



Ashraf Ghani Surrenders, What happens next in Afghanistan?

- By Ankit Agrawal

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AFGHANISTAN CRISIS INTERNATIONAL

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani says Taliban has won as militants enter Kabul




AFP

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Afghan President Ashraf **Ghani said** on Sunday **after fleeing** the country that the **Taliban had won**, **as the militants entered Kabul - nearly 20 years after** they were ousted from power by a US-led invasion.

Mr Ghani left as the insurgents closed in on the capital, **before ultimately entering the city and taking over the presidential palace**, sealing a nationwide military **victory in just 10 days**.



TURKMENISTAN

UZBEKISTAN

TAJAKISTAN

CHINA

Following 9/11, **Mazar-i-Sharif** was the first Afghan city to fall to the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance, the base provides military assistance to northern Afghanistan.

Mazar-i-Sharif

Bagram Airfield is one of the largest U.S. military bases in Afghanistan, It is located next to the ancient city of

Bagram

Kabul

Jalalabad

Camp Eggers is the main United States military base in **Kabul**, Afghanistan. It is located near the U.S. Embassy and the Afghan Presidential Palace.

INDIA

Gardez

Gardez Air Base was used as a regional collection center in the program to disarm Afghanistan's local militias.

PAKISTAN

IRAN

Herat

AFGHANISTAN

Shindand

Shindand Air Base is located 7 miles northeast of the city of Sabzwar.

Helmand

Kandahar

Kandahar Air base was home to the armed forces from Britain, France, the U.S., Canada and Holland during the peak of alliance operations in Afghanistan.

The U.S. Camp Leatherneck is located next to the airport. It is a 1,600 acre United States Marine Corps base.



KEY U.S. BASES IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said he would allow the U.S. to keep nine military bases in the country if Washington met his security and economic conditions.

The Taliban have carried out a lightning sweep of the country, with government forces collapsing without the support of the US military, which is finalising its withdrawal in alignment with an August 31 deadline set by President Joe Biden.

The insurgents' imminent takeover triggered fear and panic in Kabul among residents fearful of the group's hardline brand of Islam, which it imposed during its 1996-2001 rule.



Areas of control, by number of districts, Aug 10th 2021

Taliban 231

Contested 111

65

Source: *FDD's Long War Journal*

Government

19-08-2021

WHAT ASHRAF GHANI SAYS?

"The Taliban have won with the judgement of their swords and guns, and are now responsible for the honour, property and self-preservation of their countrymen," Mr Ghani said in a statement posted to **Facebook**, his first since fleeing.

"They are now facing a new historical test. Either they will preserve the name and honour of Afghanistan or they will give priority to other places and networks," he added, saying **he left to prevent a "flood of bloodshed"**.



Ashraf Ghani ✓

8h · 🌐



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Dear countrymen!

Today, I came across a hard choice; I should stand to face the armed Taliban who wanted to enter the palace or leave the dear country that I dedicated my life to protecting and protecting the past twenty years. If there were still countless countrymen martyred and they would face the destruction and destruction of Kabul city, the result would have been a big human disaster in this six million city. The Taliban have made it to remove me, they are here to attack all Kabul and the people of Kabul. In order to avoid the bleeding flood, I thought it was best to get out.

Taliban have won the judgement of sword and guns and now they are responsible for protecting the countrymen's honor, wealth and self-esteem. Didn't they win the legitimacy of hearts. Never in history has dry power given legitimacy to anyone and won't give it to them. They are now facing a new historical test; either they will protect the name and honor of Afghanistan or they will prioritize other places and networks. Many people and many Aqshar are in fear and are unreliable in the future. It is necessary for Taliban to assure all the people, nations, different sectors, sisters and women of Afghanistan to win the legitimacy and the hearts of the people. Make a clear plan to do and share it with the public. I will always continue to serve my nation with an intellectual moment and a plan to develop. Lots more talk for the future
Long live Afghanistan

Mr Ghani did not say where he
had travelled to,

But leading Afghan media group
Tolo news suggested he had
gone to Tajikistan.

