

Review of: "American Mission in Afghanistan: Geopolitical Interests, Strategies and Reasons of Failure"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In general, I like this manuscript but it needs a bit more work.

Please explain what is meant by “the Great Game.” This refers to 19th Century Geopolitical tensions between Czarist Russia and Great Britain, but not all readers may know this.

Substantially better referencing is needed. This is the manuscripts largest problem. Consider this sentence, “The CIA did not monitor the inflow of weapons. It did not even ensure that the weapons reached the commanders in the field. The main recipients of the arms were parties in Peshawar who were engaged in illegal drug trade and diverted many weapons to raise insurgency in Kashmir and became a constant threat to India.” This is a provocative claim that is unreferenced.

Similarly, consider this sentence, “The US attack on Afghanistan in 2001 was conceived and executed without deep analysis of the objectives of the war and ways for a safe exit.” I agree with this claim, but it requires references.

The manuscript could stand to have some references made to the insurgency/counterinsurgency literature. What is an “insurgency,” what is a “counterinsurgency?” How does terrain benefit an insurgency? Specifically, David Kilcullen’s 2010 book *Counterinsurgency* has an excellent discussion of how breathtakingly corrupt the Afghan government was in the early 21st century.

The manuscript could also stand to refer to Christian Parenti’s 2011 book *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence*, which has an excellent discussion of opium farming in Afghanistan and how the Taliban received support from opium farmers.