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Part- 2

Strategic Manipulation by the Taliban Masters and Its Regional Impact in Afghanistan

Empowering the Taliban by neighbouring countries, major powers, and regional actors was a deliberate strategy. This report explores how the Taliban, with their intrinsic nature aligned with religious extremism, ethnic terrorism, and illicit trafficking, have been used as proxies to serve broader strategic interests. We examine the factors that enabled their rise to power and the implications of their governance on regional stability.

The governance of the Taliban is part of a long-term plan devised by powerful executives. This group, with its intrinsic nature aligned with religious extremism, ethnic terrorism, and drug and arms trafficking, operates as a strategy within a strategy, adapting step by step and complementing each other.

Challenges to this strategy and its subsets are inevitable. However, its fundamental nature endows it with an undeniable capacity for sabotage and destruction. The Taliban were initially supported from within the American-installed, so-called democratically elected governments headed by Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani. Due to incompetency, corruption, and ethnic rivalry within the government, the Taliban strengthened their position and inflicted serious losses with the help of their ethnic proponents on government institutions and military personnel. The government was reluctant to send logistical aids to combat personnel on the battlefronts. Their allowances and salaries were not paid for months.

Additionally, the USA, aiming to reduce its losses and long-term war expenses, shifted its focus to the conflict in Ukraine and transferred power to the Taliban as proxies against Afghanistan's neighbouring countries. There is consensus on sufficient evidence on how the Taliban were aided in returning to power, serving as a strategic tool for others. This tool has functions and implements plans for its continuity, both independently and at the suggestion of others, which are briefly addressed below.

- **Creating a Suffocating Atmosphere through Public Mind Infiltration:**

From the outset, the Taliban have employed pressure and tyranny to instil fear in the public. Reports of severe and inhumane torture, combined with intense and calculated

psychological warfare by regional and extra-regional intelligence organizations, display their power and amplify the fear of Taliban suppression.

The Taliban have also engaged in sophisticated media propaganda to crush the public's spirit of resistance against their mono-ethnic regime. They have created a police state atmosphere and established spy communication networks in urban areas where the threat of rebellion is highest. This strategic policy aims to suppress dissent and maintain control.

Using modern technology, the Taliban strive to infiltrate people's minds, instilling fear to pre-emptively control the populace before resorting to coercive power and repression.

- **School Building Policy as a Recruitment Field:**

Since gaining power, the Taliban have established thousands of religious schools, abandoning modern education in favour of the Haqqani school system. This policy aims to infiltrate the Afghan education system and is expansive, targeting not only cities and provincial centres but also remote villages.

According to existing documents, the Taliban's school-building program includes the construction of over 3,700 small and large religious schools across Afghanistan. Large religious and jihadi schools with the capacity to accommodate 1,000 students each have been built in 25 provinces, including Kabul, Kandahar, Ghor, Faryab, Takhar, Panjshir, Nangarhar, Kunduz, and Maidan Wardak, with additional schools under construction in several other provinces. Each school is mandated by the Taliban leader to have a dormitory for 500 to 1,000 students, with a daily allowance of 150 Afghanis per student.

Over the past 21 months, the Taliban have also converted dozens of modern public schools and cultural centres, including a private television station, into religious schools. Additionally, over the past twenty years, they have established hundreds of religious schools in areas under their control, further strengthening their ideological and recruitment foothold.

- **Policy of Blackmailing the People of Afghanistan and Regional Countries:**

During both their initial and current periods of power, the Taliban have secured significant financial resources through blackmail and extortion. Under this policy, they carried out widespread repression, initially targeting individuals, primarily from the Tajik ethnic group, accusing them of affiliations with the former government, resistance fronts, and other groups. They confiscated weapons, military equipment, and vehicles in these operations.

The Taliban continue to extract money from national businessmen, capitalists, influential figures, and landowners, leveraging their power to impose control and dominance. Beyond Afghanistan, the Taliban engage in political extortion in the region by hosting foreign terrorist groups and collecting financial resources.

Interaction with China, Iran, Russia, Central Asian countries, the United States, and European nations is a regular policy of the Taliban administration. When financial

assistance decreases, they activate threats from terrorist organizations like ISIS and other groups sheltered under their regime, forcing the region to provide funds as a form of retribution.

The Islamic Movement of East Turkestan, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Ansarullah of Tajikistan, Jundullah of Iran, and TTP of Pakistan are among the sources of income for the Taliban, supporting their continued rule.

- **Suppressing Non-Pashtun Ethnic Groups:**

The Taliban have collectively suppressed non-Pashtun ethnic groups, especially the Tajiks. They transferred the TTP to the north and usurped lands belonging to Tajiks in northern and northeastern Afghanistan. They relocated deportees from Pakistan, whose origins are questionable, causing concern.