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UZBEKISTAN

TURKMENISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

Tehran

Kābul

Islamabad

AFGHANISTAN

IRAN

PAKISTAN

INDIA

VOA

HAS TALIBAN ENTERED KABUL CITY?

After initially ordering fighters not to enter the capital, a Taliban spokesman confirmed the Islamist insurgents **had entered several districts in Kabul** to "ensure security."

Videos posted on pro-Taliban social media accounts showed the group's heavily armed fighters in cities across the country, **waving white flags and greeting locals.**

Three senior Taliban sources told that their fighters had taken control of the presidential palace and were holding a meeting on security in the capital.

Fighters inside the palace **said they had been "victorious"**.

Mr Ghani's departure from office was one of the key demands of the Taliban in **months of peace talks with the government**.

The insurgents said they want a "peaceful transfer" within the next few days.



TALIBAN'S UPPER HAND IN NEGOTIATIONS

Some diplomatic sources predict that Ali Ahmad Jalali, a US-based academic and former interior minister, could be named as the **head of an interim administration** in Kabul.

But it is unclear what kind of an interim set up the **militants want**.

There is also no guarantee that the talks for a peaceful transition of power **will succeed**.

“The **best scenario** is that the **Taliban and the government reach an agreement** and **Kabul remains peaceful**. That will pave the way for a ceasefire and future steps to resolve the conflict,” Nasrullah Stanakzai, a lecturer at the University of Kabul, told DW.

But Raihana Azad, a member of the Afghan parliament, **believes that even if negotiations succeed, there is no guarantee that the Taliban will “keep their word.”**

The **Taliban** were accused of not holding their end of the bargain after they sealed an **agreement with the US in February 2020**.

POSSIBLE FAILURE OF TALKS

“The government does not have any other option but to hand over power to the Taliban,” he said.

But there is still a possibility, albeit remote, that Afghan politicians in Kabul will try to hold on to power. In that case, the Islamists **could try to take over Kabul from Afghan forces** by force.

“If the Taliban attack Kabul, there will be bloodshed. More civilians will lose their lives, and Afghanistan will face an uncertain future,” Azad said.

WILL THE US INTERVENE?

US President Joe **Biden**, who has **faced severe criticism** for withdrawing from Afghanistan so quickly, has **repeatedly said** the **Afghan leaders need to defend their country.**

But if the Taliban attack Kabul, a city of more than **6 million people**, there could be massive civilian casualties.

Would the US then intervene in the conflict, if only to maintain peace in the Afghan capital?

“I think the US won’t back Ghani because the Afghan government is no longer in a position to defend Kabul,” Saidi said.

The US has come under heavy criticism for leaving Afghanistan in what many believe was a premature move, and without a proper peace deal between all the Afghan stakeholders.

The Taliban succeeded in capturing several territories after **Biden announced an unconditional withdrawal** of US forces from the country **in February**.

American officials at the time **said that Afghan forces could defend the country from the Taliban**.

“We had urged the Afghan government and the international community for months to secure our city, but no one paid attention to our pleas,” Halima Sadaf Karimi, a lawmaker from the northern Jawzjan province, told DW.

Q. Third Anglo-Afghan War was fought in which year?

A) 1917

B) 1919

C) 1921

D) 1924



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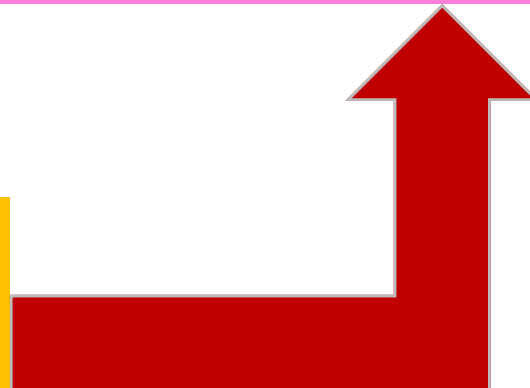
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