

## **UNITED STATE'S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN'S NARCOTIC DILEMMA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Afghanistan is the greatest Illicit Opium Producer country in the entire world the country produces Opium in huge amount that it is ahead of Burma, the Golden Triangle, and Latin America. The country maintains its position since 1992 among Golden Crescent excluding the year 2001. Since US is the main actor in the present context there but the fact is that Opium Production in Afghanistan has been on the rise since US occupation started in 2001. Based on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data, there has been more Opium Poppy cultivation in each of the past four growing seasons (2004-2007) than in any one year during Taliban Rule. Also more land is now used for Opium in Afghanistan than for coca cultivation in Latin America. In 2007, 92 percent of the non-pharmaceutical grade Opiates on the World Market originated in Afghanistan. This amounts to an export value of about \$ 4 billion, with a quarter being earned by Opium Farmers and the rest going to district officials, insurgents, warlords and drug traffickers. In the seven years (1994-2000) prior to Taliban Opium Ban, the Afghan farmer's share of gross income from Opium was divided among 200,000 families. In addition to Opiates, Afghanistan is also the largest producer of cannabis (mostly as hashish) in the world.*

*In this context the study would attempt to access the relationship between Illicit Drugs and Failures of US policies in the region. It is thus significant in analyzing the impact of International Legislation through US Policy approaches in fighting the continued Narcotic Trade and Opium Production in Afghanistan.*

**Key Words:** "Afghanistan", "Intervention", "Narcotic Trade", "Poppy Cultivation", "United Nation", "US Policy".

### **Background**

Looking at the present International System of States, the Republic of Afghanistan is the most volatile than rest of Nations of the World. The country became the victim of great Ideological Warfare of the Twentieth Century. In order to search the position of Afghanistan in the present system of Nations for that matter we have to reconstruct a microcosm of International Cold War politics in which Afghanistan faces Soviet domination, American Intervention, Pakistan reassertion, Iranian double dealing, vicious mujahidin offensive etc.<sup>1</sup>Since the Country is always subjected to external intervention. Looking from the

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<sup>1</sup> Amalendu Mishra, *Hot Sports in Global Politics*, UK and US, Polity Press, 2004, pp.1-3

historical point of view the first Foreign Invasion of the country took place in sixth century BC, when Darius I of the Persia brought under his control, which was followed by the Invasion of Alexander the Great in 328 BC. The process continued with various invasions, till the country entered a modern phase that is characterised as European Colonialism in Asia. In contemporary period US is the dominating power to decide terms there. Thus the forces operating from outside its geographical confines continually determined its overall politics, social structure and other consequent decisions.<sup>2</sup> In order to strategize “Post-2014”<sup>3</sup> regional order in Afghanistan, one of the major objectives of US was to fight against Drug Trafficking in Afghanistan however the US fails in that to a large extent.<sup>4</sup>

Afghanistan is the greatest Illicit Opium Production Country in the entire World. The country is ahead of Burma (Myanmar), the Golden Triangle, and Latin America in producing the menace of Opium. From the year 1992, with the exception of the year 2001 Afghanistan is the main producer of Opium in the Golden Crescent.<sup>5</sup> The hard fact to believe is that Opium Production in Afghanistan has been on the rise since US occupation started in 2001. Based on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime data, there has been more Opium Poppy cultivation in each of the past four growing seasons (2004-2007) than in any one year during *Taliban* Rule. Also more land is now used for Opium in Afghanistan than for Coca Cultivation in Latin America.<sup>6</sup> In 2007, 92 percent of the non-pharmaceutical grade Opiates on the World Market originated in Afghanistan. This amounts to an export value of about \$ 4 billion, with a quarter being earned by Opium farmers and the rest going to District Officials, Insurgents, Warlords and Drug Traffickers. In the seven years (1994-2000) prior to *Taliban* Opium Ban, the Afghan farmer’s share of Gross Income from Opium was divided among

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<sup>2</sup> Amalendu Mishra, *Hot Sports in Global Politics*, p.13

