişiyi öldürdüler, binlerce kişiyi bölge içinde ve dışında şiddete yol açacak şekilde eğittiler. Öte yandan İslami Terör teriminin ortaya çıkışının Mücahitler'in Afganistan'da ortaya çıktığı yıllara denk geldiği düşünülmektedir.

Farklı terörizm türleri vardır, ancak kategorik olarak “yukarıdan terörizm” ve “aşağıdan terörizm” olarak ikiye ayrılabilir. Hem aşağıdan terörizm hem de yukarıdan terörizmin kendi alt kitaları vardır. Temelde aşağıdan terörizm, bir devletin mali veya silah desteği olmaksızın bir grup tarafından yürütülen her türlü terörü içerir. Yukarıdan terörizm ise bir devletin veya vekillerinin kendi topraklarında veya diğer devletlerde gerçekleştirdiği terör eylemleridir. Bu nedenle, devletlerin her türlü terör eylemini organize etme, manipüle etme ve gerçekleştirme kapasitesinin yüksek olması nedeniyle yukarıdan terörizm en şiddetli ve acımasız olarak kabul edilmektedir. 21. yüzyılın ikinci on yılının başında IŞİD, diri diri yakarak, kafaları keserek bir terör devleti gibi davrandı ve sosyal medyanın etkin kullanımıyla yeni bir terörizm evresini dünyaya yansıttı.

Öte yandan Taliban Afganistan'da intihar saldırıları, bombalı saldırılar düzenleyerek Katar ve Pakistan'ın vekili olarak cihat adı altında terör kapasitelerini sergiliyordu. Taliban, Ahmedzai'nin cumhurbaşkanlığı sırasında başarısız olan Afgan Hükümet'inden tam olarak yararlandı, Afganistan ve Pakistan'ın her yerinden milisleri toplamayı başardı ve bu da devletin onların eline geçmesine neden oldu.

Bu tezin bulgularına göre, çoğunlukla terör grupları yasal otoriteler, devletler, belirli gruplar ve kişiler tarafından kurulur ve desteklenir. Bir bakış açısına göre, Taliban birkaç Arap Ülkesi ve ABD'nin mali desteğiyle, ortaya çıkarılan Pakistan'ın bir ürünüdür. Taliban'ın ortaya çıkmasından önce bile Afgan Mücahitleri ABD tarafından Sovyetler Birliği'ne karşı savaşmak için mali ve cephane olarak açıkça destekleniyordu. ABD'nin maddi desteğiyle ülkeyi yaktılar, binlerce insanı öldürdüler ve bunların sonucunda ülke kaotik bir duruma girdi. Dolayısıyla terör örgütlerinin terör devletlerinin siyasi çıkarlarına ulaşmak için kurdukları kuruluşlar olduğu söylenebilir.

Ayrıca Taliban, sivilleri öldürmek, korku salmak, baskı yapmak, zina cezası olarak taşlamak, intihar saldırıları düzenlemek, insanları diri diri yakmak, belirli gruplara karşı keyfi güç kullanmak, kadın haklarını göz ardı etmek gibi özellikleri nedeniyle köktenci bir terör örgütü olarak görünüyor. Bununla birlikte, ülkeyi yönetiyi yıllarda, arazinin genel kontrolünü ele geçirmek için totaliter bir rejim olarak hareket etmekteydi. 1996-2001 yılları arasındaki Taliban devletinin tablo 3'teki sınıflandırmaya göre bir terör devleti özelliği taşıdığı söylenebilir. Taliban, baskı ve terör eylemleri uygulayarak milleti kontrol

etmekteydi. Ancak onlara göre onların sağladığı yaşam tarzı İslami değer ve öğretilere göre idi. Yani şeriat kanunlarına göre ulus için en iyi ve uygun olanı yapıyorlar, iyi ve mutlu bir yaşam sağlıyorlardı.

