



A New Great Game: Factors affecting Afghanistan's stability





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Outline

- Legacy of persistent instability
- Internal factors
- External factors
- Assessments
- Pathway to Afghanistan's stability



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Legacy of persistent instability

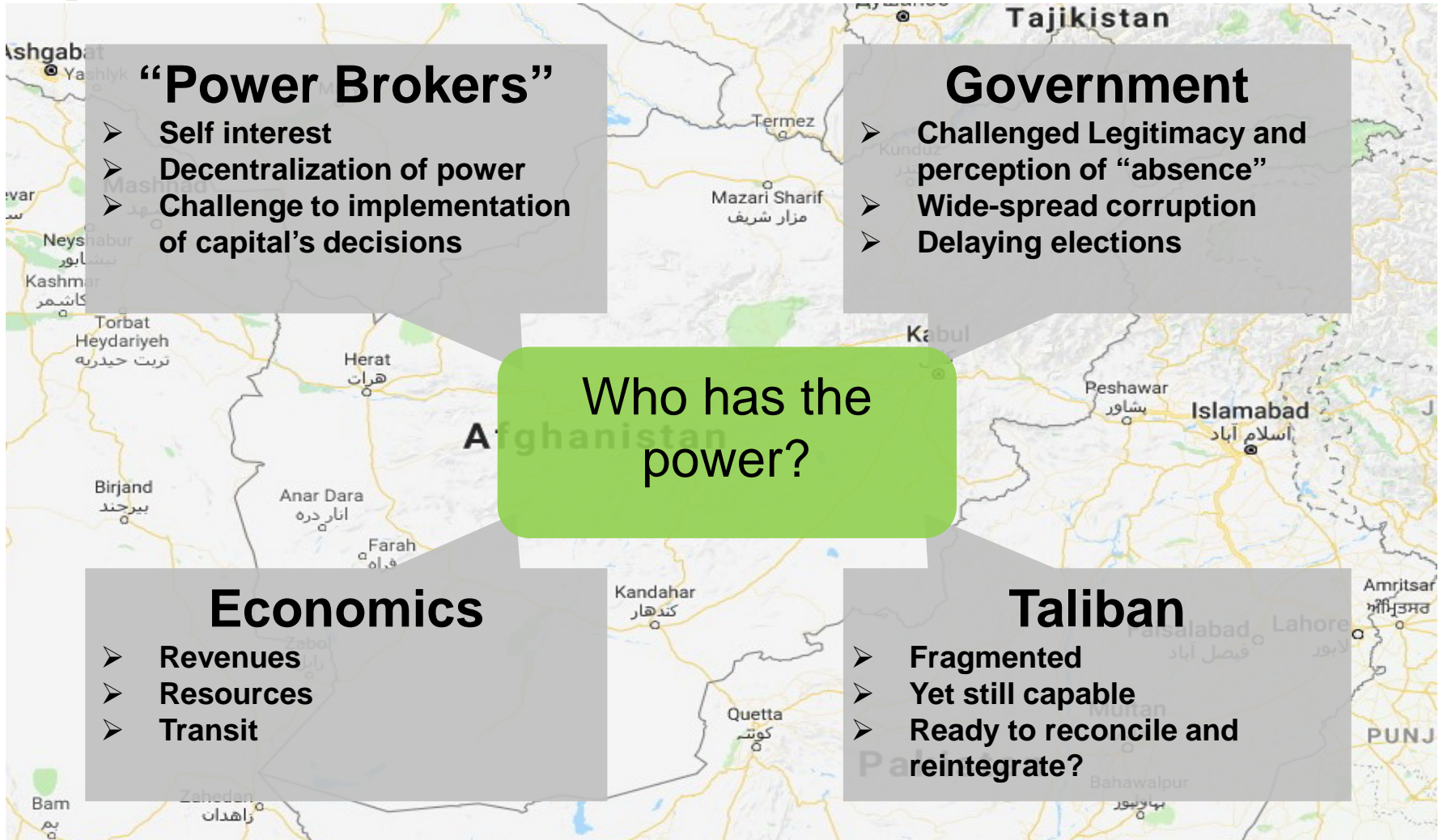
- Arena for foreign power competition
- Safe haven to extremist organizations
- Absence of “state culture” and lack of national unity and identity

Perception of war
as “normal”