<sup>3</sup> In the Post 2014 scenario the hope for peace was aroused when President Barak Obama declared the US and NATO troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan, all the responsibilities included now lie on the Afghan National Army and Kabul Government. To some extent US achieved their objective in Afghanistan as Taliban Insurgency is likely to be suppressed.p.161,S.V.Salahudin=

<sup>4</sup> Sébastien Peyrouse, “Drug Trafficking in Central Asia a Poorly Considered Fight?”, *Ponars Eurasia* , No. 218 ,September 2012 .p.1

<sup>5</sup> James J F. Forest, *Countering Terrorism and Insurgency in the 21st Century: International Perspectives, Volume 2: and Facilitators, the Sources*, USA: Praeger Publishing Group, 2007, p. 181; Robert K. Schaeffe , *Understanding Globalization: The Social Consequences of Political, Economic and Environmental Change*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lanham-Boulder-New York-Oxford: RowMan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2003, p. 348.=

<sup>6</sup> Barbara H W. Fellow and Judith Heyer, *The Comparative Political Economy of Development: Africa and South Asia*, London and New York: Routledge, 2010, pp. 200-01.

200,000 families. In addition to Opiates, Afghanistan is also the largest producer of Cannabis (mostly as hashish) in the world.<sup>7</sup> By November 2001, the collapse of the economy and the scarcity of the other sources of revenue forced many of the country's farmers to resort back to growing Opium for export as about 1,300 km<sup>2</sup> in 2004 according to the United States Office on Drugs and Crime.

With the establishment of democratic representation in 2001, a number of prominent Afghans met in *Bonn*<sup>8</sup>, Germany, under the United Nations auspices to develop a plan to re-establish the State of Afghanistan, including provisions for a New Constitution and National Elections.<sup>9</sup> Afghanistan subsequently implemented its new Constitution and held National Elections. On December 7, 2004, Hamid Karzai was formally sworn in as president of a Democratic Afghanistan.<sup>10</sup>

However, two of the following three growing seasons saw record levels of Opium Poppy Cultivation, corrupt officials may have undermined the government's enforcement efforts. Afghan farmers claimed that "government officials take bribes for turning a blind eye to the Drug Trade while punishing poor Opium Growers."<sup>11</sup> The menace goes on increasing, by the reluctant collaboration between US forces and Afghan warlords in hunting Drug Traffickers. In the absence of *Taliban*, the warlords largely control the Opium Trade but are also highly

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<sup>7</sup> "Addiction, Crime and Insurgency: The Transnational Threat of Afghan Opium," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, Vienna, 2009, p. 17.

<sup>8</sup> The road map to "re-establishing permanent institutions of government" was outlined in the Bonn negotiations .Accords of 5 December 2001. The new constitutions was framed which provided a framework for the "free and fair elections" to choose a "fully representative government" that were to complete that process. The Bonn Accords set out a process rather than a detailed settlement of major political issues. This reflected the time pressure under which the Accords were forged, which set a speed record as such things go. Afghanistan had been through 23 years of many-sided civil strife marked by the overt and covert involvement of regional and global powers, yet only nine days elapsed between the UN's opening of talks in the former West German capital and the affixing of signatures on 5 December 2001. Barnett R. Rubin, *Crafting a Constitution for Afghanistan*, *Journal of Democracy* Volume 15, Number 3, 2004, pp.5-6

<sup>9</sup> Anthony H. Cordesman, *et al*, "The Afghan War in 2013: Meeting the Challenges of Transition Afghan Economics and Outside Trade," Volume 2 of Center for Strategic and International Studies Report, Lanham-Boulder-New York-Oxford, RowMan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2013, pp. 71-72.

<sup>10</sup> Dennis Abrams, *Modern World Leaders Hamid Karzai*, New York: Chelser House Publishers, 2007, pp. 14-15.

