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In 2001 the war in Afghanistan began, the argument in favour of the war in Afghanistan was to get rid of the Taliban and Alghaeeda. It is important to remember that the USA created the Taliban and Alghaeeda in the 1980s as part of the Cold War policy. In 2001 they argued that with the fall of Taliban women in Afghanistan will be liberated; democracy will be restored; stability will be restored and Afghans will have a better life after 30 years of wars and violent conflicts. Indeed Afghan people, especially women celebrated the fall of Taliban.

Today after nearly seven years of US led military support and billions of dollars in aid, security in Afghanistan is deteriorating and President Karzai's government control less than 30% of Afghanistan.

In February 2008, the former NATO commander General James Jones concluded that 'urgent changes were required now to prevent Afghanistan becoming a failed state' i.e. to go back to what it was under the Taliban.

A big injection of foreign troops has failed to bring stability. Taliban is successfully adopting the guerrilla tactics that have served the Iraqi insurgents. The term Iraqification of Afghanistan is now used i.e. suicide bombing, roadside bombing, kidnapping and

Insecurity and opium production are linked. One produces the other. The opium production in Helmand is under the control of Taliban and Al-qhaeada. The power of the warlords is based on opium production. Afghanistan government and NATO are dependent on the power of the warlords who are in control of the country.

According to the UN report: 'Afghanistan produces 92% of the world opium production. The Taliban is firmly entrenched in the opium trade. In Helmand, Taliban fighters protect poppy production. Small farmers are paid a small amount at subsistence level, while, warlords who help to smuggle drugs and the government officials gain enormous wealth from opium production and trade. Their interest is in keeping the countryside lawless and facilitating alliances with the Taliban.

The institutional corruption has flourished under NATO and previously under American led invasion. The drug barons are not caught and are not arrested. According to the UN and the World Bank reports drug barons have bought the loyalty of police chiefs and government officials across the country. One senior Afghan police said that if they refuse, they will be killed by the drug barons. According to the UN, the earning from opium production is equal to oil revenue in the Middle East. Giant mansions are built by the corrupt officials who are renting their mansions to international organisations.

The same officials who gain enormous wealth from corruption and opium production alongside NATO forces punish small farmers. This is one reason for the increasing hatred

of foreign invaders and their local allies – and their support for the Taliban and Alqhaeada.

The Senslis Council, a counter-narcotics think tank, argues for the licensing of the poppy crop and the legal manufacture of morphine in Afghanistan under supervision of UN. This is because the UN could use the opium to meet a world shortage of morphine this way. Also the Afghan economy will benefit as it will receive a fair share and legal revenue from its opium. But no-one is interested in this project.

Security has worsened. Every single civilian that they kill, the whole village becomes sympathetic to Taliban and Alqhaeada. A man in Jalalabad told me ‘Taliban killed 2 members of my family, foreign invaders killed 16 members of my family. You work it out whose side I am’.

According to Oxfam report recently, ordinary people think that national and international security forces are responsible for insecurity and they are an important part of the problem in Afghanistan.

According to the UN report Afghanistan is the 5th poorest country in the world. 40% of people in urban areas and 70% of people in rural areas do not have access to clean water. Life expectancy is 44. Only 30% of people in urban areas are literate and in rural areas the literacy rate is 1%.

According to the UNHCR and Oxfam, 4 million people are dependent on aid, the growing violent conflicts obstruct the aid and every year hundreds of thousands are dying of starvation. Families are selling their children to feed their other children. If they do not, their children will die of hunger.

According to Joseph Stiglitz, the Harvard University economist, only contractors working as security guards are benefiting from the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each contractor gets \$400,000 a year. A soldier receives \$40,000 a year.

The reality is that they are neither interested in reconstruction of Afghanistan or Iraq nor in bringing democracy and women’s liberation. The idea of democracy and women’s liberation from outside and above is at best a colonial mentality and at worst a racist ideology which is deeply rooted in the minds of many even good people in the West. This is because the media in the West lies about the reality of Afghanistan, Iraq and the rest of the developing countries. What Afghanistan needs is economic development and real reconstruction. But the NATO forces are not interested in development and reconstruction in Afghanistan or in Iraq. The whole idea of security first and then development is an excuse not to do development and reconstruction.

This is because in the 1980s and 1990s the neo-liberal economic policy failed everywhere. At the same time China and India are rising as the world economic power. After the 9/11, the neo-conservatives thought that they can have control over the oil and other resources in the Middle East and Central Asia to stand up to China and India and

make up for the failure of global neo-liberalism. But they have failed both in Iraq and Afghanistan. This reality is confirmed by people on the left and the right, from left wing Eric Hobsbawm to right wing Joseph Stiglitz and John Grey all agree about the failure of the neo-conservatives in the Middle East and Central Asia. But they are not stopping there. They now have a plan to attack Iran. Even Obama, under pressure from the neo-conservatives is talking about attacking Iran. According to reports and studies from London University if they attack Iran they will use the most sophisticated weapons including nuclear bomb. In such a situation, within few hours 2 million people will die in Iran and millions will be injured. But Iran is capable of attacking the oil fields in the Gulf. In this situation it will be the end of the world economy and security, especially that we are already facing a global economic crisis. Ordinary people in the West and around the world will suffer as the result of economic and security catastrophe in the Middle East.