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*March of Folly in Afghanistan [Jagat S. Mehta] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Jagat S. Mehta reveals in this book how through prophylactic diplomacy, he sought to prevent the adverse fallout on the subcontinent.*

June 11, November 09, Delegates to the Afghan peace conference voiced strong support Friday for negotiations between their government and the Taliban to try to end years of war. Musadeq Sadeq June 11, The United States is in the process of committing a historical blunder with grave consequences for not only Afghanistan but also the regions surrounding it. But it is the manner of the planned exit and its consequences that cause worry. The consequences of this dangerous scheme are not hard to foresee: I would not wish that fate for Afghanistan or Pakistan. The march of folly in Af-Pak began with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in Today, NATO has about the same troop strength in the country as did the Soviets have in 1,10, In late October , at a meeting in the Kremlin to which I accompanied Indira Gandhi, General Secretary Brezhnev ruefully told the Indian Prime Minister that he had blundered into Afghanistan; that he did not quite know what 1,10, Russian troops were doing there; and that he wanted to get out of the country. It took the Soviet Union three regime changes, eight years and a Gorbachev to do that simple thing. However, for three or four years before the Pakistan-sponsored Taliban invasion, Afghanistan was stable and at peace. That same course is not open to the U. For, if nothing else, it will leave behind a welter of widespread unrest, conflict and violence. At the end of the Afghan jihad, President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan asserted that the triumph of the jihadis had earned his country the right to install a government of its liking in Kabul. And Washington readily rewarded its loyal Islamist ally, leaving it alone to manage Afghanistan as it thought best. In the event, Pakistan squandered its one chance to win the friendship and affection of Afghans of all shades of ethnicity and belief by imposing on Kabul a regime of Sunni fundamentalists. It lost the trust of the Afghan populace, and the Taliban is hated in Afghanistan to this day. The jihad had many other noxious side-effects. The size, reach and mischief potential of the Inter-Services Intelligence greatly expanded. And yet in their anxiety to end the war in Afghanistan, London and Washington seem poised to compound their earlier follies and make way for the induction of the Taliban in Kabul. The London Conference was indeed a work in the same direction. In a sideswipe, the conference marginalised India completely. Britain, under a Labour government, never seems able to resist the temptation to wound India just a very little bit. It is not that we in India never stumble into a stray sideshow off a clear firm path. Have we embraced the linkage propounded in London that India-Pakistan peace and a Kashmir settlement are essential for resolving the problem in Afghanistan? In war, it is legitimate to sow dissension and look for deserters in the enemy ranks. Clearly, Pakistan is being encouraged to get involved in selecting the Taliban to be reintegrated and reconciled. Wisdom demands that this task of reintegration be left to President Hamid Karzai. Karzai should therefore be strengthened, not humiliated. There are quieter, more effective ways of dealing with corruption in high places. The withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan is inevitable; the sooner it comes, the better for all concerned. An honourable way of achieving it with peace and stability in Afghanistan is still available. President Obama should convene a conference in Kabul, attended by heads of state or government of all countries sharing borders with Afghanistan, as well as China, India, Russia, Britain, France and the U. The result should be formally endorsed by the U. Security Council, which should also station in Afghanistan an adequate peace-keeping force for a sufficient period to allow the Afghan Army and police to assume full responsibility for internal and external security. The author is a former Foreign Secretary.

2: Commentary by Jaswant Singh: The March of Folly in Afghanistan - www.enganchecubano.com