<sup>11</sup> John A. Glaz, *Opium and Afghanistan: Reassessing U.S. Counternarcotics Strategy*, US Government Publication, 2007, p. 6.

useful to the US Forces in scouting, providing local intelligence, keeping their own territories clean from *Al-Qaeda* and *Taliban* insurgents and even taking part in military operations.<sup>12</sup>

### **The Afghan Economy and Opium**

The 2004 United States Development Program ranked Afghanistan on 173 out of 177 countries, using Human Development Index (HDI), with Afghanistan near or at the bottom of virtually every development indicator including nutrition, infant mortality, life expectancy and literacy.<sup>13</sup> Several factors encourage Opium Production, the greatest being economic: the high rate of return on investment from Opium Poppy Cultivation has driven an agricultural shift in Afghanistan from growing traditional crops to growing Opium Poppy.<sup>14</sup> Opium cultivation on this scale is not traditional and in the area controlled by the Helmand Valley Authority in the 1950s the crop was largely suppressed.

Despite the fact that only 12 percent of its land is arable, agriculture is a way of life for 70 percent of Afghans and is the country's primary source of income.<sup>15</sup> During good years, Afghanistan produced enough food to feed its people as well as supply for export. Its traditional agricultural products include wheat, corn, barley, rice, cotton, fruit, nuts, and grapes. However, its agricultural economy has suffered considerably<sup>16</sup>.

Poppy Cultivation and the Opium Trade have been said to have had more significant impact on the cultivation in Afghanistan than the impact of wheat farming and livestock trading.<sup>17</sup> As farmers in Afghanistan were once heavily reliant on wheat farming to make sufficient income, the development of Poppy Cultivation has given many of these farmers a boost in capital, even though the Opium Trade may be a more dangerous product to distribute. In

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<sup>12</sup> Kristen E. Boon *et al*, *Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and Conflict in Afghanistan*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, p. 4.

<sup>13</sup> Terence Chong, *Globalization and Its Counter-forces in Southeast Asia*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2008, pp. 231-287.

<sup>14</sup> "The UK's Foreign Policy Approach to Afghanistan and Pakistan," Fourth Report of the Session 2010-11, House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committees, London, 2011, p. 62.

<sup>15</sup> William A. Byrd, "Responding to Afghanistan's opium economy challenge: Lessons and Policy Implications from a Development Perspective," Volume 4545 of Policy Research Working Papers, World Bank Publications, 2008, pp. 3-7.

<sup>16</sup> Arnold Fields, "Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)," *Quarterly Report to the United States*, USA: Diane Publications, 2010, p. 108.

<sup>17</sup> *Afghanistan Land Ownership and Agriculture Laws Handbook: Strategic*, P. 70; Christine Noelle-Karimi *et al*, *Afghanistan -a Country without a State?* Institute of Information and Ecology, 2002, p.150.

addition, as the demand for Opium has elevated, women have more opportunity to work in the same setting as their male counterpart.<sup>18</sup>

Afghanistan's rugged terrain encourages local autonomy, which in some cases, means local leadership committed to an Opium Economy. The terrain makes surveillance and enforcement difficult. Afghanistan's economy has thus evolved to the point where it is now highly dependent on Opium.<sup>19</sup> Although less than 4 percent of arable land in Afghanistan was used for opium poppy cultivation in 2006, revenue from the harvest brought in over \$ 3 billion- more than 35 percent of the country's total gross national product (GNP). According to Antonio Costa, "Opium Poppy Cultivation, processing and transport have become Afghanistan's top employers, its main source of capital and the principal base of its economy."<sup>20</sup> Today, a record 2.9 million Afghans from 28 of 34 provinces are involved in Opium Cultivation in some way, which represent nearly 10 percent of the population.<sup>21</sup> Although Afghanistan's overall economy is boosted by Opium profits, less than 20 percent of the \$ 3 billion in Opium Profits actually goes to impoverished farmers, while more than 80 percent goes into the pockets of Afghan's Opium Traffickers and kingpins and their political connections. Even profits are generated outside of Afghanistan by international drug traffickers and dealers.<sup>22</sup>

The Opium Cultivation and its trade has gone to the extent from 2001, Afghanistan has become synonymous with the term "Narcostate"<sup>23</sup> and the associated spread of crime and

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<sup>18</sup> John Braithwaite and Peter Drahos, *Global Business Regulation*, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2000, p. 380.

