**Befitting rejoinder to the US**

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In the congressional hearing in the US, in the aftermath of Taliban regaining control of the country, instead of acknowledging the stellar role that Pakistan played in the war on terror as an ally, it was blamed for the American loss in Afghanistan. This blatant attempt by the US of scapegoating Pakistan rightly disappointed Prime Minister Imran Khan, who did well to write an article in The Washington Post in which he dwelt on the history of conflict in Afghanistan and proved beyond an iota of doubt that the US itself was to be blamed for whatever happened in Afghanistan. He was right on the money to tell the Americans not to blame Pakistan for the outcome of the war in Afghanistan.

One could hardly take an issue with his contention, that in the wake of 9/11, Musharraf, who desperately needed global relevance and domestic legitimacy, agreed to every American demand for military support, which has cost Pakistan and the United States. Actually, it was a similar situation to when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and Zia became an ally of the US in the fight against the former to gain longevity and legitimacy for his government. After Musharraf, successive governments also acquiesced to let the US execute drone attacks on Pakistani soil without bothering about the collateral damage to civilians.

[Belgium slightly relaxes coronavirus measures](https://nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2021/belgium-slightly-relaxes-coronavirus-measures)

The outcome of the Afghan war has proved Imran Khan right, that the solution to the Afghan conflict could not be found through military might as it defied historic realities. The Afghan government also lacked legitimacy in the eyes of the average Afghan. This was the underlying reason for why a well-trained and equipped Afghan Army, comprising 300,000 personnel, saw no reason to fight the Taliban and surrendered, paving the way for the latter to re-establish their government in Afghanistan.

In fact, as pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the US abandoned Afghanistan once the Soviets were defeated, leaving behind over 4 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and a bloody civil war in Afghanistan. The security vacuum led to the emergence of the Taliban, many born and educated in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been making sincere efforts all along to promote the peace process in Afghanistan while bearing the brunt of terrorism on its soil. The Afghan government, instead of stopping the use of its soil by terrorist entities against Pakistan, looked the other way and kept a hostile posture towards Pakistan, notwithstanding latter’s role in facilitating the peace deal between the US and the Taliban and commencement of the intra-Afghan dialogue, which remained inconclusive due to the turn of events.

[TTP militants desiring to shun militancy be given chance to join mainstream: Fawad](https://nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2021/ttp-militants-desiring-to-shun-militancy-be-given-chance-to-join-mainstream-fawad)

It is also hard to contest his viewpoint that the US should have adopted the path of negotiations with the Taliban much earlier to avoid tragic events in Afghanistan and its debilitating fall-out on neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan. Today, Afghanistan needs the support and engagement of the international community to deal with the humanitarian crisis that it faces, as well as in ensuring political stability in the country.

The world needs to heed Imran Khan’s words when he says, “Today, with Afghanistan at another crossroads, we must look to the future to prevent another violent conflict in that country rather than perpetuating the blame game of the past. I am convinced the right thing for the world now is to engage with the new Afghan government to ensure peace and stability. The international community will want to see the inclusion of major ethnic groups in government, respect for the rights of all Afghans and commitments that Afghan soil shall never again be used for terrorism against any country. Taliban leaders will have greater reason and ability to stick to their promises if they are assured of the consistent humanitarian and developmental assistance they need to run the government effectively. Providing such incentives will also give the outside world additional leverage to continue persuading the Taliban to honour its commitments”.

[Daniel Sturridge to continue his football career in Australia's Perth Glory](https://nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2021/daniel-sturridge-to-continue-his-football-career-in-australia-s-perth-glory)

There could not have been a more realistic and candid assessment of how to deal with the situation in Afghanistan. The recipe suggested by Prime Minister Imran Khan is worth trying and the global community has to show patience with the Taliban, allowing them sufficient time to get things going and fulfil the promises that they have made. The US, in particular, has to recognise the ground realities, leave its ego aside and abandon its attempts to blame others for its own follies. It is encouraging to note that the US Treasury Department has issued licenses to facilitate humanitarian aid and financial assistance to the people of Afghanistan. The US surely needs to do more.