

A Review of Afghanistan's Neutrality Policy in World War I

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Abstract

The title of this study is a review of Afghanistan's neutrality in the First World War. This study seeks to answer these two questions: What was the political situation in Afghanistan like before the First World War? What were the main reasons for Afghanistan's neutrality in this war? The method of data collection in this research is library and scientific articles and journals and reputable Internet sites have been used. Familiarity with the political situation of the country is about a decade, which is the time interval between the reign of Habibullah Khan and World War II. The findings of this study show that the consequence of Afghanistan's neutrality in the First World War was in the interests of Afghanistan because it led to the destruction of the authoritarian system and the formation of a constitutional system that was welcomed by all citizens. However, this modernity, due to its rapid, ill-considered and rapid movement, led to the formation and creation of differences among the traditionalists, as a result of which Amanullah Khan's modernity was destroyed by Kalkani. Throughout history, Afghanistan has faced an ominous phenomenon called colonialism, which has suffered irreparable damage in this area. In this article, an attempt is made to examine the policies of the United Kingdom, its factors and areas of influence in Afghanistan. The British Indian government, with its political and military aggression, wanted to control Afghanistan forever like India. And its most important political and military goals are to prevent infiltration. Russia was a tsar; Because that country at that time; Was also considered one of the world powers and tried to reach India through Afghanistan, which was the main colony of British colonization; To attack. Thus, the British government placed Afghanistan as a buffer zone between its colony and Tsarist Russia, and did not allow Tsarist Russia to infiltrate Afghanistan.

Keywords: World War II, Foreign Relations, Afghanistan, Britain, Tsarist Russia.

Introduction

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the world suffered from World War I, because it was the battlefield of Europe, so most European countries were devastated and damaged. The catastrophe spread to West and South Asia, most of which were not spared. Afghanistan, meanwhile, was one of the British-dominated countries that had to follow British policy. Thus Habibullah Khan, who on the one hand was pressured by the constitutionalists with the support of the German and Ottoman delegations, and on the other hand by the direct policy of British India, was forced to adopt a policy of neutrality. This kind of policy, which was not accepted by the constitutionalists, created divisions in the Afghan system of government. By adopting this policy, fortunately, Afghanistan not only escaped the damage of this devastating war, but also experienced the greatest change and transformation in various political, social, economic and cultural fields. And that was the fall of Habibullah's own government and the rise to power of the constitutionalists led by Shah Amanullah Khan.

Importance and necessity of research

The situation in Afghanistan on the eve of World War I and the foreign policy of Amir Habibullah Khan at this time and the neutrality of the Afghan government in World War I is an important and significant position of writers, politicians, youth and intellectuals today and tomorrow. And this issue is of special importance for further scrutiny and clarification of Afghanistan's political issues in this era. The necessity of this research is that today's and tomorrow's generations of the country will gain scientific knowledge and knowledge from the adoption of the policies of the Afghan government led by Amir Habibullah Khan and the Enlightenment movements in this era and can use this work in their future research. It can be the key to their political and written life.

Research purposes

The main objective: Receiving effective and influential factors in adopting the policy of neutrality of the Afghan government in the First World War.

Sub-objectives:

1. Receiving Afghanistan's foreign policy with Britain before World War I;
2. Clarifying the internal situation in Afghanistan on the eve of World War I;
3. Clarify Amir Habibullah Khan's allegiance to the British before World War I;
4. Clarify British policy in the region;
5. Finding British policy and demands of the Afghan government on the eve of World War I.

Research question

Main questions:

1. What was the political situation in Afghanistan like before World War I?
2. What were the main reasons for Afghanistan's neutrality in this war?

Sub-questions:

1. How was Afghanistan's foreign relations on the eve of World War I?
2. What impact have British regional policies had on relations between Afghanistan and neighboring countries?
3. What were the internal factors of Afghanistan's neutrality in World War I?
4. What are the external factors of Afghanistan's neutrality in the First World War?
5. Why did Afghanistan adopt a policy of neutrality during World War I?
6. Was Afghanistan's policy of neutrality in favor of the country in World War I?
7. What has been the benefit of this neutrality for Afghanistan?

Research Hypothesis:

It seems that the political and military situation in Afghanistan on the eve of World War I was directly influenced by the British.