<sup>19</sup> James A. Kleiman and James E. Hawdon, *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy: "The War on Drugs" Past, Present, and Future*, Los Angeles, London and New Delhi: Sage, 2011, p. 7; George Gavrili, *The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries*, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008, p. 167.

<sup>20</sup> K. Warikoo, *Afghanistan: the challenge*, New Delhi: Pentagon Press, 2007, p. 124.

<sup>21</sup> Megan Lynn Isaac, *Suzanne Fisher Staples: The Setting Is the Story*, Lanham-Boulder-New York: The Scarecrow Press, 2010, pp. 154-160.

<sup>22</sup> Shahzad Bashir and Robert D. Crews, *Under the Drones: Modern Lives in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Borderlands*, Cambridge-Massachusetts-London: Harvard University Press, pp. 249-252.

<sup>23</sup> The Afghanistan is called Narcotic State because the Opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking have eroded Afghanistan's fragile political and economic order over the last 30 years. Afghanistan remains the source of over 90% of the world's illicit opium. Since 2001, the issue is remaining a focal point for policy makers both at regional and international level.

Christopher M. Blanchard, "Afghanistan: Narcotics and U.S. Policy", Report of Congressional Research Service, June 18, 2009, pp.1-2

illegality.<sup>24</sup> Afghan heroin kills approximately 100,000 people worldwide each year. Opium Poppy has been cultivated in Afghanistan for centuries, but this massive volume is a modern phenomenon. The expansion of Afghanistan's Opium Production has been attributed to increases in Poppy Cultivation and the growth of domestic heroin processing.<sup>25</sup>

Thus in order to control Drug Addiction among people of Afghanistan also among other people of the world as the country is the largest producer of the Narcotic Trade in the world, and to restore the security, reconstruction and rule of law efforts in the Country. Many Counter Narcotics measures had been taking place but most of them proved to be failed to a large extent.<sup>26</sup>

In a courageous break with 30 years of counternarcotics<sup>27</sup> policies that focused on ineffective, forced eradication of illicit crops as a way to reduce supply of drugs and bankrupt belligerents, the Obama administration<sup>28</sup> wisely decided in 2009 to scale back eradication in Afghanistan and prioritize interdiction and rural development. But if security is not increased

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<sup>24</sup> Daniela Corti , “ War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan,” *Peach and Conflict Review* , volume 3,issue 2,pp.41-53

<sup>25</sup> Elizabeth Peterson, “Two Sides of the Same Coin: The Link between Illicit Opium Production and Security in Afghanistan”, Washington, Washington University Journal of Law & Policy, Volume 25, 2007,p.225

<sup>26</sup> Daniela Corti , War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan,pp.41-53

<sup>27</sup> The process of development has been going on in Afghanistan from almost one decade. It starts from humanitarian approach, as the fall of Taliban Regime, then the process of shifted to development and reconstruction mode. But according to the opinions of the experts and also from the facts it has assumed that the assistance has not effective due to widespread corruption and continue thriving of illicit Drug economy. Surjeet Sarkar, *In Search of a New Afghanistan*, Niyogi Books, New Delhi,p.15

