

**News Coverage of US Withdrawal from Afghanistan: A Study of the Dawn, New York Post and Afghanistan Times (14th April – 31st August 2021)**

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**Abstract:** *The aim of the present study is to investigate the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in the news coverage of Pakistani newspaper Dawn, U.S. newspaper New York Post and Afghanistan newspaper Afghanistan Times during the period 14th April to 31st August 2021 in accordance with their foreign policy. The purpose of the study how the newspapers of three major stakeholder countries cover the withdrawal in the light of their respective national interest. The interest of these countries differs from one another in terms of foreign policy. Media is the fourth pillar of the state; the media can be a great way to promote any policy. Agenda-setting theory and media framing theory plays an important role in giving importance to certain aspects of news and ignoring certain aspects according to the set agenda. A mixed methods approach combination of qualitative and quantitative content analysis was used and three newspapers coverage was chosen. A total of 229 news were extracted. The results indicate that the news coverage contents of Pakistani, American, and Afghanistan newspapers are in accordance with their foreign policy. Results show each country's media presents international issues pertaining to foreign policy in accordance with the national interest.*

**Key Words:** U.S Withdrawal, Foreign Policy, Newspapers, News Coverage, Media Framing

## Introduction

NATO and American forces end the longest war in Afghanistan after 19 years and 10 months. After a long presence of American armed forces, the Taliban have returned to power. The study intends to find out whether the press of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States has covered the news of the withdrawal of U.S. troops in accordance with their foreign policy. These

three countries were directly and indirectly involved in this war. The war in Afghanistan began in response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. After the Soviet Union withdraw from Afghanistan in 1989. And the fall of the Afghan Communist government in 1992, a long civil war broke out between different factions of anti-communist Afghan fighters who called

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themselves Mujahedeen. Maintaining control of Afghanistan until 1979 became an important strategic goal for the Soviet Union leadership for two reasons. This year marked the beginning of a radical Islamic revolution in Iran. It threatened to spread to the Muslim world, especially the Muslim parts of the Soviet Union near Iran. In the Soviet Union's view, a stable Afghan government could act as a deterrent to the spread of the threat of an Islamic revolution. Second, in 1979 Poland saw the rise of the Solidarity Labor Union. It was a very different movement but a threat to an almost Soviet empire. A strong military action in Afghanistan for the Soviet leadership would send a message to the poles and other Eastern European satellites that the Soviet Union would take action against any force trying to deviate from Soviet orbit. Eventually, the Soviet Union could not maintain its hold on Afghanistan and withdrew its troops in 1989. Then the communist government was established in Afghanistan and fell in 1992. Mujahedeen groups fighting the Soviet Union fought among themselves, provoking the Afghan civil war. The US response to the 9/11 attacks was quite different from past US policies on terrorism. Unlike Libya-sponsored incidents or previous al-Qaeda bombings, the September morning attacks were aimed at highlighting signs of US power inside the country. Al-Qaeda hijackers inflict far more casualties than previous terrorist attacks. Despite policy theories, the Bush administration considered large-scale military action immediately after the scale of the 9/11 attacks became apparent. Bush vows to bring full US power to war in Afghanistan, calling terrorist attacks a war rather than a crime. In this way, the military will lead operations against al-Qaeda instead of playing a limited role as in the past. The United States started the war in Afghanistan and this operation was called the Enduring freedom operation. On 7 October 2001, US

and British forces began a heavy bombardment of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

