Opium trade and conflict in Afghanistan

Vivek Kumar Srivastava, Dr.
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CSSP PAPER

Dr. Vivek Kumar Srivastava

Assistant Professor, Political Science, CSJM Kanpur University (affiliated college)

&

Vice Chairman, CSSP, Kanpur

vpy1000@yahoo.co.in

Introduction

Afghanistan has emerged as the hub of the global terrorism. It is the place which helped al Qaeda to make strike in USA. The nexus between the al Qaeda and Taliban are well evidenced. Taliban is the only terrorist organization to have controlled the political system of any country, a fact never observed in the world political history. Afghanistan has emerged as the major centre of narco terrorism in the recent time. These all evil achievements of the Taliban are related to the terrorism economy in which the opium cultivation of the country has contributed in the most significant manner.

Taliban as a major terrorist group devised the opium polices in different times in different manner. There is also another aspect of opium based opium economy in which opium is converted to heroin and sold in the global market at high prize. This trade has helped the terrorist organizations to establish the concept of the global jihad. The present leadership in Afghanistan is aware of the dangers involved with the opium production and is yet to take effective steps to deal with the menace which promotes the international terrorism and conflict within the country.

A review of opium cultivation

In the contemporary time the opium cultivation has become synonymous with the Afghanistan. Though Myanmar is second leading producer of the opium but finds little mention in the terrorism and opium studies due to its less role in funding the terrorism in the world. The opium cultivation in Afghanistan has historical roots as Opium wars (1839-1842 and 1856-1860) were fought between the China and Britain in the 19th century. These wars proved that political economy of major colonial powers attached sufficient importance to the opium. Cold war age was defining moment for these nation states, now USA was an important player. It used the opium cultivation for its advantage. The Cold War clearly helped the illicit opium-heroin economies thrive in Asia.

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