Taliban'ın yönettiği bölgenin genel özelliklerini baktığımızda Afganistan'ın Orta Asya'da her türden önemli madenlerle dolu, denize kıyısı olmayan bir ülke olduğu bilinen bir gerçektir. Afgan devleti, neredeyse kuruluşundan bugüne kadar vatandaşlarına temel kolaylıkları sağlamada ve getirmede başarısız olmuştur. Modern Afganistan'ın oluşumundan hemen önce devlet İngiltere'nin müdahalesiyle karşı karşıyaydı, ancak modernleşme döneminden sonra Habibullah Kalakani liderliğinde bir milis grubu ortaya çıktı, Amanullah Han hükümetine karşı savaştı ve iktidarı ele geçirdi. Bu milis grubu, modernleşmeye karşı muhafazakar olduğu için ülkeyi bir oyalanmaya sürükledi. Kalakani'nin iktidarından sonra Nadirşah iktidara geldi, kendisinden önce ve sonra yapılan reformları da kaldırdı, onun ölümünden sonra oğlu Muhammed Zahir Şah toplumda bazı değişikliklere teşebbüs ettiği fakat başarılı olamadı. Zahir Şah'ın krallığı da Davud Khan ve ordusu tarafından gerçekleştirilen bir darbeyle ortadan kaldırıldı. Halbuki, onun krallık dönemi Afganistan'ın en demokratik çağı sayılır. Gücü ele geçiren Davud Khan ülkeyi Afganistan Demokratik Cumhuriyeti olarak ilan etti. Onun hükümeti de uzun sürmedi, Afganistan'da komünist rejimin kuruluşunun başlangıcı olan devlet dairelerinde komünistler ortaya çıkmaya başladı. Bu, 1979'da Sovyet müdahalesine ve Mücahitlerin onlara karşı yükselmesine neden oldu. Neredeyse on yıllık kanlı savaşın ardından 15 Şubat 1989'da Sovyet birlikleri ülkeyi terk etti. Bu, Mücahitlerin zaferi olarak kabul edildi.

Bir başka açıdan bakıldığında, zafer gerçek bir yıkım ve çöküştü, çünkü ülke savaşta parçalanmıştı ve harap olmuştu, ayrıca merkezi bir hükümet yoktu. Mücahitler birbirleriyle savaştı, bunun sonucunda binlerce ölü, yaralı, yetim ve dul kaldı. Son olarak Taliban'ın ortaya çıkış zemininin de Mücahitler tarafından sağlandığı söylenebilir. Bu, ülkeyi neredeyse altı yıl boyunca aşırı yoksulluk, terör ve ekonomik çöküntüye götürmüştür. Taliban milletin üzerine tahakküm sağlayabilmek için bir korku imparatorluğu yaratarak ve 2001'de ABD'nin müdahalesine kadar ülkeyi yönetmiştir. Müdahale Afganistan'a modern, demokratik, ve medeni bir ulus olması için fırsatlar yaratmıştır. Ancak bu fırsattan başa gelen hükümetler yararlanamamıştır. Görünen o ki yirmi yıl içinde ülke gelişmemiş, hem Karzai'nin hem de Ahmadzai'nin uygunsuz politikalarıyla gelişme yerine çöküntüye doğru sürüklenmiştir. Ülkenin harap olduğunu ve yeterli ekonomik kapasiteye sahip olmadıklarını, artan terörizmi ve Taliban'ın onların gelişmesine izin vermediğini iddia edebilirler. Dolayısıyla, bunlar gelişmemenin temel nedeni değildir. Gelişmemenin temel nedenleri yolsuzluk, eğitilmiş akıllı insanları kilit pozisyonlara alamamak ve bir ülkeyi yönetecek niteliklere sahip olamamaktır.