The Afghan government is believed to have been in a political dilemma on the eve of World War I.

It is possible that Amir Habibullah Khan foresaw the country's neutrality for his own survival and the interests of Afghanistan.

Research Methodology

The method used in this research is the library method (qualitative and descriptive method) and the method of summarizing books and magazines has been used. In this research, by referring to libraries and reputable scientific internet sites, the materials have been collected and used after analysis, critique and review.

Biography of Amir Habibullah Khan

Sardar Habibullah Khan, the eldest son of Abdul Rahman Khan, was born in 1872 in Samarkand. He came to power in 1901 after his father died at the age of 28. He is the second modernist king in the contemporary history of Afghanistan after Amir Shir Ali Khan.

The British wanted a new Mir

According to the tradition of Afghanistan's foreign relations, Lord Curzon of the Indian Viceroy asked Amir Habibullah Khan to approve the previous treaty and hand over foreign affairs to Britain; But Habibullah Khan refused to answer them and waited until he might have a chance to confront Britain; But in the end, since any confrontation with Britain risked losing power; Therefore, he also chose the path of his predecessors in foreign relations (Saadat, 2017: 178).

Afghanistan's policy of neutrality in World War I.

The main cause of this war was the greed of the colonial countries of Europe and their greed for the colonies. But apparently the murder of the Austrian prince and his wife was used as an excuse in Serbia. On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia, followed by Germany in favor of Austria, and Russia declared war on pro-Serbia on August 1, following World War I, and until January 11, 1918, The peace conference between Germany and the Allies was held in Paris under the auspices of US President Wilson. The allies in this war were Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria, while the allies were Britain, France, Russia, Italy, the United States, Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece and Portugal. In the first days of the war, when Britain invaded Ottoman Turkey. Because the emperor was the leader of the Islamic caliphate. Therefore, in the Islamic world, especially India, which was a British colony, it had very negative effects. Britain, which was facing a severe war in Europe. He was upset that there would be no uprising against it in India. The British used various means to inform the emir to keep Afghanistan neutral, but this time it weighed heavily on the emir's shoulders. When the Islamic Caliph of Turkey and the German Empire sent a delegation to the Emir and encouraged him to declare jihad. The Amir skillfully neglected them all, and did not disappoint the religious scholars of the tribe, nor did he allow the dispute to reach such an extreme extent.

Afghanistan's defense policy of isolationism and neutrality in World War I and after this opportunity does not seem valuable. Or perhaps adopting such a policy in the early 20th century was appropriate. But today it has completely lost its value. The rulers of Afghanistan have demanded their complete freedom. And they wanted to have direct contact based on mutual respect in talks with all the powers of Europe and the world. One of the stages in fulfilling the mission was the arrival of a German military delegation in Kabul, which was accepted by Afghanistan. The purpose of the German initiative in these diplomatic relations with Afghanistan was entirely from a military and military point of view. So that India will be attacked by the Afghans. India was of particular importance for the existence and survival of the British government. India was strategically important and a rich donor to the British.

The British king sent a letter to Amir Habibullah Khan to strengthen his neutrality, but Amir Habibullah Khan extended his reply. Until the Secretary of the British Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote a letter of complaint to Amir Habibullah Khan: "This is not the way of the government." Here you see honestly write it to India. There is a big crisis here and I am turning it off. You have to convince them that I am a sincere friend of Britain and that I will maintain Afghanistan's neutrality as long as its internal interests are not jeopardized. Whatever danger is not perceived in Afghanistan, God's government will give and Afghanistan will continue its neutrality.

At the end of the war, Amir Habibullah Khan wished to be invited to the Afghanistan Peace Conference. But London wrote in response to Amir Habibullah Khan that the countries' peace conference was attended by those who had actually participated in the war. Thus, Amir's hands were washed in cold water, and reactions were found inside. Eventually, reformists, conservatives, and traditionalists plotted to eliminate him, until in February 1919, Amir Habibullah Khan went on a hunting trip to Jalalabad province and from there to Laghman, including Those in his time were his brother Nasrullah Khan, his son Enayatullah Khan, and the Amir Commander-in-Chief, Sardar Mohammad Nader Khan. On the night of February 20, 1919, Amir Habibullah Khan was assassinated by Shuja al-Dawla while he was sleeping in his tent, at the behest of his younger son, Amir Manullah Khan, and left Prince Nasrullah Khan as the heir to the throne of Afghanistan. Prince Nasrullah Khan initially refused to seize power and declared his allegiance to Amir Amanullah Khan. Prince Enayatullah Khan refused, saying that his father had rightfully inherited Prince Nasrullah Khan, and that all the local tribes had pledged allegiance to Prince Nasrullah Khan, who was a "religious" man. (Sarwari, 2020: 211-212)

