

# Durand treaty and the Process of Afghanistan Political Borders Formation

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**Abstract:** *the current political borders of Afghanistan are procrustean, which the Russia and Great Britain competition and disputation during 19<sup>th</sup> century have been affected on its formation. Unlike direct confrontation between of these two superpowers during that period they appoint Afghanistan as a buffer area between themselves in several treaties. This paper aim is to analyze the manner of the consolidation and determination of Afghanistan political borders under the affection of those two powers. The issue which mostly discussed in this paper is the Durand borderline which is procrustean on Afghanistan political geography.*

**Keywords:** *Political Borders, Superpowers Game, Durand Treaty.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Every variation in natural geography even it is less or more, effects on political, economic and cultural life on that country, mostly military – political conflicts has geographical origin. If government’s officials did not pay serious attention on geographical facts, it will be change to the unsecure political – military regions (Kaliens, 1379, p.78). Therefore, scientist and politician mentioned the role of geography in society and politics, and geographical phenomenon’s importance in foreign policies, therefore, Napoleon said that the politics of country is related to its geography, Herdort in History book, Aristo in Politics books and Montisko in antecedent book, also discussed about this determinant issue (Mansoori, 1377, p.59). The most important issue in geopolitics is the type, form and location of the political borders. Form and location of countries, which related to the consolidation of the political borders, its determine the geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economics of countries, and play an important role in military and political changes. The base of most wars and conflicts between countries, exclusively among neighbors the issue of the determination and consolidation of borders, which caused national and international threats. Therefore; Robert Frost said: the relation between neighbors belong to their suitable borders. Most countries have borders problems, in most cases these problems caused of wars, for example border problems between India and Pakistan in Kashmir case, between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Durant case, Kuwait and Greece, Libya and Chad, Yamen and Saudi Arabia and.. If we have a glance to the Afghanistan history, we can see that the Afghanistan borders have variation because of political changes, sometimes the borders were very big, sometimes too small. At the past politician thought that the sovereignty and power of a country is related to its vastness contrariwise if a country is small its power is limited and have not prestige in international relation.

Afghanistan’s current borderline problems are the reasons of Russia and Great Britain conflict, because Great Britain wanted to reach other side of Ammo River and Russia wanted to reach the warms waters of India’s ocean. Afghanistan was between two countries which want have colonies, these two countries play an important role in shaping Afghanistan borderlines, due to their colonial programs.

## 2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

### 2.1 Main questions

- What was the reasons of signing Durand borderline treaty signing?
- Which problems have been made to the political geography of Afghanistan and Pakistan by signing this treaty.

### 2.2 Secondary question:

- In which circumstance the Durand treaty have been signed?
- How many geography of Afghanistan has been lost?

## 3. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS:

Durand borderline is the only a treaty between that time Afghan rulers and Great Britain government in last decade of 19<sup>th</sup> century for determining Afghanistan borders. Afghanistan east borders were always as a friction spot between Afghanistan and British India, the result of that friction for afghan rulers was losing parts of their land.

## 4. RESTRICTION OF AFGHANISTAN BORDERS AND TWO SUPER POWERS GAME:

Afghanistan borders have not stability, during it five thousand years’ history, due to political issues sometimes it was too large and sometimes small. Vastness of Afghanistan borders line in specific period of history considered the counts as a symbol of power, political sovereignty and prestige in international relation. Unlike restriction of

Afghanistan borderlines is the result of alien's aggressions which made Afghanistan a land lock country that have caused too many economic and geographical problems. During Great Kathrin's period Great Britain wanted to colonize India and Russia wanted to attack on Afghanistan and Iran from Qafqaz side, this issue (aggression of Russia from Qafqaz side) has been cancelled, but reaching that news to the East India Company, caused anxiety of East India company's managers, and also Napoleon, after succession in Europe, proposed Tizar to attack on India and bring out it from Great Britain sovereignty (Hayrick, 1379, p.16). English rulers have been understood that Russia can easily attack on India to seize it from Afghanistan path. Afghan and Iranian emperor have proved this issue in the past. English rulers realized this issue very well, so they wanted to have good relations with Afghanistan and Afghan rulers, that was the time that Afghanistan was in internal wars and did not have an independent and centralized government. This was the situation that that they can implement a policy which named divisive and rule, and the result they wanted from this policy, Afghanistan not have a strong and anti- English government. It seems after that Afghanistan become a strategic region for Britain and Russia. Because after that occurrence Britain ordered to find all path which connect Afghanistan and India, and making maps, at the same time they sent their representative to prevent Afghan and Iranian rulers from any connections with their hostiles, this was the time which the big game starts for shaping Afghanistan borderlines and treaty between Russia and Britain.

