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Ramifications and repercussions of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan

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Abstract

Former US President Trump and Joe Biden announced, this year (2021), his country's decision regarding the final and unconditional withdrawal of US military forces from Afghanistan, stressing the need to end the longest wars fought by the United States of America in its history, indicating that the withdrawal will begin at the starts on the May 2021, to be completed by the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. This withdrawal imposes consequences on the Afghan peace settlement, and the region in general, as the country witnessed after the announcement of the departure of international forces and after the American withdrawal, a strong rise in Taliban military attacks on the government, and after the signing of the agreement between Washington and the Taliban, not a single American and foreign soldier was killed. And he will see the emergence of the phenomenon of foreign fighters and the increasing frequency of terrorist operations in the region and the world. In this article the descriptive approach that is based on reading books and information. This research aims to clarify these matters. The study concluded that the position of the United States of America, in light of its changing political and strategic priorities, has changed towards the Taliban movement, so it stops the war against it and depends on the diplomatic movement with the parties to the conflict and continues its financial support for the government and its invitation to hold international conferences for the sake of Settlement between the government and the Taliban. From the connected results, that the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan comes at a very important time, as the Afghan-Afghan peace process faces successive pitfalls, and the intensity of violence in the country is significantly escalating, which makes the country more likely to expose the country to several future dangers and difficulties at a time when The United States of America has a desire to bear the burdens of the security presence in Afghanistan.

Keywords: peace, US foreign policy, troops withdrawal, United States of America, consequences

Introduction

The withdrawal of Americans from Afghanistan from the beginning was the most important and biggest condition for the Taliban in the peace process negotiations. It was emphasized by the Taliban that the Americans should leave Afghanistan during the last talks as well. But it seems that the Americans do not want to leave Afghanistan completely, and they want to keep some of their soldiers in the region, and that is why they are doing their best in these negotiations to persuade the Taliban to accept one or two military bases for them in Afghanistan. But with the approaching date of the departure of US forces from the country, the outbreak of the war developed. If the government had been fighting the group like this from the beginning of its government until now, all the Taliban would have been eliminated. The Taliban were hoping to succeed Trump, a second term for the US presidency, because it was the proposal for peace talks with the group, and the senior leadership in the Afghan government expected the success of Joe Biden, who could take a difficult and war like position against the Taliban and cause great pressure on the group.

The implications of changing the US policy towards the Taliban

The American experience proves that it stands with the religious group and protects it all the time. It also supported the mujahedeen against Russian overreach, and it was also with the Taliban after the Taliban did not reconcile with the United States of America and rejected its demands, so it a war against the Taliban. It stands by the Saudi Arabia against Iran, and now it stood once again with the Taliban and left the government it supported, and the other proof is Washington in this that the group does not reconcile with the major countries hostile to Washington in the region. This group does not need movement and encouragement to fight, as their creed is a motivation and encouragement for them, and the first generation of Taliban, most of them have died, and now the fighting process falls on the shoulders of the second generation and the factor in this communication is religion.

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Washington can fight their fight for a hundred years by protecting one of the Afghan factions, but all American attempts have failed, including: its intervention through financial aid and financial aid, protection of human and women's rights, combating terrorism and extremism, and support for men who have a Western culture and have a long life in the West. And in opposition to religion is more severe than the Westerners themselves. Many clerics and the nation were expelled from politics and from power. All scenarios, accidents and incidents are under the study of American experts, and they have reached a conclusion, that Washington does not defeat the Taliban through war except by killing all Taliban and destroying the land of Afghans, which is more difficult than everything, as Trump said thus. On the other hand, Washington is afraid of increasing aggression towards it, and that will happen through strengthening Taliban ties with countries in the region hostile to Washington. With the so-called "Danger of the Union against the United States of America" (Frege, fifth year of the second period number 15 1996, p. 230) [3] it was expected that this union between Russian and China against the West would take place following the visit of the Russian President in 1996. On the other hand, every Afghan election process is associated with a major problem as well. Seen in the 2014 and 2019 Afghan elections. The opposition forces headed by Abdullah Abdullah took a difficult position and declared that he would not accept any volatility and theft in the elections. Ashraf Ghani was the original monitor, who in these two rounds became president only with the full support of Washington. The election crisis was serious and leading to violence and fighting. The government funded by Washington is no longer able to run the country. And if the control of the situation gets out of its hand, it will be out of the control of Washington, and the parties and leaders of the people can stand against the United States of America and this will be done to the detriment of Washington. And it is difficult for them to control the situation. The United States of America, in order to deal with these dangerous Afghan crises that becomes difficult for it, entered into talks with the Taliban and its envoy traveled to several countries to conduct consultations and obtain approvals and to protect the concerned countries and prominent Afghans, and peace treaties were concluded with the Taliban movement (Washington agreement with the Taliban F) and they were forced to enter the talks with the Afghan government.