World War I and its Impact on Afghanistan

After the emir strengthened the foundations of his government and gained the support of British India, he became disregarding of his responsibility to the people, which he had promised to the people at the beginning of his rule. This situation turned the people against the government, and chaos resumed in the country, paving the way for the fall of the government. At this time, foreign realities, like World War I, affected the fall of Habibullah Khan's authoritarian government. In recent times, when World War I broke out in Europe, a delegation from the German government entered Afghanistan and stressed the need for friendship between the two countries. Most of the representatives of the Ottoman and Austrian governments also took part in uniting Afghanistan with the Axis powers, i.e. the countries allied with Germany, and the British were afraid of the arrival of a German delegation so that Afghanistan would not join the Axis states, so with the Russians. They agreed to declare their neutrality in World War I because Afghanistan's foreign policy was under British control, so the Afghan government was obliged to make decisions in accordance with the wishes and interests of Britain and to reject the proposal of the delegation. (Abed, 1394: 85). The rejection of the demand for jihad split the monarchy and even the Habibullah dynasty, the reaction of government officials in support of Britain and the reaction of the people and intellectuals, led by Mahmoud Tarzi in support of the Ottoman Turks as the center of the Islamic Caliphate. The presence of supporters on both sides of the war led to frequent visits by allied and allied delegations to Afghanistan. In the end, declaring neutrality was the least costly decision for Afghanistan. A decision that both Britain and Tsarist Russia, as two powerful neighboring countries, seemed satisfied with (Saadat, 2017: 183). In World War I, although Afghanistan was not involved in the war and did not have independence, for several months after the start of the war it was the focus of great powers such as Britain, Russia, Germany and the Ottomans. By signing the 1905 agreement, the emir accepted British continued dominance over his country's foreign relations, and with the arrival of a large delegation of German, Ottoman, Austrian diplomats and officers, and Afghanistan's Indian revolutionary leaders, Afghanistan hosted important non-British political representatives for the first time in decades. The delegation arrived in Afghanistan at the suggestion of King Anwar's Ottoman Minister of War and with the consent of the German and Austrian governments to encourage and accompany Afghanistan to the war against Britain and Russia. Kazem Bey, the representative of Sultan Mohammad V, the Ottoman Caliph, Oscar von Niedermayer, and Otofen Huntig, the representatives of William II, the German Emperor, were later joined by a number of Indian revolutionaries led by Raja Mohandes Pratab and Rumi Barakatullah (Ghobar, 2005: 741-742).

The delegation arrived in Afghanistan on August 24, 1915, and hoped to invite the German government of Afghanistan to join the "jihad" against the Russians and the British, based on Ottoman "Pan-Islamism" and the theory of the revolutionaryization of the Islamic regions. The Ottomans and the Germans believed that with the beginning of the resurrection under the title of jihad in Islamic countries, especially Afghanistan and India, it could change the fate of the war in Europe (Habibi, 1976: 83-84). Indian freedom fighters, especially Muslims in India, insisted that Afghanistan not only fully support them but also engage in war. The prevailing perception at the time was that Afghanistan was the "gateway to India." Germany estimated that the declaration of war by the Emir of Afghanistan could be the starting point of a resurrection against Britain throughout Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent (Saadat, 2017: 184). The level of support for jihad among the people was so great that if the emir rejected it, he would be afraid that the one who abandoned the command of God and the Messenger and the Supreme Sultan and said jihad would excommunicate him and create disorder in the country. This situation was calculated by both the Ottoman government, Germany and Britain. Thus, if Afghanistan went to war, the Indian revolutionaries would rise up and it was very likely that they would change the situation in Central Asia and the Middle East. In that case, Britain would be involved in a large part of the world and the pressure on Germany in Europe would be reduced. For this reason, British Indian government officials and the person of Lord Charles Harding, the British Governor-General of the United Kingdom, used their influence on the emir to regularly arrest the representatives of the central powers. But the Amir was very careful not to oppose the public opinion of the people, especially the supporters of the war within his government, nor to incite the suspicion of the British government (Holstey, 1994: 34-38). Amir ordered the members of the delegation to be received as guests. They were warmly welcomed in both Herat and Kabul, which even Nieder Meyer writes in his memoirs: "We were so welcomed in Kabul that it turned out that we are not strangers in this city." With this situation, Amir refused to meet with them for weeks. The first official visit took place in mid-October at the Paghman resort. He handed over the letters of the German emperor and the Ottoman caliph to the emir. He declined to comment explicitly and postponed his decision to the "special council" of his government. Nieder Meyer wrote in his memoirs that Amir looked at everything in a deal and was influenced by Britain. But a brother and a son disagreed. During this time,