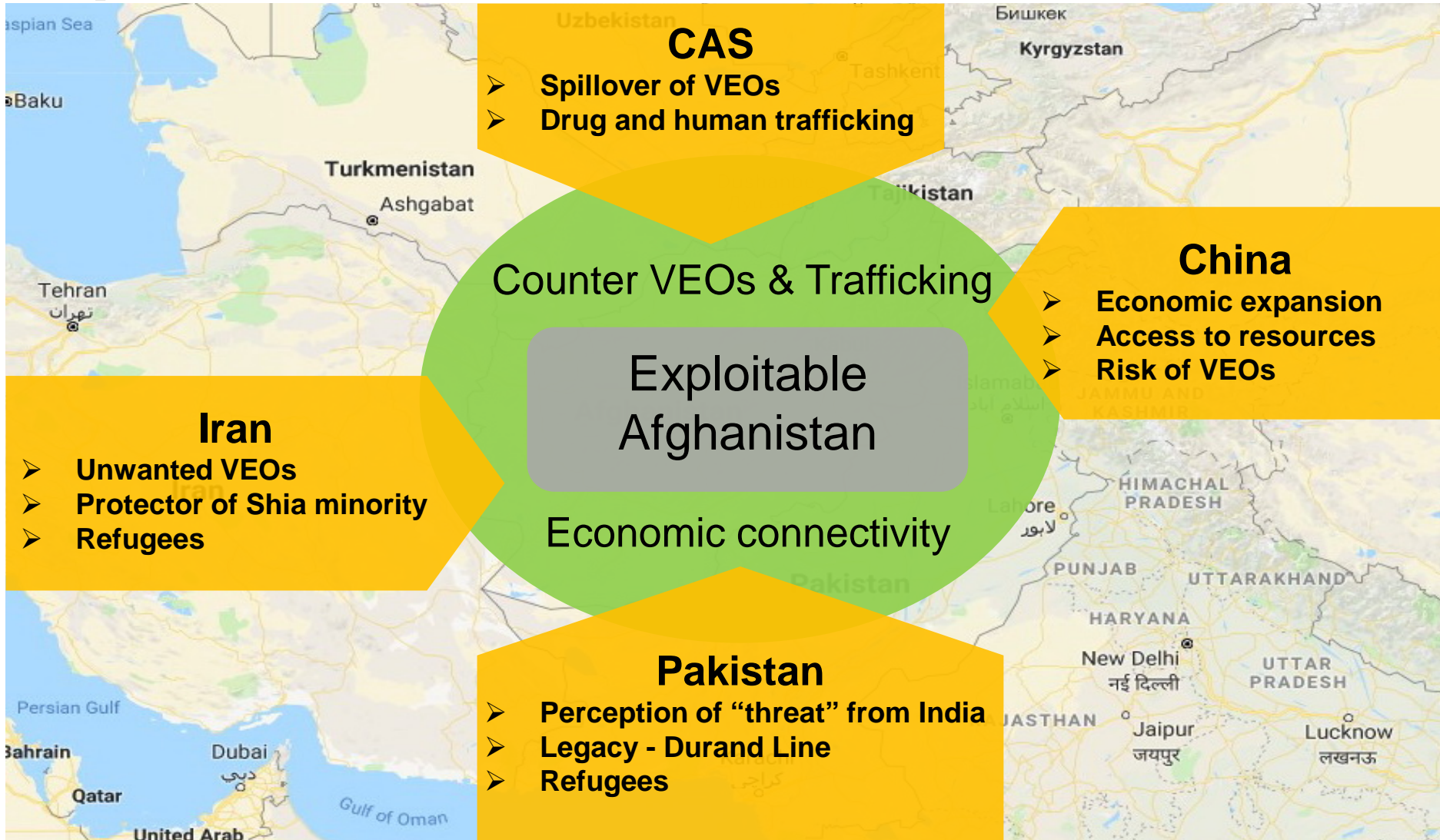


Internal factors



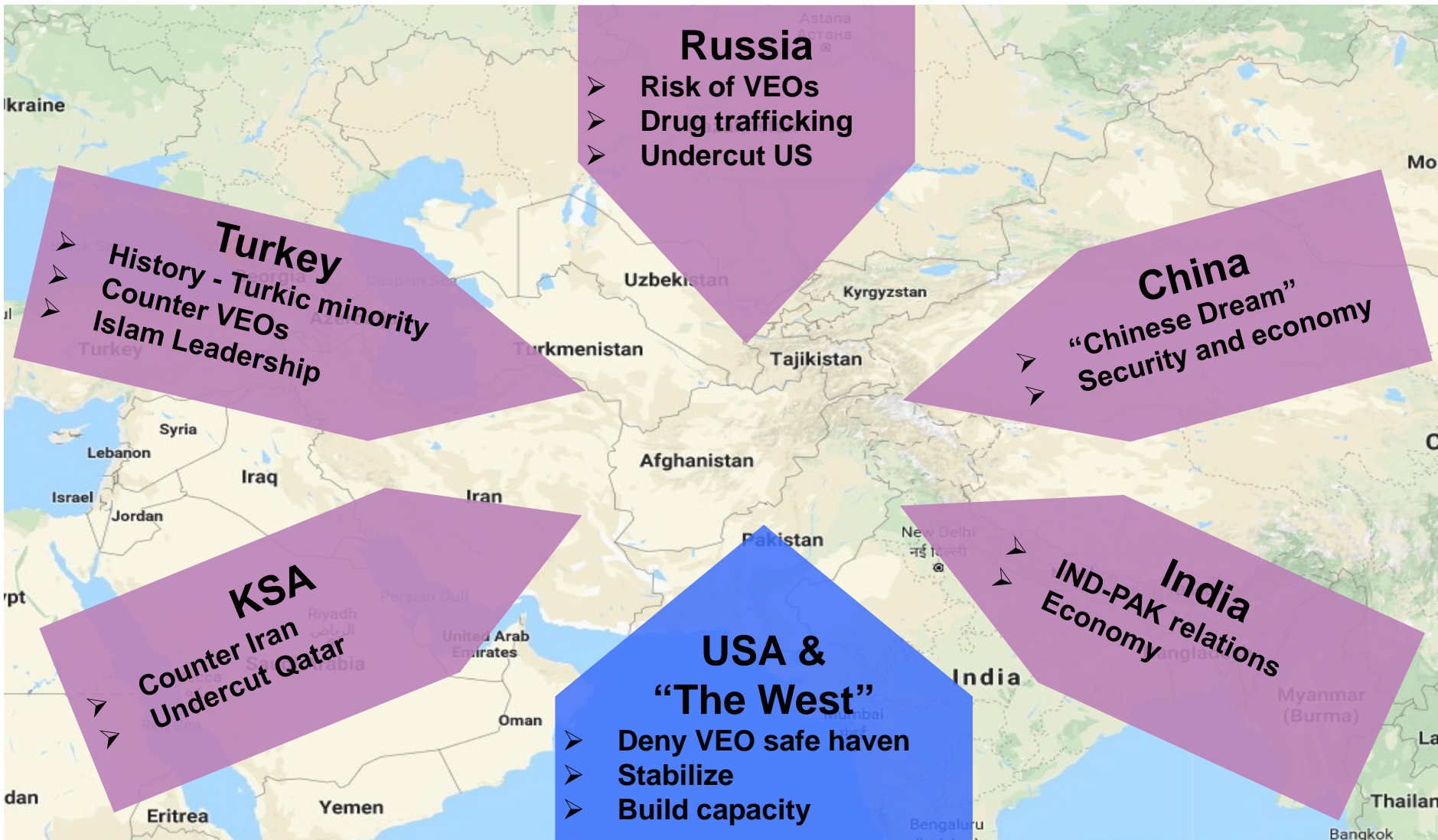


External factors - Neighbors





External dynamics – Other powers



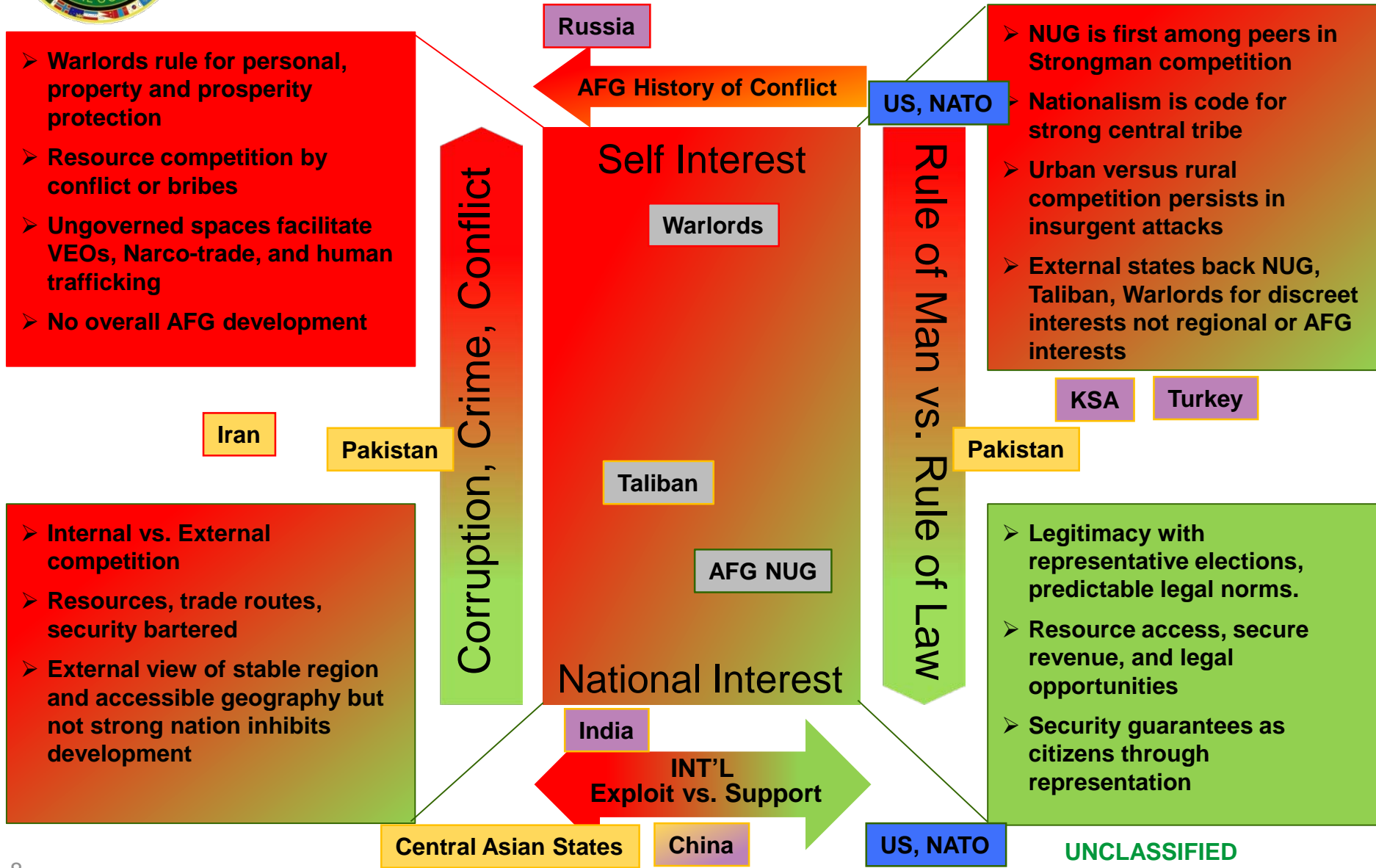


Who cares about Afghanistan?





Forces in competition for AFG Stability





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Pathway to Afghanistan's stability?

- Keep pressure on malign external actors
- Deny external support to insurgency in Afghanistan
- Convince Taliban that they cannot win
- Reconcile with Taliban factions willing to participate in the peace process and governing
- Ensure GIRoA has a monopoly on instruments of violence
- Disempower malign warlords
- Support development of a platform / format involving all key actors in Afghanistan peace process
- Support creation of security space for economic activity



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Pathway to Afghanistan's stability?

- 1. How can we pursue a reduced overt Indian govt presence in Afgh in order to signal to Pak that their fears of encirclement are not legitimate? Example - can we convince India to publicly announce the closing of consulates and reduced Indian govt presence in overt locations in Afg?**
- 2. What incentives can we find to convince Indian govt and mil leaders to signal a reduction in presence and influence in Afg?**
- 3. Barring a reduced Indian govt presence in Afg, what indicators would exist that Pak seeks a closer relationship with China to offset strategic encirclement by India in Afg?**
- 4. How can we dissuade/prevent a stronger/deeper relationship between Pak and China?**
- 5. If we are able to convince India to reduce presence in Afg, what quid pro quos should we try to negotiate from Pak to reduce their support for TB and HQN and eliminate safe havens, particularly in Waziristan?**



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Pathway to Afghanistan's stability?

1. We have numerous sources and studies of the cultural, ethnic, religious, political networks. What is less forthcoming from Afghanistan is a mapping of the economic and business links and relationships?