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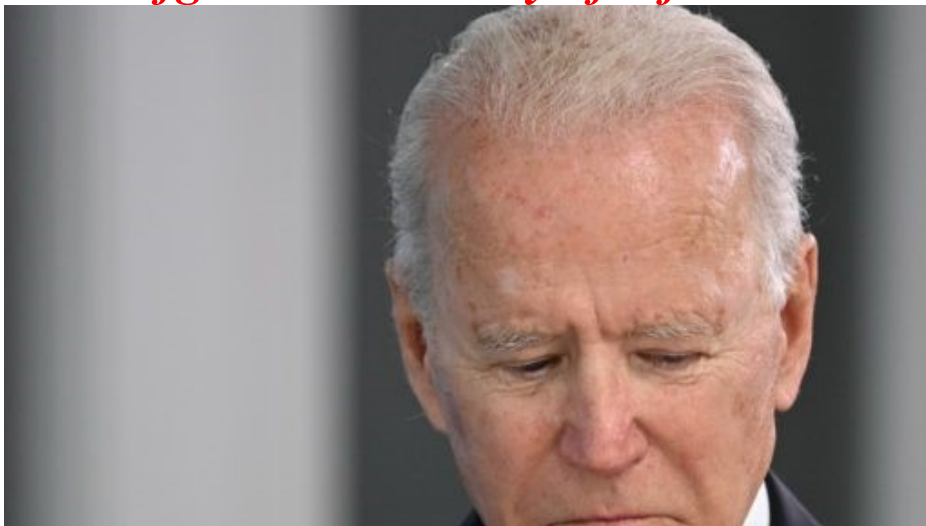
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Afghanistan: X-ray of a failure



Last week we analyzed the geopolitical repercussions that the defeat of the United States and NATO in Afghanistan could have. Of course, it is an evolving situation that still fails to show its true dimension. Hence, it seems justified the prominence that the issue has gained among analysts and politicians, obviously seen from dissimilar perspectives. To that extent, the superficiality, banality and even ignorance with which some of the Western leaders refer to the situation generated by their own stupidity that can be understood only as an expression of their imperial arrogance does not cease to cause deep astonishment. It causes uneasiness to see that the peace of the world is in the hands of this cabal of irresponsible. The "withdrawal" from Afghanistan has made this clear.



The "retreat"

In this regard, President Joe Biden has affirmed that the United States is carrying out one of the largest and most difficult evacuations in history, assuring that it is "the only country in the world capable of projecting so much force in such a remote place." In addition to being false, Biden displays all his ignorance in order to build a new narrative aimed at encouraging the work of Hollywood studios. Most likely, hundreds of films are already being screened – as in Vietnam – in which the American victory, the heroism of its soldiers and the genius of its generals will be shown, until a new Oliver Stone emerges and another film like "Platoon" denies and demystifies such a fallacy.



[Biden defends THE WITHDRAWAL OF US troops in Afghanistan/](#) SHAWN THEW

(EFE)

Will Biden know what happened at Dunkerke in late May 1940 where 330,000 troops had to be withdrawn to England? Has Biden known what happened in mid-October 1941 when the Soviet government and a significant part of the population were forced to leave Moscow at the time when Nazi troops were only 120 km from the capital?

These two events – which are the ones that come to mind now – were "difficult evacuations in history", they were made under the incessant attack and harassment of the German army, not after an agreement, the support and approval of the "enemy" which is what is happening now in Kabul. That is not the reason for the "Afghan disaster." Wanting to transform it into an epic event is nothing more than the clear sign of another facet of the defeat, to such an extent that Biden himself has admitted that although the objective is to organize a safe evacuation, he is aware of the risks, also accepting that he cannot promise "what the result will be". How is it possible that the president of the most powerful nation in the world that made an agreement to withdraw from Afghanistan, cannot promise good results from such a fact?

[PSL \(Party for Socialism and Liberation\) Statement: US-Backed Afghan Government Surrenders to Taliban](#)

Former President Trump himself, who was the "father" of the agreement, has expressed that: "Biden's failed exit from Afghanistan is the most astonishing demonstration of the most absolute incompetence on the part of the leader of a nation, perhaps of all time." I find it hard to agree on anything with Trump, but we can only admit that in this case, he is absolutely right.



[Trump calls the withdrawal from Afghanistan shameful and calls for Biden's resignation.](#) EFE/EPA/DAVID MAXWELL

In turn, one of the promoters and organizers of the NATO invasion of the Central Asian country, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, "bleeding from the wound" of his failed work has described the withdrawal as a "tragic, dangerous and unnecessary" movement, assuring that "it was not driven by a great strategy but by politics". In an open and intemperate criticism of Biden, Blair even allowed himself to assert that the forces withdrew "in obedience to an imbecile political slogan about the end of 'eternal wars,'" referring to Biden's name for the U.S. presence in West Asia. Blair said the decision to withdraw from the region will affect both Afghanistan itself and the West.

