

# TALIBAN'S RIVALRY WITH ISIS IS SHAPING AFGHAN PEACE TALKS.



@ Sanket 03rd Feb 2021 World

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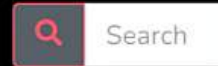


*Power is still disputed in Afghanistan even after Donald Trump's plan to drive American troops out of the country and sign a peace deal with the Taliban. ISIS is deepening the controversy.*

**"Daesh"**, In Syria, ISIS is known by this name. It means *to trample down and crush*.

Grew Up from the Iraq and Syrian civil war, the world recognizes this terrorist organization as the murderer of thousands of innocent people.

Although the **Head of the organization** has now been killed, the organization is still active in many parts of Central West Asia and North Africa.



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## Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant militants

**Taliban**, means student, an organization that follows extremist Sunni ideology in Afghanistan. The U.S started the **Mujahideen War** with the help of ISI to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan. War ended, the Soviets went away, but what happened after that can only be called the fate of Afghanistan. USA's only goal was to get the Soviets out of the land, what after that, No one thought.



Picture showing the fighters during the Soviet-Afghan war

The Mujahids, who had a taste of guns and war, what do you think they would do? One thing that they could do is becoming warlords of their own region and that's exactly what they did. And this is how the Taliban was born.

## ISIS in Afghanistan??

Both the Taliban and ISIS follow Islamic Extremist ideology. Both groups claim to lead Sunni Muslims. If seen through the eyes of *kanoon*, both seem to be together. But in reality, the greed of power and decreasing morality level results in Apocalypse. Same case here too.

11 November 2015, a fight broke out b/w the two factions of the Taliban. The fighters loyal to the new Taliban leader *Akhtar Mansoor* was in direct confrontation with the fighters of *Mullah Mansoor Dadullah*, another Taliban leader.

- Where is ISIS in the picture?

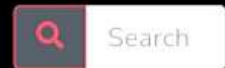
Wait...!

Dadullah's faction received support from ISIS during the clashes and ISIS fighters also joined the fighting alongside him. In this way, ISIS arrived in Afghanistan.

However, Dadullah was eventually defeated by Mansoor's or I would say by Taliban forces. Later reports of skirmishes b/w the Taliban and ISIS became common from time to time.

This was history, now let's talk about the present scenario.

## America, Taliban and the ISIS:



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Power is still disputed in Afghanistan even after Donald Trump's plan to drive American troops out of the country and sign a peace deal with the Taliban. ISIS is deepening the controversy.

Last month, an explosion took place inside a madrasa in Peshawar, Pakistan. A senior Taliban leader *Rahemullah Nangahari* was giving a speech there and suddenly a blast ripped through the prayer hall, injuring him and killing 8 others. It is believed that ISIS got this attack done. A very common reason, to strengthen their position in the region and to wipe out enemies.

## Is ISIS really a factor in the Peace process:

At first glance, the Islamic State does not appear to be a major player in Afghanistan's conflict. Once a much bigger threat to both the Taliban and the Afghan government, the group suffered a spectacular reversal in its prospects in 2019 and earlier this year, losing all the territory it held and most of its military capability. Yet it has not completely disappeared.

Although ISIS has never been involved in negotiations as an organization, it has always been eyeing this deal. ISIS has been opposing the [peace deal](#) b/w the U.S and the Taliban since the beginning and has also offered Taliban fighters to join the Islamic State.

ISIS's claim over the region is neither liked by the U.S, nor by the Taliban, nor by the Federal government of Afghanistan. According to reports, at the urge of the Taliban, both the parties conduct airstrikes over the bases of ISIS.



U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the leader of the Taliban delegation shaking hands after the Doha agreement.



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Just a few weeks after the agreement in Doha on 29 Feb. 2020, ISIS tried to provoke the Taliban, forcing the Taliban to break the agreement. It claimed responsibility for killing some 27 people in an attack on an annual commemoration ceremony in the western part of the state's capital Kabul.

In March 2020, an IS gunman attacked one of the last remaining Sikh temples in Kabul. Such attacks have been continued periodically ever since.

## The Pakistan and Iran factors:

Throughout history, Pakistan has been an important element in the U.S foreign policy in Afghanistan, particularly in relation to the peace process. However, time and time again, Pakistan has demonstrated its lack of effectiveness in brokering peace in the country. Pakistan always insists on supporting the Taliban. There are [various reasons](#) why Pakistan continues to support the Taliban both militarily and diplomatically.



Cartoon by Jimmy Margulies on Pakistan's support to Taliban and AL Qaida  
Like terrorist organizations.

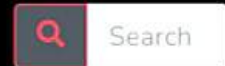
Iran is accused by many Afghan government officials of supporting the Taliban to destroy its [all-weather rival](#) ISIS. Officials claimed at the time that Iranians are providing weapons and ammunition to the Taliban fighters, and some were even trained across the border. Although, this accusation has always been denied by the Iranian side.

## The other side of the coin:

*"Pakistani military provides us weapons and training and used to tell us that Afghan forces are infidels and you must kill them", these are the words of Zaitoon, a former ISIS fighter.*

Sheikh Ahmad Badreddin Hassoun, the grand mufti of Syria, once claimed that countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan were providing strategic and logistic support to ISIS. He claimed that the ISIS fighters were being trained in the ToraBora region of Afghanistan- Pakistan.

Former Taliban official Muhammad Nabi Omari's claim has exceeded the limits. According to him, U.S supports ISIS in Afghanistan. He claimed that almost 60% to 70% of the territory is controlled by the Taliban, which the



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U.S wants to reduce. *"The Americans support ISIS- there is no doubt about it. The Afghani intelligence agencies support, arm and finance ISIS."*

These things together complicate the whole matter. Having trust issues can bring serious consequences. As a nation, Afghanistan has seen a very bad phase since 9/11, followed by the American invasion.

America also has a flaw, all the other power centres kept looking blindly and played all honesty in destroying a beloved country. And now that everything is reaching a conclusion, then everyone is engaged in destroying the dream of a safe and happy future.

*"Everyone's worried about stopping terrorism. Well, there's really an easy way: Stop participating in it."*

- Avram Noam Chomsky

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Nice 👍 bro,...



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Thanks Devanshu...👍



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