

Seems President Biden is in an undue hurry on the issue of US force withdrawal from Afghanistan before getting a reliable mechanism in place to support the country's elected government from Taliban assault and eventual occupation of governance, and therefore, this author prays for Uncle Sam best of luck. I am not wishing the best of luck to hapless Afghan because they for a generation have no good luck and would not have the same in the near future as the countries which matter on the issue have refused to show their accountabilities and responsibilities. This means they (Afghan) are destined to suffer for others' power fight during Cold War and then after.

When I say 'President Biden is in an undue hurry,' it looks very odd or many may say 'I am prejudiced' in view of the US Forces longest ever presence in any foreign soil ie in Afghanistan for long two decades. And, during the period, the US have spent massive more than \$822 billion and lost 2382 soldiers and 20,320 injuries in this mission.

Yes, it is a fact that US Forces have been there in Afghanistan for two long decades, and that too, at a great cost. But, for what? Has the basic purpose of force deployment been fulfilled? This is a billion-dollar question. However, the newly elected unipolar world's most powerful mansion The White House's occupant and one of the best US politically experienced brain on country's foreign policy Mr Joe Biden says that the basic objective of US force deployment in Afghanistan has been achieved with the elimination of world's most wanted Islamic terror fountainhead Osama bin Laden and his terror machinery that is al Qaeda has been degraded. 'The US forces for Afghanistan is not for generation and for forever war'. Agree. Nobody disputes this observation. The US forces were deployed in landlocked nation post-al Quada coordinated four air attacks on World Trade Centre's giant Twin Towers in New York, US Defence HQ Pentagon in Washington DC and failed attempt to hit The White House.



An explosion rips through the South Tower of the World Trade Towers after the hijacked United Airlines Flight 175, which departed from Boston en route for Los Angeles, crashed into it Sept, 11, 2001. The North Tower is shown burning after American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the tower at 8:45 a.m. - Image source: News India Times

But, has the normalcy return to hapless Afghanistan? Certainly, the answer is a big 'NO'. And if the normalcy has not returned to Afghanistan and the forces are withdrawn; then certainly, and I am double sure, the same will have a related negative impact on the US security sooner or later in a form so far unknown as had been on 9/11 in 2001 in an innovative style in which passenger planes were used as terror weapons that ever this living world had experienced.

Biden Administration's assumption that Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda were the US prime enemy is fallacious. If this was the thing then what for the US forces were in Afghanistan till date after OBL captured, killed and buried in the sea in 2011? OBL and al Qaeda had just executed what Islamic jihadist agenda were. Islamic Jihadist organization Taliban and its ally ISI had provided the necessary infrastructure and support for the world's biggest terror act which killed the highest number of Americans so far in one go in peacetime. And now

they are relatively intact and are virtual rulers of Afghanistan beyond some urban pockets. They are just looking for opportunities and space to regroup like they were in manner and style had been post-Red Army withdrawal from Afghanistan. Apart from this, now Pakistan, which earlier provided infrastructure and training to the Taliban, is more or less an unruly and bankrupt country. Its elected government is a puppet in the hands of the country's army, and the latter has no accountability and responsibility in regard to civil governance though that is the most powerful institution in the country. And its generals are mostly corrupt and have vested interests, and in comparison, they are no different from typical Afghanistan warlords.

Taliban and its associated warlords spread over the Afghan county side want Islamic rule as they don't believe in democracy, whereas a large number of Afghan are unwilling to follow them and have shown trust in liberal democracy and rule of laws which is pretty visible from their participation in elections. In the meanwhile, despite sporadic terror attacks from the Taliban and its allied groups and warlords, some democratic institutions along with law and order machinery and armed forces have been built which have been supporting the administration in governance. They are only silver-lining and ray of hope at the end of four decades-long anarchy and bloodshed. If they are deprived of modern armed force support, which has huge psychological support, note they cannot survive the assault of a highly motivated Islamic terror army -now lying low hoping for early departure of US forces- in very rocky terrain.

