

Immediately after the breakup of the Soviet Union, NATO began deploying the Gray Wolves into Chechnya, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, as well as Iran and Bosnia. The Gray Wolves began operating in Azerbaijan in 1992, after Abulfaz Elchibey's Azeri Popular Front came to power. Elchibey named Iskender Gamidov, head of the Azeri branch of the Gray Wolves, as his Interior Minister. Turkish national Gray Wolves flooded into Azerbaijan, where they were used to fight Armenia. The group was also deployed throughout former Soviet Central Asia, with its zealots even calling for spreading Pan-Turkic insurgency into China as well.

Another primary element used to promote an Ottoman revival has been foreign-steered factions within the Welfare Party (now the Virtue Party), formerly led by Prof. Necmettin Erbakan, son of an Ottoman cleric and a member of the Naqshbandi Sufi order. The party, which puts itself forward as Pan-Islamic, won the highest plurality of votes in the December 1995 election and came to power in 1996. Erbakan's understanding of Pan-Islamism was best embodied in the economic alliance of eight Islamic nations in the developing sector, known as the D-8. Under his premiership, the D-8 was launched, as were important economic infrastructure agreements with Turkmenistan and Iran. Because of these policies, Erbakan was toppled from power later that year.

While Erbakan, an engineer and economist, focussed on economic cooperation with Islamic partners, this is not the case for all the diverse factions within the party, including that of his rival and would-be heir, former Istanbul Mayor Tayyip Erdogan, who has advocated creating "Islamic-liberated" states stretching from the Caucasus all the way to western China. In 1998, the U.S. State Department issued an official protest when a Turkish court imprisoned Erdogan for stating that "the minarets are our bayonets, the domes our helmets, and the mosques our barracks."

Another foreign-steered neo-Ottoman throwaway capability is the Turkish-based Nursi Sufi order led by Fethullah Gulen, which enjoys close ties with the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon and its Washington, D.C. organ, the *Washington Times*. The group has built and staffed religious schools throughout the Caucasus and Central Asia, which it has used as a base for subversion.

That the movement is not all that popular among the Turkish elites is shown by a Turkish National Security Council report leaked in July 1999, following Uzbekistan government charges that Gulen was implicated in the February 1999 attempted assassination of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov. While the accuracy of the Uzbekistan accusations has not been confirmed, the charges have caused a crisis in Uzbekistan-Turkish relations. Gulen fled to the United States in 1997 after the Turkish National Security Council charged his group with attempting to infiltrate the police and army, in order to stage an "Islamic revolution." Pointing to sources outside of Turkey as those responsible for the Uzbekistan destabilization, the leaked report states that Gulen "was able

to obtain [U.S.] diplomatic status and red and green [diplomatic] passports for the 70 teachers he sent to Uzbekistan, under the aegis of the 'U.S. Friendship Bridge.' "

Afghanistan chaos threatens all of Asia

by Ramtanu Maitra

The experiment, which began under the tutelage of Zbigniew Brzezinski in 1980, following the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Red Army, to unleash the British-authored geopolitical strategy of violent, anti-Western "Islamic fundamentalism," has now begun to bear its rotten fruit. The criminal elements who were emptied out of the prisons of Islamic countries, and sent to Afghanistan to carry out *jihad* against the Soviet Army, have been organized anew and fresh recruits are being brought in every day.

Unlike the well-heeled retired personnel from Britain's Special Air Services (SAS), who wreak havoc in Africa on behalf of the British mining companies, these new groups are rag-tag mercenaries who are now spreading their militancy radially outward from Afghanistan. From Afghanistan, they have fanned out to fuel unrest and to extend their drug-trafficking network into Pakistan and Kashmir in the east; Dagestan and Chechnya in the northwest; five Central Asian nations in the north and west; and Xinjiang province of China in the northeast. This great and dirty game depends heavily on illegal trade in drugs and guns for financing. These components have flourished very well in the area and beyond, and, although strenuous efforts are being mounted by the governments of the affected nations, there is no guarantee of their immediate success.

The present Afghan situation remains as murky as ever. What is becoming increasingly evident is that peace there cannot come through any magic formula, and the groups with a vested interest in keeping Afghanistan unstable have gained strength over the years. It is also notable, that the Afghan mujahideen, or "Afghansis," who provide muscle to the Taliban, are spreading out, with a definite mission to create chaos on behalf of others. They claim that their mission is to "spread Islam," but there are only a few Islamic governments that would give credence to this absurd claim. Saudi money has provided a cover to the terrorists who, dressed in the white robes of Wahhabis, carry the Holy Koran and preach the orthodox Islam of the Wahhabis.

The Taliban (*Talib* means student in Arabic) were created in 1994. On the ground, the trainers were Pakistani mullahs and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). In the Islamic schools—the *madrassahs*—in the areas of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan, Maulana Samiul Haq and Mau-

ana Fazlur Rehman gave the youthful recruits their fire and brimstone education, while outside of the *madrassahs*, former Pakistani ISI chief Lt. Gen. Hamid Gul, the intrepid controller of many insurrectionaries, trained them with Kalashnikovs, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar launchers, and 125 mm guns.