The United States withdraw its forces without a plan, the longest war in our history. In his campaign, President Biden pledged to end America's 'Wars Forever'. On 14 April 2021, President Biden announced that it was time for US troops to come home and the United States will fulfill its commitments under the February 2020 agreement. The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan will take place on 31 August 2021. This war has been presided over by four American presidents. And despite the loss of countless American lives, there was no hope of defending a country that its own people did not. All of this is a powerful justification for America's decision to repatriate its remaining troops. While explaining this decision; Biden said that the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan was due to U.S. security concerns. "Bin Laden is dead and Al Qaida is in decline in Iraq and Afghanistan. He argued that the threat of terrorism had metastasized to a global trend. The country has to fight with new technology, not with thousands of soldiers. He said the United States must be free to meet the most pressing challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century including compared to Russia and China. On the situation in Afghanistan, he said he did not see when the right time would come to know how the U.S. military presence would change one year, two years, and ten years and did not know. Biden told the nation, the Taliban takeover of Kabul was blamed on the Afghan army and its government for lacking the will to fight and defend them" (Brown , 2021). In Feb 2019, then-US President Donald Trump hinted that he would pull the United States out of the never-ending wars. His administration reached an agreement with the United States and the Taliban in Feb 2020. It was decided that the United States would reduce its forces and withdraw all its forces by 1 May 2021. During his campaign, President

Biden promised to end the war in the Middle East forever. While it has withdrawn US troops from Afghanistan, the manner in which it was implemented has been widely criticized. After the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, Biden says Washington will continue to support Afghan security forces and the peace process. The United States will continue its Afghanistan aid program and provide refugees for vulnerable Afghans. US Secretary of state Antony Blinken says US forces will help expel Afghans who worked with the US. Future US engagements in Afghanistan focused on diplomacy (Curtis, 2022).

Pakistan has played an important role in the war on terror and played the role of the frontline state. After the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration asked Musharraf to work out a coalition strategy. In the war on terror, Pakistan had no option but to join the global coalition. Zia-ul-Haq's alliance in the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and Musharraf's alliance as a frontline ally in the war on terror had a profound effect on Pakistan. As a key ally, Pakistan has provided logistical, transit, and basing support to coalition forces in the fight against terrorism. Pakistan helped the United States and its NATO forces crush the Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan, and later regional terrorist groups in Pakistan\_ (Katz, 2020). There is a long history of strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is explained by five recurring stimuli: geography, politics, security interests, border relations, communication, and trade. These dynamics shaped the prospects for stability in Afghanistan and the wider region. Bilateral relations will thus have a long-term impact on security, and political and economic dynamics, either after the conflict reached a stalemate or after the formation of a new government. Concerns over sovereignty, security interests, and the geopolitical dynamics here have prevented relations between the two neighbors from growing

cold-tolerant. The definition of which is trustworthy mistrust on both sides. The other two cross-border links, connection, and trade offer glimpses of opportunities for both sides that relations should be improved (Threlkeld and Easterly, [2021](#)).

## **Objectives of the Study**

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1. To examine the impact of the foreign policy of America on the coverage of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in the daily New York Post.
2. To explore the impact of the foreign policy of Pakistan on the coverage of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in the daily The Dawn.
3. To find out the impact of the foreign policy of Afghanistan on the coverage of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in the daily Afghanistan Times.

## **Significance of the Study**

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This study explains how the press of three countries; America, Pakistan, and Afghanistan covered the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. It also sheds light on the differences in the press of the three countries involved. There are a significant number of studies that had been conducted on the issue of the war on terror but this study intends to find out whether the press of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States has covered the news of the withdrawal of U.S. troops in accordance with their foreign policy. These findings can contribute to filling the practical gap. So, the students, journalists, academia, and policymakers would be aware of how the media of different countries frame the same issue. And as to how the applications of framing strategies brought a change in the content and presentation of the issue in media.

## Research Questions

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- RQ<sub>1</sub>:** Does the New York Post cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in accordance with the foreign policy of America?
- RQ<sub>2</sub>:** Does the Dawn cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in accordance with the foreign policy of Pakistan?
- RQ<sub>3</sub>:** Does the Afghanistan Times cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in accordance with the foreign policy of Afghanistan?