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The most powerful man of the world before making the above discussed 'excusable' observations to ensure US forces withdrawal should have asked himself a few pertinent questions such as 'Who has made Taliban and its ideological mentor ISI a formidable force? Who allowed them to harbour OBL and al Qaeda and why? Who allowed Taliban to capture power in Afghanistan and rule it for decade unhindered post-Red Army withdrawal and before 9/11?' When answers to all these questions are searched, the US is found as the needle of suspense. But, President Biden says 'US forces are not for generation of war'.



Image source: Getty

During Cold War, the US rival Soviet Union invaded and occupied Afghanistan in 1979. And at best it would have been another Soviet Federal states a la Afghanistan's northern neighbours Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, etc. A decade later, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, all these federal states under the Soviet Union were declared themselves free sovereign countries without the kind of terror and civil war legacies that Afghanistan has. But, the US intervention by way of costly dollar funding, modern lethal arms supplies and guerrilla training to Afghan dissidents in ISI and CIA provided infrastructures in Pakistan, which is on the Eastern and Southern border of the victim, since 1979, was the most deadly to Afghan fate than the Soviet Union intervention.

Has ever trained armed guerrilla, and that too, drunk with theology slept quietly without capturing power? As soon as the Red Army left Afghanistan, the Taliban backed by Pakistan Army and ISI occupied power in Kabul in lightening speed and implemented Quranic rules. But, the most lethal was theirs' provisioning of infrastructures and safe abode to anti-West Sunni-Wahabi Islamic terror outfits, who were refused bases in the US-friendly (Saudi

Arabia, UAE, etc.) and somehow some secular Arab countries (Iraq, Egypt, etc.) during 1980-the 1990s. Osama's al Qaeda was one of them. When all these were happening and it was also well-known that Pakistan had a major role in this transition, the US and West had closed their eyes enjoying the victory of democracy over communism.



White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki briefs reporters at the White House in Washington. (Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Post-US forces withdrawal will lead Afghanistan to the 1990s situation. In the 1990s, Pakistan was somehow different. Now, Islamic elements have encroached on Pakistan governance. Even the so-called elected but military-backed minority government of Imran Khan has conceded their (Islamic fundamentalists) demand for expulsion of French Ambassador from Pakistan on flimsy ground. What next is difficult to predict now? Given the present situation in Pakistan, the Taliban and Pakistan Army will have a large territory to regroup and wage war against whosoever oppose Islamic rule in their future Islamic Caliphate. And they are sure West and US -so scared as seen from their desperation to leave- won't return to South Asia, and even if they wish in the worst case, they won't get a

base as they got in Pakistan in 2001. Other countries in the region, Shia Iran in the west and democratic multi-religious India in the east cannot allow their soils to be used as a base to fight Islamic terror in Afghanistan and Pakistan. And in the north, the Central Asian countries already in grip of Chinese debt diplomacy and part of Commonwealth of Independent Countries under the vigil of Putin's Russia are no go zone for the US and West. The other major power and having some influence and geographical proximity in the region that is China has her own compulsion in East Asia due to aggressive posturing of newly formed US-led Quad that opposes former's expansion in resource-rich East and the South China Sea, may not show interest in the region in the immediate term.

In view of the above, the US's other excuses that the middle-east has relative stability post-Abrahamic Accord and Biden Administration wish to concentrate in East Asia to tame authoritarian communist China's belligerence to withdraw forces from Afghanistan may backfire. As per some reports, US commanders having expertise over the Afghan conflict are not in the same page with Biden. It is not at all wise strategy to fight another enemy, one should leave the fight halfway with the existing enemy though for the US both the fronts are equally important. But the nature and strategy of fights on these two fronts are different. If Biden thinks, the US forces withdrawal will force the region's biggest military power India, which has so far avoided armed intervention, will intervene to protect her huge investment in Afghanistan in one side and to protect Kashmir from terror infiltration, on the other hand, it may flare up the situation in nuclearised South Asia in which China will be the biggest strategic beneficiary in long-term in view of her all-weather friendship with Pakistan, and through Pakistan with Taliban, to expand her influence to relatively unexplored hydrocarbon-rich Iran where she proposed massive investment amounting \$400 billion in exploration, processing and transport of oil and gas to support in her economy marching to overtake the US, the present No.1 economy in the world.

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