



With Haqqanis At The Helm, The Taliban Will Grow Even More Extreme

Abdul Sayed | November 04, 2021

“Haqqani network has long been the most lethal and vicious element of the Taliban. Now, with Sirajuddin in a leadership role, the Taliban will inevitably grow more radical over time, quashing any hopes for a “kinder, gentler” Taliban.”

Read More: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/11/04/haqqani-network-taliban-relationship-afghanistan-pakistan-terrorism/>

Prospects For Sino-Russian Coordination In Afghanistan

Elizabeth Wishnick | November 08, 2021

“How Russia and China address India’s role — and their own — in regional security and navigate the recognition of the Taliban as they each pursue their own regional agendas will provide key indicators of the parameters of future Sino-Russian coordination.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/prospects-for-sino-russian-coordination-in-afghanistan/>

The Haqqani Network: The New Kingmakers In Kabul

Jeff M. Smith | November 12, 2021

“Recent focus on the Taliban’s human rights violations and the group’s escalating battle with the Islamic State in Afghanistan risks overshadowing a potentially bigger story- the bloodstained rise of Sirajuddin Haqqani and Haqqani Network.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/the-haqqani-network-afghanistans-new-power-players/>

CSTO ‘Combat Brotherhood 2021’ Exercises Send Strong Message to Afghanistan

John C. K. Daly | November 01, 2021

“Scope and scale of the operation by the CSTO’s Collective Rapid Reaction Forces, 12 miles from Tajikistan’s 843-mile-long border with Afghanistan, highlighted growing concerns among the former Soviet Central Asian “Stans” regarding the security situation to their south.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/csto-combat-brotherhood-2021-exercises-send-strong-message-to-afghanistan/>

The Once And Future Defeat In Afghanistan

Barnett Rubin | November 01, 2021

“In Afghanistan, the United States either ignored Pakistan’s behavior or engaged in efforts to “change the strategic calculus” of Islamabad, as if Washington could alter the entrenched threat perceptions of Pakistan’s military with economic aid or threats it could not carry out”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/the-once-and-future-defeat-in-afghanistan/>

The Architects Of Project TLP Have Unleashed Chaos. Will They Be Held Accountable?

Rabia Mehmood | November 21, 2021

“The core of TLP’s sectarian politics is tied to protecting the blasphemy laws, and actively campaigning against religious minorities. TLP’s agenda also includes muzzling the media if it does not act as per their orthodox understanding of Islam.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/the-architects-of-project-tlp-have-unleashed-chaos-will-they-be-held-accountable/>

Truckling To TLP

Sushant Sareen | November 07, 2021

“As the ultimate arbiter and underwriter of the state, Pakistan Army cannot allow such a group, movement or party to become so big that it becomes unmanageable and has the potential to destabilise the government and the state.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/truckling-to-tlp/>

Iran's Drones Are A Buzzing Menace For Saudi Arabia

Ilan Zelayat | October 28, 2021

“Saudi leadership acknowledges that, apart from its defense strategies, it has few options other than to mend bridges with the Iranian government, which it had ended diplomatic ties with since 2016, to reduce tensions between the two regional rivals.”

Read More: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/irans-drones-are-a-buzzing-menace-for-saudi-arabia/>

Iran And Hezbollah Analyze Israel's 'War Between The Wars'

Seth J. Frantzman | November 14, 2021

“Iran, despite the siege and the numerous wars imposed on it, has succeeded in several areas of military and missile technology to an advanced level of capability and development.” This has created a new “regional reality” that “challenges Israel’s military superiority.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-and-hezbollah-analyze-israels-war-between-the-wars-684950>

New Great Game In The Caucasus And Central Asia

Pepe Escobar | November 11, 2021

“The Caspian Sea is becoming a key Eurasian trade player since its status was finally defined in 2018 in Aktau, in Kazakhstan. After all, the Caspian is a major crossroads simultaneously connecting Central Asia and the South Caucasus, Central Asia and West Asia, and northern and southern Eurasia.”

Read More: <https://asiatimes.com/2021/11/new-great-game-in-the-caucasus-and-central-asia/>

Geopolitics Of The North-South Transport Corridor

Nvard Chalikyan and Yeghia Tashjian | July 29, 2021

“Apart from the economic benefits, member states also have geopolitical and strategic interests in the corridor. While Russia, India and Iran can use the corridor to project influence into their areas of interest, other member states can benefit from connectivity, improved bilateral relations and trade.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/geopolitics-of-the-north-south-transport-corridor/>

Tatmadaw Has A Purpose To Keep ARSA Alive

Mohammad Abdur Razzak | November 06, 2021

“Myanmar military also does not want Rohingyas to return. From this perspective, the Myanmar military is conniving with the criminal gang to terrorise refugees on the issue of repatriation and serve its purpose.”

Read More: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/tatmadaw-has-a-purpose-to-keep-arsa-alive>

REGION IN PICTURES

On November 9, 2021 Syria's President Bashar al-Assad met United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Zayed, in Damascus. The visit is seen as a sign of improving ties between Assad and the US-allied Gulf state.



Pic credits: Reuters

On November 11, Pakistan hosted talks in Islamabad with special envoys from the United States, Russia and China on the path forward for Afghanistan. The meeting released a joint statement appealing on the international community to urgently provide humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.



Pic credits: AP

Joint session of Parliament in Pakistan passed the electoral reforms bill that will enable holding the next general elections through the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and giving around nine million overseas Pakistanis the right to cast their votes in the 2023 polls.



Pic credits: Radio Pakistan

16th Annual Manama Dialogue, was organized in Bahrain from Dec 4 to Dec 6, by the UK-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). The conference explored the broader themes of Middle East conflict and security including COVID-19's impact on governance, multilateralism and the rules-based global order.



Pic credits: Egyptian Independent



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NOTE: **Regional Opinion and Trends** aims to capture prevailing opinions in South Asia and West Asia.

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The views expressed in this brief are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centre or any other organisation.