In London, new plans were drawn up to utilize the Taliban, which were to be acknowledged as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, or better, the Afghans under the cover of the Taliban, for activities beyond Afghanistan.

The nine-year-long Afghan War (1980-88), during which the Soviets tried unsuccessfully to consolidate their control over Afghanistan, was known to many around the world as the war to bleed the Reds to death. The strengthening of the Taliban after 1996, and their use as the conduit to deploy the Afghans internationally, was intended to weaken the major nation-states in the region—Russia, India, and China; to fertilize the areas of existing discontent among the stable Islamic nations, such as Iran, Turkey, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia; and then, spring the colonialist trap on Central Asia's strategic raw materials reserves. In other words, create an ungovernable situation in Central Asia, and take advantage of the vacuum, to keep the Eurasian land-mass divided, and the major nations of the region perpetually threatened and weakened.

Dope, Inc. takes center stage

The Afghan War will surely emerge in modern world history as just as important for South and Central Asia, as the Vietnam War was for Southeast and East Asia. The Soviet Union's foolhardy adventure into Afghanistan was seized upon by the authors of the Arc of Crisis thesis, and they wasted no time in setting up instruments with which to implement their plan in such a highly strategic region.

The seed money came from the Anglo-American bloc, bent upon stopping the "Red Tide" from moving eastward. Money was raised to deal a mortal blow to the Communists, for which purpose arms were procured. Drug money and illegal arms purchases were put in place at an early stage of the campaign. But the big money, based upon heroin trafficking, took a few more years to become established.

By the middle of the 1980s, the mujahideen warlords looked upon the money generated by heroin and hashish trafficking from Afghanistan and western Pakistan, as legitimate war booty. This part of the booty far overshadowed the money coming from Saudi Arabia and other, more common, war loot, and there was absolutely no one who did not dip into it to line his pockets. Covert and not-so-covert operations from the West used this drug money to finance the mujahideen, and drug proceeds are now the main source of financing for the Afghans internationally. For Pakistani intelligence, the management of drug trafficking generated a huge slush fund, which gave it the power to keep or remove the Pakistani government in Islamabad, and to open new areas of conflict such as Kashmir, Xinjiang, Chechnya, and Dagestan.

For the international narcotics traffickers and money

launderers of Dope, Inc., the opportunity lies wide open. The drug networks set up during the Afghan War are expanding by the day, and the networks working inside the Central Asian nations have already developed capabilities to become major drug suppliers and heroin manufacturers in the region. There is no question that the drug money will continue to nourish and nurture many guerrilla groups, such as the Islamic Renaissance Party within Tajikistan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezbe Islami inside Afghanistan, and a dozen or so groups within Pakistan led by Lashkar-e-Toiba, Anjuman Sipaha-i-Sahiba, Harkatul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Jhagvi, and Al Badr.

This drug network has also succeeded in becoming firmly established within India. Extending its tentacles from Nepal, the Pakistani ISI, using the drug money, has set up strong links with India's major northeastern separatist groups, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (I-M), United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), and the Bodo Liberation Front. The drug network has been set up inside Bangladesh, whence operations are executed within northeast India. An international assassination gang, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is all over that area, bringing in guns on high-speed boats from Singapore and southern Thailand across the Andaman Sea, to deliver to the northeast separatists. The Tamil Tigers pick up money and drugs from these separatists and the ISI for delivery elsewhere. In other words, drugs and arms have now been fully globalized, and no one can figure out, for instance, which drug money is going to Punjab or Kashmir or Dagestan.

Sources in India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence pointed out recently that the bulk of the heroin and low-grade "brown sugar" heroin are coming in from Pakistan across Punjab, which straddles the India-Pakistan border. A significant amount is also being smuggled across the desert into Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Kashmir is also a major entry point for drugs, and there are reports of bulk amounts entering the Indian side through Samba and R.S. Pura sectors.

The Central Asia drug traffic

As long as the Soviets were in Afghanistan, most of the Afghan opium and heroin would find its way into Pakistan, and then, through various smuggling networks, transit through India and Nepal to the West. However, the scene has changed, as indicated by a 1995 news report that a French journalist filed from Almaty, the Kazakstan capital. He pointed out that the new drug routes, alternatives to the well-known outlets of Karachi or the Makrana coast of Baluchistan in Pakistan, are along the narrow and winding tracks over the Pamir Mountain range in Tajikistan used by caravans and herdsmen. Since the journalist filed that report, things have deteriorated. Aga Khan, the "patron-saint" of the Ismaili sect which inhabits the Pamirs in large numbers, has funded the highway which would connect the Tajik capital Dushanbe to the Karakorum Highway. Already, the highway has been built

up to Kharog and the drugs would soon be flowing westward into Kashgar and other towns of Xinjiang in trucks and cars. The same highway will also bring drugs into Kashmir and Tibet, and farther eastward into Nepal.