<sup>28</sup> There has been a severe criticism related to drug policy of Obama Administration. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) was under attack by President Obama. The administration was failure in domestic matters and also at international. As the US drug control programs in Mexico, Colombia and Afghanistan— decades of work invested in establishing effective International Policy—are being undone by the Administration. This can be analysed by the fact that Mexican Heroin production rose 62 percent in the single year, 2013-2014, with further increases looming. Already cocaine overdose deaths are rising, while heroin overdose deaths have risen to more than 10,000 Americans annually. The administration is dismantling the tools, the international partnerships, and governing structures that will be needed to stop the destruction it has unleashed. John P. Walters, “ Obama Causes a Drug Epidemic and Makes It Worse”, Hudson.Org,2016,accessed on 2-6- 2017, available at [www.hudson.org/research/12406-obama-causes-a-drug-epidemic-and-makes-it-worse](http://www.hudson.org/research/12406-obama-causes-a-drug-epidemic-and-makes-it-worse),

and stability not anchored in the country, both of which continue to be major question marks as of late-2011, Poppies will continue to bloom in Afghanistan.<sup>29</sup>

### **Growing Drug Economy: It's Regional and International Implications**

The Narcotic Production in Afghanistan has adverse consequences<sup>30</sup> not only in Afghanistan but also in other regions<sup>31</sup> of the world. The Problem of the Narcotic production in Afghanistan has an impact on all the countries of Central Asia. It has consequences are felt devastating effects on the region. This is proved by the fact that heroin use is on the rise in Central Asia and rates of HIV infection are also increasing across the region.<sup>32</sup>The trafficking of the produce in Afghanistan destabilizes the other regional countries adjacent to Afghanistan by encouraging crime, violence, and corruption – especially if those states are already economically and politically unstable. It also increases insecurity in the form of Drug Addiction and the spread of HIV and AIDS in the region.<sup>33</sup>

As the world Political Economy of West or East do not exist in isolation in the present context, but within the context established by the International System. In formulating the policies intended to facilitate economic growth and social cohesion, governments react not to just the interests and power of domestic groups but to constraints and incentives provided by the World Political Economy.<sup>34</sup>

These effects are not limited solely to the region, however, as illicit Drugs from Afghanistan also regularly reach distant markets. The Northern American market is provided with

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<sup>29</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain ,War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan, pp.41-53

<sup>30</sup> Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the World. Afghanistan faces challenges in terms of improving the investment climate, developing a Sustainable Fiscal Position. The country is rebuilding after almost three decades of conflict and its the process of Transition from a state based model to a free economy. . Jagmohan Mehar, ed. Afghanistan Dynamics of Survival, Delhi, Kalpaz Publication,=2008,pp.185-187=

<sup>31</sup> As we know the fact that on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1991, the monolithic communist state was replaced by the common wealth of independent states, five new central Asian states as Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan of which the first three shares border with Afghanistan. Victoria Scofield, *Afghan Frontier Feuldin and Fighting in Central Asia*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan,p.330

<sup>32</sup> Elizabeth Peterson, “Two Sides of the Same Coin: The Link between Illicit Opium Production and Security in Afghanistan”, Washington University Journal of Law & Policy, Volume 25, 2007,P.230

<sup>33</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain, “ War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan”,pp.41-5

<sup>34</sup> Ohn H. Gold Thorpe, Clarendon ,ed., *Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism*, = Press,US,1984,pp=

Mexican and Colombian Heroin, European Consumption is supplied in a large part by heroin from South-West Asia, mostly from Afghanistan. The Route through which Afghan Opiates reach the European Markets through two main Routes, one is the traditional “Balkan Rout” via Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey with Turkey has become the main staging post from where Narcotics take either the direction of the Central European route (Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Czech Republic) or can be smuggled through Albania and the former Yugoslav republics. While as the main trafficking route is known as the “Silk Road”<sup>35</sup> which runs from Afghanistan through post-Soviet Central Asia to Russia: From there, Afghan heroin can also make its way to Europe.<sup>36</sup> Through the study Was conducted by the UNODC <sup>37</sup>they estimated that in 2004, one quarter of total Afghan opiate exports (500 tons of morphine and heroin, and 1,000 tons of opium) were smuggled through Central Asia?

