




OPEN PEER REVIEW

# Analysis of Internal Conflicts in Afghanistan from the Perspective of Ethnic Elites in the Last Two Decades

Hadisa. Ahmadi<sup>1</sup>  Morteza. Noormohammadi<sup>2\*</sup>  Seyedreza. Mousavinia<sup>3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> PhD, Department of Political Science, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences Allameh Tabataba'i University

\* Corresponding author email address: mnourmohammadi@atu.ac.ir

Received: 2024-02-29

Revised: 2024-04-19

Accepted: 2024-04-24

Published: 2024-04-29

## EDITOR:

Nabeel Bani-Hani 

Faculty of Education Specialization, Wasit University, Wasit, Iraq

nabeelhani@uowasit.edu.iq


## REVIEWER 1:

Patrika Handique 

Patent Information Centre, Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre, Chhattisgarh Council of Science & Technology, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Patriandique@gmail.com

## REVIEWER 2:

Muhammad Abdul Rahman 

Department of Humanities, Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

muhammadrahman@ntu.edu.sg

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The explanation of elite competition theory is useful, but the connection between this theory and the empirical findings of the study needs further clarification. Consider elaborating on how this theory guided the interpretation of your data.

While the methodology section describes the sampling process well, more detail on how the questionnaire was designed and pre-tested would improve transparency and allow replication by future researchers.

The sample is drawn from multiple provinces, but the rationale for selecting these specific provinces (e.g., Sar-e Pol, Jowzjan) is not provided. Explaining this would clarify whether the sample is truly representative of the Afghan population.

The analysis of the government's role in internal conflicts ( $R^2 = 0.152$ ) suggests that it has the most substantial influence. Consider discussing why the government has such a strong impact relative to other factors and the possible implications for policy.

The comparison of internal and external factors is crucial, but the analysis would be stronger with more explicit comparisons between different external actors' influences (e.g., how does Pakistan's influence compare with Iran's?).

The discussion on external actors, particularly the United States, Iran, and Pakistan, lacks sufficient depth. Consider expanding on the specific roles these countries play in exacerbating internal conflicts, using historical or contemporary examples.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement "Afghanistan has consistently attracted the attention of global powers" is important but lacks specific examples. Consider expanding with concrete historical instances (e.g., Cold War rivalries) to strengthen the context.

The brief overview of Afghanistan's internal conflicts is useful, but it could benefit from a more in-depth analysis of key events, such as the rise of the Taliban. This would help ground the reader in the specific dynamics of the last two decades.

The data on ethnic group differences is compelling, but consider providing more detailed analysis on why Pashtun perspectives differ significantly from other ethnic groups. This could enhance the discussion of ethnic nationalism.

The  $R^2$  value of 0.073 in the regression table on ethnic nationalism indicates a relatively low explanatory power. You might want to discuss the implications of this finding more thoroughly, including whether other variables might better explain the variance.

The concept of "ethnic nationalism" is central to your study but is not well-defined. Consider providing a clear definition, especially in the context of Afghanistan, to avoid ambiguity.

The gender disparity in your sample (72.5% male) should be acknowledged as a limitation, as it may affect the generalizability of the results. Consider discussing how this skewed sample might influence your findings.

The policy recommendations are insightful but could benefit from further specificity. For example, when recommending "reforming flawed governmental policies," what specific reforms do you suggest?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.