Son yirmi yılda iktidarı ele geçirmek için çok çalışan Taliban, Karzai'nin cumhurbaşkanlığı döneminde camilerin imamı olarak çocuklara ideolojilerini öğretiyorlardı. Bir bakıma, düşüncelerini taze zihinlere enjekte ediyorlardı. Halkın ve hükümet yetkililerinin çoğu, Taliban'ın camilerdeki faaliyetlerinden haberdardı, ancak kimse onları durdurmadı çünkü Taliban'ın İslami değerleri öğrettiğine inanıyorlardı. Halk da Müslüman olduğu için bunları öğrenmede sorun olmadığını düşündü. Ahmedzai'nin

cumhurbaşkanlığı döneminde hükümet personelinin gitmeye cesaret edemediği köylere işleyen paralel bir devlet olarak faaliyet ediyorlardı, köylüler Taliban'ın hükümetten daha etkili olduğuna inanıyorlardı. Çünkü devlet memurları rüşvet almadan hiçbir sorunu çözmezken, Taliban ise iletilen sorunlara ani çözümler sunuyordu. Ahmedzai, Taliban'a karşı hiçbir zaman ciddi bir askeri eylemde bulunmadı, şaşırtıcı bir şekilde onları her zaman hafife aldı.

Küreselleşme çağında, önceki Afgan hükümeti uygun olmayan politikalarla uğraşıyordu. Tıpkı ülkenin en önemli sorunlarından biri olan ırkçılık, ayrımcılık gibi, insanlar kapasitelerine göre değil etnik kökenlerine göre devlet dairelerine atanıyorlardı. Kişinin atandığı alanla ilgili herhangi bir bilgisi olmadığı için ülkeyi karanlıklara götürdü. Bu nedenle, bu sorunun mümkün olduğunca erken çözülmesi gerekiyordu. Öte yandan Afganistan, Peştunlar, Tacikler, Türkler (Özbek, Türkmen), Hazara, Beluç, Nuristani vb. ondan fazla etnik grubun yaşadığı çok etnikli bir ülkedir ve hiçbir etnik grubun dünyanın sonuna kadar ülke üzerinde hakimiyet sahibi olarak kalması söz konusu değildir. Ancak Afgan hükümeti her zaman diğer etnik grupları da Afgan olmaları için asimile etmek istemiştir ki bu gereksiz çabalardan biridir. Kelimenin tam anlamıyla, Afgan kelimesi bağırarak ve ağlamak anlamına gelmektedir ve Afganistan ise Afgan halkının yaşadığı toprak anlamında kullanılmaktadır. Afgan kelimesinin anlamının aksine etnik Peştun halkının bir diğer adı olduğu düşünülmektedir. Bu nedenle, Afgan kelimesinin diğer etnik gruplar tarafından kabul edilmesi, geçtiğimiz on yıllarda çoğunlukla sorun yaratmıştır.

Öte yandan Afganistan, bölgesel dillerin çatışması altında yaşıyor, yani her etnik köken kendi dillerinde konuşmak ve eğitim almak istiyor. Hükümet ise halka bu imkanı sağlayamadığı halde, tek dilli bir eğitim sistemini de halka dayatmaktadır. Bu da insanlar arasında bir tür önyargıya neden olmuştur.

Afganistan hükümeti gelişmek istiyorsa ve dünyanın diğer ülkeleriyle rekabet etmeye istekliyse, öncelikle etnik milliyetçiliği teşvik etmeyi bırakmalı, bir ulus duygusu yaratmak üzerine toprakta yaşayan tüm etnik gruplar arasında dayanışma, eşitlik fikirlerini yerleştirmeli ve çaba sarf etmelidir. Zira Afganistan'ın modern anlamda bir ulus olmadığı açıkça söylenebilir. Çünkü her etnik grup ayrı ayrı faaliyet göstermektedir, hatta merkezi ve yerel yönetimler bu etnik grupların liderleri arasında bölünmüş durumdaydı. Bu, ülkenin kalkınmasının önünde açık bir engeldir. İkinci olarak, sürdürülebilir barış, etkin bir kalkınma için en önemli faktördür. Bu bağlamda, Afgan hükümeti terör örgütleri ülkeden silmek zorundadır, Taliban ile sürdürülebilir barışı sağlamak için bir anlaşma imzalamak, üzleşmek bölgede yaşayan insanlara güvenli bir yaşam sunabilmek için önemlidir. İnsan hakları açısından ve ülkede çatışma çıkmasına neden olmaması açısından, ülkeye barış getirmenin en iyi yolu bir antlaşma imzalamak olacaktır. Taliban ve diğer terör grupları barış getirmek için bir anlaşma imzalamaya hazır değilse. Bu sorunu çözenin tek yolu, ülkeyi terör ve radikalizm tohumlarından temizlemek için tüm sert güç ve NATO gibi uluslararası yardımcılarla onlara saldırmaktır. O zaman hükümet, ülkenin her yönü ile ilgili etkili politikalarla odaklanabilir.

