

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



August 25, 2018

## Independence day: Is Afghanistan independent?

On August 19th, 1919, the people of Afghanistan under the leadership of the king Amanullah Khan Ghazi, regained the independence of the country after the third unequal war, and forced the superpower to shamefully leave the country and give a lesson to others who were thinking of invasion of Afghanistan. The defeat of British imperialistic invaders inspired the region's other nations that were living under the British imperialism umbrella to wake up and fight for their independence and freedom. The oppressed people of the Indian sub-continent raised the voice of freedom-loving after decades suffering brutality from the British forces. They managed to gain their independence in 1947.

This was not the first invader power that tasted defeat from the bare-footed but patriotic and faithful people of Afghanistan. In the 20th century the Soviet Union's Red Army desired to invade Afghanistan, but was defeated and left the country after 10 years of war and bloodshed. The Soviet's defeat by Afghans caused the independence of 15 states under control of the communist imperialist and some other nations in the Eastern Europe, including Germany that was divided into two hostile countries.

But unfortunately, the people of Afghanistan could not enjoy their freedom and independent life as some Mujahideen groups got involved in a devastating civil war that uprooted our infrastructure, killed, injured and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee the country, changing Afghanistan to a needy country. The consequences of the 1992-1996 war are still felt and its inauspicious shadow is still over the lives of this suffering people.

In the other word, Afghans were have been successful in the battle field against enemy but subsequently have failed in political arena. This strength and weakness are not true only in case of Russia and British aggression but also true throughout the history and now. Today's political system which has come out as result of Bon agreement in 2001 sparked hope in the hearts of the war-tired people for a lasting peace but we failed to use the unprecedented economic and political opportunities made with support of international community.

Nowadays, courageous Afghan security forces have proved their ability to annihilate any terrorist and mafias group to bring about peace and glory to our nation by giving their lives but our politicians are engaged with their runty personal and tribal agenda. They are committed to defend sovereignty of Afghanistan and consider it as their responsibility to defend their soil till the last drop of blood but they are discouraged with the poor policy of our leaders.

The International forces that threw Taliban from power in less than one month, is now miserable to confront the increasing attacks of the group that their fighters set cities on fire (Burning Ghazni) and brutally massacre civilians. People in Afghanistan do not know what the international friends do here? Are they here to fight terrorism or to watch the killing of women and children by terrorists? The Daesh terrorist group kills teenagers in classrooms and the foreign forces remain as audience or just calculate casualties or condemn the killers. Undoubtedly, we welcome international friendship but it must be on the basis of mutual interests and honesty.

Considering the current conditions, Afghanistan is one of the most dependent and wretched country in the world. Unfortunately, the terms of independence neither as a general sense nor as a certain sense, such as economic or socio-political components, never accurately have been debated in the operating practices' literature in Afghanistan. The ambiguous concept of independence remained more likely to a wish or a motto rather than a serious public demand being autopsied and interpreted by Afghan thinkers. The practical step of this desire will not be implemented unless nationally invest on new generation who may achieve these ancient honors by gaining advanced capabilities. In clearer terms, independency depends on educating and training of children who are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Therefore, Afghanistan is much weaker than it is to speak of independency; In terms of economy, it is the most dependent country in the world, in terms of human force and expertise, Afghanistan ranks around 170th country in the world! Teachers, students and young generation who are supposed to lay the foundation of independency are the humblest class in this society. They are subjected to extreme poverty, violence, health and poor investment. More than half the country's, estimated around 35 million, populations are below 15 and a large number of them die before their fifth birthday mostly from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malnourishment.

Reaching the dream of independency needs high attention to foundations of liberty such as quality educational services throughout the country. Because awareness is prior to freedom and no nation would be able to liberate themselves unless they are awoken and committed with coexistence values. For example, if someone offer a Millions of Dolor to a Japanese to do something wrong, he will never destroy their markets, schools and educational centers because they have been educated and trained like that, but unfortunately our policy makers knowingly or unknowingly do not pay values to these things. We just have learnt to blame others but no stranger is able to destroy our country if we do not help.

Finally, the independency cannot be bestowed — it must be planned and achieved as other nation already did at the other parts of the world. They did not build their nation by explosion, war, hatreds and domination of a certain tribe over all others; they succeeded when they start building their nation through nondiscriminatory educational system and common love of their homeland. Wishing a day that tears come to my eye, and see our independent flag is waving high!

## Introduction to Xi Jinping's thought on Diplomacy And Its Impacts to Afghanistan (Last Part)

By Liu Jinsong

Second, it reveals significant characters of major country. One of the key features of the Thought is the major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Our diplomacy is different from some other major powers, it is not only striving for the welfare of its own people, but also working hard for the progress of all humankind. China welcomes other countries to take the express train of China's development, and will undertake more international responsibilities within its capacity, and provide more international public products. China is actively mediating international hotspot issues, such as the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, Iranian nuclear issue, and Syria issue. China is promoting a more just and reasonable global governance system, upholding principles, and encouraging justice in regional and international affairs. China will advance with the times, aim higher and be more provocative. Instead of avoiding sensitive problems, China is holding clear-cut stance, transparent policies and enlightened image, which has won more understandings, trust and respect of the world with honesty and friendship. Chinese diplomacy is to provide Chinese plans that reflect distinct Chinese vision, style and values. China will always be the constructor of world peace, the contributor of global development and the defender of international order.