According to the US Department of State, Tajikistan<sup>38</sup> represents a particularly attractive transit route for illegal narcotics. Every year 80-120 tons of Afghan heroin are smuggled through this country several factors could explain why this country has become one of favoured transit routes of Afghan narcotics. The civil war<sup>39</sup> in this country in the early 1990s

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<sup>35</sup> There is a great difference in the economic dimensions of Route policy in the imperial and post imperial period. However, the Routes for economic purposes exist from ancient times. One among them is the Silk Route. However, there is a distinction between economic character of traditional and Modern Routes. With the coming of Modern times the new states bear the full responsibility for socioeconomic as compared to past. Mehnaz Z. Ispahani,p.229

<sup>36</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain ,War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan,pp.41-53

<sup>37</sup> Afghan Opium Survey, *Report of UNDOC and Government of Afghanistan counter Narcotic Ministry*, 2004,p.19

<sup>38</sup> In the Republic of Tajikistan there are cultivation facilities for production and cultivation facilities of Opium. As the country is located at the It is Southern Side of Afghanistan. Roughly 25 per cent of Afghan Opiates – that is Opium and Opium derivatives such as heroine or morphine – are transported on the “northern route,” across the Afghan-Tajik border according to UNODC in 2011. Harald Edinger, “ Tajikistan Political economy of drug addiction”, *Public Sphere*,2016,pp.57-60

<sup>39</sup> The impact of the civil war on Tajikistan was enormous and its consequences will continue to be felt for a very long time. This situation has a strong impact on gender relations in the Tajik society. The gender gap widened in all spheres of life – economic, political, cultural, family. During the armed conflict in Tajikistan (1992-1994) many women lost male relatives, i.e. protectors and breadwinners. Others saw their husbands become refugees and labour migrants. These women were forced to take up the burden of keeping their households going. Women started searching additional sources of income since their husbands were either in armed groups or refugees, or had no opportunity to move about freely because of the ongoing armed conflict; Kuvatova, Allawa, “Gender Issues in Tajikistan: Consequences and Impact of the Civil War” Geneva: Graduate Institute,2005, pp. 129-133.



severely affected its social and the economic situation, and they continue to suffer from rampant corruption, political instability, few economic opportunities and high unemployment rates. Tajikistan<sup>40</sup> is in fact the poorest of the former Soviet Republics. Geographically, it shares more than 1,000 kilometres of porous borders with Afghanistan. The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report details that significant quantities of drugs are smuggled across the Pyanj River that forms large part of the Afghan-Tajik border, which can be easily crossed at numerous points without inspection due to the lack of adequate border control. The US Department of State also identifies Kazakhstan<sup>41</sup> as a major transit country for opiates from Afghanistan to Russia and Europe. This is principally due to its geographic location and the openness of its borders. According to the INCSR report, drug related crime has increased tremendously in this country. The other Central Asian Republic directly involved in this illicit narcotics trade, similarly identified in the INCSR report, is Uzbekistan.<sup>42</sup>

### **The US Policy of War on Drugs in Afghanistan**

The world is facing with the new threats and emerging challenges to State Security posed by the current context – increasing internal conflicts, explosion of ethnic rivalries, major economic interconnection – have imposed the necessity to consider security as a multidimensional issue. The traditional concept of security was limited to small dimensions.<sup>43</sup>

The other problems the international community is facing are the problems of Drug Production and Trafficking have started to be considered a serious as they have the security

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<sup>40</sup> The civil war in Tajikistan illustrated how the drug trade rapidly expanded as a result of state weakness and produced lasting effects on the government's functioning in the political, economic, and social realms. Erica Marat, "Impact of Drug Trade and Organized Crime on State Functioning in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan", China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, vol. 4, no. 1, 2006, p. 93

<sup>41</sup> Kyrgyzstan suffers significant spill over from the Afghan narcotics trade too. The UNODC identified Kyrgyzstan as an important source of precursor materials for processing Afghan opium. The situation with respect to drug abuse worsened as a result of the increased availability of opium and heroin originating in Afghanistan. Salar Moradi, Heydar Moradi, "Drug Trafficking From Northern Afghanistan and Effect of States Cooperation", India, Bulletin of Environment, Pharmacology and Life Sciences, vol. 2 (12) ,2013 ,p.133

