

Journal of Peace, Development and Communication



Volume 08, Issue 03, July-September 2024
pISSN: 2663-7898, eISSN: 2663-7901
Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V08-I03-25>
Homepage: <https://pdfpk.net/pdf/>
Email: se.jpdc@pdfpk.net

Article:	International Twitter Discourse on Afghanistan Crisis (2021): A Thematic Analysis
Author(s):	Arish Khan MS Scholar, Department of Media & Communication Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan
	Mehak Iqbal Cheema Independent Researcher, Islamabad, Pakistan
	Aqib Haroon MS Scholar Department of Communication and Media Studies (CMS), Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Pakistan
Published:	30 th September 2024
Publisher Information:	Journal of Peace, Development and Communication (JPDC)
To Cite this Article:	Khan, A., Cheema, I. M., & Haroon, A. (2024). International Twitter Discourse on Afghanistan Crisis (2021): A Thematic Analysis. <i>Journal of Peace, Development and Communication</i> , 08(03), 397-415. https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V08-I03-25
	Arish Khan MS Scholar, Department of Media & Communication Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan Corresponding Author's Email: arishkhan0102@gmail.com
	Mehak Iqbal Cheema is an Independent Researcher, Islamabad, Pakistan
	Aqib Haroon MS Scholar Department of Communication and Media Studies (CMS), Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of twitter as a platform for discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis in August 2021, specifically focusing on global perspectives regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the Taliban's takeover. The research specifically explores how the selected key twitter influencers framed the event as a 'Taliban victory', a 'U.S. defeat', or a 'significant humanitarian catastrophe'. Employing corpus-based thematic analysis, the study analyses large collections of tweets that emerged through selected hashtags and trends, providing a nuanced understanding of elite engagement with the crisis. The analysis reveals predominant themes within the discourse, highlighting elites' strategic use of social media to construct, amplify, and disseminate competing narratives during geopolitical upheavals. The findings offer insights into how elite actors on twitter shape and influence public narratives in moments of geopolitical significance. This research contributes to understanding social media's role in shaping global discourse on international crises.

Keywords; Afghan Crisis, Fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, Twitter, Discourse, Thematic Analysis

Introduction

People all across the world have embraced social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and WhatsApp, and they have emerged as the main hubs for political activism. Scholars have seen the multiple roles that these platforms have played in a range of movements, ranging from the Arab Spring rallies and marches to Black Lives Matter activism and a number of presidential campaigns, such as Barack Obama's in 2008 and Donald Trump's in 2016.

The main purpose of this study is to analyze how different countries people used Twitter as a tool to comment and portray the August event (withdrawal of US troops or takeover of Taliban) or how they are looking at the event as a; i) Taliban victory, ii) US defeat, or as a iii) huge humanitarian crisis. For the purpose the research will look at and explore what level of elite twitter discourse have been generated by the selected “Hashtags and Trends” on the Afghanistan crisis in August 2021.

Therefore, the research study at hand is based on the following research questions; what are the predominant themes available in elite twitter discourse regarding Afghanistan crisis (2021)? And, how the elite twitter discourse has portrayed the Afghanistan crisis (2021)?

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), also referred to as the Taliban, seized power in the middle of August 2021. After Taliban fighters stormed into Kabul, they quickly withdrew American forces from the country and completed the overthrow of Ashraf Ghani's government. In the study at hand, we define “elite twitter discourse” as the issue or aspect most discussed on twitter regarding the Afghan crisis during August 2021. The topic which is most frequently and repeatedly discussed on in term of hashtags and trends with regard to Afghan crisis is what we call elite discourse.

The Fall of Kabul- ‘The Afghan Crisis’

Since 2001, the Taliban has attacked several targets, including UN headquarters and embassies, as well as government buildings, automobile convoys, and Afghan and international security personnel (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022). All parties participating in Afghanistan should plan for a time without US soldiers there and that Allies whose commitment would not be viable without US engagement and assistance would need to follow the US in withdrawing.

NATO and the Afghan government both agreed that most foreign soldiers should be removed from the country. President Biden promised voters that US soldiers would be removed after former President Trump began withdrawal negotiations with the Taliban. On February 29, 2020, the United States and the Taliban came to a pullout agreement that mandated the evacuation of all foreign soldiers from Afghanistan by May 1, 2021 (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022).

The Taliban pledged to halt peace negotiations with the Afghan government and to prevent terrorist organizations from operating within and outside of Afghanistan. The departure deadline has been extended by President Biden to September 11, 2021. The Taliban stepped up their attacks on the Afghan National Army as Western forces started to withdraw (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022).

No one expected such a quick takeover by the Taliban when President Joe Biden ordered the evacuation of all remaining soldiers from Afghanistan by September. The Afghan National army was expected to hold out for at least five or six months before giving up, but the Taliban were able to retake the capital and the majority of Afghanistan in only a few weeks. The American troops hastily departed Afghanistan, leaving many Afghan allies behind.

The Taliban took control of significant portions of the nation via negotiations and armed conflict by August 15, Taliban soldiers were positioned outside Kabul. When Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and his administration fled the nation and the police, army and other security forces put down their arms, the Taliban seized control of Kabul and all political-military authority in Afghanistan (Johannessen & Stenersen, 2022).

Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, over the course of around 20 years, it is estimated that US engagement in Afghanistan has cost more than \$2.3 trillion (Watson Institute, 2021).

President Biden gave a speech to the American people on August 31, 2021, outlining his decision to withdraw, saying that there was no longer a valid reason for the US to be there and that the US should have disengaged earlier. Similarities to the current US military presence in South Korea are misleading since this has a greater local and domestic backing and is not aggressively opposed by an armed native organization.

Literature Review

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, surprise many individuals around the world, particularly the policymakers. The rapidity with which the Ashraf Ghani government collapsed arises questions about who is responsible to blame for what some have characterized as the US's humiliating withdrawal and abandoning of allies by the United States. How much of what has happened was self-inflicted injury, or the unavoidable result of finally gripping a nettle? Are certain actions, some particular individuals, and policies to blame, or May a more diverse set of factors adequately explain what transpired? Has regular operation returned (Rashid, 2009; Tanner, 2009)?

It took some time for the various Taliban groups to settle on a Ministerial team and establish a government, it is understood that the environment is particularly challenging and there is a great deal of ambiguity regarding a number of potential outcomes (Bose, 2018).

There were still a number of organizations in the community that objected to the way the nation was run after the Soviets left, and in 1994, one of these groups started to gain strength with aid from Pakistan as a result of the absence of a single coherent administration. The Taliban seized control of much of Afghanistan in 1996 (Johannsen & Strand, 2021). As a sign of their ideologically motivated dominance, they erected a rigid and powerful sharia system and demolished Buddhist monuments. And while the Taliban were in power, Al-Qaida discovered them to be a reliable friend in Afghanistan. Al-Qaida's mission is to defend Muslims worldwide against innovation and invasion by foreigners. The US was attacked by Al-Qaida on September 11th, 2001. Four passenger Airplanes were hijacked by al-Qaida; one of them crashed into the Pentagon, two of them into World Trade Center Towers, and one crashed in a Pennsylvanian field, which killed more lives than the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The 'war on terror' would henceforth be his administration's top priority, President Bush told his team that evening. President Bush said in a speech to the US people that "if you harbour a terrorist, we will punish you as a terrorist." This marked the beginning of the US government's "war on terror" (Brown, 2016).

The US take the initiative in Operation Enduring Freedom's military operation and invaded Afghanistan with the help of the international community. As a result of the US's backing of the Northern Alliance in the fight against the Taliban. The Taliban troops were mostly routed within a few months (Johannsen & Strand, 2021). Northern Alliance was the

armed force groups Alliance whose aim was to topple the Taliban government from 1996 to 2001.

The early Western intervention and the support of a regional Northern Alliance against the Taliban were successful in keeping Al-Qaeda from having a semi-secure base from which to plan additional attacks against the "West." Rather than withdrawing from Afghanistan in 2002, the United States and its allies remained there and began working to build a democratic political system that would eventually produce a government that could command broad support. They fight in what is thought to be an endless and hopeless struggle (Farrell, 2018; Powers, 2018).

Theoretical Framework

The researchers have applied the framing theory as theoretical foundation to understand how elites influenced the Afghan crisis using twitter. The framing effect is the primary way by which elites sway public opinion.

Chong (1993) defines framing as the “essence of public opinion formation”. A framing effect happens when a speaker emphasizes a small number of potentially important elements while explaining an issue or occurrence, which induces listeners to concentrate on these concerns while formulating their judgments (Druckman 2001). Competitive framing may minimize the sensitivity to framing effects on individuals by concentrating on the opposition narrative (Chong & Druckman, 2007; Druckman & Lupia, 2016; Hassan et al., 2021; Sniderman & Theriault, 2004).

D’Angelo (2002) and De Vreese, (2005) iterate three core steps of the framing process that is (a) Frame building describes how frames are generated, (b) frame setting describes how frames interact with viewers' dispositions or past knowledge, and (c) the social effects of framing. However, framing strategies are not simply employed by news organizations and journalists. Additionally, governments create frames for information in order to guarantee that the public is given a favorable impression of their policies through the media (Hassan et al., 2020; Entman, 2004).

Whereas in this study frames will be replaced with how different people reacted to the Afghan crisis. How different groups were looking at Afghanistan via a similar or differing perceptual lens when it comes to Afghanistan? There was a convergence among different people on the issue of Afghanistan. This theory will help us to analyze how different individual used Twitter as a tool to shape or showcase the August event (backdrop of US troops or takeover of Taliban) or how they are looking at the event as Taliban victory or US defeat. Are they looking at the event is a huge humanitarian or socio-economic crisis? How other countries are looking at the Taliban government in Afghanistan?

Research Methodology

Data Collection

According to the data collected, we downloaded 12,663 tweets in the month of August 2021 from all over the world. After merging the data, we only kept the English-language tweets and limited the country of origin to Afghanistan. To do that, we conducted a keyword string search (e.g., Afghanistan, Afghans, Doha Agreement, Trump and Biden Administrations, Women, Withdrawal, Escape, Refuges). Filtering tweets related to the chosen themes was our next step in creating our final data collection for elite twitter discourse study.

