

Involvement of the United States and the European Union in Afghanistan after 2001:  
Stabilization – Democratization – Reconstruction

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Abstract

The doctoral dissertation was written under the supervision of prof. UAM dr hab. Łukasz Donaj (assistant supervisor dr Klaudia Gołębiowska) it concerns the internal and external situation in Afghanistan after 2001. The main research problem is the involvement of the United States of America and the European Union in the process of stabilization, reconstruction and democratization in Afghanistan. Carrying out an extensive analysis allowed to answer several main research questions concerning, first of all, the role of the United States and the European Union in the development of Afghanistan. The support of the West turned out to be extremely important, especially in the context of creating Afghan security structures, economic reconstruction, reform of the judiciary, creating a new system of education and equality as well as the fight against terrorism and extremism. The main thesis of the dissertation, assuming that the United States and the European Union have supported Afghanistan since 2001, corresponds with several auxiliary hypotheses. Afghanistan, as a country that has always been dependent on Western aid, would not be able to try to build democratic structures by itself.

The author, using the most different research methods and sources (Polish, English and Persian), not only made an attempt to comprehensively examine political, social and economic phenomena, but he made also a detailed analysis of the situation in Afghanistan after 2001 and presented the current situation, i.e. after the Taliban took power in August 2021. The chronological and time scope of the dissertation covers over 20 years, which made it possible to present the issues of this area in detail and allowed to formulate conclusions. The research showed that Afghanistan, despite the support of Western countries, did not gain strong power, and internal divisions prevented reform in many areas of life. It seems that both the rulers and the citizens themselves were not ready for the changes that needed to be introduced in order to democratize Afghanistan at least a little. This is certainly what contributed to the weakness of the state and the consequent seizure of power by the Taliban. The political nature of the work allowed the author not only to present the long-term commitment of the United States and the European Union in the described area but also the current situation in Afghanistan.

Keywords: Afghanistan, the Taliban, the United States, the European Union, democratization, terrorism, Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, ISAF, NATO.