



Faith and Vengeance: the Islamic State's War in Afghanistan

Fazelminallah Qazizai and Chris Sands | 01 Aug 2022

“Taliban have struggled with the mundane challenges of government and are divided over key policy issues, yet they still have far more support from the public than ISKP is ever likely to enjoy.”

Read More: <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/faith-and-vengeance-the-islamic-states-war-in-afghanistan/>

Looking for Legitimacy: Taliban Diplomacy Since the Fall of Kabul

Aaron Y. Zelin | 15 Aug 2022

“Taliban engagement has expanded even further over the past few months, likely due to multilateral events such as the Antalya Diplomatic Forum , the Tunxi Neighboring Countries Meeting, and the Tashkent International Conference.”

Read More: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/looking-legitimacy-taliban-diplomacy-fall-kabul>

Afghanistan: In A Quiet Valley the Taliban Face Armed Resistance

Secunder Kermani | 27 July 2022

“Taliban have managed to successfully recruit some locals into their ranks, unlike their previous regime in the 1990s. However, whilst the Taliban are more powerful and better armed than ever before, they are facing a nascent armed resistance to their rule in Afghanistan.”

Read More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-61887714>

Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent: An Appraisal of the Threat in the Wake of the Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan

Tore Hamming and Abdul Sayed | Aug 2022

“It appears that with Taliban-run Afghanistan offering it a platform for regional expansion, AQIS is pivoting its focus to other parts of the South Asia region.”

Read More: <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/al-qaida-in-the-indian-subcontinent-an-appraisal-of-the-threat-in-the-wake-of-the-taliban-takeover-of-afghanistan/>

Use of Air Power: The Missing Link in anti-Taliban Operations in Afghanistan

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza | 29 July 2022

“ANDSF's capacity enhancement with the AAF's support would have made them worthy opponents of the insurgents. The end game in Afghanistan would possibly have been different from what it is today.”

Read More: <http://mantraya.org/occasional-paper-use-of-air-power-the-missing-link-in-anti-taliban-operations-in-afghanistan/>

How the Jihadist Threat Against India has Evolved Since the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Abdul Basit | 29 July 2022

“Since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, both AQIS and ISKP have increased their India-focused propaganda. Both groups are trying to capitalize on Indian Muslim political grievances, to gain sympathizers.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/how-the-jihadist-threat-against-india-has-evolved-since-the-us-withdrawal-from-afghanistan/>

Why Afghanistan's Terrorism Problem is Bad for China – and Pakistan too

Tom Hussain | 13 Aug 2022

“The resultant “instability and chaos”, could again turn Afghanistan into a safe haven for terrorist groups such as Isis-K, al-Qaeda and others, like it was during the 1980s and 1990s.”

Read More: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3188666/why-afghanistans-terrorism-problem-bad-china-and-pakistan-too>

Pakistan at the Crossroads

Shalini Chawla | 04 Aug 2022

“Pakistan saw military modernisation and religious extremism as a potent strategy to counter threat perceptions and failed to invest in human resources, focus on its youth, or overcome its fundamental challenges.”

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/pakistan-at-the-crossroads-418526>

Killing of Senior TTP Commanders in Afghanistan Strikes Blow to Militants, Possible Peace with Pakistan

Daud Khattak | 09 Aug 2022

“TTP leadership has used Afghanistan as a sanctuary and staging ground for attacks against Islamabad since a major military offensive in 2014 drove the militants across the border.”

Read More: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-taliban-comanders-killings-talks/31980664.html>

A Confluence Of Challenges

Maleeha Lodhi | 18 Aug 2022

“A complex interplay among various sets of internal and external factors helps to explain the confluence of challenges — governance, politics and the economy — that continue to confront Pakistan.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1704830>

Pakistan's New Government Struggles to Consolidate Control

Cyril Almeida, Colin Cookman, Adnan Rafiq, Tamanna Salikuddin and Jumaina Siddiqui | 09 Aug 2022

“Whether Khan’s populist rhetoric and charisma can effectively mobilize his support base to win elections and force the establishment institutions’ acceptance of his return back as the prime minister remains to be seen.”

Read More: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/08/pakistans-new-government-struggles-consolidate-control>

Silent Partner: Did Pakistan Help America Assassinate Zawahiri?

Rupert Stone | 09 Aug 2022

“Two countries are clearly trying to diversify their relationship away from the previous focus on security. But, with United States out of Afghanistan, Pakistan remains an important, albeit difficult, counterterrorism partner.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/silent-partner-did-pakistan-help-america-assassinate-zawahiri-204090>

Assumptions in Counterterrorism: Understanding the Case of Shari Baloch

Maha Hassan | 05 Aug 2022

“Many Baloch separatists viewed China as a new partner of the Pakistani State who will further exploit the region’s natural wealth in return for minimal gains or respect for local Baloch populations.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/shari-baloch-gender-security/>

Will the Middle East be a flashpoint between the US and China?

Shawn Yuan | 29 July 2022

“There is a growing narrative within the US foreign policy community that tends to see the Middle East as a possible flashpoint for global US-China competition, as China’s footprint has grown more visible.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/29/will-the-middle-east-be-a-flashpoint-between-the-us-and-china>

Building New Partnerships: Putin Looks Toward Iran

Saaransh Mishrakabir Taneja | 26 July 2022

“It would appear that Iran’s leaders are keen on strengthening relations with Russia in the backdrop of a rising Gulf Arab-Israeli block backed by the US, which could disturb the balance of power in the Middle East.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/building-new-partnerships-putin-looks-toward-iran/>

Turkey Is the Biggest Swing Player in the Russia-Ukraine War

Eugene Chausovsky | 11 Aug 2022

“Under the leadership of Turkish President Erdogan, Ankara has leveraged both forms of connectivity to enhance its position as a regional power, one that doesn’t fit neatly into either the pro-Western or pro-Russian camp.”

Read More: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/08/11/turkey-russia-ukraine-war-swing-player/>

The Islamic State Khurasan Threat to Turkmenistan

Lucas Webber | 11 Aug 2022

“Most of ISKP’s northward vitriol is directed at the leaders and governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, but hostile narratives about other Central Asian states are perceptible as well.”

Read More: https://www.militantwire.com/p/the-islamic-state-khurasan-threat?s=w&utm_medium=web

Myanmar Remains in Politico-Economic Flux

Luv Puri | 27 July 2022

“Coupled with the Covid-19 impact, the post-coup situation, resulting in civil unrest in various pockets of the country’s heartland, is a factor in causing the economic turmoil and the structural realities of the political economy that exist in Myanmar.”

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/myanmar-remains-in-politico-economic-flux-415945>

REGION IN PICTURES

A fresh wave of violence engulfed Gaza after the top brass of the PIJ military wing was targeted by Israel in operation “Breaking Dawn”.



Pic Credits: - REUTERS/Mohammed Salem

Iran has submitted a “written response” to a new nuclear deal proposed by the European Union, raising hopes of a fresh agreement on the issue.



Pic Credits: AFP

The fourth Consultative Meeting of the Central Asian heads of states was held in the resort town of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan.



Pic Credits: facebook / Akorda via The Diplomat

The fourth Consultative Meeting of the Central Asian heads of states was held in the resort town of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan.



Pic Credits: China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Handout via Xinhua



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