From August 1st to August 30, 2021, information was gathered from twitter by utilizing the key words such as; "Afghan," "Afghanistan," and "Taliban," among others. The NVivo 12 software's NCapture tool was used to gather all of the data. A free web browser add-on called NCapture makes it easier to gather data from the Internet and transfer it into the qualitative data management and organization program NVivo. Results were imported as a dataset into NVivo for (Version 12) when they were captured.

Data Analysis

A mixed techniques strategy is used in this investigation. While the data analysis strategy incorporates both quantitative and qualitative methods (including the discussion of outcomes), the data collection process uses a quantitative approach (corpus-based). Tashakkori and Teddlie define a mixed methods design as "products of the pragmatist paradigm that combines the qualitative and quantitative approaches within different phases of the research process" (2008: 22). This method enables researchers to create an extensive database and analyze the findings. Thus, the primary goal of the current paper is to look for themes in the chosen discourse (the appropriate software is utilized to achieve this goal).

Corpus-based methods in media research involve the analysis of large collections of textual data, known as corpora, to draw meaningful insights and patterns. Corpora consist of diverse texts such as articles, books, transcripts, and other forms of written or spoken communication. Researchers use computational tools and techniques to analyze these corpora, enabling them to identify trends, linguistic patterns, and other relevant information within the media landscape.

In order to delve deeper into the software analysis results, the study has additionally employed the content analysis method. A technique for exploring chosen content to identify or examine a particular topic or subject is called content analysis. Four stages comprise the thorough approach proposed by Kutter and Kanther (2012) to examine the content of corpus materials: (1) identification of key terms, (2) corpus analysis of lexical representations of key terms, (3) text-mining, and (4) qualitative analysis. This makes it possible to both identify and analyze the important components or outcomes produced by the software in relation to their respective settings. This offers much more in-depth explanations of the results.

The specialized corpus contains around 12000 tweets (of all types) published within the selected time frame in the month of August 2021 from all over the world (as the afghan crisis happened in 2021). The keywords used to select the material is Afghanistan, Afghan people, Doha Agreement, Biden and Trump Administrations, Women, Withdrawal, Escape, Refugees).. Since the corpus software only takes simple text files, the corpus is cleaned after preparation for analysis. This procedure creates a text file with plain text by removing all formatting styles and graphics from the content. The word document is then converted to a.txt file (most corpus analysis applications only handle this file extension). Software NCapture, a feature of NVivo 12 (for collocations and collocation graphs), is used to analyze the corpus.

In conclusion, the corpus-based approach in media research, as advocated by scholars such as McEnery and Hardie (2012), Baker (2006), and Sinclair and Renouf (1988), offers a robust method for systematically analyzing and interpreting large sets of textual data, enabling researchers to uncover nuanced insights into the dynamics of media discourse. In this research we have used qualitative study with thematic analysis. The researchers have selected the elite tweets (as the issue or aspect most discussed on Twitter regards the Afghan Crisis during

August 2021) of the existing discourse available on Afghan crisis 2021 on Twitter in month of August 2021 in order to address research question of the study.

Finding the corpus's major themes is the next step in the analytic process. Finding out which themes—represented as lexical bundles—are presented most frequently is the goal. This study used thematic analysis as a method to analyze the data, i.e., elite tweets. Finding the most important themes in the case we wish to examine is the goal of thematic analysis (Daly, Kellehear, & Gliksman, 1997). Finding and analyzing meaning is a frequently employed technique in qualitative research (Crowe, Inder, & Porter, 2015; Clarke & Braun, 2017). Thematic analysis is defined by Clarke and Braun (2017; cited in Ghauri et al, 2023) as methodical processes for deriving codes and themes from qualitative data. The smallest analytical units, known as codes, are used to identify intriguing aspects of the data that may be (maybe) pertinent to the study issue. Building pieces known as codes serve as the foundation for themes, which are (bigger) patterns of meaning supported by a common organizing principle. The researcher's analytical observations can be arranged and reported using themes.

A technique used to identify, examine, and elucidate patterns of meaning (or "themes") that emerge in qualitative data is called thematic analysis (TA). Since we'll be using an inductive analysis approach, the data served as the basis for our research. The analysis involved the following steps:

- i) getting to know the data;
- ii) creating interpretative codes first;
- iii) figuring out how the codes related to one another to produce themes; and
- iv) reviewing and redefining themes.

The unit of analysis in this study is each tweet regarding Afghanistan crisis during August 2021.

Finding and Analysis

Trump's Doha Agreement

The Doha Agreement was a peace agreement signed by the United States (Trump administration) and Taliban the Taliban on February 29, 2020 in Doha, Qatar,

The United States and the Taliban signed the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan, also referred to as the US-Taliban accord or the Doha Agreement, on February 29, 2020, in Doha, Qatar, with the goal of ending the war that began in 2001 and ending in 2021. The accord, which was negotiated by Zalmay Khalilzad, excluded the Afghan government in place at the time. One of the key incidents that led to the fall of the Afghan National Security Forces was the agreement, which also included covert annexes. After the agreement, the US drastically cut back on airstrikes and gave the ANSF a crucial advantage in battling the insurgency of the Taliban, which resulted in the Taliban seizing control of Kabul on August 15, 2021.

