

## TQO the Taliban's reign in Afghanistan:

**The Taliban's** reign in Afghanistan can draw its routes from a reaction to the civil unrest and chaos Afghanistan felt post-**Soviet Afghan war of 1979-89**, a war fought between the Soviet Union and local **mujahideen** fighters who emerged as a reaction to the introduction of socialist ideas into rural Afghanistan.

After a decade-long conflict, the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 leaving the country in a state of chaos and civil war. Following the withdrawal Afghanistan descended into a brutal civil war among various Mujahadeen factions, warlords and ethnic groups. The power vacuum and infighting amongst these groups contributed to the instability and collapse of the central government.

This would then lead to the emergence of the Taliban in 1994, a group of Afghan religious students and fighters who had studied in **madrasas** and came together to form the Taliban which means students in **Pashto**. The Taliban initially aimed to restore order, security, and implement their interpretation of Islamic law or Sharia in Afghanistan, then between 1996 and 2001 the Taliban quickly gained momentum and captured several key cities and provinces. By 1996 they had captured the capital, Kabul and established the Islamic emirate of Afghanistan with Mullah Mohammed Omar as its leader. And raised millions through taxing major highways and engaging in the illegal opium trade. whilst receiving a large amount of funding from neighboring Pakistan.

The Taliban regime faced condemnation and isolation from much of the international community due to its harsh interpretation of Islamic law especially regarding its treatment of women and its sheltering of Osama Bin Laden post **9/11**. Only a few countries including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and The UAE recognized the Taliban's regime. The US Led coalition along with the Afghan resistance groups like the Mujahideen quickly toppled the Taliban regime. Kabul fell in November 2001 and the Taliban retreated to the rural and border hinterlands. However, they continued to mount an insurgency against the occupying American forces and their local allies. They continue to rebuild their influence, village by village, town by town, from rural areas to suburban and finally cities.

The US completed its withdrawal of troops in 2021, executed by President Joe Biden under a deal negotiated by his predecessor President Donald Trump. The abrasive and at times disorganized withdrawal of US troops left a power vacuum where the Taliban were best placed to strike and take full advantage of that opportunity. Leaving Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada to become the de factor leader of Afghanistan and the Taliban to once again assume control over Afghanistan.

We find this issue to be one of great importance to the Security Council as Afghanistan has been in a state of war, disorder and violence for generations. In which it is women, the young, and minorities that suffer from this state of disorder that has so far never been permanently solved, we think in part because the question of why are the Taliban the only actors in Afghanistan able to frequently unite the country, has never been answered or addressed, neither has the question of what causes common people of Afghanistan to support this movement. And so, we feel that by bringing the Security Council to answer the question of the Taliban's reign in Afghanistan we can get it so answer these questions so central to the issue.

**Definitions:**

**The Taliban** - Ultraconservative religious faction which controls much of Afghanistan

**Afghan civil war** – A war between the Soviet Union and the Mujahideen

**Mujahideen** - Local militia's scattered around Afghanistan's rural areas

**Opium** - A reddish-brown heavy-scented addictive drug prepared from the juice of the opium poppy

**Pashto** - A Pashto-speaking group from the south of Afghanistan and the northwest of Pakistan

**9/11** - The September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the World Trade Centre in 2001

**madrasas** - Religious schools in Pakistan