<sup>42</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain, War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan, pp.41-5

<sup>43</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain ,War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan,pp.41

problem with social, political, and economic implications at local, national, and transnational levels.<sup>44</sup>As we already come to know that Central Asian countries are being affected by the problems of Narcotic Menace etc. The production and trafficking of Illicit Drugs can represent a threat to the political sovereignty, undermining the legal authorities and the fundamental institutions of the state. After the 9/11<sup>45</sup> attacks, the International Community is increasingly considering Illicit Drug Trade and Terrorism as two interconnected phenomena. The possible apprehensions are that the Terrorist Organizations can make use of Drug Trafficking networks to generate funds for their arms and equipments.

According to the US Department of State, <sup>46</sup>fourteen out of thirty-six Foreign Terrorist Organizations are now involved in Trafficking Narcotics.

As we discuss the fact above that in the global War on Terror after 9/11, Afghanistan<sup>47</sup> became the first country to receive serious attention, and with the help of armed intervention by US led International Forces, a Regime Change was brought in. America's subsequent engagement in Iraq diverted the focus from this country for some time. The increasingly deteriorating security situation and massive Opium Production in recent years have forced the US and Europe to seriously reengage in Afghanistan. The Obama administration has already declared its military priority to be focused in Afghanistan. =

Drugs from Afghanistan rarely reach the American market; the main concern of the United States seems to be the existing and potential links between the Drug Trade and Terrorism. The United States strongly underlines the connection between the Narcotics Trade and the

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<sup>44</sup> Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain, War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan, PP.41-5

<sup>45</sup> It was only after 9/11 that Afghanistan became prime importance to the International Community According to Westerners it was then critical for achieving peace and stability in the region. The US military forces, in communication with its NATO allies arrived in Afghanistan to weed out AL Quada. Surjeet Sarkar, *In Search of a new Afghanistan*, p.8

<sup>46</sup> Ashok Sawin, Understanding Emerging Security Challenges: Threats and Opportunities, US and Cannada, Routledge, 2013, p.5

<sup>47</sup> The Taliban's Islamic Kingdom from the perspective of Westerners had given refuge to Osama Bin Ladin, the head of Al Quada since 1996. Al Quada according to America was involved in the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1998 bombing of US embassies in Dar-es-Salam and Nairobi. The head of US at that time had responded to these events by firing cruise missiles to Al Quada. Following the 9/11 terrorist attack in the US the American intelligence agencies collected several proofs of Al Quada involvement in it. Then the Bush administration declared "War on Terror" Jagmohan Mehar, ed. *Afghanistan's Dynamics of Survival*, Kalpaz Publication, Delhi, 2008, p.107

Anti-Government insurgency spearheaded by the Taliban: the lucrative Opium business provide funds to the Terror group for arms and sustains their insurgency against Karzai Regime and International Forces. In a policy response, the US has made Counter-Narcotics as much a priority as its Counter-Insurgency Policies. The US State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report argues that during recent years, poppy fields have thrived in provinces where the Taliban are most active. The current US-led strategy against Drug Production in Afghanistan is somewhat inspired by its War on Drugs Policy, pursued from the 1970's, which involves attempts to reduce the availability of Narcotics from foreign sources with the intended result of reducing domestic levels of Drug Addiction. The US policy against Drug Trafficking can truly be seen as a crusade. According to Pierre Arnaud Chouvy, the overall US policy against Illegal Drugs is not a coherent or practical one, but rather is ruled by a strong and unquestionable ideology grounded in a repressive approach towards some Drugs. The main objective of the US Counter-Narcotics Strategy is to achieve a reduction of Drug availability through repressive policy. It aims to reduce Drug Addiction by eradicating the International Supply, especially the cultivation in the South. According to Alfred McCoy, the pillars of this approach are: (a) reduction in foreign supply, (2) global prohibition, (3) inelastic global drug market dynamics (this model does not consider drugs as subject to the complexities of market supply/demand dynamics in the same way as other commodities), and (4) existing axiomatic correlation between repression and positive outcome of lower drug supply.

