January 28, 2018

Security Dilemma: the Public Support as Strategic Solution

A fghanistan has been suffering severely from lack of security for more than 4 decades. It has witnessed and tested various governments ranging from the communist, Mujahideen, Taliban and elected democratic gov ernments during the last 4 decades. During this period, one issue has remained, more or less, the same lack of security. From Communist government, and be fore, lack of public support has been the crux of the issue. Lack of the full support of the people from different governments has been the main cause of the security failures of Afghan governments. All the Afghan citizens, different ethnicities, have not accepted these governments as a legitimate one. Further, as the history of Afghanistan shows nearly all Afghan rulers have faced many or more or less issues of legitimacy. If we go through the history and analyze the method of resuming power by these rulers, we will find one common thing: taking power without involvement of all social groups. Since nearly all the inclusive governments have gained and extended their power based on an ethnic-regional basis, they have tried to provide only the masses and resources of the opportunities to those people. 

Consequences of Ethnic-Regional based governance policies

Lack of inclusiveness: A governance system based on Ethnic-Regional based governance policies, faces structural deficiencies in terms of inclusiveness; the person of such governance origins from the ethnic-regional politics. It is selected and assigned to ensure the interests of a particular ethnic or region. Other people neither are integrated in the government institutions, nor does the government represent them. Such a system, not only makes the government vulnerable to foreign interventions but also shapes the mindset of the people to perceive it as an alien phenomenon. Therefore, these two factors, existing as a presumption weakness in the governance system, makes it vulnerable to rely fully on both the ethnic-regional and foreign allies. 

Lack of transparency and accountability: Such type of governance system rather than transparent and accountable governance, either shall allocate almost all of the resources and opportunities to a specific ethnic or region or risk the support of some ones or some may catch up. On the other hand, it will keep on with the Ethnic-Regional based govern ance policies, it will ultimately face the rejection of the other ethnic-regional stakeholders. A situation that creates fundamental socio-political obstacles to the government and not only undermines its authority but poses constant security challenges and undermines its legitimacy as well. 

Lack of participatory mechanism: Participation of all citizens ensures the legitimacy and authority of a government if a government lacks such mechanisms, it will never be able to mobilize the full support of all its citizens to its strategic vision, policies and strategies. Without the support of all the social groups, any government cannot gain the vote and support of the people to empower the government to realize its strategic vision, policies and strategies. In most cases, such institutions lack the real support of their constituents and even come to power through corrupt practices. Lacking the public support and participatory mechanisms, result in such corrupt representative bodies that their main function would be acting as a tool for the government policies and not as a tool to represent and ensure the rights of the citizens.

Lack of security has been a strategic challenge, at least, more than 4 decades in the history of Afghanistan, and it has been a main factor, not only for the security failures of Afghan governments but also for the full support of the population. Security failures of Afghan governments, and the lack of public support, has been the main strategic weakness of the Afghan governments. All the Afghan citizens, different ethnicities and regions, have not accepted these governments as a legitimate one. Further, as the history of Afghanistan shows nearly all Afghan rulers have faced many or more or less lack of legitimacy. If we go through the history and analyze the method of resuming power by these rulers, we will find one common thing: taking power without involvement of all social groups. Since nearly all the inclusive governments have gained and extended their power based on an ethnic-regional basis, they have tried to provide only the masses and resources of the opportunities to those people.

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