

**THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA
AND AFGHANISTAN IN THE POST-TALIBAN ERA**

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**THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE
MASTERS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE IN STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY**

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA

BANGI

2018

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

29 August 2018



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P92983

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my great supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ravichandran K. Dhakshinamoorthy who provided me with guidance, assistance, and support throughout the entire process of completing this research. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the course lecturers, at the School of History, Politics and Strategy Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia): Dr Hoo Chiew Ping, Prof. Dr. Kuik Cheng Chwee, Prof. Dr. Nathan, Prof. Dr. Rashila Haji Ramli, Dr. Chin Kok Fay, Assoc.Dr. Sufian , Dr. Karminder, Prof. Dr. Sity Daud, and special thanks from our genius coordinator Dr. Ikbal without whom, this thesis would never have been completed. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for providing a comfortable environment for learning.

ABSTRACT

India and Afghanistan relations has become more prominent in the post-Taliban era. Alongside the United States, Britain, and Germany, India is one of the largest donor countries in Afghanistan, having invested more than \$2 billion. With the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan, the country chose to sign its first strategic partnership with India on October 04, 2011 in matters pertaining to security, economic development, capacity building, and social cooperation. India's reason for providing assistance to the Afghan security forces is primarily to provide for its own security needs and ensure stability within region. Afghanistan sought a strategic partnership in order receive support for its reconstruction and ensure stability within its borders following NATO's withdrawal. However, Pakistan is highly suspicious of India's presence in Afghanistan and sees it as a threat to achieving its strategic goals. As such, Pakistan's perception has increased tensions in the region. Furthermore, other regional and global powers getting involved in the scramble for power in Afghanistan. Therefore, this thesis will look at the dynamics of Indian-Afghan relations in the post-9/11 era, within the framework of India and Afghanistan strategic partnership agreement. The primary question addressed in this research is: what are the factors that motivated India and Afghanistan build partnership and the geopolitical impacts of it? To address this question, the objectives of this research are to analyze the strategic factors that motivated India and Afghanistan to have a strategic partnership and investigate the geopolitical impacts of the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan. This research employs neo-classical realism framework with some concepts. The methodology behind this research is Qualitative approach. There are six primary findings in this research. Firstly, there is a common history, cultural and social connection between Indo-Afghans. Secondly, India National security has the link with security and stability of Afghanistan. Thirdly, India Political interests in Afghanistan. The fourth key finding of this thesis is the Afghanistan motivation to formalize the ties with India lies on the security, economic and social aspect. The fifth key finding of this thesis is India's geo-economic goals in Afghanistan. The sixth key finding of this thesis is geopolitical implications.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DECLARATION		ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		iii
ABSTRACT		iv
ABSTRAK		v
TABLE OF CONTENTS		vi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		ix
CHAPTER I	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Problem Statement	2
1.3	Research Questions	3
1.4	Research Objectives	4
1.5	Analytical Framework	4
	1.5.1 National Security	6
	1.5.2 Geo-Politic Interests	7
	1.5.3 Geo-Economic	8
	1.5.4 Variables	9
1.6	Hypothesis	10
1.7	Literature review	11
	1.7.1 Strategic Partnership	11
	1.7.2 India's Perspective	13
	1.7.3 Afghanistan's Perspective Models	14
	1.7.4 Geo-political Impact	16

1.8	Methodology	18
1.9	Scope of Study	19
1.10	Significance	19
1.11	Limitations	20
1.12	Chapterization	21

CHAPTER II

**INDIA'S MOTIVATION ON THE STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATION**

2.1	Overview	22
2.2	Motivations	23
	2.2.1 National Security	23
	2.2.2 Political Interest	28
2.3	Implications	31
	2.3.1 Global Interests	31
	2.3.2 Economic Interests	34
2.4	Conclusion	41

CHAPTER III

**AFGHANISTAN'S MOTIVATION ON THE STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA AND ITS IMPLICATION**

3.1	Overview	43
3.2	Motivation	44
	3.2.1 Politics & Security	44
	3.2.2 Economic	48
	3.2.3. Social	57
3.3	Implication	59

	3.3.1 Politics & Security	59
	3.3.2 Economic	61
	3.3.3 Social	66
3.4	Conclusion	66

**CHAPTER IV GEO-POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN**

4.1	Overview	68
4.2	Geography and Relations	69
4.3	Pakistan and China Factor	71
4.4	China's View	74
4.5	Iran and Russia Views	77
4.6	The United States and NATO's Views	81
4.7	Conclusion	82

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

5.1	Summary	84
5.2	Findings	85
	REFERENCES	91