



## **Afghanistan Under the Taliban: Findings on the Current Situation**

*Barnett R. Rubin | 20 Oct 2022*

“Active Taliban diplomacy has persuaded countries that once regarded Taliban as a threat (Russia and Iran, in particular) that the movement is more concerned with consolidating its power in Afghanistan than exporting Islamic extremism.”

**Read More:** <https://www.stimson.org/2022/afghanistan-under-the-taliban-findings-on-the-current-situation/>

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## **Taliban is Reaching Your Living Rooms, and YouTubers are Helping**

*Kabir Taneja | 08 Nov 2022*

“While social media platforms and online services alike went after ISIS related content, with mixed results, the Taliban has largely been able to maintain its presence on services such as Twitter.”

**Read More:** <https://theprint.in/opinion/taliban-is-reaching-your-living-rooms-and-youtubers-are-helping/1202687/>

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## **Pakistan's Duplicity in Afghanistan Has No Limit**

*Sediq Sediqqi and Jason Criss Hawk | 30 Oct 2022*

“A longstanding alliance, which dates back to the emergence of the Taliban in southern Afghanistan in the mid-1990s, is coming under unprecedented strain as their interests diverge.”

**Read More:** <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/pakistan%E2%80%99s-duplicity-afghanistan-has-no-limit-205605>

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## **Pakistan Witnesses 5pc Increase in Terrorist Attacks in a Year**

*Imran Mukhtar | 20 Oct 2022*

“Jubilation over Taliban victory is now turning into a rude shock because the evolving security situation under the erratic Taliban rule indicates Pakistan is about to face yet another ordeal viz-aviz terrorism.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Oct-2022/pakistan-witnesses-51pc-increase-in-terrorist-attacks-in-a-year>

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## **Pakistani Taliban's Re-Emergence in Swat: Reasons and Potential Responses**

*Ali Zahid | 04 Nov 2022*

“Unless Pakistan and Afghanistan agree on a mutual strategy to handle the TTP, there will be constant insecurity in different parts of Pakistan, including Swat, which will only bolster the TTP presence despite popular opposition to the TTP.”

**Read More:** <https://jamestown.org/program/the-pakistani-talibans-re-emergence-in-swat-reasons-and-potential-responses/>

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## **Attack on Imran Pushes Pak to the Brink**

*Shalini Chawla | 12 Nov 2022*

“While the change of regime may not essentially alter the existing dynamics of India-Pakistan's strained relations, instability in Pakistan will invariably have strategic and security implications for Indi.”

**Read More:** <https://thediplomat.com/2022/11/sharif-in-china-how-are-china-pakistan-ties/>

## **Sharif in China: How Are China-Pakistan Ties?**

*Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan | 08 Nov 2022*

“China approaches Pakistan “from a strategic and long-term perspective,” which means that Pakistan’s current economic and political uncertainties are unlikely to have any dampening effect on the bilateral relationship.”

**Read More:** <https://thediplotmat.com/2022/11/sharif-in-china-how-are-china-pakistan-ties/>

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## **F-16 and Nuclear Security: The Fault Lines in the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship**

*Sajjan M. Gohel and Marcus Andreopoulos | 06 Nov 2022*

“United States should consider moving away from the heavily security-centric relationship with Pakistan because it has not moderated Pakistani foreign policy or significantly altered the country’s nuclear decision making.”

**Read More:** <https://warontherocks.com/2022/11/f-16s-and-nuclear-security-the-fault-lines-in-the-u-s-pakistan-relationship/>

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## **Pakistan’s Big Lie and Great Truth**

*Mosharraf Zaidi | 15 Nov 2022*

“Pakistan’s great truth is that its military enjoys an unaccountable and unlimited ingress into social, political and economic affairs that it has neither the legal authority, nor the competence, nor the capability to engage in.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1009967-pakistan-s-big-lie-and-great-truth>

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## **A Crisis Like No Other**

*Maleeha Lodhi | 07 Nov 2022*

“Most significantly, intensifying political polarisation will serve as an impediment to the country’s ability to deal with a bigger challenge — a deeply troubled economy.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1719420>

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## **China Increases Support for Pakistan's Naval Modernization with an Eye on the Indian Ocean**

*Syed Fazl-e-Haider | 03 Nov 2022*

“For past few years, China-Pakistan military cooperation has become more focused on Pakistan’s naval forces. The procurement of technologically more advanced platforms from China, is a central part of Pakistan’s efforts to modernize its naval fleet.”