## Research Gap

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Most of the studies have been done on media coverage during wartime and less work has been done in this regard after the withdrawal, however, this study basically deals with media coverage ranging from the decision to withdraw war on the Taliban to its complete U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. This is one of few studies to find out the press coverage of the withdrawal of the war in three separate countries: Pakistan, the United States, and Afghanistan. The facts of the news coverage have been reviewed in light of the three countries' foreign policies.

## Review of Literature

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This study is about reviewing the news coverage of different newspapers on the United States' decision to withdraw from the war in Afghanistan. The researcher has done a systematic literature review. The researcher has divided the literature review into relevant categories.

The literature regarding the U.S. war withdrawal from Afghanistan; After the 11 September 2001 attacks, the United States played a key role in the war on terrorism by attacking the government of Taliban and al-Qaida, who provided protection to al-Qaida in Afghanistan. A broad commitment by the

US and its allies to rebuild Afghanistan, combined with the threat of new global terrorism, prolongs the war. The US explains the withdrawal of security forces from Afghanistan and an end to the ongoing war. The media and press of Pakistan and America covered this war process according to its effect on them. After the withdrawal of U.S. forces, the prospects for Afghanistan and the relatively broad results are estimated. But one thing all these studies have in common is that most are written from a foreign perspective and do not represent the local voices of Afghans (Ayalon *et al.*, 2021; Din *et al.*, 2021; Elham *et al.*, 2021; Giustozzi 2021). An investigation into the hidden reasons behind these imposed wars, and the major work of untruths and cover-ups is yet to be seen. U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan could end U.S. engagements, but it would not end the war for Afghanistan.

Several scholars have studied historical context; (Gillani, 2019; Slavin, 2019; Safdar *et al.*, 2018; Cohen, 2014; Davidson, 2014; Soherwordi, 2012; Cortright, 2011). These studies highlight lessons from Afghanistan's recent history and discuss their relevance to Afghanistan's future. The United States plans to withdraw from Afghanistan; regional actors are reviewing the strategy and planning for the future. Today, Afghanistan is a painful memory for Russia and a threat to its desired regional dominance in Central Asia. For more than two decades, U.S. policymakers have been instrumental in the current struggle to end Soviet military engagements and stabilize Afghanistan. The consequences of NATO involvement in Afghanistan will play a significant role in dealing with neighboring states and the west, especially the Tajiks and Uzbeks who have controlled the Northern Alliance and their relations with Russia. Obama administration appears to have played a role in fulfilling the U.S. agenda in Afghanistan, killing Osama bin Laden, breaking the back of terrorism in the region,

and rebuilding and democratizing Afghanistan.

Numerous studies on the American perspective on war (Brenner and Wallin, [2021](#); Hakansson, [2021](#); Kamai, [2021](#); Tariq *et al.*, [2021](#); Baizakova, [2020](#); Dobbins *et al.*, 2019). Analysis of the war in Afghanistan from different perspectives is nothing new in the study of international relations. One aspect of the Afghan war that has been studied so far is the withdrawal of troops and civilians and why it happened in August 2021 and not before or after. The study also explains the Biden administration's decision to continue withdrawing troops and civilians from Afghanistan even though the threat of Taliban capture was imminent. In fact, most foreign policy and strategic experts say the United States has a tendency to make strategic blunders. Apart from its futile intervention in Iraq from 2003 to 2011 after the end of the Cold War, the most obvious geopolitical upheaval is now the decision to leave the Hindu Kush by 11 Sep 2021. For the past decade or so, the entire U.S. administration has been desperate to end wars forever. This is commendable but stepping out of a poor masculine and impoverished nation and letting go of the heat altogether gives hardly any credit to America. Such a decision, on the other hand, undermines the credibility of any cohesive strategy or success in dealing with global issues.

Some studies have related the Afghan perspective on war (Thomas, [2021](#); Cordesman, [2020](#); Tariq *et al.*, [2020](#)). Peace that the United States is seeking in Afghanistan, there are many warning signs that this peace effort could in fact be an attempt to provide a similar political cover for the U.S. withdrawal. The way the United States talked about a peace settlement in Vietnam. U.S. policymakers are taking current peace efforts in Afghanistan

seriously and are confident they can succeed.