Washington's foreign strategy and policy is subordinate to its national security and domestic policy. When the Cold War ended and the influence of the European nations was still of little importance, and NATO had become an organization without a role. In addition to that, the foreign policy problems of America lie outside the borders of Europe: Mexico. (Anatoly, Mohamad Ibrahim Jibali, 2007, p. 161) [2]

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism in East, the rise of China as the dominant superpower in Asia. And curbing China's progress and not allowing it to turn into a regional leader, as Washington does not hear Iran play any role in the Islamic world. The United States is already considered to be the military advisor to Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as it supplies them with modern weapons and to conclude an agreement with the Taliban that they control. And preserve the country that is friendly to America and is ready for an interview in the face of the Russian threat. And

after it did not support the mujahedeen who obtained financial and political support until their victory, and it did not protect the Mujahedeen, nor was it convinced that the Afghan political system could proceed on a correct and successful path, its allies and friendly countries followed suit in this regard (Naser, 2017) [6]

Washington chose its isolationist policy towards Afghanistan and the Pakistani intelligence services created a group in the name of the Taliban and fought the former Mujahedeen who had no high experience in running the country and establishing the political system, so Afghanistan fell in the hands of the Taliban. Washington, before the events of September 11, left Afghanistan. And it happened so far. And there is the international and domestic suggestion that the departure of US soldiers should be responsible and objective, and that any mistake committed by the US side at the present time will be paid by all countries. When Wilson put forward her proposal for peace to the world, it indicates that Washington is pursuing its isolationist policy, fighting its opponents internationally, and its isolation is not entirely isolated from the arena. Rather, its intervention continues, which is what he calls the "dollar diplomacy" and interferes when necessary. The justifications for political and military interference are made at any time you want, and the election campaigns between the ruling party influence the decision-making, as Trump, from withdrawing his forces, wanted to take the American public opinion in the elections and the international opinion in bringing political and international theories.

However, the Afghan government forces, which were formed to replace the American forces and the allied countries, and the strength of the army and the police reached 352 thousand, and they were assigned unprecedented powers in fighting the combat and terrorist group, as the soldiers were assigned for the first time the right to use armed force to prevent attacks on them. Afghan government employees or organizations, in addition to having the right to disarm the Afghan factions, which led to the continuous and severe increase in clashes between government soldiers and extremist elements, and the occurrence of large numbers of victims among the Afghanistan government forces and the Taliban.

Therefore, these developments led to the introduction of the current talks directly in the internal conflict in Afghanistan, and this in turn complicated the network of internal interactions in Afghanistan completely. Among the conflicting factions, they have moved towards an alliance with each other against the Afghanistan government forces, and with the increasing loss of life as a result of clashes between government forces on the one hand and Taliban elements on the other hand, the US government announced the reduction of the size and objectives of its forces in Afghanistan so that it is limited to monitoring the situation without interfering in the fighting, setting them up in their military bases and delivering humanitarian aid in safer areas with the abolition of the goal of disarming the Afghanistan opposition factions.

The American forces seems to be failed to perform their duties and stabilize security in Afghanistan. The developments of the war may result in the involvement of the Taliban and the Afghanistan government forces in the hostilities in a way that recalls the experience of two decades ago regarding the Afghanistan situation, and at the same time justifies the major international concerns

regarding the leadership of the Taliban and the terrorist group to re-participate in Afghanistan with its forces within a framework that can be This perception occurs in the event that one or both parties to the conflict lack guidance in a way that makes him believe that he may actually win the war and seeks to escalate the fighting, and here the US government forces may withdraw, leaving the parties to the conflict face to face so that the war continues with external support in a way that may lead to the division of the conflict area and The deterioration of the situation is more bloody, and in the event of this withdrawal, it will be difficult to talk about the possibility of achieving stability in a country where the conflict is exacerbated. (Rashid, 2000) ^[7]

Decision to withdraw

The decision of the US President Joe Biden's administration, regarding the final withdrawal from Afghanistan by the twentieth anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001, brings to mind the decision to withdraw from Iraq that was taken by the administration of former President Barack Obama in 2011, and the consequences it imposed on Iraq, (Khalilzad Zolamy, 2016:345) ^[5] and the region in general, where it witnessed In a few years after the American withdrawal, there was a strong rise of ISIS, the emergence of the phenomenon of foreign fighters and the increasing frequency of terrorist operations in the region and the world, especially since the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan comes at a very difficult time, as the Afghanistan-peace process faces successive pitfalls, as well as Violence in the country is escalating significantly, which means that the country may be exposed to several future dangers, at a time when the United States of America no longer has a desire to bear the burdens of the security presence in Afghanistan, in light of its changing political and strategic priorities.