The narco-traffickers, travelling northwards, stop at Osh, the second largest city in Kyrgyzstan. Osh is now a major center for heroin and hashish brought in from Afghanistan and Tajikistan. A lot of opium is illegally grown in the vicinity of Osh, which also finds its way to the large narco-market in the city. In fact, the entire Farghana Valley, where Osh is situated, is growing more and more opium every year.

Other plans

As *EIR* extensively documented in its Oct. 13, 1995 issue, "New Terror International Targets South Asia," Afghan Aid U.K. (AAUK), together with Radio Free Kabul of London, were the two most important coordinators of Afghan mujahideen aid efforts throughout the war against the Soviet Union. AAUK, set up in Peshawar, Pakistan, had as its main sponsor Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and then-leader of the House of Lords. Its partner agency, Radio Free Kabul, had been created by Lord Nicholas Bethell, who worked with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to drum up the U.S. support for the mujahideen. With Zbigniew Brzezinski on the British leash held by geopolitician Bernard Lewis, it was not that big an effort to obtain U.S. support.

The U.S. component to the operation must not be underestimated. In 1980, the Afghan Relief Committee, under the sponsorship of New York investment banker John Train, was organized to channel funds primarily to the corrupt *jihadi* Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his Hezbe Islami group. Bethell himself was the principal liaison from London for the Committee for Free Afghan (CFA). CFA funded Hekmatyar's chief rival in Afghanistan, Ahmed Shah Massoud, an ethnic Tajik. Huge sums of money were pumped in at that stage from both the United States and Saudi Arabia and some other Arab nations. This was also part of the seed money invested to build up future capabilities.

By the mid-1980s, the so-called Golden Crescent of drug production and trafficking, extending from Iran to Afghanistan and Pakistan, was providing half of the heroin reaching the streets of the United States. Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province became a hub for trade in drugs and guns, and reports indicate that Pakistan's gross revenue from opium and heroin sales soared to \$8-10 billion a year by 1988—almost one-quarter of its GDP. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), set up by a Pakistani to launder drug money, was patronized by the City of London, and its accounts were audited by the leading British-chartered accountant firm, Price Waterhouse. With all engines blazing, the new plans of the Thatcher-Bush faction took off.

But, what seemed to be an operation to throw the Soviet Union out and gain control of Afghanistan for the Anglo-Americans, changed course after the Soviet Union collapsed. Inside Afghanistan, where the pawns of the great chessboard

were nurtured and strengthened, the new push came in 1995, when the Taliban were set up and then re-invigorated in the fall of 1996.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, attention was turned toward Central Asia, where a wealth of energy reserves remains untapped. It is also the junction where Europe meets eastern Asia, southern Asia, and the Persian Gulf countries. The strategic importance of Central Asia, never underestimated by the colonial forces in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, again became the focus. The forces chosen to help the colonialists were those masquerading as "Islamic fundamentalists" carrying the Holy Koran, heroin, and a Kalashnikov.

The plan of these terrorists is to help the Anglo-Americans take control of Central Asia and create a threat to the three major countries in the region—Russia, India, and China. And who in the West knows Islamic fundamentalism and Central Asia best? Britain, of course. So, the Anglo-Americans depend heavily on London for the success of this plan.

As the news comes in, London is not doing badly. There are reports that the ISI has got the Pakistani Army regulars fighting for the Taliban in Afghanistan. ISI is also recruiting Turkic-speaking Muslim youths in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to serve in Xinjiang and instigate the local Uighurs to take up arms against China "for the sake of Islam," said a recent report in an Indian daily. One Asian diplomat, who has been quoted in an Indian newspaper, said that these mercenaries have been paid handsomely.

If the ISI, which has been infiltrated and is controlled by the dirty elements of a number of foreign intelligence agencies, is doing a good job, so is the British MI6 in harboring and helping to finance "Islamic fundamentalists" based in London. The Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, who has funded Afghani mujahideen for years and has issued virulently anti-American threats, is also in contact with London, reports indicate.

India and France, as well as conservative Muslim countries, have asked Britain to stop sheltering Islamic militants. Britain's role was exposed on a number of occasions recently. Yemeni authorities have pointed their finger at Sheikh Abu Hamza of Finsbury Park, London, for exporting terrorism to Yemen. Abu Hamza's 17-year-old son was one of the three British citizens arrested at a training camp in central Yemen planning to bomb targets in Aden. Abu Hamza, of course, has been well protected by British intelligence.

Another scandal exposed recently, indicates Britain's involvement in the latest mercenary activities in Kashmir. Terrorist activities conducted from British soil by a British citizen belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba militants, have now brought India and Pakistan close to a war. This militant, Shafiqur Rehman, living in Lancashire, had been raising funds for the Lashkar-e-Toiba and sends the money over to the terrorists in Pakistan. As the details of the separatist acts in Dagestan and Chechnya come rolling in, it is evident that the Afghans are very much there and are well funded.