

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

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## What Criteria Will Attract Afghans' Votes During Presidential Election Campaign?

According to IEC's schedule, there is 60 days time for candidates to explain their programs and attract the people's votes. On the other side, it is people's turn and opportunity to think whether vote on basis of rationality or emotion. Usually, everyone wants to vote for rational criteria such as expertise, commitment, political piousness and good background but practically the emotions win the rationality in Afghanistan. In the last parliamentary elections, many of highly committed people with high qualification of PHD or Master Degree failed but businessmen succeeded to enter the parliament.

There are different factors why people cannot vote for meritocracy; the main factors can include poverty, low political literacy, and weak political culture that propel people vote on the basis of deceiving promises, money, language and racial differences. One of most serious weakness of people is not studying report card of their favorite candidates. Therefore, it is extremely expected from impartial media and impartial writers to help people use their mind and cultivate a right political culture in Afghanistan.

First of all, people must understand the importance of election, especially the importance of presidential election. In the third world countries, such as Afghanistan, individuals are more important than structures, and so the president's personality, mentality, beliefs and attitudes will affect the whole political decisions. In this context, a corrupt man can corrupt the entire nation while a righteous man is able to rectify the whole nation. With looking at history of weak countries, we will come to understand that sometimes one person could rescue a big nation. If we select a wrong medical doctor, he might kill only one person but if we select a wrong political doctor he would kill the whole society. Unfortunately, most people neither are aware of importance of election nor know the criteria for making a right decision at ballot box.

As aforementioned, the poor political culture is one of the reasons that encourage people vote on the basis of race, language, religion and also money. On the other hand, the experience of past elections shows that candidates will use from every option, including money, power, raising differences and buying people's vote. Therefore, a large number of people have never gone to the ballot box with well-consideration of sensible views, but with the attitudes and interests of their personal, ethnic, linguistic, and regional tendencies. In last elections, there were few cases that young people voted for good-looking faces without paying importance to the consequences of their action. These kinds of example might be more in rural areas of the country. As a result, a large part of the social problems comes from selection of weak leaders who inflicted irreversible harm to our nation. In last parliament election, we sent some representatives who blamed for giving or receiving bribe in first opening days of the parliament.

Today, when our country is engulfed with various social and economic crises, to a large extent we are responsible; we voted for ethnic belongings, they operated with ethnic affiliations. We voted for regional affiliations, they acted with regional affiliations. We voted with linguistic affiliations and they acted with linguistic affiliations. This is how we went down in the midst of social anomalies neither we could reach the national unity and nor peace and prosperity. We are also responsible in front of our conscious! As a free man, if we talk to ourselves, why did we vote a person who created a lot of problems in the country what would be our response? Unfortunately, we do not have acceptable response; sometime unknowingly voted while we were able to check their background. Presidential palace is the place of political decision making and no one can do this for better, unless it is armed with political piousness, commitment and vast knowledge.

The second criterion is patriotism; unfortunately, the current situation and the economic dependencies of our country are such that some patriotic people are victims of their loyalty and attitudes. The candidates for presidential positions should be patriotic and have a popular tendency to bring people and the interests of the people at the top of their decisions. Those who do not have sense of co-operation with people and people-centered ethics cannot be useful and voting of such people is useless. Those who have their family out of Afghanistan they cannot work for this country because they cannot feel the bitter of poverty and affliction and thus, do not have common fate with Afghan residents.

The third criteria is lack of bias, the great misfortune of Afghanistan is that our curators and politicians are committed to personal, ethical, linguistic and regional interest, rather than national interests. If we want to open the path to nationalization, national unity, peace and social openness, we must campaign for those who are open-minded and able to do something for the country. According to our cultural principles, it is not permissible to build our relationship on the basis of tribe, language and racial differences.

The last selection criterion each candidate is having a coherent and applicable program for solving problems of the country. In order to achieve this goal, the candidates should be able to analyse the root cause of problems. It means, unless a doctor does not diagnose the disease properly, issuance of prescription would not be effective and may even aggravate the illness. Therefore, the tasks of the candidates are rooted in proficient identification of the problems. The programs that are provided without scientific support and non-professional work are ineffective and will not cure the pains of people.

## The Lucrative Business of War The Seller, The Buyer, The Victim

By: Naser Koshan

The history of war and peace goes beyond millenniums. Where war and destruction convey a nasty face value, it is also a multi-billion dollar venture for companies engaged in warfare production. These politically connected and financially sustained firms have a huge chunk of political lobbyists in a rapidly growing payroll. In retrospect, the idea of igniting unrest and promoting sectarianism at a given geography is first decided in fancy office buildings in renowned metropolitan cities, involving these firms and paid politicians as partnered stakeholders. The very essence of the business revolves around political turmoil and hostile relations as key determinants for lucrative arms deal.

As we all know, the epicenter of waging wars is acquisition of money. In contemporary terms, it is a brutal rampage aimed at looting a pinpointed geography's natural resources, auspices over precious resident commodities, and worst than all, using the geography as buffer zones for illicit drug trafficking and its mass plantations. The process simultaneously pollutes local cultures with vulgar, unorthodox socio-cultural imports, which are largely at odds with indigenous values.

