

Abstract

Since 2001, The Taliban have been profoundly involved in terrorist activities and are seeking to overthrow the Afghan government. This study aims to determine the role of factors that impact the Taliban persistence in Afghanistan. First, to explore whether Afghanistan's weak governance has led to the Taliban persistence in Afghanistan. Second, to examine whether the tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan has led to the Taliban's persistence in Afghanistan. Third, to explore whether the transnational crime (Crime-Terror Nexus) has led the Taliban's persistence in Afghanistan. Fourth, to explore whether the economic opportunities and opium trade have led the Taliban's persistence in Afghanistan. Fifth, to explain whether the ethnic division and exclusion of the Taliban from both Bonn Conferences and the existence of foreign forces have led to the persistence of the Taliban.

The method of this study is qualitative through the descriptive-analytical approach. The study employs various suitable methods of data collection that helps me in a systematic evaluation of data sources. As such, this study draws on secondary data. The study based on document analysis and library research as a secondary method of data collection and analysis of previous studies undertaken by other researchers. In this study, the author employed Collier and Hoeffler (Greed & Grievance) theory and Tamara Makarenko (Crime-Terror Continuum) approach.

Results indicated that the persistence of the Taliban in the Post-Afghan Taliban regime, specifically the combining contributions of internal and external factors, could be described as follows. First, the government of Afghanistan is weak and unable to control the entire country, the central government is unable to provide basic services and security outside Kabul, and its control has been restricted in many parts of the country by Taliban forces, warlords, drug dealers, and tribal elders. Second, tension and mistrust with Pakistan have a remarkable effect on the continuation of insurgency in Afghanistan. The Taliban enjoy cooperation with ISI and the safe havens in Pakistan, especially in the border region FATA and NWFP, which caused to increase the tension between the two countries. Third, organized crime has played an essential destabilizing role in post- 2001 Afghanistan. Protecting and taxing the opium trade helped fund the Taliban resurgence, and has deepened the conflict in Afghanistan. Taliban's involvement in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, illegal mining, nexus with mafia groups, and kidnapping for ransom. Also, the existence of foreign forces, ethnic fragmentation, and the dominance of ethnic Pashtuns among Taliban rank with Pashtunwali culture are also the factors that have led to the persistence of Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

Keywords: *Taliban Persistence, Insurgency, Weak governance, Internal, and External Factors*