Third, it is full of affinity and strategic confidence. President Xi Jinping has proposed to uphold justice while pursuing shared interests, and promote the concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in neighborhood diplomacy. China never plays zero-sum games, never seeks hegemony. China opposes the practice of bullying the small and weak. China is upholding the principles of credence, friendship and justice in international affairs. For those neighboring and developing countries that have long been friendly to China and facing arduous tasks in their own development, we will be more considerate to their reasonable needs, and strive to help them get earlier and more benefits through cooperation. In time of need, China will give priority to justice and refrain from seeking interests at the expense of justice. The Kandahar Chinese Hospital and the Parwan Dam were models of this concept. The Kabul University related facilities and the National Vocational and Technical College under construction are new models today.

China's commitment to the international society never pursues development at the expense of others' interests. No matter at what stage of its development, China will never seek hegemony nor engage in expansion, and will never carry out initiatives that exceed its national power. We do not make trouble, but we are not afraid of it. No one could expect China will give up under pressure, nor swallow anything that undermines its interests.

Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy will give more impetus to China-Afghanistan relations and bring new benefits to the Afghan people.

First, China will be more concerned about the Afghan issue and give more support to Afghanistan's peace reconciliation and reconstruction affairs. During the meeting between the two heads of states in Qingdao this June, President Ghani expressed the hope that China could play a greater role in the Afghan reconciliation process. President Xi also expressed the China's good will for Afghanistan to achieve peace, reconciliation and eternal stability at an early date. China hopes Afghanistan to be a platform of cooperation instead of competition. President Xi supported the peace initiative proposed by the Afghan National Unity Government and commended the first temporary ceasefire between the Afghan government and Taliban, hoped both sides to resolve the domestic issue through political consultation. China also welcomes Afghanistan and Pakistan to enhance mutual trust and solve problems through new dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, and is willing to actively support Afghan peace and reconciliation as well as good-neighborly friendship through bilateral, trilateral and multilateral channels.

Second, China regards Afghanistan as an important strategic partner in international and regional affairs. China is willing to cooperate with Afghanistan as a partner instead of an ally, and support the core concerns of each other, jointly build a community of shared future. Our two heads of states unanimously advocated strengthening anti-terrorism cooperation at all levels, for terrorism, extremism and separatism are common threats for both countries. The "East Turkestan Islamic Movement" (ETIM) is a common enemy of the international community. China welcomes Afghanistan to strengthen its co-

operation with the SCO and makes full use of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group, Regional Anti-terrorist Organization and etc.

Third, under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, China will provide more market access and connectivity opportunities for Afghanistan, which will avail Afghanistan to be a hub for regional transportation.

China, with a population of 400 million middle-class citizens and a huge market with an annual consumption of more than 6-trillion-dollar, is the largest neighbor of Afghanistan. The key to the participation of the regional production chain and value chain for Afghanistan lies in how to open the Chinese market efficiently. In the coming 5 years, China is expected to import 8 trillion US dollars goods and make a 750 billion US dollars investment abroad. It is an unprecedented opportunity for Afghanistan.

In June, before the summit of our two countries, our in-charging authorities signed agreements related to Afghan pine-nuts' exporting to China. In the future, high quality Afghan pine-nuts could directly and conveniently export to China. It is another important action that benefits the common Afghan's livelihood, after our two counties signing the import agreement on saffron last year. China is willing to import more Afghan featured products, including marble, pomegranate by the China-Afghanistan direct cargo train or direct flight. President Xi welcomes Afghan enterprises to participate in the China International Import Expo to be held this November in Shanghai, China, and encourages the Afghan side to extensive introduce its featured products.

The Chinese Government and Embassy in Afghanistan support Chinese enterprises to invest in Afghanistan according to market regulations. Of course, the Afghan side must provide security protection and construct a platform based on market economic principle for our economic cooperation to solve problems through fair and mutual benefit consultation. Now, Afghanistan has already been a full member of AIIB based in Beijing, and is negotiating with AIIB for financial support. The significant improvement of Afghanistan-Pakistan relation, as well as the cross border transportation project between the two counties have offered more options for the CPEC's extension to Afghanistan. Next year, China is going to hold the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and we hope that Afghanistan will participate actively.

Fourth, the Afghan people will have more opportunities to study in China. Our provincial and cultural exchanges will gain more favorable opportunities. And Afghanistan will have more choices for its future development path and independent diplomacy.