**Read More:** <https://jamestown.org/program/china-increases-support-for-pakistans-naval-modernization-with-an-eye-on-the-indian-ocean/>

## **US Security Cooperation with Gulf OPEC States Amidst Energy Cuts**

*Elias Yousif | 17 Oct 2022*

“Washington and the Gulf have been deeply at odds over human rights practices, Iran nuclear negotiations, political reform movements in the region, and, most recently, Russia’s war in Ukraine.”

**Read More:** <https://www.stimson.org/2022/us-security-cooperation-with-gulf-opec-states-amidst-energy-cuts/>

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## **Punish Riyadh or Play it Cool? How the United States can Renegotiate its Relationship With Saudi Arabia**

*Kirsten Fontenrose | 10 Nov 2022*

“The problem for US policymakers right now is not that Saudi Arabia is choosing Moscow over Washington. The problem is that Saudi Arabia feels like it has the upper hand over both Moscow and Washington.”

**Read More:** <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/punish-riyadh-or-play-it-cool-how-the-united-states-can-renegotiate-its-relationship-with-saudi-arabia/>

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## **The Dangers of Iran's Cyber Ambitions**

*Annie Fixler*

“Tehran has long engaged in online influence operations to “launder information and push distorted narratives, especially with respect to Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

**Read More:** <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2022/10/28/the-dangers-of-irans-cyber-ambitions/>

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## **Iranian Drones' Role in Ukraine War Risks Deepening Tehran's Rift With West**

*David S. Cloud and Benoit Faucon | 21 Oct 2022*

“Siding with Moscow threatens to deepen Iran’s isolation at a time when Iran’s rulers are facing widespread internal unrest and an economy crippled by U.S. sanctions over its nuclear program.”

**Read More:** [https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-turns-against-west-as-russia-uses-its-drones-on-ukraine-11666370375?mod=world\\_major\\_2\\_pos2](https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-turns-against-west-as-russia-uses-its-drones-on-ukraine-11666370375?mod=world_major_2_pos2)

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## **The Path Ahead In Turkey's Upcoming Electoral Campaign**

*James Ryan | 20 Nov 2022*

“This has become all the more true during Erdogan’s reign, in which he has consolidated control of the media, imprisoned leaders of rival parties, and started a war to change an election outcome.”

**Read More:** <https://warontherocks.com/2022/11/the-path-ahead-in-turkeys-upcoming-electoral-campaign/>

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## **The Cyber Strategy and Operations of Hamas: Green Flags and Green Hats**

*Simon Handler | 07 Nov 2022*

“The group’s burgeoning cyber capabilities, alongside its propaganda tactics, pose a threat to Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and US interests in the region—especially in tandem with the group’s capacities to fund, organize, inspire, and execute kinetic attacks.”

**Read More:** <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/the-cyber-strategy-and-operations-of-hamas-green-flags-and-green-hats/>

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## **Growing Chinese Influence Over Central Asia**

*Ayjaz Wani | 10 Nov 2022*

“Under such challenging, confrontational geopolitical and geostrategic circumstances, the geographical centrality of Central Asia coupled with a receding Russia will help Xi to assert himself in the region more than ever.”

**Read More:** <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/growing-chinese-influence-over-central-asia/>

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## **China, Russia, India Enabling Myanmar's Military Rule: Report**

*02 Nov 2022*

“China, despite its cautious statements in the aftermath of the coup, has now emerged as one of the military’s “most potent enablers”, affording it a “crucial lifeline in terms of legitimacy.”

**Read More:** <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/2/china-russia-india-enabling-myanmars-military-report>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif made a two day visit to China during which the two countries agreed to strengthen the all-weather friendship and particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



Pic Credits: - Xinhua/Yao Dawei

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Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu who has won the backing of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), after the recent elections, the fifth in four years, has been invited by the presidency to form the next government.



Pic Credits: Amir Levy/Getty Images via cnn

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Bahrain recorded its largest voter turnout ( 73 percent ) in its first legislative elections since a failed pro-democracy uprising in 2011, despite the opposition parties boycotting the polls.



Pic Credits: afp

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Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Commander has announced that “Iran has developed a new hypersonic ballistic missile capable of penetrating sophisticated air-defence systems”



Pic Credits: Iranian military / AP Archive

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