In exchange for the Taliban's promises to combat terrorism, the deal called for fighting limitations for both the US and the Taliban and called for the removal of all NATO soldiers from Afghanistan. In July 2020, the US committed to reducing its military strength from 13,000 to 8,600 within 135 days. If the Taliban maintains its end of the bargain, the US would withdraw all of its forces by May 1, 2021, or in 14 months. The US also declared its intention to lift economic sanctions against the Taliban by August 27, 2020, and pledged to close five

military bases in 135 days. Pakistan, China, and Russia backed the accord, and the UN Security Council gave it full approval. India praised the agreement as well.

Many Twitter users *societyofhonor*, *skippmaiden*, *laidback1954*, *Ledermann* etc. highlighted the 'Trump Doha Agreement';

Skippmaiden; Trump signed over Afghanistan to the Taliban in 2020 without even consulting with or including the Afghan government. Trump had no plan for getting people out.

Shoathree, *Paula_Dockery* further added that USA also agreed to released 5000 Taliban prisoners (included 400 accused or convicted of murder & major crimes) which the Afghan Govt total opposed but Trump Admin put pressure on them to release all.

Ledermann further added that US agreement do not have anything about the Afghan interpreters, their families or another Afghans that helped the US during the past 20 yrs. out of Afghanistan. trump planed nothing for their removal.

CaDisneyMermaid; This agreement is gives everything to the Taliban and nothing to the US or Afghan people. Giving them a firm end date emboldened them creating what we see today. The Taliban does not have to, nor did, live up to its agreement.

alleycat752 Your hero trump gave Afghanistan to the Taliban March 2020. How many Americans or Afghan allies did he evacuate before leaving the WH? None

frodogood103074 The Afghan government did fall many months ago, the day Trump invited the Taliban to the negotiating table without the Afghan government at said table or even part of the conversation. Trump played a game of Risk with Afghanistan and its citizens. Traitor

EverettNecessa2 Trump released 5,000 you mean. Which quite a few ended up in Kabul, one in particular is now a Taliban leader. And handed the Taliban Afghanistan when they had their little "peace agreement" without even telling the Afghan government or military leaders what was going on.

imadork79 @jackiewalorski; Why is Afghanistan under Talibam rule? Is it when Trump released 5000 Taliban prisoners? Or is it when Pompeo negotiated with the Taliban and kept the Afghan government "apprised"? Trump made this mess but it's nice to blame Biden for everything

Trump & Biden administrations

VanCity6042 \$85B of American artillery, planes, helicopters, guns, RPG's, ammo, body armor, night vision goggles, etc that the Taliban have taken from the Afghan's. Is that a HUGE miscalculation on behalf of the White House (Trump & Biden) or brilliant maneuvers by the Taliban?

Never_Fascism Trump's disastrous "peace deal" did not bar the Taliban from fighting Afghan govt troops or from capturing Afghan provinces on its own. Trump released 5000 Taliban terrorists from prison!

morey000 deal with the Taliban, without including the Afghan gov't. Or- are you just trying to misinform your audience... again?

DaveAtherton20 and Redzee98 Kash Patel Donald Trump's advisor on Afghanistan explains his exist strategy. "The Afghan government & the Taliban were both told they'd face the full force of the US military if they caused any harm to Americans or American interests in Afghanistan."

Politakes1 Trump's conditions on the Taliban for Afghanistan withdrawal.. Do not threaten or attack U.S. or its allies, Prevent use of the country by any group against the U.S. or its allies, Permanent & comprehensive ceasefire, Form intra-Afghan government

HarrisonKrank I don't know how Trump's exit from Afghanistan would have been but I know for a fact that he would not have given a list of US citizens and Afghan allies to the Taliban. The Taliban are going to try to kill or ransom everyone on that list as soon as Biden misses his deadline.

Biden (675 Time)

The User addressed the Biden, asking a different question and blaming in his tweets.

Bareftnlady @JoeBiden Thank you for doing everything possible to provide a safe evacuation. The 45th never had any intention or plan to evacuate our troops, Americans or military personnel from Afghanistan. This is what happens when you negotiate plans with the Taliban and exclude Afghan leaders.

RepMattGaetz "My Assessment of Biden on Afghanistan: Right decision to get out: 5 more weeks, months, or years yield same Taliban Takeover- Incompetent tactical counsel from CRT Generals Austin/Milley in re Afghan capability- Insufficient mental acuity to analyze/question advisors"

THE_MAD_TITAN_ #BidenMustGo b/c he let the Taliban win Afghanistan & cause an evil regime to murder hundreds of Afghan citizens including men women children. This is his fault needs to be held accountable. Biden needs to #resign or be #impeach.