conversations were going on inside the bar. Disputes between members of the royal family, senior government officials, and even the simple clerical staff of the emir's court had practically split them in half (Wilfried, 1997: 77).

Proponents of Afghanistan neutrality in the First World War

Three families were very influential in the Afghan monarchy (interviewers, Charkhi, Tarzi). All three families were pro-war. The Tarzis had returned to the country with the idea of nationalism due to years of residence in Ottoman Turkey and inspired by Turkish nationalism. Mahmoud Tarzi, the father of Amir's two brides, was strongly opposed to English. The Charkhis were traditionally an army and a staunch opponent of Britain. Ghulam Haidar Khan Charkhi was the commander-in-chief of Abdul Rahman Khan's army and a prominent figure. The families of the interviewees, including Mohammad Nader and his brothers, supported the war because of their sense of nationalism. The heads of this family were the companions of the princes from previous generations and for this reason they were called "companions". This group also included a number of other senior government officials, including Mohammad Hussein Khan Mostofi al-Malik, Mohammad Hussein Khan, Minister of Finance, and some members of the government's "Special Council" (Rasouli, 2006: 97). According to Gregorian, there were three pro-war groups within the court: anti-British conservatives led by Sardar Enayatullah, pro-Turkish moderates led by Mahmoud Tarzi, and radical youth led by Amanullah Khan. Nasrullah Khan Naib al-Saltanah Brother and Amanullah Khan Ain al-Dawlah and Inayatullah Khan Moin al-Saltanah sons of Amir Proponents of the war were all nationalists in terms of political thinking. Their overall goal was the independence and recapture of the tribal areas from British India. They stressed that the invitation of the delegation should be answered positively. According to Faiz Mohammad Kateb Hazara, Nasrullah Khan and Enayatullah Khan went to the delegation's residence once or twice a week in Babur Shah's garden and talked with the delegation members at night. Siraj al-Akhbar had become the center of anti-British propaganda. According to Niedermayer: Mahmoud Tarzi wrote in an article addressed to Amir, "Sir, you should eat them before they eat you." The proponents of the war thought that victory was with Germany, and that if Afghanistan failed in the beginning, with Germany's victory in Europe, Afghanistan would also win.

Opponents of Afghanistan's neutrality in the first world war

Opponents of the war included a range of different people, mostly close to the emir. Many scholars believe that most of them also had close relations with the British. They disagreed on many key issues, but they agreed, and Amir himself agreed with the group. Prime Minister Abdul Qudus Etemad al-Dawla and Mohammad Yusuf al-Masaheb were key figures in the opposition. In addition, a woman was opposed to the war (the daughter of Halimah, the widow of Abdul Rahman, the father of Amir Habibullah.

Amir Ward saw the war against the two superpowers as "suicide" and first spoke of "neutrality" in the "public court" on August 11, 1915, in the presence of the British representative, which was what Britain wanted. But he did not say this to Hatta formally and immediately, and continued negotiations with its members for months from October 1915 to May 22, 1916. During this period, Amir changed his approach and changed the course of talks with the Ottoman and German delegations many times. Although he invited them as guests, he sometimes treated them like hostages. For this reason, the chairman of the guest house called himself a "respectable prison" and the guests went on a hunger strike for a while. Amir's response to the delegation was initially that "Jihad is good but we do not have the means" (Mesbahzadeh, 2009: 124).