During the summit of our two countries this June, two presidents agreed to promote exchanges and cooperation in the fields of education, culture, and think tank, and positively strengthen provincial practical cooperation. This year, China will provide more than 1,000 training opportunities for Afghans in all fields, as well as more than 190 scholarships to young talents. Bamyán Province has established the sister province relationship with Chinese Gansu Province. Badakhshan, Balkh and Nangarhar has also expressed their intentions to establish this relationship with relevant provinces in China. Potentials of our practical cooperation is being unleashed. Not long ago, five Afghan painters were invited to visit Guizhou and held exhibitions in Beijing, attracted great interests from the Chinese painting circles. This April, a delegation from Dunhuang Research Academy of China successfully visited Kabul and Bamyán, achieved a breakthrough in the archaeological cooperation between China and Afghanistan. The Embassy also plans to invite a Chinese artist delegation to visit Afghanistan and give performance in the near future. I hope their performance will bring happiness to the old and young in Afghanistan. Many Afghan friends told me that China used to suffer poverty, civil wars and turmoils, but it survived and realized industrialization and modernization for its 1.4 billion citizens. This is a miracle in the history of human civilization. China's development path and diplomatic practice have given more references and choices to developing countries like Afghanistan. My Afghan friends also said that present world and the relationships among big counties are full of uncertainty, but China's development and Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomatic give the world a most valuable certainty and sunny warmth. I agree with this view and would like to sharing the sunshine of China's development and China's diplomacy with all Afghan friends.

Liu Jinsong is the Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan

## Afghanistan is at the claws of greedy wolves

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Although the national and international bodies are closely watching the long continued violence, massacre, death, and destruction in Afghanistan but no real strategy is taken to stop the deadly trend. From a small innocent baby up to an old man or women are seriously facing with death and dreads in this country. If we go to the mosques, we will be killed, if we go educational centers, we will be killed, if we go to get the voting card, we will be killed, if we are an ordinary or extraordinary person will be killed. In fact, death is following us everywhere as if the wolves are following to hunt the sheep? The security situation in the country is as much frustrating that no citizens feel safe inside their homes or nearby home streets. The feeling of death and destruction already occupied our minds and our lives. Those who were killed with guns, bullets, mines or grenades have rested forever but we are killed with the fear of death and killing every day.

The more we go from the past to the future, the security of the country goes from bad to worse. In the past years, the situation was bad but not to this extent. Despite the fact that there was war in different parts of the country, but it was not up to this level. In those years, the hope and passion aroused in the morale of the citizens, but in recent years the security has reached its most critical point. It is not impossible to imagine worse than this. In fact, the current situation is the peak of insecurity and turmoil. In the past, we did not witness explosions deliberately targeted the holy places such as mosques or educational centers but today, grenade, bullets and mines have found its way to everywhere.

According to terrorist groups, the killings are carried out due to the presence of the international community, especially the United States in Afghanistan but according to US, they are here to fight against global threats and formally made commitment to defend the country against any forms of threats. Our question from both parts is why their commitments has not materialized yet? what is the sin of civilians killed everywhere? what is benefit of international community and the Afghan national government if they cannot protect the people? We have no peace, no prosperity, no security, no job and the last thing we lost was our "hope." unfortunately, the hopes also taken from us now; Our minds and morality have come to a standstill. There is no hope left ow-

ing to the severity of the killing and destruction. Now we are gazing at the black and dark future that looks awesome in our eyes. It seems that we are not the victims of bullets, mines and explosions, we are the victims of our honesty! we had welcomed the international friends but it come out absurd.

In most parts of the country, the Taliban has presence. The so-called IS flag is also high on the different parts of this country. The irresponsible armed forces which created and activated by some mafia groups are also everywhere. They are provided money and other equipment to continue their crimes and illegal activities. Some individuals think this land as their personal property and have activated these armed forces to control or dominate their political rivals. They use the armed groups as weapon against anyone they wish. In fact, these are the most patricide in the country because they meaningfully oppress on the people and on the country. They do exactly what the enemies of the people do while they do more knowingly.

Another unpleasant situation is the issue of barracks in the city. Everywhere is a security and military environment. Our city is like a military garrison, and one can easily face a security problem. At the library, on the market, at the school, at the mosque, at the training center, at the back of the house, and ultimately everywhere is a police officer and a gunner. The city is in a suppressive state. There is no convenient place for the few citizens to get together and have no security concerns.

To conclude, it seems like our country is at the claws of some greedy wolves whatsoever they eat they will not get filled. Thousands of innocent human had killed in a couple of days but responded with repeated absurd condolence. Terrorists sends explosives but we simply condemn and send condolence which is more annoying and insulting to the common sense of people. In fact, we face death and destruction from two dimensions. From one side the Taliban, IS kills and destroys and explode our lives with guns and bullets; on the other hand, the responsible authorities affront the common sense with their repeated lies and ridiculous condolences.

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Vice Chairman / Editor: Moh. Sakhi Rezaie

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.