Several types of research, reviews, and reports on Pakistan's perspective on war; challenges, and implications for the region in relation to the beginning and instability of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. An unexpected uprising by the Taliban and Militants after ten years of operation enduring freedom has prompted U.S. and coalition forces to negotiate with all forces in Afghanistan for a better future for local people and global security. U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan and highlights the implications of the withdrawal for the region in general and for Pakistan in particular (Hussain and Munawar, [2017](#); Munir and Shafiq, [2016](#); Akbar, [2015](#); Hussain and Jahanzaib, [2015](#); Sultana, [2015](#); Safdar, [2015](#)).

A wide range of literature exists here on the role of newspapers; Media presents different representations of war and peace in Afghanistan. The studies show that the media follow official foreign policies. The US decided to fight terrorism after the September 11 attacks. Many countries collaborated with the US in this conflict, and Pakistan became one of the vital allies in the war on terror. Newspapers used media framing theory to provide positive editorials about the war on terror (Dar and Ali, [2015](#); Jawad, [2013](#); Akhtar, [2013](#); Noureen and Paracha, [2011](#)).

The findings of the studies, which were related to the variables of the present study, are discussed in this chapter. These research studies contributed to the rational development of the present study.

## **Theoretical Framework**

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This research work draws a theoretical framework from Walter Lippmann's agenda-setting theory and Robert Entman's framing theory. Agenda setting theory (1920) describes the powerful effects of the media. It has the ability to tell which issues

are important. There is strong evidence of the impact of the media agenda on two levels: what are the most important topics of the day, and public perceptions of its implications for specific aspects of these topics (Mccombs and Guo, 2014). Robert Entman (1993) introduced media framing as a strong concept that emphasizes the portrayal of a particular issue. Media framing puts reality in this way, which not only influences public opinion but also serves the purpose of a particular group. In this study, the researcher uses the theory to understand how the media framing technique used by newspapers in America, Pakistan, and Afghanistan supported the foreign policies of their respective countries on the coverage of the withdrawal of war from Afghanistan (Abreu, 2015).

### **Research Design/ Methodology**

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The method of research that will be used mixed methods research approach, which will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The research used content analysis techniques to analyze the framing of three dailies, Dawn, New York Post, and Afghanistan Times on the issue of US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

### **Slant**

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Slant is a tone of subject matter that indicates how the subject is being presented. The topic is a key variable for investigating media coverage, but it is not enough to draw conclusions, which is why the content is investigated. Slants are given below:

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

### **Population**

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In this study, the population includes the American newspaper 'New York Post', Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn', and Afghanistan's newspaper 'Afghanistan

Times'. Selected newspapers were examined for five months from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. The period from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, when the president of the U.S. Mr. Biden announced the withdrawal from the war in Afghanistan, took a period until the complete withdrawal of the war from the end of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

### **Sample**

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The researcher chose the purposive sampling technique of non-probability sampling in which the researcher selects will be first and last pages of daily newspaper coverage about U.S. troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan. The sample of this study included all the news using the word "U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan" in the headline or leading paragraph in these selected newspapers from 14<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

### **Inter-coder Reliability of the Research Instrument**

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Inter-coder reliability is the way in which two different researchers agree on a way to code the same material. It is often used for content analysis. When one of the purposes of analysis for the research is to aim for consistency and validity. Holsti (1969) introduced a formula to test the reliability of results.