Neutrality in war

In October 1915, Amir Habibullah Khan convened a jirga with the participation of 540 members of the nation and government officials and consulted on the message of the delegation. The Jirga voted for the neutrality of the country. The King of England formally thanked the Emir for this and promised an annual contribution of Rs 2.4 million, in addition to another Rs 60 million.

Despite this, Amir Habibullah continued his talks with the delegation. At one of the main talks on January 24, 1916, he set out the conditions for accepting the declaration of war.

1. Confirmation of Afghanistan's independence.
2. Aid including 100,000 weapons, 300 cannons and ammunition and 10 million.
3. Opening the way for Iran to deliver aid from Germany to Afghanistan.

But the next day, Amir Habibullah told the British representative, Hafiz Saifullah Khan, that despite the signing of the treaty with the delegation, "we are neutral and I am your friend." At the same time, he did not want to upset the supporters of the war within the court and his family by giving a clear answer to the delegation, because they also had a lot of power. According to the information published in the fourth volume of *Siraj Al-Tawarikh* by Faiz Mohammad Katib, which was recently published, Habibullah Khan, in addition to official talks, also held secret talks with the German and Turkish delegations, including meeting the leaders of the Ottoman, German and Austrian delegations at Delgshah Palace. And talked to them in writing (Arni, 1997: 128).

He led the talks to the point where members of his delegation acknowledged that Afghanistan was incapable of fighting its two powerful neighbors for even a month, and that its interests were neutral. The next day, Nasrullah Khan went to his brother's office thinking that Amir had signed the proposal of the state council based on supporting jihad, but Amir, on the contrary, gave him the text of his conversation with the delegation and surprised him. In this game, the king of Afghanistan, with his own rivals from the neighbors and the central powers, wanted to get the main advantages he wanted from Britain, which included more money and more freedom in foreign relations. Demands not met by Britain the Ottomans and Germans left the country sporadically (Gregorian, 2009: 109).

As a result of the rejection of the request of the Ottoman and German delegations, the reign of Amir Habibaullah was maintained by Afghanistan's neutrality in the First World War, which protected the country from a devastating war whose future was unpredictable. In addition, the rejection of their jihad fatwa degraded the Amir in the eyes of the people and presented him with the image of an indifferent king about the independence of the country. Some have said that this was not ineffective in the assassination of Amir. As a result, Amir Habibullah Khan also strengthened the anti-British and pro-independence spirit in the country. In recent years, Amir's rule was hated by the people, intellectuals and constitutionalists, which not only prepared the ground for the fall of his government, but also led to his assassination (Hashemi, 1982: 75).

Offers:

1. The youth and the intellectual generation of the country should learn a lesson from their historical past;
2. The country's politicians should prioritize national interests in their foreign policy plan;
3. Students in the field of humanities should turn to more studies in order to increase their analysis and evaluation of the political issues of the country;
4. Afghanistan's policy of neutrality in the First World War is a historical lesson. In the macro-national equations, one must learn from it and take cautious steps;
5. Educational institutions should provide more fields for student studies and discourses so that young people can gain more scientific knowledge than before political issues;
6. Higher education institutions are the bedrock for the flourishing of the hidden talents of the youth, to facilitate the flourishing of the explorer's livelihood;
7. Neutrality is not always profitable. Careful steps must be taken and appropriate decisions must be made based on national interests.

Conclusion

The importance of Afghanistan stems in large part from its strategic location and crossroads. If the land was a crossroads for the conquest of India by Alexander the Great or the Mongol invaders, in the nineteenth century it was the only barrier separating the two empires from the Great Empire. Tsarist Russia was, and in the twentieth century, the source of concern and controversy between the two new superpowers; That is, it was the Soviet Union and the United States that sought to strengthen and expand their influence in Central and South Asia. Of course, Afghanistan has paid a heavy price for its position, and has suffered irreparable damage. Every war and every invasion has resulted in great destruction and turmoil, which has not been easy to overcome later. Although the enemy suffered the worst defeats in the battle for control of Afghanistan, or overcoming it to achieve another goal, the Afghan people, in spite of a victory on the battlefield, were held captive by the fate that history and geography have brought to them. Have not been able to complete and celebrate their victories. Colonial and imperialist powers have historically infiltrated this land to pursue their own interests. Afghanistan was invaded by the colonial powers of the East-West due to its sensitive geopolitical and strategic position. India was a British colony and was economically

