



Prospects of Peace in the land of Yaghestan (یاغیستان)



Governmental Stability in last 40(ish) years:

- 1926-1973 – Kingdom of Afghanistan (royalist)
- 1973-1978 – Republic of Afghanistan (socialist)
- 1979-1987 – Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (communist)
- 1987-1992 – Republic of Afghanistan (communist)
- 1992-2001 – Islamic State of Afghanistan (1996-2001 refugee govt)
- 1996-2001 – Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (2002-Present 'exile' govt)
- 2001-2002 – Afghan Interim Administration (Bonn Agreement)
- 2002-2004 – Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
- 2004-Present – Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Negotiate with Who?

Taliban:

- Quetta Shura
- Peshawar Shura
- Haqqani Network

How about these guys?

- High Council (Rasool Shura)
- Hezb-e Islam-I Gulbuddin (HiG)
- Islamic State-Khorasan Province

Where does Al Qaeda fall in this?





There have been contacts



- April 2003 – Karzai indicates desire to reintegrate ‘ordinary’ Taliban
- Aug 2005 – Mullah Jilani renounces violence, Kabul govt initiated reconciliation program ‘Program Tahkim-e Solh’ (PTS) – ended due to excessive corruption
- Oct 2010 – PTS restarted as ‘Afghan Peace & Reconciliation Program’(APRP)
- Nov 2010 – U.S./Taliban meeting brokered by Germany & Qatar (Bowe Bergdahl)
- Feb 2011 – U.S./Taliban meeting brokered by Qatar (Bowe Bergdahl)
- May 2011 – U.S./Taliban meeting brokered by Germany (talks failed)/(Bowe Bergdahl)
- Jan 2012 – U.S./Taliban talks brokered by Qatar (failed due to GIRoA/Congress opposition), GIRoA nor Pakistan invited
- Jan 2012 – Taliban ‘embassy’ established in Doha, Qatar
- Jun 2013 – Doha talks, GIRoA withdraws saying Taliban ‘unofficial’, fail (Bowe Bergdahl)
- Feb 2014 – Pakistan/Taliban ‘formal’ meeting in Islamabad
- Mar 2014 – Bowe Bergdahl-5 Taliban leader swap
- Jul 2014 – GIRoA/Taliban meet in Pakistan, China and U.S. present as observers
- Feb 2016 – Taliban offer peace talks to new Trump Administration
- Oct 2016 – Direct GIRoA/Taliban talks (failed)
- Feb 2017 – Taliban offer peace talks to new Trump Administration
- Oct 2018 – U.S./Taliban talks in Doha
- Dec 2018 – Russia sponsors Taliban talks in Moscow
- Jan 2019 – U.S./Taliban talks, GIRoA not invited
- Apr 2019 – U.S./Taliban/GIRoA exploratory”” talks scheduled, Taliban rejects
- May 2019 – U.S./Taliban talks recommence



What is Desired



GIRoA

- Reconciliation with Taliban members reintegrated into society and government

Taliban

- Foreign military forces removed from Afghanistan
- Re-establishment of Deobandi-influenced Sharia-based Emirate



U.S.

- Removal of U.S. military forces
- End of excessive economic drain
- A free, fair civil society in Afghanistan



Pakistan

- A pro-Pakistan/anti-Indian government amenable to Pakistani desires

Russia/Iran/etc

- An end to the flow of opium
- An end to Afghanistan as a regional base for actual or potential Islamist terrorists





Outcome(s)?



Taliban believes they hold the upper hand at this time

A Pakistan view on negotiating:

“Never try to negotiate with a terrorist group; they will never honor the agreement but only use it as propaganda and to replenish/regroup.”

- Anwaar Hussain, flight officer, PAF 2009

A Pakistan view on what will happen if U.S. withdraws:

- A new civil war will recommence
- Afghanistan will basically split in two, Pushtun Taliban and non-Pushtun
- Foreign powers will intervene, including Pakistan, Iran, India, Russia, China, the Central Asian states, etc
- U.S. will lose all credibility internationally
- Taliban will remain isolated internationally and thus retain links with Al Qaeda
- War in Afghanistan could potentially trigger a Pakistan/India military confrontation

- A.H. Amin, Major, PA 2009

Taliban - Taleban



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