Grantstern Just imagine how bad it would be if Joe Biden had pulled the rest of America's troops or three months ago like tfg was pushing for after he freed the Taliban leader, cut a deal with them that excluded the old Afghan government and freed 5,000 prisoners.

Afghan People

its_nabeelsafi They didn't need Sharia or democracy. They just want killing and suffering of innocent Afghan. The youngsters of Afghanistan need to stand and ask the bloody Taliban, you are in power Now tell us who is responsible for today's attack. #KabulAiport

MasterblogBo Due to the Taliban's quick capture of the country and their declaration that they would implement Sharia, or Islamic law, millions of young Afghans are worried about their future.

#Attualità #BBC #estero <https://t.co/LUtFnDm88x>

YogeshRVatsal Only Afghan people can save Afghanistan, not US or Taliban

Omer_Causey The population of Afghanistan is 40 million; the Taliban forces number less than 300,000. If the Afghan people don't want the Taliban in power, they outnumber them 100 to 1. Hard to work up much sympathy for a people that won't (or don't want to) fight for themselves. <https://t.co/R024k7Q36d>.

Life of the Women

As Per the previous Experience, the international communities are thinking about the Life of the Afghan woman, girls and LGBT communities. In the twists the thinking that Taliban will close all the education institution (Schools, Colleges and universities) of females. They will stop women working in office. They will ban the woman movements in the country.

Democrat @IanDunt I can't imagine what it must feel like to be an Afghan interpreter, journalist, soldier, gay person or anyone else at risk of being murdered by the Taliban and unable to escape Afghanistan, looking at this story and the attention it's getting.

RealRichardBail share his opinion that the fate of Afghan women is as true now as it was back in 1990s. Where are all the left liberal progressives now? What matters more - your anti-American ideology or your concern for the fate of your sisters in Afghanistan.

HotlineJosh In the two decades since American-led forces ousted the militants from power, many young women have come to expect basic rights.”

RahelaHSidiqi The Afghani women also not interest to living in Taliban control Afghanistan, So the thousands of women waiting in Kabul Airport for esp for the country. “*MukandRita*” sharing the opinion of Afghan Women (In BBC News story):

RNBBreakfast In a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, women judges are 'infidels' who could face imprisonment or death. A group of international judges is working overtime to try and get hundreds of female judges and their families out of Afghanistan.

Some of the twitted pointed that Taliban visit door to door in search of sex slaves and if the girls or his family refuse, then they Shot them.

“*Fnsalsaiif*” Afghan women who had worked for police force in Afghanistan & fled Afghanistan to India after the Taliban takeover told News 18 that the brutal Talinan militants went door to door in search of sex slaves & Taliban either picked up girls or shot them.

“*sanditarium*” further added that young girl will be rewarded to Taliban soldiers, who fighting against the US or NATO.

maytecarrasco74 Afghanistan is going to become a huge prison for women. Specially for these afghan girls or teenagers, forced to marry a Taliban, forced to be sexual slaves for the rest of their life.

BordersUSA and UPCWGS The Taliban has gone to several houses to look for women activists, bloggers, YouTubers, and other prominent women. The Taliban would mark the doors with bright pink or bright-coloured paint with threats to return and "do something" to these women.

khannim24 @cjwerleman They are not sympathetic to or concerned about Afghan women, but they are doing all this just to mount a propaganda campaign against the Afghan Taliban. #Afghanistan.

Students

DeccanHerald Back in Afghanistan everything is closed and the student community is not able to pay their rents, examination fees

NH_India students from the war-torn country who have come to #Bengaluru to study are facing challenges on multiple fronts

Outlookindia Afghan students in India stuck in a limbo after Taliban takeover. Face dilemma over leaving for home or staying abroad.

Cmalave Taliban 'brutally' killed a popular Afghan folk singer just days after it said 'music is forbidden' in Islam. A religion or a particular interpre of it that bans music isn't worth practicing.

Afghan Forces

AEIfdp Both the US & Afghan governments are now scrambling to mitigate the effects of Biden's decisions. However, there is an important lesson to be learned: Decisions made without concrete plans or robust implementation strategies are wrong.

vkon1 US govt bypasses the Afghan govt and hands Afghanistan over to Taliban against a promise that the Taliban never attack or threaten the USA again. And the Afghan people have to just deal with any consequences.

GKZorbas_PhD Afghanistan and US government agencies and corporations collected mountains of data on Afghans. Much too much. Now the data will serve the Taliban to kill or blackmail pro-Western Afghans. A near total lack of imagination, security, strategy and planning.

OFroh1 The Afghan officials said they busted an alleged Chinese espionage ring operating in Kabul to hunt down Uighur Muslims with the help of the Haqqani network, a terrorist outfit linked to the Taliban. the ring had been operating for six or seven years.

UN and UK

WorldBreakingN9 Whether the #Taliban have changed or not is a different thing; the world has certainly changed.

