

MEGARICH TALIBAN'S SOURCE OF MONEY

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Taliban is the richest insurgent group!

A few months ago the CIA exposed that the Taliban isn't just a local insurgent group but a large financial network as well. They said that taliban's annual income can be from \$400M to \$1.5B.

What's the source of the money and how does it affect us?

There are 4 main sources of Taliban's income.

1. Afghanistan is the world's largest opium producer. The innocent looking flowers give birth to a not so innocent substance "heroin". More than 15m people are addicted to heroin worldwide. The world's illegal heroin industry is worth \$65 B USD.

Afghan earns \$3B USD from import of heroin out of which \$400M is given to the Taliban.

2. Tax collection: US, UN and Japan together tried to build a highway in Afghanistan but failed to. After the Taliban, the next biggest problem in Afghanistan is connectivity. During emergencies it's difficult to travel to Kabul from small towns so the idea of "ring road" was brought up. But the Taliban controlled quite a lot of these areas and used to collect taxes from farmers or trades that used to pass by as "tax". Projects like roads, schools, clinics and so on that were meant for the development of the people were also taxed. The head of Afghan's electricity company's head told BBC in an interview in 2018 that in return for giving them permission to provide electricity, the Taliban taxed them \$2 million every year.

3. Afghan's mining industry earns \$1B USD every year.

Wonder what is the hidden treasure beneath afghan's soil? *Lithium*.

The next revolution is going to be of electric vehicles is something we all know and lithium is the main raw material for their batteries. China wants to become a global superpower with the help of EV. The country has 1.4 million tons of rare earth minerals used in military equipment and electronics and also rare gems. There are about 25-30 mining fields spread all over Afghanistan that are indirectly controlled by Taliban and earn \$10M USD from them.

4. Foreign donations -. The CIA had exposed in a report that over a period of one year the Taliban

got \$106M as foreign donations from countries like Pakistan, Russia and Iran.

I had pointed out about opium earlier. Russia and China have the highest demands of the drug and that's why they are so interested in Afghanistan.

Please note that all these numbers are before Taliban took over the Afghan govt. Now that they control Afghanistan (more than earlier) all these activities that were done illegally and undercover will now be done legally and in a more systematic way. They also have access to a lot more govt resources now!


Conclusion

As time passes, a picture emerges like a puzzle. The Taliban have said that they have the right to talk about Kashmir. With China and Pakistan's backing, the Taliban can spread its extreme ideology in the already spoiled Kashmir. We need to take care of our integrity.

Taliban looks like they are only involved in Afghanistan's politics or rebels who want freedom from foreign powers. But the truth is that the Taliban is a complex financial network that earns hundreds of millions of dollars from illegal drug trades, kidnapping, extortion and foreign donations.

Naturally after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan it will soon be time to pay back to those countries and serve their interests

SOURCES:

 [How the US failed to rebuild Afghanistan](#)

[Afghanistan: How do the Taliban make money? - BBC News](#)

[China cleared by Taliban to mine for copper in Afghanistan](#)

[The Taliban are megarich – here's where they get the money they use to wage war in Afghanistan](#)

[Many Sources Feed Taliban's War Chest - The New York Times](#)