### **Reliability**

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$$R = \frac{2M}{N1+N2} \quad R = \frac{2(M)}{N1+N2}$$

R=Reliability

M= Number of Common findings of all the two coders regarding News Coverage

N1= Number of News Coverage evaluated by coder number 1

N2= Number of News Coverage evaluated by coder number 2

Reliability of Daily “The Dawn”

$$R = \frac{2(42)}{45+45}$$

$$R = \frac{84}{90}$$

0.93

Reliability of Daily “New York Post”

$$R = \frac{2(138)}{1150 + 150}$$

$$R = \frac{276}{300}$$

0.92

Reliability of Daily “Afghanistan Times”

$$R = \frac{2(30)}{34 + 34}$$

$$R = \frac{62}{68}$$

0.91

The researchers presented the coding sheet to two different coders who are experts in the field. According to both coders, the categories are mutually exhaustive and mutually cohesive.

**Results**

This research presented a content analysis of 229 news coverage on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan appearing in the daily Dawn, New York Post, and Afghanistan Times during the selected period of five months 14<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. Researchers collect data according to four different frames Pro-US, Pro-Taliban, Anti-U.S, and Anti-Taliban. Research get the results in these newspapers, daily Dawn published a total of 45 news, daily New York Post published a total of 150 news and the daily Afghanistan Times published a total of 34 news on the issue of U.S Withdrawal from Afghanistan during this period.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table 1**

*Total News Coverage of Daily Dawn, New York Post, and Afghanistan Times 14<sup>th</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021*

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Dawn	45	19.7
New York Post	150	65.5
Afghanistan Times	34	14.8
Total	229	100.0

Table 1 shows the total news coverage of daily Dawn, the New York Post, and Afghanistan Times on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan coverage from 14<sup>th</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

The total number of news coverage of these three newspapers daily Dawn, New York Post, and Afghanistan Times regarding the U.S withdrawal from

Afghanistan Times 229 in number from 14<sup>th</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, out of this news coverage 45 (19.7) are published in daily Dawn, 150 (65.5) are published in daily New York Post and 34 (14.8) are published in daily Afghanistan Times.

Total Frequencies of Framing in the Coverage of daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”

**Table 2**

*Total Frequencies of Framing in the Coverage of daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”*

<b>Frames</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pro-U.S	55	24.0
Pro-Taliban	27	11.8
Anti-U.S	48	21.0
Anti-Taliban	99	43.2
Total	229	100.0

Table 2 shows the Pro-US Framing 55 (24.0) news coverage found in terms of the Pro US Frame. Similarly, Pro-Taliban Framing 27 (11.8) news coverage was found in terms of Pro Taliban, Anti-US Framing 48 (21.0) news coverage was found in terms of Anti US and

Anti-Taliban Framing 99 (43.2) news coverage was found in terms of Anti Taliban. Total Frequencies of Slant in the Coverage of daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”

**Table 3**

*Total Slanting of daily “Dawn”*

<b>Frames</b>	<b>Slants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pro-U.S	12	26.7%
Pro-Taliban	12	26.7%
Anti-U.S	7	15.6%
Anti-Taliban	14	31.1%
Total	45 (100%)	100%

Table 3 shows the daily Dawn distribution of the news coverage of 45 (100%) among “Pro-U.S” out of 12 (26.7%) news in the terms of positive and negative, “Pro-Taliban” out of 12 (26.7%) news in the terms

of positive and negative, “Anti-U.S” out of 7 (15.6%) news in the terms of positive and negative, and “Anti-Taliban” out of 14 (31.1%) news in the terms of positive and negative.

**Table 4**

*Total Slanting of Daily “New York Post”*

<b>Frames</b>	<b>Slants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pro-U.S	37	24.7%
Pro-Taliban	6	4.0%
Anti-U.S	37	24.7%
Anti-Taliban	70	46.7%
Total	150(100%)	100%

Table 4 shows the daily New York Post distribution of the news coverage of 150 (100%) “Pro-U.S” out of 37 (24.7%) news in the terms of positive and negative, “Pro-Taliban” out of 6 (4.0%) news in the terms

of positive and negative, “Anti-U.S” out of 37 (24.7%) news in the terms of positive and negative, and “Anti-Taliban” out of 70 (46.7%) news in the terms of positive and negative.