The UN Security Council, in its latest resolution, considers the Taliban in #Afghanistan as the state actor, not anymore associated with terror groups. #kabul #USA #US #Afghan UN

PKTheLandOfPure This is not #Taliban nor it is #Afghanistan or the #IslamicEmirateOfAfghanistan but it is #india and the system of #indian government. Now the world should see where are human crises? @UN @UNHumanRights @cjwerleman #AntiPakPropagandaExposed #Afghan #IslamicState #Talibans <https://t.co/fe1VL2UaOk>
UN

RogerCottrell6 UK's last dedicated evacuation flight leaves Afghanistan - follow live <https://t.co/7OhG89nluk>

Johnson's betrayal follows news that details of EVERY Afghan who applied for a British visa is now in the hands of the Taliban. Incompetence or something worse? UK

Bloke_On_A_Bike This may come as a shock to many in #BorisJohnson government but they don't get to decide which Afghan citizens get to leave Afghanistan. Only leverage we've got is UK aid budget so effectively either we're willing to pay ransom for our allies to Taliban or we're not. #r4today UK

MrDJones via @SkyNews: 'No hope for them': British Afghan fears family will be executed by Taliban after being left behind in Kabul <https://t.co/6IXrfN6UFw> or <https://t.co/7j35cmShuJ> <https://t.co/bycM0bwcQX> UK

AinleyFalco troops from the uK or other countries who feel strongly about leaving Afghanistan should join this man asap, Biden said that the Afghan people need to fight against Taliban and protect their country - well, here they are- help them and I hope we in the UK and other countries do. UK

Russian

saberibrahimi Russia acts like it had no role in the destruction and mayhem in #Afghanistan. The Soviet Union invasion killed or maimed more than ONE MILLION Afghans, displaced some SIX MILLION. Not to mention her support for the #Taliban. Now her RT TV portrays Afghan refugees as a threat. <https://t.co/vON5CfhFLXRussia>

The_NewArab Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said on Tuesday that #Moscow opposes allowing #Afghan refugees into Central Asia, or having #US troops there. #Afghanistan #Taliban @mfa_russia <https://t.co/CMLM0hgIA8> Russia

The_NewArab Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said #Moscow opposes allowing #Afghan refugees into the Central Asia region, or having #US troops there. #Afghanistan #Taliban @mfa_russia <https://t.co/qXEpx1mA38> Russia

A_Melikishvili This right here justifies Russia's concerns that people affiliated with Taliban and/or other radical groups may mix with refugees fleeing Afghanistan because of the chaotic evacuation. Five men suspected of ties to Taliban made it to France apparently. <https://t.co/AJDZfeINtM> Russia

RafaqatAliArman WorldBreakingN9 and ashoswai Soviet left #Afghanistan after 9 years & the govt they had left lasted for 3yrs. US stayed in Afghanistan for 20yrs, the govt didn't last 2weeks! No #Afghan soldier wanted to die for Ghani or Saleh!

T4JIK Believe it or not in 2001 when he 1st came back to Afghanistan, to my understanding he once said "I will kick your people (Tajiks) from Afghanistan with the help of the American forces, Afghan forces or the Taliban". Mission accomplished. <https://t.co/FtmeuHTo2V>

Pakistan

Princessofxrp @tyler When white man don't listen to or amplify Afghan voices but only their own. Pakistan is Taliban! Pakistan is invading Afghanistan. Any pro-Taliban Afghan is a Pakistan proxy. #sanctionpakistan Pakistan is invading Afghanistan. Any pro-Taliban

Hitesh73903548 A virus is anything external that harms or destroys the inside I can easily say the virus in Afghanistan is the Taliban not even Afghani but from Pakistan border region and in pride I can say a new Afghan will be created in Ally countries especially USA by the spirit of those here.

BZulakha Increased instability or advances by the Taliban in Afghanistan may give Pakistani militants who support their Afghan counterparts more confidence, which would increase insecurity throughout Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions that border Afghanistan.

#PakistanSponsorsPeace <https://t.co/gqKudPjC5a> Pakistan

Neurophysik Astonished at the confidence of ordinary Indians being vocal about Afghanistan. It's the lack of understanding between terrorist organisations Afghan vs Pakistani Taliban, or ISIS-K. And the bundling of country specific Islamic ideologies. B/c why not, they are all muslims. Read? Pakistan

Murtazasolangi "Afghan Taliban will not cut ties with the TTP, nor will they stop inspiring the religious Right in Pakistan that will now even more eagerly look at the possibility of Pakistan turning into a theocracy", says @iamthedrifter <https://t.co/96pu9jfNWR>

AnnelleSheline Taliban -Afghan Pashtuns -Embrace Afghan nationalism -See themselves as heirs of Pashtun state-builders

ISKP (or ISIS-K) - Pakistani Pashtuns -Rebelled against Pakistan -Want a base for global jihad @QuincyInst colleague @LievenAnatol for @RStatecraft <https://t.co/wQjqbLN69I>

cbkwgl Reciprocation Times. " Pakistan, not Afghanistan, will be the one to handle the TPP issue. It is up to Pakistani ulama and religious leaders—not the [Afghan] Taliban—to determine the legitimacy of the war and adjust their approach accordingly. <https://t.co/TGIFIsAe67>

India

Rezhasan Indian govt tells political party leaders during briefing on #Afghanistan:

*will wait & watch whether new set-up govt solely by Taliban or power-sharing with other Afghan leaders *consultations to continue with important stakeholders & regional countries

DerArschloch Is this Afghanistan or India? Taliban have blocked internet access of Panjshir. This BJP style of governance shows how radical they've become. It's a shame to see Afghan government behaving like Indian state. <https://t.co/W9VTw792Km> india

TheQuint #Opinion | "Supporting Massoud is now the only way to ensure that the future of #Afghanistan is one decided by the Afghan people. It is also the only way to ensure India does not have another perennial enemy at striking proximity," writes @ranvijayhada. <https://t.co/r4ERuIy6V5>

Dnews Students from Afghanistan living in India face a difficult choice: Go back home to Taliban rule or stay abroad and leave their families behind. And with their funds drying up, many are struggling to make ends meet. <https://t.co/abYDvoPhge>

nishaja76905846 #हिंदुस्तान_धर्मशाला_नहीं_है India should not accept Muslims from Afghanistan. They have a wide option if 57 countries, but why aren't they considered or held accountable? What can India do if the Taliban want to terrorise Afghan public? It's their internal matter.

RaoDevulapally @BharadwajSpeaks The Indian Government should have got those precious sanskrit texts to India in return for the funding of development projects in Afghanistan. The Afghan muslims (Taliban or others) does not know their value and one day will destroy them like Bamiyan Buddha statues.

Refugees

Due to War in Afghanistan for Last 40 to 50 years, war in Afghanistan, Afghan living in different countries as a War refugees, included Pakistan, Iran, Etc,

teresa59420516 Conservative commentator Glenn Beck who has already rescued 5,100 from Afghanistan has claimed the US State Department is blocking his efforts to rescue Afghan Christians from the threat of being 'burned alive or crucified' by the Taliban. Ask yourself why???

Snietomunoz At least 25k refugees fleeing Taliban rule in Afghanistan will arrive this week in NJ, living in tents set up at Fort Dix. Advocates are now preparing for a tide of refugees that they're not sure will be a trickle or a tsunami,

news_sledge #Panjshir is the last stand in #Afghanistan against the #Taliban which the Western media prefers to ignore. The Afghan refugees could be encouraged to go there and join the resistance instead of coming to the West and living on benefit or getting low paid jobs!

TheNewArab Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said that #Moscow opposes allowing #Afghan refugees into Central Asia, or having #US troops there.

iPicNews Afghan refugees he helped to create with a mindless deal with the Taliban. There was no contingency for the allied afghans who helped Americans stay in Afghanistan for the 20 years!

BetterknowYou Airbnb says it will temporarily house 20,000 Afghan refugees: Airbnb will match Afghan refugees with hosts offering their homes for free or at a discounted rate, it said, with all costs covered.

Nitabhalla Thousands of refugees from Afghanistan, most of them from the Hazara ethnic minority, who have long been persecuted by the Taliban, have lived in Indonesia for years as they await resettlement in third countries such as Canada or Australia.

Media

After the Taliban control, the media (National and international media) activities was limited, The New Taliban want to control free flow of information Like old Taliban. So different international media organization closed the Media office due to safety of the Journalists. Beside that national media also reduce the staff. Journalists also wearied about their lives, they wish to leave Afghanistan.

“NikkeiAsia” added that With the Taliban in power in #Afghanistan, journalists and media workers in the country are fleeing for their lives or going into hiding. <https://t.co/oC7vdkDiOp>

“SalehaSoadat” further added that Journalists need to support the Taliban Agenda or self-censorship or to leave the Job. Afghanistan media is almost shut down. The majority of the Afghan journalist underground or evacuated. On the ground media houses and journalists are under threat to promote the Taliban’s narrative or self-censorship for their survival. <https://t.co/PsIYeBOJoK>

taslimanasreen Beheshta Arghand, the Afghan TV presenter, who interviewed Taliban without wearing a burqa or hijab left Afghanistan for safety. Eventhough Taliban have been saying they won't hurt women, but no woman trusts them anymore.

AyseJKhan my article about Afghanistan and taliban Tolerant or Turbulent Taliban 2.0 about afghanistan situation was printed in different newspapers. #Afghanistan is important to us. #Afghan #KabulAirport #Kabul #AfghanistanCrisis #AfghanWomen #Pakistan #Panjshir #biden #NATO #usa <https://t.co/BotiAKZ4OY>

jeffagriffithy1 We hear from media outlets like CNN that the terrorist threat to the US from Afghanistan will be "moderate", "minimal", or "two years down the road". WRONG. The Afghan army collapse and American withdrawal creates a vacuum among the tribal Taliban groups for Hamas and Jihad.

Adammatvya Much Western reporting on Afghanistan is either pro-occupation or very surface-level analysis. This by Afghan journalist @FazelQazizai is excellent on Kabul security complications and internal Taliban fissures. <https://t.co/UJm6Fab67z>

PaulRieckhoff Too many inside the @WhiteHouse and media still don't seem to understand what the how vicious and despicable the Taliban really are. Army vet and activist @TrueBoots explains it VERY well in the new @indy_americans that dropped today. Listen or watch: <https://t.co/u7JuiWKAm1> <https://t.co/32z1EwamPb>

Global Stance on Afghanistan Crisis

The UN Security Council's latest resolution marks a significant shift, as it now recognizes the Taliban as the state actor in Afghanistan, separating them from terror groups. This reflects a change in how the international community views the Taliban's role in Afghanistan.

