

## THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SUBMISSION

In the end, we all have witnessed the state of affairs in Afghanistan during the America's two decades occupation against the will and resolve of the general populace especially the rural tribal masses. After wasteful investment of countless billions of dollars of the American tax payers in the name of nation building measures on Afghan soils – what results – horrific embarrassment, humiliation, disgrace, mortification and dishonour coupled with defeat & degradation from the super-power ranking. See the opening paragraphs of an article in London's **THE ECONOMIST** of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021:

*“.....AMERICA announced that it would not save its client state (Afghanistan)..... As the enemy [Afghan Taliban] seized province after province, government soldiers [Afghan Army] shed their uniforms and ran. On paper the army had hundreds of thousands of well-equipped fighters. In reality its few loyal commanders had to buy ammunition from crooked supply officers [?] and pay in cash for artillery support; regular troops were often commanded by politicians' incompetent relatives. Soldiers went unpaid as officials pilfered military budgets. The [Afghan] state was a **Potemkin village** constructed to please its American sponsors. When they left - it fell.*

*So it went in South Vietnam in 1975, and again last week in Afghanistan. The similarities between the two collapses are striking. They go beyond intelligence failures, mendacious speeches and abandoned allies. **Ultimately, both states fell because they had been hollowed out by corruption, an ancient disease of governance..... (Think also of Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and Haiti).**”*

In the eyes of many media gurus and think-tanks, the Americans were not sincere in helping out the underprivileged people or the deprived communities – in 2001 they had chosen Afghanistan as another business venue, the Tribal Warfield – thus invested their time and money in it as new war-project and simply suffered with multiple losses. Why to worry now; every thing is fare in love [***in the given scenario – US business***] and war.

**Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI]** played its role to save its own country first – a natural demand of nationalism. Some historians held that the real US-Taliban war started in 2001 BUT then restarted in 2009 after Obama's take-over. The US kept its carrot and stick approach for Pakistan amidst the swelling of 60,000 US troops in Afghanistan, with another 30,000 in-line to be sent later, coupled with greater '*all sorts of assistance*' for India – thus distances increased. Pakistan had been helping the US since 2001, more precisely since 1979, though had continuously been fooled in one way or the other in connivance with its own rogue leadership in army and politics.

***The world media is crying that in fact Pakistan's ISI won the war*** – not the Taliban alone. Let the myth prevail because the ISI has been doing its home-work dedicatedly since the US allocated the task to the Pak-Army in 1980s. During America's so-called **WAR ON TERROR** which country offered the human, financial, trade and social sacrifices more than Pakistan – **NO ONE**; not even the US and NATO countries collectively.

**On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018**; in an interview with Fox News, President Trump accused Islamabad of receiving billions in US aid. The contents of the telecast and his statement were: '**.....Pakistan doesn't do a damn thing for the US**'. President trump also said that:

*".....he [Osama Bin Laden] was living in Pakistan right next to the military academy; everybody in Pakistan knew he was there [but the CIA came to know it in 2011 – astonishing]. We're supporting Pakistan, we're giving them \$1.3 billion a year, which we don't give them anymore, and by the way, I ended it because **they don't do anything for us, they don't do a damn thing for us.**"*

Just next day, a tweet from Pakistan's PM Imran Khan appeared on media pages which had shaken the whole world; see the details:

- "No Pakistani was involved in 9/11 but Pakistan decided to participate in US War on Terror.
- Pakistan suffered 75,000 casualties in this war & over \$123 billion lost in economy. 'US aid' was a miniscule \$20 bn – and that too (against our bills) for Military Operations done by Pak-Army.

- Pakistan's tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan were devastated and millions of people had been uprooted from their homes.
- Pakistan continued to provide free lines of ground and air communications [GLOCs / ALOCs]; which other ally provided such facilities to the US?
- Why, despite 140,000 NATO troops plus 250,000 Afghan troops & reportedly \$1 trillion spent on war in Afghanistan, the Taliban today are stronger than before; instead of making Pakistan a scapegoat for their [the US & NATO] failures, the US should do a **serious assessment of factors involved.**"

.....AND in this book the same factors have been highlighted.

See an article titled '**Does the great retreat from Afghanistan mark the end of the American era?**' appeared in a US magazine *New Yorker* penned down by Robin Wright after the American quit from the region:

*"The United States of America is reeling from both the loss of war and loss of face. It's not just an epic defeat for the US. The fall of Kabul may serve as a bookend for the era of US global power.*

*For the United States, the costs do not end with its withdrawal from either Afghanistan or Iraq. It could cost another two trillion dollars just to pay for the healthcare and disability of veterans from those wars. And those costs may not peak until 2048. America's longest war will be a lot longer than anyone anticipated two decades ago."*

In fact, the cost of the humiliating defeat in the two-decades-long 'war on terror' launched by president George Bush was more steep than Bush and his successors could have imagined. Pakistan was in delicately promising position after the relatively peaceful transition of power in Kabul.

In the next pages, I've identified the other dynamic causes and grounds of the US failure in Afghanistan – ISI's patriotic character may be found unsuitable for some Western political philosophers or rulers – BUT it cannot be blamed as the whole responsible factor for loosing 20 years long war by the successive American rulers, war-strategists and policy makers.

History of a Disgraceful Surrender [2021]

1 In the pages ahead, I've based my conclusions on the analytical notes and  
2 articles from the Western press & media, mostly the American policy  
3 documents and reports which are available to any research student of  
4 war histories – nothing unusual; each script is mentioned with proper  
5 references.

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