



Article Type: Research paper

Socio-cultural Contexts of Order and Security in Afghanistan

* Sayed Mohammad Firozi¹, Fawzia Yousufi², Nasir Ahmad Afzali³, Mohammad Bay Basharat Rahamani⁴

1. Assistant Professor of Sociology in Baghlan University, Baghlan, Afghanistan
2. Assistant Professor of history Department of Education University in Kabul, Afghanistan
3. Assistant Professor of Sociology, Kabul Education University, Kabul, Afghanistan
4. Assistant Professor of Sociology in Kabul Education University, Kabul, Afghanistan

Article Info.



Received: 26/05/2022

Accepted: 27/03/2023

Available Online: 15/06/2023

Abstract

Afghanistan is a multinational and multicultural country that has been plagued by war and insecurity for over 14 decades. One of the main reasons for the continuation of war and insecurity is the lack of attention given to the socio-cultural contexts and dimensions of insecurity. The main goal of this article is to understand the contexts and socio-cultural foundations of order and security in Afghanistan. The research method used is qualitative with a grounded theory approach. The statistical population of this research is the social and cultural affairs experts of Afghanistan, and the samples were selected using the purposeful sampling method. Qualitative interviews were conducted with 18 people until theoretical saturation was reached. The data was analyzed using open, axial, and selective coding.

The findings of the research have been deduced in the form of six main categories:

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Sayed Mohammad Firozi, Ph.D

Address: Baghlan University, Baghlan, Afghanistan

E-mail: sayedmohammadfirozi@yahoo.com

How to Site:

Firozi, Seyed Mohammad, Yousefi, Fawzia, Afzali, Nasir Ahmad, Basharat Rahmani, Mohammad Bay (1402). Contexts and social and cultural contexts of order and security in Afghanistan. *Fundamental and Applied Studies of the Islamic World*, 5(1), 17-19.

lack of symbolic understanding and cultural disorder, weak and tense interactions between ethnic groups, inequalities and discrimination in the distribution of national resources, militant cultural capital, social capital focused on the tribe and tribe, and lack of formation of the public arena. The central phenomenon of this research is the imprinting of order and security in the social and cultural contexts of Afghan society. It is concluded that the basic solution to ensure order and security in this country is to dismantle the cultural and social foundations of war and insecurity.

Destructive and ruinous wars started with the invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet army, and these wars continue under different names and forms. After the withdrawal of the Soviet army from Afghanistan, the government supported by them did not last, and jihadist groups supported by neighboring countries and western countries came to power. These ethnic groups and parties, who did not have the necessary experience, expertise, and governance methods, got involved after about a year. The wars of Jihadi parties and ethnic armed groups also destroyed the city of Kabul and some remaining facilities from the wars of these groups with the Soviet army, and millions of people were forced to migrate (domestic-foreign). This miserable situation led to the emergence of the Taliban group. The Taliban easily removed the Mojahedin groups from power and ruled over 95% of Afghanistan for about five years. Of course, during this period, scattered wars continued in the fronts of Panjshir, Dareh Souf-Samangan, parts of Bamyán, and in Balkhab-Sarpol. With Al-Qaeda's attack on the Twin Towers of New York, the equation was changed, and after obtaining permission from the United Nations Security Council, the United States invaded the Taliban government and overthrew it in about a month. The attack of the United States of America and NATO has been one of the most important military attacks in Afghanistan. The fall of the Taliban opened a new window to war and insecurity, and the face of war changed. After 20 years, the Taliban returned to power, and this time, ISIS, the National Resistance Front, the United National Council Front, and several other fronts have promised to challenge the Taliban's rule. However, the ongoing wars and violence in this country have cultural, social, economic, and structural foundations that have been neglected in most analyses and discourses of war and insecurity. If in the past, a plan and a decision were made to end the war, it was only looked at as a problem, and the dimensions and hidden layers and flames under the ashes of the war were ignored. Therefore, it is essential to investigate the software dimensions of war, that is the cultural and social dimensions of continuous wars in Afghanistan, as this issue has not received enough attention. The main goal of this research is to

analyze the software aspects of war and insecurity in Afghanistan.

The main research question is: What are the social and cultural foundations of order and security in Afghanistan? The sub-questions of this research are: What are the cultural roots of insecurity in Afghanistan? Why is the cultural and social capital of the Afghan people strengthened by disorder and insecurity? What direction do competitions and interactions of ethnic groups put the security of Afghanistan in? How do social inequalities and discrimination threaten the security of this country?

Key words: symbolic understanding, ethnic interactions, inequality and discrimination, cultural and social capital, security of Afghanistan.