Despite only a little more than a week of the Taliban's occupation of Kabul, the ins and outs of failure are already beginning to be known. Yossi [Melman](#), a journalist specializing in intelligence issues and columnist for the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, said that the "important lesson that Israel must draw from this situation is that the era of American involvement in the Middle East is coming to an end."

The opinion of the Zionist communicator shows the impact that the American defeat is having on its allies.



The American newspaper The Hill published in Washington, has made a note on August 22 in which it mentions this situation. He says the debacle in Afghanistan "is causing a ripple effect of concern among allies who depend on Washington for their military protection." Such a sequel has been the subject of urgent debate in high political, military and intelligence spheres in Israel itself, in Taiwan, and in other countries such as South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, whose stability depends on the presence of the ARMED FORCES OF THE United States.

The concern expressed by U.S. allies went beyond national borders and reached Washington, where both White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and State Department spokesman Ned Price were forced to give proof of faith, assuring that the United States will fulfill the commitments made to its partners in the world.

The events in Afghanistan show a failure that is not only externalized in the military field given that the Taliban could not be defeated, it is also manifested in the diplomatic field in which the United States failed to inform its allies about the withdrawal plans.



[The Taliban's dizzying rise to power in Afghanistan came as a surprise to NATO, according to its secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg/Francisco](#) Seco/Reuters

In this sense, the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, said that for the organization it was a "total surprise" the arrival to power of the Taliban. Without hiding his stupor, the Atlantic leader said that: "The speed of the collapse of the Afghan political and military leaders and the Armed Forces was not foreseen," asserting that an evaluation was now necessary to know "what went wrong, as well as what we succeeded in."

In another unusual manifestation of lack of control and irresponsibility, he explained that he does not know what proportion of the weapons of the member countries of the organization remained in the hands of the Taliban after the departure of the alliance from the country. That is, today billions of dollars spent on weapons are under the control of unknown forces and can easily reach the terrorist organizations that NATO claimed to fight.

In another manifestation of the total absence of supervision that would have avoided the chaos and anarchy that prevails today in Kabul, the head of European Union diplomacy, Josep Borrell, has declared that it is "impossible" for the United States and its European

allies to evacuate their Afghan personnel and families from Kabul before August 31. blaming U.S. troops at the city's airport for hindering evacuation efforts.



[The EU considers it "impossible" to evacuate all its allies from Afghanistan before August 31 and blames the US for hindering the tasks](#)

This situation has created a new anxiety to the already inefficient US operation that has received like a bucket of cold water the declaration of the Taliban command that has assured that there will be no extension of the evacuation period that expires on August 31. In a development that could be laughable if the lives of thousands of innocent people, including women, the elderly and children, were at stake, Brussels has complained to the United States that its security at Kabul airport was too strict and hindered the entry of Afghans working for Europeans. "We have asked them to be more flexible," added a babbling Borrell in a typical demonstration of his mood when he heads to Washington.

The failure of the United States is also manifested in the field of the work of the intelligence agencies, although it is not known for sure which of the three usual mistakes the US government made in this area: if they applied the policy of false positives, that is, imaginary reports were prepared so that the bosses "were happy" in exchange for promotions, prizes and perks; if the reports were wrong because they didn't really know what was happening on the ground or, if they were correct but were dismissed by those who decide. In any of the three cases, the work of these entities that have multimillion-dollar budgets has ended in a gigantic fiasco.

Finally, it is a failure in the field of trust. It is clear that the United States is willing to accept any fact, however aberrant, as long as it aims to sustain its national security objectives. In this area they turned a blind eye [to eleven reports from the inspector general for the reconstruction of Afghanistan \(Sigar, for its acronym in English\)](#), a figure created in 2008 by Congress, which has come to verify that the growing injections of funds in the Central Asian country fell on deaf ears.

Likewise, twenty declassified documents were published last Friday, August 20, by the National Security Archive, an NGO linked to George Washington University, which reveals how sources on the ground permanently contradicted the optimism transmitted by the Pentagon in its reports.



The black hole of corruption that swallowed up america's trillion-dollar investment in
Afghanistan. John Moore/Getty

Today, when they have taken note of the irreversible disappearance of thousands of people, Afghans and foreigners and have spent 2.2 trillion dollars, which in the context seems like a lost fund investment, they tear their clothes, despite the fact that the growing corruption in the Central Asian country had been denounced in 2019 by John F. Sopko, the inspector general appointed by Barack Obama in 2012.

But the sensitivities around the leadership capacity of the United States were also brutally evident, after a statement by the same National Security Advisor when he explained that Washington was slow to evacuate Kabul – after the Taliban took control of the capital – for fear of triggering "a complete crisis of confidence" in the authorities of the previous government of Afghanistan. which, however, did not prevent collapse.

That is to say that already occupied Kabul by the Taliban, and President Ghani had already fled, the United States still thought that the puppet government was salvageable: a miscalculation of colossal dimensions that exposes the inability of a highly technical apparatus, endowed with great financial resources, but inefficient in superlative magnitude.

Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, August 25, 2021

Edited by María Piedad Ossaba

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