



**Fateh M. Sami**

**25/02/2025**

**Written by: Abdul Latif Pedram**

**Translated by: Fateh M. Sami**

## **Establishing a Federal System in Afghanistan: A Path to Unity, Justice, and Peace**

### **Foreword by Fateh Sami, the Translator**

Afghanistan (Khorasan) has struggled with political instability for many years. Centralized and monopolistic structures have dominated the political landscape, often driven by ethnic chauvinism, especially Pashtun nationalism. This model has prevented the country from forming a united nation-state. The collapse of the "Republican System" in August 2021 was a tragic outcome of this flawed system. Even with the presence of US-led coalition forces, the regime failed. Western nations supported the centralized, autocratic presidential government, offering military, financial, and moral support. However, they ignored the country's rural communities, low literacy rates, and vast disparities in economic, social, and political development. These imbalances, combined with Afghanistan's complex geopolitical situation, set the stage for systemic failure.

For nearly four years, the Taliban has ruled under the "Islamic Emirate." They have oppressed the population, severely restricting the rights of women and marginalized groups. The Taliban has forcibly displaced rural and indigenous communities, seizing their lands and creating Pashtun settlements. Additionally, they have systematically erased non-Pashtun identities and cultural symbols. This regime enforces discrimination, violence, and repression in every aspect of life. It is a totalitarian, chauvinistic, and fascist regime. We oppose this medieval

emirate, which contradicts universal human values, and we continue to resist by all possible means.



**Written by Latif Pedram**

## **The Leader of The National Congress Party of Afghanistan**

**Introduction:** Afghanistan has long been plagued by a political structure that excludes many of its people from participating in the power framework. This exclusion is rooted in the dominance of one ethnic group, the Pashtuns, and a centralized government that has historically ignored the needs and rights of rural, ethnic, and marginalized communities. The rise of the Taliban and their oppressive regime only deepens these divisions, as their totalitarian, Pashtun-centric rule has further alienated many Afghan citizens. In this context, establishing a federal system presents the most viable solution for uniting the country under a governance model that allows all people, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or social status, to have a voice in their future. Federalism offers a framework for equitable participation, peace, and development, aligning with Afghanistan's need for political, social, and cultural inclusivity.

## **The Failures of Centralized Power and the Rise of Federalism**

Over the past century, Afghanistan's political structure has remained centralized, and all attempts to establish a stable political system have been rooted in the dominance of Pashtun nationalism. This centralized system has been the primary cause of inequality, ethnic conflict, and the exclusion of many citizens from political participation. The collapse of the Republican System and the subsequent Taliban takeover have further highlighted the inherent flaws in a centralized system, demonstrating the urgent need for a new political model—federalism.

Federalism offers a pathway to decentralized power, enabling the diverse ethnic, cultural, and social groups in Afghanistan to coexist within a unified framework.

It allows for local autonomy while maintaining national unity, which can help heal the longstanding divisions and foster a sense of shared governance among all Afghan citizens.

## **Afghanistan's Identity Struggles and the Role of Ethnicity**

Afghanistan's identity struggle has intensified in recent years, especially after the Taliban's return to power. Ethnic tensions, historically simmering, have become more pronounced, and the battle over identity—particularly ethnic identity—has taken centre stage. The notion of majority and minority groups is misleading, as no comprehensive census has been conducted to determine the demographic breakdown of the population. Reports from the United Nations and other international bodies confirm that the Taliban's regime is primarily Pashtun-centric, marginalizing other ethnic groups, particularly Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, and others.

While some political figures try to downplay these ethnic divisions, the reality is clear: Afghanistan's diverse ethnic composition necessitates a system that reflects these differences. Federalism can provide a political structure that accommodates the country's ethnic diversity and ensures equal rights for all groups, no matter their size or historical influence.

## **The Necessity of Political Development for a Federal System**

To achieve a functioning federal system in Afghanistan, political development is critical. This involves reaching consensus on key national issues such as the relationship between religion and the state, the protection of fundamental rights, and the decentralization of political power. Without this development, Afghanistan cannot hope to achieve political stability, economic growth, or social prosperity.

A federal system will allow citizens to participate in decision-making processes at both local and national levels. It will create space for diverse voices and foster a more inclusive political culture, ensuring that every citizen—regardless of ethnicity, gender, or background—has a say in the governance of their country.

## **A Vision for the Future: Federalism as the Path to Stability**

The centralized systems of the past have failed Afghanistan. They have created cycles of violence, instability, and exclusion. Federalism offers a new path

forward—a path that recognizes Afghanistan’s diversity and ensures that all ethnic and social groups are represented and have an equal stake in the country’s future.

A federal system allows for shared governance, where local leaders can address the unique needs of their communities while contributing to the national framework. This decentralization of power will reduce ethnic and political tensions and allow for the peaceful coexistence of Afghanistan’s many different groups. It is the best possible model for overcoming the challenges that have plagued the country for decades.

## Conclusion

The future of Afghanistan hinges on its ability to overcome its deeply entrenched ethnic and political divisions. Centralized systems, such as those implemented by previous regimes, have failed to provide stability or unity. Instead, they have perpetuated cycles of exclusion, violence, and instability. A federal system offers a comprehensive solution, ensuring that all of Afghanistan’s diverse groups have a fair stake in governance and national development. By embracing federalism, Afghanistan can move beyond its historical divisions and work toward building a just, inclusive, and peaceful society. This vision is not just a theoretical ideal—it is a necessary step for the nation's future, one that requires the commitment of all Afghans to participate in building a modern, democratic state that respects its diversity and fosters shared prosperity.

## Relevant sources:

### **DE problematizing the Federal–Unitary Dichotomy: Insights from a Survey in Afghanistan**

This study examines public perceptions of federalism in Afghanistan, providing valuable insights into societal attitudes toward decentralized governance.

Available at: <https://academic.oup.com/publius/article/52/2/225/6511336>

### **Federalism, Afghan Style**

This chapter explores the concept of federalism within the Afghan context, discussing its potential and challenges in the country's unique political landscape.

Available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/informal-order-and-the-state-in-afghanistan/federalism-afghan-style/DF04A968A75E701DCCE3A5B0884596BC>

### **Afghanistan's Political History**

An overview of Afghanistan's political evolution, highlighting the centralization of power and its implications for governance. Available at:

[https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/5\\_Barfield\\_Incremental-Peace-in-Afghanistan-16-20.pdf](https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/5_Barfield_Incremental-Peace-in-Afghanistan-16-20.pdf)

### **Diversity, Human Rights, and Federalism: The Case of Afghanistan**

This article examines how federalism can address Afghanistan's diversity and human rights challenges, offering a theoretical framework for a federal system.

Available at: [https://www.gchrj.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/07.-AHMADI\\_GCHRJ\\_5.2.pdf](https://www.gchrj.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/07.-AHMADI_GCHRJ_5.2.pdf)

### **The Nature of the Afghan State: Centralization vs. Decentralization**

A discussion on the centralization of power in Afghanistan and the potential benefits of decentralization, including federalism. Available at:

[https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan-Peace-Process\\_Nature-of-the-Afghan-State\\_Centralization-vs-Decentralization.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan-Peace-Process_Nature-of-the-Afghan-State_Centralization-vs-Decentralization.pdf)