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Mehta and learn why. The centerpiece is a paper he wrote for the Woodrow Wilson Center in , soon after the Soviet intervention. But it stands the test of time as a sobering warning to those who think they can impose their dreams of empire on Afghanistan today. The coup was in the worst interests not only of the Afghan people but also of those who it carried out. They were soon murdered themselves at the instigation of Soviet leaders. It set off a ruinous eight-year war from to that ended up destroying the Soviet system itself. Since then, Afghanistan has seen one doomed "March of Folly" after another. India joined with the Soviet Union in supporting President Najibullah, the last secular dictator of Afghanistan. Then Pakistan backed the fateful Taliban-al Qaida alliance. And now Afghanistan is in the cockpit of the current American pursuit of world dominance. None of these "Great Game" players ever stopped to remember that the only outsiders who have successfully ruled Afghanistan were the ancient Greeks more than 2, years ago under Alexander the Great. India has fitfully ruled Afghanistan during that long period. But the Afghans gave us back as good as they got: He was the head of the Indian diplomatic service through the crucial years between the April Saur revolution and the December Soviet intervention. He then spent nearly two decades teaching international relations at Harvard and Austin, and pleading with the world to see sense on Afghanistan. For in the two Pakistan provinces adjoining the 1,mile border with Afghanistan, a grouping of fundamentalist parties indistinguishable from the Taliban have scored impressive victories. Ethnically, the people of these two provinces are much the same as the majority Pashtuns of neighboring Afghanistan. A British administrator, Mortimer Durand, drew a border between Afghanistan and the British Empire in the late 19th century to demarcate where the Afghans must stop massacring British settlements. And ever since, very successive Afghan government down to the present U. His main election plank was the pledge to rid Pakistan of all American forces as the preliminary to ridding Afghanistan of any outside military presence. Now, thanks to American President George W. It was thus not a national vote or movement for Islamization. It was a vote for "Yankee, go home. President Daud remains very much in control. A year later, Dubs, who had gone to Kabul as the U. Thus began the March of Folly. Its victory seemed as overwhelming as the U. Mehta concludes, "The Soviet Union grossly underestimated the adverse consequences which flowed from its intervention. On the American side, the immediate reaction, like a conditioned reflex, was to posit a worst-case scenario. What was common to the fallacious judgments of both the U.

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The March of Folly Sunday 27 June , by Maharajakrishna Rasgotra The United States is in the process of committing a historical blunder with grave consequences for not only Afghanistan but also the regions surrounding it. But it is the manner of the planned exit and its consequences that cause worry. The consequences of this dangerous scheme are not hard to foresee: I would not wish that fate for Afghanistan or Pakistan. Today, NATO has about the same troop strength in the country as what the Soviets had in 1979. In late October , at a meeting in the Kremlin to which I accompanied Indira Gandhi, General Secretary Brezhnev ruefully told the Indian Prime Minister that he had blundered into Afghanistan; that he did not quite know what the Russian troops were doing there; and that he wanted to get out of the country. It took the Soviet Union three regime changes, eight years and a Gorbachev to do that simple thing. However, for three or four years before the Pakistan-sponsored Taliban invasion, Afghanistan was stable and at peace. That same course is not open to the US today. For, if nothing else, it will leave behind a welter of widespread unrest, conflict and violence. And the US itself will be reduced to a much diminished player, with little influence and role in a rising Asia. At the end of the Afghan jihad, President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan asserted that the triumph of the jihadis had earned his country the right to install a government of its liking in Kabul. And Washington readily rewarded its loyal Islamist ally, leaving it alone to manage Afghanistan as it thought best. In the event, Pakistan squandered its one chance to win the friendship and affection of Afghans of all shades of ethnicity and belief by imposing on Kabul a regime of Sunni fundamentalists. It lost the trust of the Afghan populace, and the Taliban is hated in Afghanistan to this day. The jihad had many other noxious side-effects. The size, reach and mischief potential of the Inter-Services Intelligence greatly expanded. And yet in their anxiety to end the war in Afghanistan, London and Washington seem poised to compound their earlier follies and make way for the induction of the Taliban in Kabul. The London Conference was indeed a work in the same direction. The much-touted US-India strategic partnership was not much in evidence in that concourse. In a sideswipe, the conference marginalised India completely. Britain, under a Labour Government, never seems able to resist the temptation to wound India just a very little bit. Have we embraced the linkage propounded in London that India-Pakistan peace and a Kashmir settlement are essential for resolving the problem in Afghanistan? In war, it is legitimate to sow dissension and look for deserters in the enemy ranks. Clearly, Pakistan is being encouraged to get involved in selecting the Taliban to be reintegrated and reconciled. Wisdom demands that this task of reintegration be left to President Hamid Karzai. Karzai should therefore be strengthened, not humiliated. There are quieter, more effective ways of dealing with corruption in high places. The withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan is inevitable; the sooner it comes, the better for all concerned. An honourable way of achieving it with peace and stability in Afghanistan is still available. President Obama should convene a conference in Kabul, attended by heads of state or government of all countries sharing borders with Afghanistan, as well as China, India, Russia, Britain, France and the UN Secretary-General. The result should be formally endorsed by the UN Security Council, which should also station in Afghanistan an adequate peace-keeping force for a sufficient period to allow the Afghan Army and police to assume full responsibility for internal and external security. The Hindu The author is a former Foreign Secretary.