The UK's evacuation efforts from Afghanistan have faced severe criticism. The final dedicated evacuation flight has left Afghanistan, with many fearing for the lives of those left behind. There are concerns about the incompetence or possible malicious intent in handling the details of Afghan visa applicants, now reportedly in Taliban hands. Furthermore, the UK government faces criticism for its limited leverage over the Taliban and the dire situations of Afghan families with British ties still in Afghanistan.

Russia: Russia's stance on the Afghan crisis is marked by a refusal to accept Afghan refugees into Central Asia, opposing US troops in the region. The historical context of the Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan's destruction adds to the complexity, as current Russian narratives portray Afghan refugees as a potential threat. This reflects ongoing concerns about radical elements mixing with refugees.

Pakistan: The relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan is heavily scrutinized. There are allegations of Pakistan's influence over the Taliban and concerns about the spillover effect of Taliban gains in Afghanistan, which could embolden Pakistani militants. The potential instability along the Afghan-Pakistani border is a significant worry, with accusations of Pakistan's direct involvement in supporting the Taliban. Additionally, the complex dynamics between different Taliban factions and their impact on regional security are highlighted.

India: India's response to the Afghan crisis includes a cautious approach, waiting to see the composition of the new Afghan government. There is also a notable concern about the impact of Taliban rule on India's security, particularly regarding the potential for increased militancy in the region. The situation for Afghan students in India, facing financial hardships and the difficult choice of returning home or staying abroad, further complicates India's position. The broader geopolitical implications for India, including maintaining relationships with Afghan factions and ensuring regional stability, are critical considerations.

Discussion and Conclusion

The research aimed to explore two primary questions; what kind of predominant themes are available in elite Twitter discourse regarding Afghanistan crisis? How the elite Twitter discourse has portrayed the Afghanistan crisis 2021? The finding of the study affirms that the elite Twitter discourse surrounding the Afghanistan crisis of 2021 is multifaceted, reflecting a wide array of themes and concerns. After a thorough analysis of the discourse, several predominant themes have emerged, each shedding light on different aspects of the crisis. These themes include Trump's Doha Agreement, the administrations of Trump and Biden, targeted attacks on workers, the plight of the Afghan people, the lives of women, the impact on students, the withdrawal process, escape efforts, the roles of the UN and UK, and the situation of refugees.

While addressing to the second research Question the findings show us that, a significant portion of the discourse revolved around Trump's Doha Agreement, the February 2020 agreement between the Trump administration and the Taliban, which set the stage for the withdrawal of US troops. Elite Twitter users debated the merits and shortcomings of this agreement, questioning its effectiveness and the assumptions underlying it.

The administrations of Trump and Biden were frequently compared and contrasted in the discourse. This theme encompassed critiques and defenses of policy decisions, with particular focus on the transition period and the execution of the withdrawal. The chaotic nature

of the final days in Kabul drew widespread criticism and analysis, with commentators scrutinizing the timing, execution, and aftermath of the withdrawal process.

Targeted attacks on workers, including journalists, translators, and aid workers, were also a major topic of discussion. These conversations highlighted the dangers faced by those who supported international efforts in Afghanistan and the perceived failure to protect them adequately. The plight of the Afghan population, especially the Afghan people in general, was another pervasive theme, emphasizing the humanitarian crisis, economic instability, and the overall impact on daily life. Elite discourse often reflected on the broader implications for Afghan society and the international community's responsibility.

The rights and safety of women in Afghanistan were a critical focus of the discourse. Elite Twitter voices highlighted the dramatic shift in women's lives following the Taliban takeover, expressing concern over education, employment, and basic freedoms. Similarly, the impact on students, particularly girls, was another prominent theme. Discussions often revolved around the closure of schools, disruption of higher education, and the broader implications for the future of Afghanistan's youth.

Efforts of Afghans trying to flee the country were a frequent topic. This theme included narratives of desperation, the logistical challenges of evacuation, and the moral and political implications for Western countries involved in these efforts. Additionally, the roles of international bodies like the United Nations and key countries like the United Kingdom were discussed. This theme focused on their responses, humanitarian aid efforts, and political stances regarding the crisis.

Finally, the plight of Afghan refugees emerged as a significant concern. Conversations on Twitter examined the policies of various countries towards Afghan refugees, the conditions in refugee camps, and the long-term challenges of resettlement and integration.

In conclusion, the elite Twitter discourse on the Afghanistan crisis of 2021 reveals a complex and multi-layered narrative. The predominant themes identified offer insights into the various dimensions of the crisis and the diverse perspectives of the elite voices engaging in this critical conversation. These themes underscore the multifaceted nature of the situation and highlight the ongoing challenges and debates that continue to shape the global understanding and response to the Afghanistan crisis.

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