

# Future of Afghanistan

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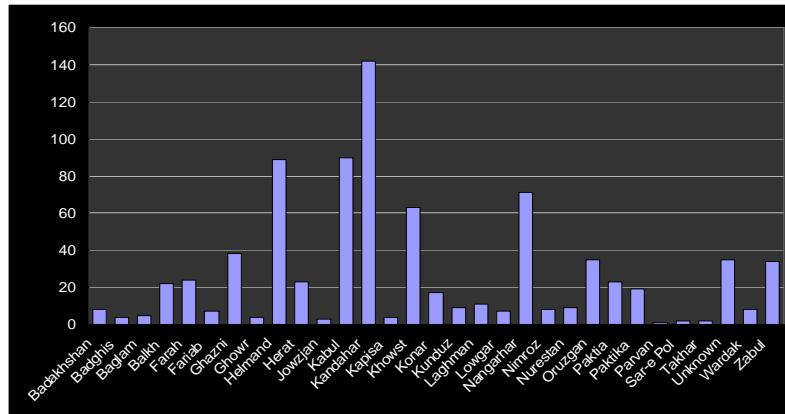
## Three Main Questions

- What are the key Challenges in Afghanistan?
- Why a stable Afghanistan matters?
- How can we strive for a better Future?



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## Most of the Violence Has Been in the South and East



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## There are Five Main Groups

- Taliban
  - They regrouped, re-armed and recruited in Pakistan
  - Seek to overthrow the government and impose an extreme version of Islam
  - Influx of “Daily Taliban” recruited at *madrassas* and other locations in Pakistan and Afghanistan



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## Main Groups

- Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)
  - Seek to overthrow government and install Gulbuddin Hekmatyar
  - Joined Al Qaeda
  - Open to Dialogue?
- The Haqqani Network
  - Fought under Hizb I Islami (Khalis Faction)
  - Served as a Minister in the Taliban regime
  - Role of Sirajudin Haqqani (Khalifa)
  - Network is out of North Wazirstan with the focus on Eastern Afghanistan
  - Key attack: Indian Embassy and Camp Solarno



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## Main Groups

- Pakistani Taliban -- Much stronger than the Afghan Taliban and present a bigger threat
- The leader of PT is Beithullah Mehsud
  - Formation of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) a conglomerate of forty militant groups (Dec 2007)
- The New COG of terrorism and an international sanctuary for global and local groups
- Aim of TTP is to enforce Sharia law, unite against NATO forces, and conduct defensive Jihad against the Pakistani Army



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## Main Groups

- Foreign fighters including Al Qaeda
  - Seek broader objectives than Taliban/HIG/Pakistani Taliban such as U.S. withdrawal from Greater Middle East and return of Caliphate
  - Includes Central Asians, North Caucasians, and Arabs
  - Al Qaeda provides motivation, guidance and resources
  - Structure is a 'loose network or groups'
  - Amir of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan:
    - Abu al-Yazid



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## New Outlook of the Groups

- Strategic Communications
  - Taliban Website: in Five languages and gets update every 4 hours
  - Internet
  - Over hundreds of sites producing propaganda, motivational material,
  - Radio and Television
- Adoption of new Tactics
  - IEDs and suicide bombings
- Drug Trade
  - 90% of the world supply
  - 100 million going towards the militants



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## Challenges of Afghanistan

- Afghan Institutional Capability
  - Three decades of Conflict left a paralyzed bureaucracy
  - Afghan Security Institutions
    - Afghan Army, Afghan Police, and Intelligence
- Role of the International Community
  - No coherent strategy
  - Kabul focus
  - Aid Coordination



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## Challenges of Afghanistan

- Role of the International Military
  - Lack of a coherent strategy
    - 'why are we in Afghanistan?'
- Role of Pakistan
  - Continues to serve as a safe sanctuary
  - Cross border infiltration
  - Optimism on the new civilian administration



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## A Stable Afghanistan Matters

1. Is Important to the International Community
2. Eliminate a potential sanctuary for al-Qaeda and other terrorists
3. Prevent military intervention again in the future
4. Reduce illegal drug cultivation and trafficking



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## Political and Military Recommendations

- Involved the Locals
- Convince US to increase pressure on Pakistani government to collaborate
- Engage the moderate Taliban
  
- Train and equip the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP)
  
- The military has to stop using heavy hand approach
  - Civilian casualties provide 'Political Oxygen'



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Thank You



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