**Table 5**

*Total Slanting of Afghanistan Times*

Frames	Slants	Percent
Pro-U.S	6	17.6%
Pro-Taliban	9	26.5%
Anti-U.S	4	11.8%
Anti-Taliban	15	44.1%
Total	34(100%)	100%

Table 5 shows the daily Afghanistan Times distribution of the news coverage of 34 (100%) among “Pro-U.S” out of 6 (17.6%) news in the terms of positive and negative, “Pro-Taliban” out of 9 (26.5%) news in the terms of positive and negative, “Anti-U.S” out of 4 (11.8%) news in the terms of

positive and negative, and “Anti-Taliban” out of 15 (44.1%) news in the terms of positive and negative.

Comparison of News Coverage in the daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”

**Table 6.**

*Comparison of News Coverage in the daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”*

Newspaper	Positive	Percent	Negative	Percent
Dawn	37	82.22%	8	17.78%
New York Post	127	84.67%	23	15.33%
Afghanistan Times	28	82.35%	6	17.65%

Table 6 shows the daily Dawn published 37 (82.22%) positive news according to frames and 8 (17.78%) negative news on U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan whereas the daily New York Post had given 127 (84.67%) positive news and 23 (15.33%) negative

news regarding U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan Similarly daily Afghanistan Times published 28 (82.35%) positive news and 6 (17.65%) negative news on U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan.

**Table 7**

*Comparison of Frames News Coverage in the daily “Dawn”, “New York Post” and “Afghanistan Times”*

Frame	Pro-U.S			Pro-Taliban			Anti-U.S			Anti-Taliban		
Slants	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral
News Coverage Dawn	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	4	3	0	4	10

News Coverage NYP	0	2	35	0	3	3	0	16	21	0	2	68
News Coverage AT	0	0	6	0	2	7	0	0	4	0	4	11

Table 7 shows the overall comparison of the daily Dawn, New York Post, and Afghanistan Times, the following results are found. Daily Dawn news coverage use frame Pro-US, Pro-Taliban, Anti-US, and Anti-Taliban on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. There are Pro-U.S gave news 12 (100%) in positive, 0 is negative, and 0 is neutral. Similarly, Pro-Taliban gave news is 12 (100%) positive, 0 negative, and 0 neutral. Whereas Anti-U.S gave news are 3 (42.9%) in positive, 4 (57.1%) in negative, and 0 in neutral. Similarly, Anti-Taliban gave news are 10 (71.4%) in positive, 4 (28.6%) in negative, and 0 in neutral.

Daily New York Post news coverage use frame Pro-US, Pro-Taliban, Anti-US, and Anti-Taliban on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. There are Pro-U.S gave news 35 (94.6%) in positive, 2 (5.4%) in negative, and 0 in neutral. Similarly, Pro-Taliban gave the news 3 (50%) in positive, 3 (50%) in negative, and 0 in neutral. Whereas Anti-U.S gave news are 21 (56.8%) positive, 16 (43.2%) negative, and 0 neutral. Similarly, Anti-Taliban gave news are 68 (97.1%) in positive, 2 (2.9%) negative, and 0 neutral.

Daily Afghanistan Times news coverage uses frames Pro-US, Pro-Taliban, Anti-US, and Anti-Taliban on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. There are Pro-U.S gave news 6 (100%) in positive, 0 is negative, and 0 is neutral. Similarly, Pro-Taliban gave news are 7 (77.8%) in positive, 2 (22.2%) in negative, and 0 in neutral. Whereas Anti-U.S gave news are 4 (100%) in positive, 0 in negative, and 0 in neutral. Similarly, Anti-Taliban gave news are 11 (73.3%) in positive, 4 (26.7%) in negative, and 0 in neutral.

### **Findings (Testing Research Questions)**

**RQ:** Does the New York Post cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in

accordance with the foreign policy of America?