On, 2021, US President Joe Biden announced his country's decision on the final and unconditional withdrawal of US military forces from Afghanistan, stressing the need to end the longest wars fought by the United States of America in its history, indicating that the withdrawal will begin on May 1, 2021. To be completed by the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks, while the partnership with Afghanistan will continue, through the intensification of diplomatic mobility with the Afghan government and the "Taliban" movement.

The decision is consistent, to a large extent, with what was agreed upon with the "Taliban" movement on February 29, 2020, during the era of former US President Donald Trump, despite the new US administration's announcement of its intention to review the peace agreement between Washington and the Taliban movement. The review only made a change to the timetable for withdrawal. Instead of having the final withdrawal in May 2021, Biden assured that the withdrawal would be completed by a maximum by the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11., which will be on the September 2021.

It seems that this short postponement of the withdrawal came based on an American awareness of the difficult conditions on the ground, as acts of violence have increased in the country, as some reports estimated terrorist attacks in various provinces of Afghanistan during the first three months of 2021 at about 60 attacks, especially with the stalled peace process. Afghani, between the internationally recognized government and the "Taliban" movement.

Hence, this postponement came to express American fear that this urgent withdrawal would impose a state of security vacuum at such a critical time, despite the pressure of public opinion in this context, and the risk of facing a retaliatory reaction by the "Taliban" movement, as a result of postponement. The date of withdrawal from the date agreed upon with the previous administration, which was what the "Taliban" had previously warned about, and confirmed after the recent American announcement, as it announced its rejection of the American decision in a statement it published on its website, warning against re-attacking the foreign forces present in the country. In the event that it does not comply with the deadline specified in the Doha Agreement.

Possible Repercussions

Given that the final withdrawal decision from Afghanistan expresses an official and popular American trend to end an era of long and costly wars in financial and human terms, this decision carries several risks, which are expected to affect the future of Afghanistan, as well as the future of the US strategy in the region, in the absence of real indications of The ground indicates the occurrence of any progress in the Afghan- peace process, and the cessation of violence, or even a decline in its rates. The most prominent potential repercussions of this step are:

1. The failure of peace negotiations between the government and the "Taliban": The American withdrawal from Afghanistan comes at a critical time, with regard to the peace agreement, which has not yet achieved successes. Rather, there are several indications that support the possibility of the situation becoming worse if no guarantees are specified. Decisively, it can oblige the "Taliban" not to return to its terrorist activity and its attempts to control the country. The cadres of the movement confirm, on more than one occasion, that starting negotiations with the government does not mean that the movement seeks only to share power with the government, but rather is trying to form an Islamic government and "apply Islamic law," a formula that can open the door again to armed conflict. In the absence of a viable ceasefire requirement between the Taliban and the government, the chances of the country falling into civil war again are likely to increase.
 - The high levels of violence also do not suggest that negotiations between the two sides could succeed soon, as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan announced, on April 14, that 573 civilians were killed and 1,210 wounded during the first quarter of this year 2021, during confrontations that broke out between the "Taliban" and the forces. Security in different parts of the country (Inistitue, 2011) ^[4].
 - It can be said that the changing priorities of the United States of America, in light of the intense competition with China, the challenges of climate change, and then facing the Corona pandemic and its repercussions, has greatly contributed to resolving its choice between a complete withdrawal as previously agreed upon during the administration of President Donald Trump, and not reviewing The agreement also announced the administration of President Joe Biden, at the beginning of its assumption of its duties, and

between the survival of a minimum number of forces to face any possible terrorist and security threat, to choose to withdraw in the end without conditions and before ensuring the success of the peace process or even ensuring serious engagement in it by the "Taliban" movement. In this context, some analyzes went that Washington now wants to get out of the Afghanistan war and not from Afghanistan, only to save face.

