



Why the US must do a deal with the Taliban

Michael O'hanlon And Lise Howard | 04 July 2022

“Since last summer’s fall of the previous government, and with it the departure of most foreign assistance, as well as the reimposition of Western sanctions and freezing of most of the country’s modest foreign assets, Afghanistan is in crisis.”

Read More: <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3544384-why-the-us-must-do-a-deal-with-the-taliban/>

The Afghan Questions: What do Afghans Think About Past, Present, and Future?

19 July 2022

“69% of the respondents chose India as Afghanistan’s ‘best friend country.’ This is not just reflection and recognition of various developmental initiatives undertaken by the India but also long standing considerate and indulgent policy of India towards Afghanistan.”

Read More: <https://www.eureporter.co/world/afghanistan/2022/07/19/the-afghan-questions-what-do-afghans-think-about-past-present-and-future/>

Ayman al Zawahiri is Alive; Taliban and Al Qaeda “Remain Close,” UN Reports*Bill Roggio | 19 July 2022*

“Al-Zawahiri’s apparent increased comfort and ability to communicate has coincided with the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan and the consolidation of power of key [Al Qaeda] allies within their de facto administration.”

Read More: https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2022/07/ayman-al-zawahiri-is-alive-taliban-and-al-qaeda-remain-close-un-reports.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

Crisis And Instability Threaten Pakistan’s Economy Yet Again*Aparna Pande | 21 July 2022*

“Domestic political instability and increased vulnerability to terrorism following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan add to the country’s problems. Four years of erratic rule by Imran Khan has deeply polarized Pakistani society.”

Read More: <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/pakistan-crisis-economy/>

Politics at the Bench: The Pakistani Judiciary’s Ambitions and Interventions*Yasser Kureshi | 23 June 2022*

“The superior judiciary’s central place and tutelary ambitions in Pakistan, and the challenges the body faces in its relationships with state institutions and society, were most evident in the events surrounding the end of Imran Khan’s government.”

Read More: <https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/06/23/politics-at-bench-pakistani-judiciary-s-ambitions-and-interventions-pub-87371>

Pakistan’s Coming Collapse Should Worry the World*Michael Rubin | 14 July 2022*

“The World Bank has warned that Pakistan could soon face “macroeconomic instability.” Societal instability would soon follow. Anger is reaching the boiling point, and growing criminality hints at societal breakdown.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/pakistan%E2%80%99s-coming-collapse-should-worry-world-203545>

The Majeed Brigade: The Baluch Liberation Army's Suicide Squad

Abdul Basit | 01 July 2022

“Although the Majeed Brigade has grabbed headlines with its audacious suicide attacks, especially Shari Baloch’s, only time will tell if suicide terrorism can propel Baluch separatism forward or undermine it.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/the-majeed-brigade-the-baluch-liberation-armys-suicide-squad/>

Pakistani Counter-Insurgency Measures Risk Fueling Further Unrest in Baluchistan Province

Kiyya Baloch | 15 July 2022

“The widespread crackdown on Baluch separatists, their supporters, and the targeting of women by Pakistani intelligence agencies has further strengthened the separatist narrative that armed struggle is the only option for achieving respect and freedom.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/pakistani-counter-insurgency-measures-risk-fueling-rebellion-in-restive-baluchistan-province/>

Pakistan's Foreign Policy Reset Hits A Dead End

Arif Rafiq | 13 July 2022

“The habit among the Pakistani elite of bartering strategic and security concessions to foreign powers for modest economic aid will have little impact in a country as large as Pakistan.”

Read More: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/pakistans-foreign-policy-reset-hits-a-dead-end/>

The Impact and Implications of China's Growing Influence in the Middle East

Nadeem Ahmed Moonakal | 09 July 2022

“To protect its strategic interests, China will likely enhance its military ties further as regional tensions escalate and extraregional powers are now focused on quickly adapting to regional geopolitical changes.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/the-impact-and-implications-of-chinas-growing-influence-in-the-middle-east/>

Saudi Arabia's Religious Pruning: Will There be an Islamic Hegemon Anymore?

Mohammed Sinan Siyech | 05 July 2022

“Tehran has been courting Riyadh to mend their relations to remove one major source of political anxiety for Saudi Arabia, further giving it confidence to shed its Islamic credentials.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/saudi-arabias-religious-pruning/>

Central Asia's Season of Unrest

Arindam Mukherjee | 20 July 2022

“The only way central Asia can counter this in the medium-run and consolidate itself on the path to stability and prosperity is by providing meaningful employment – making its population the active beneficiary of the states’ economic development, and by delivering modern education to its future generations.”

Read More: <https://newindian.in/central-asias-season-of-unrest/>

South Asian Countries are Tying Their Fortunes to China's Infrastructure Schemes — and Failing

Husain Haqqani And Aparna Pande | 08 July 2022

“Borrowing from China has proved a poor substitute for structural economic reforms recommended by western governments and institutions, which South Asian elites often tend to resent.”

Read More: <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3550039-south-asian-countries-are-tying-their-fortunes-to-chinas-infrastructure-schemes-and-failing/>

REGION IN PICTURES

Turkmenistan hosted the 6th Caspian Summit which was attended by the presidents of the five member States (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan).



Pic Credits: - Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

At least 18 people were killed during unrest in Uzbekistan's autonomous province of Karakalpakstan. The protests erupted over planned constitutional changes affecting Karakalpakstan's status.



Pic Credits: Makan.uz / telegram

Meeting of the Foreign ministers of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group (China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam) was held in Bagan, Myanmar.



Pic Credits: Myanmar Ministry of Information

President Joe Biden made a four-day trip to the Middle East wherein he attended a summit of Gulf Cooperation Council plus Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, (GCC+3).



Pic Credits: Yousef Allan/Jordanian Royal Palace via AFP]



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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.