According to the results: After the decision to withdraw from the war in Afghanistan, press coverage of US-Afghan relations remained consistent with U.S. foreign policy. News coverage of Afghan relations in U.S newspapers New York Post was higher than before the decision to withdraw from the war. News coverage of the New York Post supports U.S. foreign policy regarding Afghan relations following the U.S. decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. Table 4 shows that the U.S. daily newspaper New York Post covered 150 news stories from the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan to the full withdrawal. Among them, 37 (24.7%) were Pro-US, 6 (4.0%) were Pro-Taliban, 37 (24.7%) were Anti-US and 70 (46.7%) were Anti-Taliban. The New York Post coverage gave more prominence to American policy and more coverage against the Taliban regime. The New York Post uses derogatory language portraying the Taliban as dominant forces and demoralizing the Afghan government and security forces. It also blames the Afghan people for the war in its news. Therefore, the American press supported the American foreign policy regarding Afghan relations after the decision of the Americans withdraws from Afghanistan.

**RQ:** Does the Dawn cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in accordance with the foreign policy of Pakistan?

According to the results: the Pakistani daily newspaper Dawn supports Pakistan's foreign policy regarding Afghan and U.S. relations after the decision to U.S withdraw from Afghanistan to full withdrawal. Table 3 shows that the Pakistani Newspaper daily

Dawn covered 45 news stories from the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan to the full withdrawal. Among them, 12 (26.7%) were Pro-US, 12 (26.7%) were Pro-Taliban, 7 (15.6%) were Anti-US and 14 (31.1%) were Anti-Taliban. Pakistan is a peaceful country and Pakistan has prioritized peace in view of its foreign policy both with of U.S. and Afghanistan. In its foreign policy, Pakistan has made a stand to play an important role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and development in the region. It is for this reason that the findings of the present study reflect the situation that daily Dawn presented equal positions in favor of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and in favor of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. That is why the Pakistani newspaper daily Dawn officially gave coverage according to Pakistan's foreign policy on the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

**RQ3:** Does the Afghanistan Times cover the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan in accordance with the foreign policy of Afghanistan?

According to the results: In Afghanistan daily newspaper, Afghanistan Times gave equal coverage to the Afghan government, the US-led coalition, and the Taliban government, looking at the foreign policy of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and until the full withdrawal. Table 5 shows that the Afghanistan Newspaper daily Afghanistan Times covered 34 news stories from the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan to the full withdrawal. Among them, 6 (17.6%) were Pro-US, 9 (26.5%) were Pro-Taliban, 4 (11.8%) were Anti-US and 15 (44.1%) were Anti-Taliban. The daily Afghanistan Times presented an equal position in favor of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and in favor of the Taliban government in Afghanistan and did not use any kind of aggressive language. The decision to withdraw from the war did not

receive any significant coverage in the Afghanistan Times. Afghanistan's foreign policy depends on the formation of a new government after the withdrawal from the war.

## **Conclusion**

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In the present study, the researcher has tried to find out the press of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States has covered the news of the withdrawal of U.S. troops in accordance with their foreign policy furthermore how the newspapers of three major stakeholders countries cover the withdrawal in the light of their respective national interest.

The findings clear that; the daily New York Post, Dawn, and Afghanistan Times gave more Coverage of the withdrawal of U.S. troops in accordance with their foreign policy. America, Pakistan, and Afghanistan; each country's media presents international issues pertaining to foreign policy in accordance with the national interest and defined policies of the government in order to safeguard the interests of the states they represent.

## **Policy Implication**

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The present study has great potential in its implications for further researchers. This area is fertile enough to work on it. War is a phenomenon, which has long-term implications even after it is over. US withdrawal from Afghanistan will have profound effects on human rights, Afghan security forces, terrorism, great power competition, regional dynamics, and humanitarian issues. Researchers can examine Afghan power politics from different perspectives. There is a lot of room for researchers to look at postwar Afghanistan politically, economically, and socially. There is also a psychological effect of war that should be studied after the withdrawal.

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