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.

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.

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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.