The Taliban are attempting to eliminate the Persian language and promote anti-Tajik sentiments. They aim to create a Pashtun-dominated environment, ensuring a mono-ethnic and fascist rule. This involves creating a common space for the Pashto language and replacing plaques, addresses, and road names with Pashto.

This policy shows that Taliban rule is mono-ethnic, fascist, and supremacist, benefiting a few Pashtun elites. Meanwhile, many Pashtun-origin people live in poverty and helplessness. The Taliban seek to suppress and control the Afghan population, particularly the Tajiks, under the guise of religion and Afghan nationalism. They prevent Tajiks and other ethnic groups from returning to power with false slogans of Islamism and Afghanis.

This anti-Tajik policy has persisted for years. It is based on the "Saqavi II" theory, the main doctrine of Pashtun descent. According to this doctrine, the geography, politics, sources of power, and national wealth in Afghanistan should be entirely controlled by the Taliban.

- **The policy of terror and torture under the slogan of amnesty:**

Until now, hundreds of officers and employees of the security forces of the former government of Afghanistan have fallen into the trap of the Taliban using the trick of amnesty and have been subjected to the most horrific inhumane and Islamic tortures. The policy of "general amnesty" was a trick by which the Taliban terrorist group was able to suppress their opponents and deceive everyone under this false slogan. Right now, more than 20,000 prisoners from only one ethnic group are under detention and inhumane interrogations by the Taliban group, especially the "40th Directorate" of the Taliban intelligence, and they are tortured constantly and without stopping until they breathe. This group has ensnared and exterminated all these people and others who were trapped, using the deceptive slogan of amnesty. They even asked many of them from the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to enter the country and destroyed them by using tricks. The policy of terror and torture of the Taliban under the title Sharia law.

- **Creation of Active Drug and Arms Trafficking Networks:**

Haji Bishr, Abdul Ahad Talib, the commander of the 40,000-strong special unit named Hasibullah, and hundreds of other Taliban officials have used their power and security facilities to create networks for drug trafficking and arms smuggling. These networks transfer drugs and weapons from Afghanistan to terrorist groups in the region. This operation has generated significant wealth. The income from these networks is used to strengthen power bases, fulfill personal desires, and create luxurious lifestyles for their families. The Taliban, highly skilled in drug and arms trafficking, have utilized government security facilities to expand these networks. They collaborate with like-minded groups and countries in and beyond the region to protect and enhance their interests.

- **Widespread Exclusion of Women from Society:**

The Taliban terrorist group is arguably the most misogynistic political entity in the world. Since coming to power, they have imposed over 20 decrees restricting the social, political, educational, and occupational lives of Afghan women. Afghanistan, under Taliban rule, now hosts the largest prison for women in the world.

Girls, women, and human rights activists in Afghanistan face severe restrictions under Taliban control. Every day, the restrictions on Afghan women increase. Numerous reports of murder, imprisonment, gang rape, and the annihilation of female activists. Replacement of Modern Science with Religious Texts from Pakistan:

The Taliban have declared their intent to replace Western educational policies with the "Educational Curriculum of the Islamic Emirate," focusing on "Islamic Courses" and "Islamic Sciences." Most Taliban leaders and senior members studied at "Darul Uloom Haqqani" in Quetta, Pakistan, known as the "University of Jihadists," which follows the Deobandi school of thought. The Taliban aim to integrate this curriculum into Afghan education, aligning it with the extremist policies of Pakistani religious groups.

This shift strengthens Taliban rule while preventing Afghan society from accessing modern education and literacy. It cultivates militancy, extremism, and opposition to contemporary science. The Taliban's policies mimic the extremists' strategies, promoting a spirit of militancy and resistance to modernity.

The group seeks to keep Afghan society ignorant of the political truths of their repressive rule, aiming to establish Jihadi schools and train future soldiers for wars both within and outside Afghanistan. This education system fosters extremism, religious intolerance, and hatred, eliminating prospects for political change, pluralism, and modern knowledge.

The Taliban's adherence to these principles—extremism, hostility to modern science, ethnic manipulation, misogyny, and blackmail—ensures their continued dominance. They leverage drug and arms trafficking, extortion, and widespread repression under the false guise of "general amnesty" to maintain power. This strategy poses serious security challenges for the region and the world.

Engaging with the Taliban means ignoring the Afghan people and turning Afghanistan into a breeding ground for terror groups serving countries' strategic interests. This

approach undermines democracy, comprehensive governance, and human rights, and it threatens global security.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Taliban's resurgence, facilitated by both internal governmental failures and external strategic interests, underscores their role as a powerful proxy force in the region. Their ability to adapt and function independently, while also serving the agendas of others, continues to shape the geopolitical landscape of Afghanistan and beyond. This report will be continued to delve deeper into the evolving strategies and impacts of the Taliban's governance

To be continued...