The war industry operates around a number of classified and publically addressed interests. Hegemonic superiority, protecting an old ally against an adversary, and primarily the monetary incentive that it pumps back to the economy, opens up a multi dimensional faucet for a dynamic engagement in this constantly growing industry.

The Ivy League players, that reap the greatest chunk of financial profits from growing unrest and military fistfights around the world are state, and privately owned arms industries, tirelessly competing to provide sophisticated modern weaponry to recipient states. In fact, they are acting as insurance firms, convincing vulnerable states to buy weapons, in order to deter any attempts on sovereignty and national interests. Similar to any other typical business transaction, there is a clear-cut distinction in pre-planned deliverables among the stakeholders, brokers and ultimately the decision makers, perhaps wars can shift geographies, but sustained profitability demands endless wars.

This multi-billion dollar industry is in turn, generating an unprecedented opportunity for individuals and firms to pile up on personal wealth and political power. The producing states are vigorously running giant media outlets, as nonstop propaganda machines, advocating artificially generated risk reduction portfolio for countries in hostile status. Their analysis presents exaggerated and hypothesized bubbles of security threat to a targeted client, aiming to impress, and eventually lure the host in an arms deal with the selling stakeholder. It is an evident fact that the lucrative business of war is equivalently competitive and understandably relevant as any other licit industrial good in today's infamous warring marketplace.

The business comprises of a large scale political reach, with considerable payouts to political practitioners. The National Rifle Association (NRA) in

the U.S. is a very contemporary example for that matter. It pays out millions to political elites within and outside the executive branch, to safeguard their interests, and keep the status quo on gun laws, aligned within business interests. Associations as such, are discreetly involved in multi-lateral dimensions, bankrolling kleptocratic leaders globally, and state politicians locally, with sole discretion over the war industry.

It is a highly crowded market, involving supreme powers as perpetual sellers. These adversaries are in constant pursuit to acquire multi-billion dollar contracts in supplying modern warfare to needy recipients. Emerging powers such as India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Brazil are some of the potential buyers. These countries are allocating a remarkable chunk of their annual GDPs notching up military capabilities. By default this trending global intensity in military interventions, generates an intensifying supply for an equally growing demand, resulting in volume production of sophisticated weaponry.

Let us not forget that regional rivalries play a big part in stimulation of business for these companies too. For instance, the standoff in Yemen presented President Trump a potential opportunity to ink a USD 100 billion arms deal with its Saudi counterpart in the White House. The deal includes provision of tactical and advanced military reconnaissance equipments, elevating Kingdom's military capabilities in order to withstand any direct military encounter with regional rival, Iran. Conversely, Russia is the chief arms supplier to Iran since the fall of Shah in 1979, Russian made tanks, air to air missiles and MiG-29s are presently active in the Iranian military vessels.

These rivals are constantly on the lookout for acquiring sophisticated modern warfare from their respective strategic alliances. Saudi Arabia under King Salman is unleashing unprecedented rhetoric over Iran's contra affair in the Middle East. The Kingdom and its regional nemesis Iran are mounting closer to a full-scale military faceoff in the Middle East. The Saudi led military coalition in Yemen, is a direct warning to Iran's allegedly growing meddling in majority inhabitant Arab states. Iran, on the other hand, concerned about its growing isolation, is adhering to a tit for tat policy in taking on its regional rivals, Israel and Saudi Arabia. Iran understands its intrinsic geostrategic jewel to adversaries that of the United States, China and Russia. Last but not least, the induction of privately owned security firms in today's unconventional wars, is adding a newer set of prolonged catastrophic wars around the world. These firms are pocketing substantial profit by willing to operate in highly dangerous warzones as government and private contractors. The operation involves hiring mercenaries, from poor countries and shipping them out to hostile regions in return for quick cash. Unfortunately, their combat operations fall under no written jurisdiction, allowing these militias in uniform, to commit war crimes with absolute immunity from any possible legal repercussions.

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## Journey of Terrorism from Birth to Maturity

By: Rajkumar Singh

Basically, the concept of 'Terrorism' is as old as the civilization of mankind itself and has existed in all ages in some form or other which might be known anarchists, revolutionaries, fundamentalist or dissents against the established authority or even ruling tyrants having no tolerance or dissent. However, terrorism was not as widespread phenomenon as it is today in contemporary political system of the world. Terrorism has, in fact, become a global phenomenon with increasing and rather well identifiable links between different terrorist group and organisation. They use each other's areas for recruitment and training, exchange of illegal weapons, engage in joint planning and ventures and also provide administrative and other logistic support. This type of terrorist activities show a new dimension due to circumstances characterised by the advancement of science, technology and diverse social, economic, political and historical reasons conditioning it. It will remain a menace as long as there are people who are driven by fanaticism, paranoia and extremism. So long as there exists in the world poverty, strife, injustice and oppression, conditions will exist which terrorists can turn to their advantage.

