ANALYSIS OF AFGHANISTAN WAR TOPIC SENTIMENT

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Background

- Began Oct 7, 2001
- Bipartisan
- Longest war in US history
- By 2021, 54% of U.S. adults wanted to withdraw
- Extremely Divisive

Problem Statement

Throughout the war in Afghanistan, what topics or opinions were important, and how did sentiments on such topics change as the conflict continued?

Key Questions

- What are the main topics covered by New York Times articles about the war?
- How does sentiment on these topics change?
- What events and headlines correlate with a large change in sentiment?

Sourcing Data:

Obtained using the New York Times API

Modeling

- LDA - Topic modeling
- Looped to find ideal number of topics
- Removed common words

TOPIC 1

US Military Control in Afghanistan

- american
- afghan
- taliban
- afghanistan
- military
- officials
- washington

TOPIC 2

Government Centric Updates

- officials
- government
- afghan
- american
- afghanistan
- washington
- new

TOPIC 3

General Public Opinion

- war
- afghanistan
- afghan
- american
- military
- iraq
- united

TOPIC 4

White House Press Releases

- new
- united
- states
- washington
- american
- president
- military

TOPIC 5

Military Press Releases

- president
- iraq
- military
- washington
- american
- war
- afghanistan

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