

Theories about why the United States invaded and remained in Afghanistan

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Background

Before starting to make any kind of analysis, it's necessary to recap how this war started. Everyone could argue that the terrorist attack of September 11 of 2001 triggered the longest armed conflict in the US history, but there is actually more behind.

The real background lies in 1996 when The Taliban started to rule Afghanistan, imposing a very strict interpretation of the Islamic law, women were considerably more affected than men in this region. During the first years some other terrorist groups were gathering in Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda was one of them, at that time led by Osama Bin Laden. After several years of oppression and massacres of Afghan civilians the UN decided to take measures, imposing sanctions and blocks to the government of this country.

The precedents are clear, Al-Qaeda, supported by the Taliban acted in a sort of revenge against what they might consider the capital of the the Western World, a symbol of opposition against their ideologies.

Progression

The attacks started the same year the terrorist acts occurred, and judging by the ex president George W. Bush Jr. tone, the US wanted to extinguish all the terrorist network in an overwhelming series of strikes.

Why was this decision made? It seems obvious to think that after being attacked the most natural response is going for retribution, some human idealists would oppose to this idea though. It wouldn't be easy to contain after a sudden aggression like that one, but there are other reasons.

Staying pacifist and trying to resolve the conflict using diplomacy, or dealing with Afghan authorities and leaders would say a lot, this could also bring some serious security consequences; first of all there's no guarantee that with a non aggressive conclusion the terrorist won't try another assault. Second, a non punished attack against the "most powerful nation" is an invitation to other enemies, they might just do the same as Al Qaeda did.

An important aspect to consider is that any war will drain resources for the time it takes to conclude. It's widely known that this conflict took more than many expected, and of course the US decided to keep troops for so many years.

How is this still worth? From a security point of view, the threats are still there, transforming over time, it might not be the same organization but it's a region full of conflict and anti American atmosphere.

So even if having troops there isn't making things better, something can be done in case of an attempt to offend the US security. Another way it could also contribute is stopping or at

least delaying the expansion of enemy terrorist groups, having an armed presence in the region and giving a sense of dominance.

Conclusions

After analyzing motives in depth, it's safe to say that every action taken by the US Government was from a **realistic** perspective, no military decision is not related to the realistic theory, it's all about security and survival. Even having economic consequences, the safety of a nation is overriding.

- The counter strike was done having this in mind, eliminate the threat so our nation will not be threatened.
- There was no power or control over the Afghan State to avoid an integration with terrorist groups, not even after two UN resolutions to deal with the problem. It was pure anarchy.
- Theories of power can also explain why the US was able to respond in the first place, having the military power to mobilize and fight even in very complicated zones of the world such as the Middle East, and the economic power to keep the occupation for what it has been the longest war of the US history.

References

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