### Origin of the term and initial phase

The term terrorism comes from the French word *terrorisme*, which is based on the Latin verb *terre* (to cause to tremble). It dates back to 1795 when it was used to describe the actions of the Jacobin Club in their rule of post-Revolutionary France, the so-called 'Reign of Terror'. Jacobins are rumored to have coined the term 'terrorists' to refer to themselves. Terrorism refers to a strategy of using violence, social threats, coordinated attacks, in order to generate fear, cause disruption, and ultimately, brings about compliance with specified political, religious, or ideological demands. Traditionally, terrorism is a highly organised enterprise that fits into a clear political strategy. It has been filling the news for most of our lives and will doubtless go on demanding the attention of our children and grand-children as well. What is new is how it achieves its goals these days. Until today the world under UN has failed to come to an agreement about what is an acceptable definition for terrorism. It is still under debate despite attempts made by many experts. The effort to approach terrorism from a definitional perspective has thus become a never-ending effort. 'Terrorism is a term used to describe the method or the theory behind the method whereby an organised group or party seeks to achieve its avowed aims chiefly through the systematic use of violence. Terroristic acts are directed against persons who as individuals, agents or representatives of authority interfere with the consummation of the objectives of such a group. In the sense it differs in several important aspects from such phenomena as mob violence, mass insurrection and governmental terror. Terror practised by a government in office appears as law enforcement and is directed against the opposition, while terrorism in its proper sense implies upon defiance of law and is the means whereby an opposition aims to demoralise a governmental authority, to undermine its power and to initiate a revolution or counter-revolution.

### Started as a revolutionary technique

Terrorism as a revolutionary technique was for many years an accepted tenet of anarchism. The writings of Bakunin with their emphasis upon violence as a method of achieving social change were the inspiration, if not the actual source of this doctrine. The idea of the propaganda of the deed was developed in the years following Bakunin's death by Kropotkin, Brousse and others, who stressed the failure of generally accepted methods and the educative and publicity value of acts of terrorism. This theory was translated into action principally in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. It was almost always part of the strategy of an armed national liberation movement, and in the colonial context it usually worked in the end. The reason terrorism worked so well in anti-colonial struggles was that you did not have to defeat the imperial powers superior military forces in order to win. They were a long way from home and there was a

limit to how many lives and how much money the imperial government would spend to hang into its possessions. But the early, easy successes of terror tactics in the anti-imperial context left everybody with a greatly inflated notion of what the technique could achieve against an established national government with local roots.

With its initial success in several spheres, the concept of terrorism also gained other valuable characters such as mass realisation and publicity. Even today terrorism as a method is always characterised by the fact that it seeks to arouse not only the ringing government or the nation in control but also the mass of the people to a realisation that constituted authority is no longer safely entrenched and unchallenged. The publicity of the terroristic act is a cardinal point in the strategy of terrorism. If terror fails to elicit a wide response in circles outside of those at whom it is directly aimed, it is futile as a weapon in a social conflict. In this phase and type of terrorism violence and death are not intended to produce revenue or to terrorise the persons attacked but to cause society or government to take notice of the imminence of large scale struggles. The terroristic act committed in secrecy by one person or several is conceived as the advance notice of what may be expected from mass action.

### First detail planning in Soviet Union

The fullest expression of the theory and practice of this terrorism is to be found in the functioning of the famous Russian revolutionary organisation Narodnaya Volya, formed in 1879. In the same year it made an unsuccessful attempt to shoot the Czar and in the following year a revolutionary workman, Khalturin, succeeded in dynamiting the Czar's dining room at the Winter Palace, where the royal family was to entertain a large official assemblage. But in 1881 Alexander II was killed by a bomb. Such an effective start encouraged the Narodnaya Volya and its activity spread despite the efforts of the government to exterminate the organisation at all costs. The newly formed Party explained its method of action in paragraph 2, section D, of its programme, which defined destructive and terroristic activity as follows: 'Terroristic activity, consisting in destroying the most harmful person in government, in defending the party against espionage, in punishing the perpetrators of the notable cases of violence and arbitrariness on the part of the government and the administration, aims to undermine the prestige of the government's power, to demonstrate steadily the possibility of struggle against the government, to arouse in this manner the revolutionary spirit of the people and their confidence in the success of the cause, and finally, to give shape and direction to the forces fit and trained to carry on the fight.'

Apart from this terroristic commitment, the organisation was crystal clear in matters of motivation and end. The motivation of the party was frequently stated in paragraph 1, section V, of the same programme which reads, 'By this overturn, in the first place, the development of the people will be to proceed independently and in line with its disposition, and, in the second place, many purely socialist principles common to us and the people will gain recognition and be supported in our Russian life. It also stressed that the use of terror was not an end in itself but only a means to effect the transference of power from the government to the people; that the party proposed to seize and retain power only until a form of popular government could be determined upon by a Constituent Assembly; and that it would not decree revolutionary reforms and impose its desires upon the people but on the contrary would aid the latter to express its own will, to which the party would submit. In later years, although it was revived in 1901 when the Socialist Revolutionary Party came into existence and in 1917, upon the cessation of the temporary political alliance of the Socialist Revolutionary party with the Bolsheviks, it however, never attained real success as a method of revolution.

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