



C I R ONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CICIR FORUM 2012 Special Issue

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Qiu Yuanping
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Abdul Ghafoor Poya Faryabi

Contemporary International Relations

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| The regional stakeholders should seize the window of opportunity between 2012 and 2014 to create institutions and mechanisms that will guide the reconstruction of Afghanistan in the right direction. They should also work in tandem with the U.S. and Europe to ensure permanent peace in Afghanistan. | | |
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| The future of Afghanistan will depend on the prospects of economic integration in the region of which Afghanistan is the center. Afghanistan has a key role as a land bridge for transit, trade and connectivity. A stable, secure and developed Afghanistan is a necessity if the region is to achieve security and meaningful economic integration. | | |
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| The paper suggests that the key issue in evaluating the prospects for a successful Transition in Afghanistan is not whether a successful transition is possible, but rather whether some form of meaningful transition is probable. | | |
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| As the Afghan Government and the Taliban control roughly equal areas of territory, the U.S. and Afghan Government have been forced to seek negotiations with the Taliban. The international community should encourage such negotiations so as to prevent radical Islam from expanding beyond Afghanistan's borders into neighboring countries. | | |

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The most worrying issue in the reconstruction of Afghanistan is the resurgent clashes among warlords. They can be wars between warlords, the intensification of fighting between warlords and the Taliban, and the war between Afghanistan's government and the warlords.

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The responsibility of the international community is to help advance this process in Afghanistan, including to create proper conditions for the starting and ongoing of this process, and provides it with necessary political and security supports.

Policy Objectives and Roles of Concerned Parties

The Decade of International Engagement in Afghanistan *Babar Shah* 60

Whatever has so far been achieved in Afghanistan, it seems clear that the impact of international assistance is and will remain limited unless both, donors and the Afghan Administration, set pragmatic objectives prioritizing reconstruction against counter insurgency operations.

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The people of Afghanistan themselves must solve the Afghan problem with the help of other countries to end the war. Priority should be given to economic assistance and socio-humanitarian and infrastructure projects. Complex mechanisms must be employed to resolve the Afghan problem.

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Afghanistan's geo-strategic location as a land bridge between different parts of Asia can be capitalized to bring prosperity of the country. India is committed to help the Afghan people in bilateral and multilateral forums. The institutional framework for the next phase will be built on the basis of the Indo-Afghan strategic partnership.

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As Pakistan's security is wrapped up in the security situation in Afghanistan, it will continue to support Afghanistan in its efforts for national reconciliation and political settlement. Pakistan will aim to play a major role in these processes so that it can maintain its influence in Afghanistan and also safeguard its own interests.

Agenda for Regional Cooperation

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The SCO's active stance on Afghanistan issue seems to be of special significance now, when the country is approaching a critical round of its political development related to the foreign withdrawal by the end of 2014.

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| The SCO has closely followed and actively assisted in the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan. It has established a Contact Group with Afghanistan and has granted Afghanistan observer status. In the future, the SCO will provide more support to Afghanistan in the fields of security, economics, politics and international cooperation. | |
| The EU and China in a Polycentric World: The Case of Afghanistan | 98 |
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| Both China and the EU will have to engage with other global players to search for a solution to the crisis in Afghanistan. The two sides should support UN involvement, particularly at a time when China is engaged in defining a regional approach to promote peace. | |
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| The most pressing issue is the lack of concerted efforts and over time it will become impossible for the other countries involved to act without co-ordination in Afghanistan; a more concerted effort will need to be made if stability, economic development and long-term political changes are to be achieved. | |
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| With the development of the regional situation and Sino-Afghanistan relations, Chinese Xinjiang can play a new role in sub-regional cooperation around Afghanistan: relying on political, economic, cultural and social cooperation, Chinese Xinjiang and Afghanistan will both benefit, and an era of broader regional cooperation will be promoted. | |
| The Humanitarian Factors: An ICRC Perspective | 118 |
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| International disengagement is already felt, with several international non-governmental organizations stopping their aid programs. The ICRC protracts and adapts its efforts to protect and assist populations affected by and exposed to war and armed violence and calls for the international and national communities to duly consider the humanitarian factor. | |
| The Urgency for an International Consensus on Afghanistan's Reconstruction | 122 |
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| Resolving the Afghan issue not only needs state actors' efforts, but also requires sub-regional and transnational cooperation. The international community urgently needs to reach a consensus on Afghan reconstruction and should make concerted efforts to avoid a "lose-lose" situation in Afghanistan. | |