2. The collapse of the capabilities of the Afghan security and military forces: During the past twenty years and since the entry of the American forces into Afghanistan, the Afghan security and defense forces have relied on the latter and its allies on Afghan soil, and throughout these years the Afghan forces have been operating under an American air umbrella, with American planning and training. In this context, the American withdrawal is likely to constitute a heavy blow to the morale of the Afghan security forces, especially those deployed at checkpoints, inside the bases, and along the most turbulent fronts in the country, in the absence of air cover that was supporting them during the raids and confrontations, whether with the "Taliban" or With "Al Qaeda" and "ISIS", especially in light of the intelligence, information and technical support provided by the American forces to make these operations largely successful.
 - Although the American air operations against the "Taliban" had witnessed a retreat during the past period, based on the conditions stipulated in the reconciliation agreement, which the latter insisted to include in this agreement, the Afghan forces' dependence on the American presence is still great, while the plans have not been implemented. Early training and qualification for these forces to help them dispense with the support of the American forces, even gradually.
 - According to many trends, in light of the current reality of the capabilities of the Afghan forces, the scenario of re-"Taliban" control of power in a short time after the American withdrawal cannot be ruled out, especially since it is now stronger than before, after it was officially recognized as a party to the political equation in Afghanistan from it accepted Washington on the one hand, and its expansion on the ground and its entry into a number of regions on the other hand.
 - In this context, it is worth noting the results of an Afghan public opinion poll conducted by the Afghan "Pajhwok" News Agency, during the period from November 30, 2020 to February 3, 2021, and published on its website on February 14, 2021, as it indicated the Taliban's control of what Approximately 52% of the country, and 59% of the Afghan population live in those areas, as opposed to the government's control of 46% of the land, while the remaining 2% is subject to the control of other parties, which indicates the strength of the movement on the ground in the face of forces Government security and military.
3. The failure of the American strategy in combating terrorism: A report issued by the US Department of Defense in 2019 indicated that the United States of America had spent more than \$ 1.57 trillion during the period from September 11, 2001 to September 30, 2019, in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as the human losses suffered by its forces. (Khalilzad, 2016) ^[5]
 - Despite the high costs, the withdrawal of the United States of America from Afghanistan without conditions, and in this manner and at this time, indicates, according to observers, the failure of the strategy that it followed for twenty years, which was based on regime change through military force, if peace was not achieved by how. Which can be built upon in the future, just as the "Taliban" movement did not lose its power, but rather it regained its control over some areas, and made a historic gain by being recognized as one of the parties to the solution to the political and security crisis in Afghanistan, one of its biggest opponents, according to the agreement with Washington.
4. Decline in the freedoms granted to women: Freedoms in Afghanistan have been severely affected by the Taliban's control over aspects of public life in the country, especially those freedoms for women. From going to schools and universities, the phenomenon of forced marriage of young girls has spread, in addition to preventing women from practicing their work, forcing them to retire, and targeting many female figures, with the aim of silencing them. Although the past two decades witnessed a qualitative development in the level of freedoms granted to women, after the blows that the Taliban movement suffered in many regions of the country, the areas that the latter still control in which women suffer from practices of oppression, harassment and targeting, while these are likely to withdraw. The situation in the rest of the country's regions, following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the increased chances of restoring the Taliban's control over it.
5. The path to the success of the peace negotiations before the withdrawal is to conclude the charter and obtain international guarantees. These decisions are between two states or more than that, and are not considered a treaty, but in terms of work they are equal with them. The charter that contains peace talks and the cooperation of the parties emulates the status of international treaties. The example of the Paris Charter prohibiting and denouncing war and the shedding of blood is an international treaty. (Afshari, 2004) ^[1]
6. In order to reach peace, important international forums must be held, and international, regional and relevant calls to participate in forums must take place, and many international forums have been held, but These summits and conferences did not reach a noticeable result, which suffered from problems and failed in their goals. Therefore, the future summit should differ from the past summits and be organized and supported internationally and locally. The international summit is important for the establishment of security in the region and in Afghanistan, and the multilateral summit must be held, and a regional and joint statement to combat terrorism and eradicate security threats must be issued, and a charter should be taken from the countries on the remuneration and implementation of those conventions and decisions of the forums (Talash, 2017) ^[8]

At the end, it can be said that the situation on the ground in Afghanistan now does not indicate that the peace process may stabilize or end with positive results, especially with the gains made by the "Taliban" movement, which is, in all likelihood, not obliged to make concessions to the other party, and it may come. The Taliban movement announced its intention not to participate in the "international peace conference on Afghanistan" in Turkey that will come as soon as possible, due to the United States postponing its withdrawal schedule from the country - despite the latter's assertion that the withdrawal is unconditional, and that the American presence on the ground will end In September instead of May of the same year - to reveal that the Taliban movement is dealing with the political and security developments in the Afghan arena from a position of strength, in a way that suggests that Afghanistan appears on the verge of difficult challenges, especially as it may turn, once again, into an arena for transnational terrorist organizations After the American withdrawal.

America, other countries and international organizations spent a lot of dollars and money. In view of the changes and developments in Washington's policy, America wants the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan, but the exit without responsibility and inclusion falls Afghanistan into the war of war and constant fighting and work with international, local and humanitarian demands that guarantee peace. It is "No Exit Without Strategy" and withdrawal based on a strategy that guarantees the success of peace.

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