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One spoke of "Neocon vampires" blood-thirsty Islamophobes" think tank irredentists" Indian revanchists" planning another dismemberment, so that they can continue their blood-fest in Afghanistan. Gates, who was only "mortified" and "appalled" by the leaks. The leaks provoked such fiery debate because the US-led fight against "jihadism" had suddenly run into an unexpected adversary: Indeed, it now seems clear to anyone with eyes that the invasion of Afghanistan was built upon a great miscalculation: Throughout history, such undertakings have always floundered. The country may, perhaps, be occupied for a time, but only temporarily; it cannot be conquered. The great miscalculation that led to the Afghan invasion was based on a faulty response to the terrorist attacks of September 11. Of those who attacked the US, an overwhelming number were citizens of Saudi Arabia, aided by Pakistanis. How curious that in revenge, following the Afghan invasion, the US attacked Iraq, and then, even before that mission had been concluded, ratcheted up the Afghan war with the so-called "surge" of military force. In attacking "terrorism" and simultaneously engaging in "counter-insurgency," the US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan have, unfortunately, become a perpetrator of what they are fighting. Worse yet, a feeling of imperial revival has also become part of the picture, and not only among Afghans. This sense of imperial occupation has transformed the supposed solution to the problem of terror in Afghanistan into the problem itself. And if the muddle of motives in Afghanistan is not bad enough, there is Pakistan to add to the confusion. Without Pakistan as a strategic partner to provide land, resources, and military support, operations in Afghanistan would be stymied further. But Pakistani support clearly comes at a high price. The US "buys" an ally in Pakistan that dictates the terms of its collaboration, and simultaneously guards its flanks by keeping open its channels of communication to the Taliban. This, however, is an entirely understandable precaution by Pakistan, whose government, like every other government in the region, must be prepared for the day when the US and NATO withdraw from Afghanistan. A Western lack of understanding A high price: The West needs Pakistan as a strategic partner in the fight against terrorism. But an even more fundamental reservation should have followed, because Afghanistan is more of a concept "a polyglot entity of various ethnic groups" than a functioning state. Yes, Afghans live in a shifting pattern of loyalty to Kabul, but this unity has historically been only episodic, with frequent periods of fragmentation as well. Only when the ruling "emir" in Kabul demonstrates understanding, tolerance, and strength do Afghan unity and a sort of peace prevail. Finding that type of Afghan leadership is the true challenge today. So it is vital to accept that Afghanistan cannot be governed centrally, only guided. Herein lies the crux of the many failures of the Western alliance: Moreover, any attempt to drive the Taliban out of Waziristan risks tearing Pakistan apart. Pakistan maintains its contacts to the Taliban in order to be able to validate its influence in post-US Afghanistan. Creating an idea of resistance In targeting the Taliban, the US has converted them into an insurgent "army", an idea of resistance that the population is beginning, once again, to find acceptable. A fault confessed is half redressed: Wikileaks has now documented our hard-earned knowledge in a language that ordinary Americans and Europeans understand. The urgent task facing US President Barack Obama is to move American strategy away from the current cul-de-sac in which it is now stuck towards one that maintains a balance between its own national interests, and those of India, Pakistan, and a China that is looking on intently. An extraordinarily complex end game is underway. The longer it drags out, the more destructive the final outcome will be. India "Partition" Independence.

5: Jagat S. Mehta (Author of The Tryst Betrayed)

However, Mehta's "March of Folly in Afghanistan: " does. The centerpiece is a paper he wrote for the Woodrow Wilson Center in , soon after the Soviet intervention.

6: The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam by Barbara W. Tuchman

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7: The March of Folly in Afghanistan by Jaswant Singh - Project Syndicate

The Afghanistan Wars. By William Maley. Basingstoke, Hants and New York: Palgrave, ix, pp. \$ (cloth); \$ (paper). - The March of Folly in.

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9: Books Written by Indian Diplomats

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