
AFGHANISTAN SECURITY ISSUES

Cours-séminaire de Cyrus HODES

“The search for security in post-Taliban Afghanistan: will we find it and how?”

In order to get a sense of what has been happening in Afghanistan since the Northern Alliance (United Front) troops entered Kabul in November 2001 it is vital to get a helicopter view of the various intricate issues affecting Afghanistan, stemming from the Great Game and exacerbated since the Soviet Army invasion of 1979.

What has gone wrong since then? What are the lessons to be learned for the United Nations, NATO, the numerous and various NGOs and International Organizations involved and the international community at large?

The implications of the Afghan conflict are far exceeding its borders: we will evaluate the scale of the geopolitical tremors that this landlocked country has sent from Delhi to Washington D.C.

This class will offer toolboxes for students about to get involved in NGOs, Peace Building and reconstruction operations as well as more hard-nose security experts interested in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism efforts.

We will interact as much as possible with people involved in Afghanistan in all these sectors and who will share their experience to reflect on better implementations for integrated approaches.

Students applying for the Master of International Affairs at SciencesPo might particularly be interested by this course

Introduction:

Session 1 - Goals of the course – general presentation- assessing the students’ motivation for the various sectors encompassed by the subject at hand. We will examine how and why the Afghan security issues are inter-locked and cannot be tackled individually.

A. What are we talking about?

Session 2 - The local background: sociological, historical and geographical. (Suggested guest: Olivier Roy)

Session 3 - Dangerous neighborhood: the involvement of surrounding countries (Suggested guest: Jean-Luc Racine)

Session 4 - Spoiler groups and nature of the insurgency (Suggested guest: a former Massoud officer)

Session 5 - Spoiler Groups and nature of the insurgency (2): Taliban, AQ and the globalization of jihadism (Suggested guest: a US or UK intelligence analyst)

Session 6 - NATO, ISAF, Operation Enduring freedom (Suggested guest: NATO or OEF spokesperson)

B. Main issues at hand

Session 7 - The Security Sector Reform: successes and limitations of the 5 pillars strategy

Session 8 - The poppy boom: is the trend reversible and how (Suggested guests: Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy and Alain Labrousse)

Session 9 - Humanitarian actors – the beneficiaries, the NGOs and the International Organizations (Suggested guest: Alain Boinet, President of Solidarités)

Session 10 - State building exercise (Suggested guest: Clare Lockhard)

C. Solutions applied

Session 11 - Integrated approaches to peace-building: how it works (Suggested guest: Sharbanou Tarjbakh)

Session 12 - Examples of successful blends between governance, the private sector and development. (Suggested guest: AKDN senior official)

Session 13 - Case study: Provincial Reconstruction Teams (Suggested guest: former or current PRT officers)

Conclusion

Session 14 - Conclusion: global summary. Various avenues open for involvement.

Evaluation is based upon:

- 1/ bi-weekly one-page book review - 50%
- 2/ a final paper on a chosen topic offering a framework to reverse current negative trends and build on positive aspects- 30%
- 3/ oral participation - 20 %

References

- *The Search for Security in Post-Taliban Afghanistan, Cyrus Hodes and Mark Sedra, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Adelphi Paper 391, London: Routledge, 2007, 118p.*
- *“Identity Crisis: Split Looms over NATO's Afghan Operations”, Jane's Intelligence Review, Vol. 20, no. 4 (Apr. 2008), pp. 8-13*
- *List of bi-weekly readings to be determined soon*