Öncelikle Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı'nın etkin olmanın ve eğitim sistemini dünya standartlarına getirmenin yollarını bulması gerekiyor. Memleketin her yerinde yaygın olan resmi olmayan eğitime son vermeli, medreselerde yetişmiş İslam Âlimleri tayin etmeli, memleketin bütün camilerine de kendi imamlarını atamaları gerekiyor. İkinci olarak Kültür Bakanlığı gelişmiş ülkelerden örnekler yayınlayarak daha fazla insana medeniyete dair olumlu fikirler aşılama odaklanmalıdır. Üçüncüsü, devlet, iyi eğitilmiş ve saygın insanları farklı sektörlerde istihdam ederek fark yaratabilir, bu da kalkınma ve medeniyetten geçmeyi mümkün kılacaktır. Çünkü devlet çalışanlarının çoğu yaşlı ve yozlaşmış insanlar. Bu nedenle emekli olmaları ve yerlerine gençleri getirmeleri gerekiyor. Yukarıdaki tavsiye paragrafları, Taliban ülkeyi ele geçirmeden önce yazılmıştı.

Yeni hükümet IEA (Afganistan İslam Emirligi), demokrasi yolunu izlemeli, toplumda adaleti tesis etmelidir. Devletin, milletinin ahirette cennete gideceğinden emin olmakla yükümlü olmadığını, ancak güvenliği, temel ihtiyaçları, malları ve kalkınmayı sağlamak için mutlaka orada olduğunu öğrenmesi gerekiyor. Ayrıca tecrübesi olmayan, sadece önceki hükümete karşı savaşan bir medreseli çocuğu değil, alanında uzman kişileri istihdam etmeye odaklanması gerekiyor.

IEA, modern yönetim sistemini takip etmezse, hükümetleri uzun sürmez, zaten onlara karşı yükselen güçler var. Hükümetlerinin kurulmasının üzerinden neredeyse yarım yıl geçti ancak kimse onları uluslararası arenada resmen tanımadı. İnsan haklarını ihlal etmeye devam ederlerse BM de onları tanımayacaktır. Buna karşılık, bekleyen birçok fırsatlar da vardır. Eğer Taliban demokratik yolu izler ve adaleti kurarsa, insanların onları kabul etmesi ve onlara meşruiyet kazandırması için yüksek olasılıklar vardır. Ayrıca, Taliban'ın eline geçmesiyle devlet dairelerinin yozlaşmış insanların varlığından silindiğine inanıldığı için bu da kalkıncı bir devlet olmanın yolunu açmaktadır. Ayrıca, Afganistan'ın kırılgan ekonomisini yeniden kurabilecek, ülkeyi medenileştirebilecek kapasitede genç ve eğitilmiş bir nüfusa sahip olduğu bir gerçektir.

İlaveten, Afganistan'ın yönetim sisteminin merkezi Şariat sisteminden federal demokratik sisteme dönüştürülmesi ülkedeki kalkınma sürecini hızlandıracaktır. Federal eyaletlerin her biri, kodlanmış anayasaya göre kendi kural ve düzenlemelerine sahip olmalıdır. Bu şekilde federal bölgeler arasında kalkınma ve eğitim sistemi açısından sağlıklı bir rekabet oluşacaktır, hem de hükümet halkına karşı kendini sorumlu hissedecektir.