The Afghan Campaign – Winter 2015

War Studies Advanced Program, Winter 2015
THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN
Washington, D.C.

Friday, January 2, 2015, 9:00 am to 6:00 PM

Political, Social, Historical, Regional Dimensions

Readings:

- Stephen Tanner, Afghanistan: A Military History from Alexander the Great to the Fall of the Taliban, pp. 221-270.
- Ahmed Rashid, Taliban, Chapters 1-7; Chapter 10; Chapter 14.
- C. Christine Fair, Why the Pakistan Army is Here to Stay: Prospects for Civilian Governance, International Affairs 87:3, 2011, pp. 571-588.

Discussion Questions:

1. To what extent does Afghanistan’s ethnic puzzle shape internal and external relationships?
2. What are the most significant impacts of the Afghan-Soviet war and Afghan Civil War on the rise of the Taliban?
3. Why were the Taliban so easily toppled in 2001?
4. What are the primary drivers of Pakistan’s policy and strategy toward Afghanistan?

Saturday, January 3, 2015, 9:00 am to 6:00 PM

Early Successes and Failures: Counter-Terrorism and Counterinsurgency

Readings:

The Afghan Campaign – Winter 2015

  http://static.squarespace.com/static/52908c90e4b023ca755eb442/t/53675c80e4b0e4b0e77173cc09af/1399282816124/89_4_03_FarrellGiustozzi.pdf


**Discussion Questions:**

1. What were the primary reasons for the Taliban’s re-emergence after 2004?
2. What were the major achievements and shortcomings of the U.S. efforts prior to 2009?
3. What role did Pakistan play from 2001-2009?
4. What were the major achievements and shortcomings of the Afghan government from 2001-2009?

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**Sunday, January 4, 2015, 9:00 am to 6:00 PM**

**Developing and Implementing a Strategy**

**Readings:**

• Remarks by the President on a New Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, March 27, 2009.
• McChrystal Assessment: http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/Assessment_Redacted_092109.pdf?sid=ST2009092003140
• Remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan, December 1, 2009.
• Robert M. Gates, *Duty,* 335-386.
• Secretary Clinton’s Remarks on Afghanistan and Pakistan to Asia Society, February 18, 2011.
• Remarks by President Obama in Address to the Nation from Afghanistan, May 1, 2012.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the theory of success that underpinned the McChrystal Assessment?
2. To what extent did the “surge” work?
3. Assess the efficacy of the 5 lines of effort as expressed by President Obama in May 2012.
4. What were the major challenges in implementing the post-2009 strategy?
5. What was the Taliban’s theory of success?
Monay, January 5, 2015, 9:00 am to 6:00 PM

Challenges of State-building

Readings:

- Christopher D. Kolenda, *Dismantling the World’s Top Kleptocracy is Key Challenge for New Afghan Government*, *Foreign Policy*, October 20, 2014.
- Remarks Delivered by President Karzai at the 10th US-Islamic World Forum, June 9, 2013, Doha, Qatar.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the main challenges to building the ANSF?
2. What were the major challenges in building Afghan government capacity? Aid and development?
3. How were the 5 lines of effort prioritized and integrated? How well were they integrated? What were potential alternatives for prioritization and integration?
4. What were the strategic implications of kleptocracy and the nature Obama-Karzai relations?
5. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of the U.S. policy on reconciliation.
Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 9:00 am to 6:00 PM

Afghanistan’s Future, beyond 2014

Readings:

- Christopher D. Kolenda, “A Strategic Scorecard for Afghanistan.” *Foreign Policy*, October 1, 2014.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways have the Taliban adapted since 2009?
2. What are the most significant risks and opportunities for U.S. aims post-2014?
3. What is the best approach toward a favorable and durable outcome in Afghanistan from a U.S. perspective, Afghan government perspective, Taliban perspective?
4. What were the major achievements and shortcomings of the Afghan government from 2001-2009?
5. What are risks and opportunities associated with China’s increased interest in Afghanistan?