important to that country; Therefore, maintaining it was necessary for Britain, so Britain was trying to take over Afghanistan; It must also be controlled in order to preserve its main colony. The Russian and French governments, on the other hand, also sought to capitalize on India's rich capital and economy; Also benefit; So they wanted to gain access to India through Afghanistan, and Afghanistan was the only way to penetrate India. For this reason, Afghanistan was the scene of political rivalries between Russia, Britain and France in the nineteenth century. On the other hand, the internal conflicts of the Afghan commanders weakened the central government in this country, and this was a good opportunity for the influence of the colonialists, including the British government, to enter this country. The main goal of the British colonial government in influencing and dominating Afghanistan was to place it between its own colony and the government of Tsarist Russia and France. Russia's main goal; Another way of occupying and infiltrating Afghanistan was to gain access to India and open waters. In the heat of World War I, Afghanistan and the demands of both sides of the war to support the Afghan government in their war policies in Europe took a tough and convincing decision in connection with World War I, which contained Afghanistan's neutrality in World War I, and this policy In favor of Afghanistan and the change of Amir Habibullah Khan's authoritarian regime and the emergence of Amir Habibullah Khan's modernist son Amanullah Khan and Afghanistan entered a new political, economic, social and cultural phase and Afghanistan's foreign policy expanded and a new government in Afghanistan Formed.

چکیده:

عنوان این تحقیق مروری بر بیطرفی افغانستان در جنگ اول جهانی است، این تحقیق بدنبال پاسخگویی به این دو پرسش انجام شده است، اوضاع سیاسی افغانستان قبل از جنگ جهانی اول چگونه بود است؟ عوامل اصلی بیطرفی افغانستان در این جنگ چه بوده است؟ روش جمع آوری معلومات در این تحقیق بصورت کتابخانه‌ای بوده و از مقالات و مجلات علمی و سایت های معتبر انترنتی استفاده شده است، آشنایی با وضعیت سیاسی کشور در حدود تقریباً یک دهه که فاصله زمانی بین سلطنت حبیب الله خان و جنگ جهانی است، می‌باشد. یافته های این تحقیق نشان می‌دهد که پیامد بیطرفی افغانستان در جنگ جهانی اول به منافع افغانستان بوده چون باعث نابودی نظام استبدادی و شکل گیری یک نظام مشروطیت که همه اتباع از آن استقبال کردند، شد. اما این نوگرایی به علت سریع، ناسنجیده و تند حرکت کردن باعث شکل گیری و ایجاد اختلافات سنت گرایان گردید که در نتیجه نوگرایی امان الله خان توسط کلکانی نابود گردید. در طول تاریخ کشور افغانستان با پدیده‌ی شومی به نام استعمار مواجه بوده که از این ناحیه خسارت های جبران ناپذیری را متحمل شده است. در این نوشته کوشش شده، سیاست های کشور انگلیس، عوامل و زمینه های نفوذ آن را، در افغانستان مورد بررسی قرار دهد. دولت هند بریتانوی با تجاوز های سیاسی و نظامی خود می‌خواست افغانستان را تحت سیطره خود برای همیشه مانند هند داشته باشد. و مهم ترین اهداف سیاسی و نظامی اش جلوگیری از نفوذ روسیه تزار بود؛ زیرا آن کشور در آن زمان؛ نیز یکی از قدرت های دنیا به حساب می‌آمد و تلاش داشت که از طریق افغانستان به هند که مستعمره‌ای اصلی استعمار انگلیس بود؛ حمله نماید. بنابر این، دولت بریتانیا، افغانستان را به عنوان منطقه‌ی حایل بین مستعمره خود، و روسیه تزاری قرار داد، و موقع تزاری به افغانستان نفوذ کند.

واژه ها کلید: جنگ جهانی، روابط خارجی، افغانستان، بریتانیا، روسیه تزاری.

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