Unfortunately, this policy suffers from severe drawbacks. To begin with, the International Heroin Trade is elastic and has the ability to suddenly respond to repressive policies in a specific region through delocalizing cultivations. Forced eradications, increasing narcotic seizures, and repressive operations have little effectiveness because of the potentially infinite spatial opportunities of a Globalized Narco-cultivation network. Crop Eradication only shifts Opium fields, it does not eliminate them. This strategy can produce unintended effects, such as raising the price of Drugs and therefore stimulating Illicit Production.

The Nixon Administration initiated this America's so-called war on Drugs <sup>48</sup>Policy in the early 1970s. In his speech of 17 June 1971, Nixon declared the abuse of illicit substances as

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<sup>48</sup> The month of March in 1971 the White House organises Rose Garden Event, in the Event the President Richard M. Nixon declared "War on Drugs." In the same day also Nixon announce congressional passage of the

"public enemy number one in the United States." His special target was Turkish production, which he asked for a policy to impose a total ban of opium production with massive eradication programs. This policy had some initial success. However, after some time, the global market responded to this new situation, as the constant demand coupled with a decreasing supply (due to the eradication in Turkey) stimulated the rise of prices and, consequently, the increase opium production in other regions, particularly in other parts of Asia.

The fight against Drugs is characterized by a progressive militarization of the issue, as seen by the various interventions, military agreements on no fly zones, strong investments in the armed forces (especially in South America, e.g. Colombia). The Drug Issue was in fact considered to be a national security issue by the US, in the framework of the Low Intensity Conflict theory elaborated by Pentagon in the 1980's. President Reagan officially added drug trafficking to the list of threats to national security with his secret directive number 221, signed on April 1986. This directive authorized the US military to intervene abroad in order to fight against drug production.

In the pursuit of the eradication of the international supply of illicit drugs, the US has spent billions of dollars and has repeatedly used its military might in many parts of the world, but the war is far from being won. Opium Production is particularly thriving in South West Asia, especially in Afghanistan where worldwide supply is almost totally concentrated; Drug Trafficking is developing in this region, and is now affecting neighbouring countries as well.<sup>49</sup>

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Controlled Substance Act of 1970 the first comprehensive piece of Federal Illicit Substance Control Legislation in over thirty years. Four months later, in July of 1971, Nixon again invoked a conception of war when he addressed Congress in an alarmist tone, declaring Drug use to now have assumed the dimensions of a "National Emergency" warranting Congress to allocate \$84 million for such "Emergency Measures." Nixon also gives an Executive Order 11727, directed transformation of an anaemic Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs into the Drug Enforcement Administration while shifting auspice from the Treasury Department to the Department of Justice. Jason Scott Plume, "Cultivating Reform: Richard Nixon's Illicit Substance Control Legacy, Medical Marijuana a Social Movement Organizations, And Venue Shopping", Master Thesis, Syracuse University Surface,2012,p.1

<sup>49</sup>Daniela Corti and Ashok Swain, War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan, pp.41-5

## **Conclusion**

- ❖ Afghanistan is the most volatile region of the Twentieth Century. As the Country is acting as a catalyst in the great Ideological Warfare of Twentieth Century.
- ❖ Foreign Actors shape the policies and programmes there due to “Great Game”. In the present context the most prominent actor is US.
- ❖ The country is suffering from a lot of problems include a range of internal threats to stability, whether through weak and corrupt governments, divided societies and its corrosive effects on state institutions, radicalised groups and widespread poverty and Drug-Trafficking.
- ❖ Among all the problems the main objective of US is to eradicate the Drug menace. But the problem is thriving in Afghanistan where worldwide supply is almost totally concentrated; Drug Trafficking is developing in this region, and is now affecting neighbouring countries as well.