



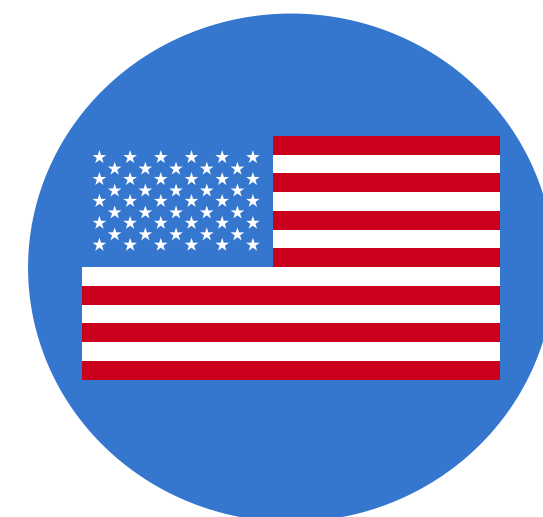
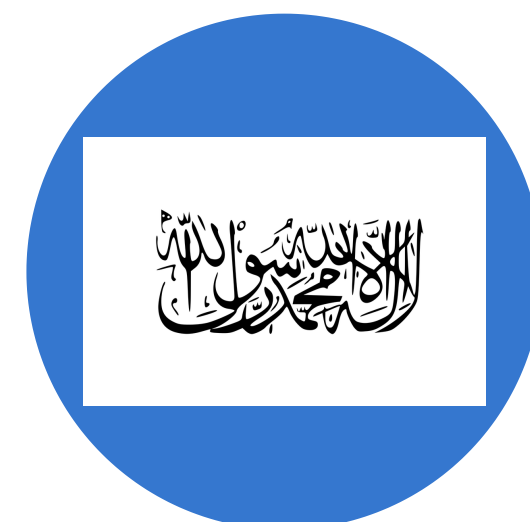
CAN THERE BE PEACE WITH THE TALIBAN?

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FACTORS LEADING TO THE PEACE TALKS

Over the past two years, a consensus from U.S. leaders has emerged that the war will not be won militarily, and that [peace negotiations are the only way for the U.S. to move forward.](#)

President Trump's goal is to [pull U.S. troops out of Afghanistan.](#)



PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PEACE PROCESS WITH THE TALIBAN

The president appointed Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad to a newly created position, ["U.S. Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation."](#)

The Trump Administration agreed to hold bilateral talks with the Taliban, **without involving the Afghan government.**

The Administration [worked with Pakistan](#) to bring Taliban leaders to the negotiating table.

The U.S. was willing to come to an agreement [largely on the Taliban's terms.](#)





CAN THERE BE PEACE WITH THE TALIBAN?



WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED OF THE AFGHAN-TALIBAN PEACE TALKS?

The peace talks will likely begin, but there will be **obstacles to their success**.

One impediment to successful peace talks is that the Taliban is coming to the table with [all of the leverage](#).

Unlike Afghanistan and the U.S., the Taliban is in no rush to make a deal because they are **winning on the battlefield**.

According to the U.S.-Taliban Agreement, the U.S. will pull troops out of Afghanistan by **April 2021**.

The key question remains: will the Taliban uphold their portion of the agreement that requires them to [sever ties with international terrorist groups](#)?

The Taliban **incentive structure is not stacked in favor** of peace negotiations.



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