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"The Taliban" in Afghanistan in the context of John Stuart Mill's tyranny of majority

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Abstract. *The article examines the historical and legal aspect of the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan, the change in the vector of domestic policy: the elimination of democratic institutions and the return of tyranny. The resistance movement within the country was examined, proving that the presence of US troops for 20 years in Afghanistan ensured the establishment and development of democratic institutions, as well as the socio-economic and cultural development of the country as a whole.*

Keywords: *Taliban, tyranny, civil rights, prohibition.*

John Stuart Mill is one of the greatest and progressive philosopher of his time, his philosophical works influenced modern democracy and taught people to be open-minded to something new and appreciate different points of view. His works was very brave and proposed protection of minorities, dissent and protection of women`s rights. Mill affirmed that democracy does not guarantee freedom, since the majority does not care about the interests of minorities and realized that the tyranny of the many can be no less dangerous than the despotism of one ruler, as long as it masquerades as “the will of the people” [1].

Main character of today`s research is Afghanistan, particularly Taliban movement. The Taliban emerged after the Afghan War (1978 - 92). The new Afghan government failed to establish civil order outside Kabul, and much of the country suffered frequent extortion and attacks by local militias and warlords. Facing mass displacement during the war, many Afghans found solidarity in the religious rhetoric of the Mujahideen resistance and opportunities in Islamic religious schools (called madrasas) in southern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. In 1994, a group of former fighters associated with a madrasa in a village in Kandahar province successfully subdued a local warlord and began pacifying nearby areas. This faction, which gained popular support through promises of security and religious zeal, quickly grew into the movement now known as the Taliban [2]. By the end of 1996, the Taliban had captured the capital, Kabul, and effectively controlled about two-thirds of the country. The Taliban faced significant resistance, particularly after imposing their own interpretation of law and order. They combined a strict religious ideology - a blend of

Deobandi traditionalism and Wahhabi puritanism - with the conservative Pashtun social code (Pashtunwali) to create a brutally repressive regime. Their policies included the near-total exclusion of women from public life (including employment and education), the systematic destruction of non-Islamic art and relics (as seen in the city of Bamiyan), and the implementation of harsh criminal punishments. Resistance was especially strong among non-Pashtun ethnic groups - namely Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazaras - in the north, west, and central regions of the country, who saw the predominantly Pashtun Taliban's rule as an extension of Afghanistan's traditional Pashtun hegemony. By 2001, the Taliban controlled nearly all of northern Afghanistan, with only a small pocket remaining outside their grip. Only Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates ever officially recognized the regime. But at the same time 2001 USA and NATO interfered in Afghanistan with purpose of elimination Osama Ben Laden for his terrorist attack, which at that moment was hiding in Afghanistan and threaten the whole world. Taliban was destroyed and resurrected during presidency of Barak Obama, this war was severe as always, but at 2018 with support of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, UAE, Afghanistan and USA discussed withdrawal of troops. Although the United States also sought to reconcile the Taliban and the central government. Ultimately, discussions were held with the central government in 2019, leading to an agreement in July on general principles for future negotiations. However, Taliban representatives remained focused on first reaching a deal with the United States. Reports indicated that they reached a preliminary agreement in September, but talks were suspended after a Taliban attack killed a U.S. serviceman.

The agreement with the United States was signed in late February 2020. In exchange for a full withdrawal of American troops within 14 months, the Taliban agreed to halt attacks on U.S. forces and prevent Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL; also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria [ISIS]), and their affiliates from operating in Afghanistan.

The greatest achievements of that period were: Airports was renovated (Kabul, Kandahar, Mazari-sharif), over 18,000 km. of the road was built; energy supply project with support from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan (from period 2001-2020 the electricity raised from 6% to 90% around cities) Water source system was build, dam created (Kadjaki) [3].

The amount of schools increased from 900 to 16,000, amount of pupils rose from 1mln people to 9,5mln, including 3,5mln of girls. Over 3000 hospitals was built, child death decreased over 50%. Support of farm labor, providing alternative of saffron instead of poppy (was using for drugs). Support of mobile net for over 90% around the country (before 2001 it almost didn't exist). GDP rose from 2 billion of dollars to 20 billion. Also in 2004 USA helped to create Afghanistan constitution to protect minorities, create democratic system, court system, protect rights of citizens (including religious rights), increased rights of women and also helped to rule the country and built foreign relationships with other countries.

But, unfortunately, everything ends, after 2021 Talibs came back to Afghanistan and decided that some changes required. Of course war is exhausted mechanism from which suffered a lot of people as civilians and on the other hand terrorists, but USA created almost everything in Afghanistan such as infrastructure, economy, educational system, health care system, entire democracy among the country and helped to maintain it and support democratic Afghanistan politicians. But only American troops has left the country – stagnation came back in force. Talibs were not so happy to see that everything out of their control. They overthrew head of the state, changed constitution from democratic form to theocratic, this new regime prohibited to ever change regime, allowed Talibs to execute people, they killed ex-militarist who fought against them, killed politics of old regime. Prohibited any political party, except Taliban party; prohibited any dissent or even smallest deviation apart from they're views on religion; Prohibited women to study at school (after 6 grade) and university (only exception is to become a nurse) and made them almost a hostage without a free will or any right to speak on the street or the man who is not a part of her family, prohibited any expression of right or disobedience to a man. At the same time man can easily and without any consequences kill her or threw a stone on the local square. Of course it didn't lead to something good: new sanctions, no investments, everything that USA and other's have built is slowly demolishing because of lacking money for maintaining. Society on the edge of purity- over 90% of population live on 2 dollars per day, Health care system also decreased without humanitarian support, lack of vaccine caused troubles with old pandemic viruses [4].

Minority getting killed for disobey for regime of Taliban. This situation is a greatest example of Tyranny of the majority, because how John Stuart Mill said: prohibition of dissent leads to stagnation.

So what we have? It was a hard example from history why being on the same radical, cruel and inhumane spot is awful and should be treat like: never again. That 20 years under control of USA showed a lot, that if people would be given with a right treat and support – progress and convenience will be achieved, everything was created on the bones, and will be buried under the bones. Talibs showed how tyranny causes almost permanent damage to everything, taking away freedom killing the idea of somehow bright future, which seems to be lost.

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