## 5. DETERMINATION OF AFGHANISTAN BORDERLINES:

Wherever shah Shoja pick up the first step toward Afghanistan's decomposition, but others steps were too much dangerous, that we can say those are the plat of signing Durant treaty, in following some of them will be mentioned.

- Jemroud Treaty

During Dost Mohammad Khan kingdom his son Ghulam Haider khan sign a treaty with John Laurence governor of Panjab in march 1855 which named Jemroud treaty. According to that treaty some of the right side of Sind river and Baluchistan have abandoned to Britain.

The articles of that treaty are following:

1. The peace and friendship between Amir Dost Mahammad Khan and his inheritors and East India Company will be continued (Ghubar, 1374, pp. 583-584),
2. East India company guaranteed to not interfere in areas which are under the sovereignty of Dost Mohammad Khan. (Ghubar, 1374, pp. 583-584),
3. Dost Mohammad Khan and his inheritors are engaged to respect the areas which are under sovereignty of East India company, and never will interfere (Ghubar, 1374, pp. 583-584),

Then the negotiations for determination of north borders of Afghanistan with Russia has started. At the result the north borders of Afghanistan have been determined in Granvel and Gorochokov treaties in 1873 (Rahmati, 1365, p.41)

### 5.1. North east border line:

The last border line of Afghanistan is north east border line with China, which has been determined in 1967, so 62225 km<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan's area restricted with 7 border lines. Among all borderlines north east border have geostrategic importance, because it connects the Honzai region of Pakistan to Tarm Shenyang of china, and also Kashghar- glagt startigic thoroughfare is located in there and also 2130 km of Pakistan connected with china with this border. The end of big game and determination of Afghanistan political border line After 1801 afghanistan become the scene of competition of soviet and Britain, which has too bad out come to Afghanistan. Afghanistan has been on attacked from north and east, this caused Afghanistan have lost some of its land and its freedom and sovereignty. Afghanistan had three big wars with Britain at the its become a land locked country. The other outcome of this to super power countries is restriction of the most borderlines in north, south and north south borders, which determined by these two superpowers, and this issue shows the importance of Afghanistan geostrategic location (Mistamis, 1379, p. 55). This circumstance were a good pretext to decompose Afghanistan with soviet and determine this country borderline on their benefit.

### 5.2. Gandomak Treaty, a background for Durand treaty:

This treaty has been signed between Amir Yaqub khan, the grandson of Amir Dost Mohammad Khan and Lewis Kyunari the representative of Britain in ten article at 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1879. In this treaty Amir Mohammad yaqub Khan abandon kirm until Jaje, the east side of Khaiber up to Haft Chah, Landi Kotal up to Kojek mountains and also the freedom of Afghanistan. They count this treaty as big and easy success to themselves, Litin the governor genral of British India and Desereali celebrated this occasion (Ghubar, 1374, p.611).

### 5.3. Durand Treaty:

One of the most infamous treaty, which resulted from the colonizing game of super powers that impose on Afghans nation is Durand treaty. Britain play important role in this treaty the reason why they interfere in this affair

protecting India from soviet. So they put Amir Abdurranman Khan in pressure to start negotiations in this issue with British India. The presidency of this negotiations were with More Temor Durand in Kabul, their goal was having sovereignty on border and strategic lands, and finally they reach their goals.

#### **5.4. How the Durand treaty have signed?**

The representative of Great Britain under the leadership of Mar Temor Durand with six persons (Kilnal Els, Dr. fan, Lifanint Smith, Lifanent Makmahan, Mr. Danald, Mr. Clark). 463 pack animals and 324 militias from Khaibar valley reached to the Kabul. And Amir Abdurraman Khan with firing 21 cannons welcome them, they stay 40 days in Kabul, and negotiations are go on in friendly situation, in first step Britain representative started the negotiations in north borders of Afghanistan with Russia, due the agreement between Russia and Britain Ammo river determine as a border between Afghanistan and Russia, and Amir Abdurrahman Khan accepted to exit from the Sheghnan and Roshan regions, the condition was that the Russia and its allies will not attack to the south of Ammo river, Durand accepted this condition and signed in 12<sup>th</sup> November of 1893. After that the issue of negotiation was about the borderlines of India and Afghanistan. The result of that negotiations was signing Durand treaty in 12<sup>th</sup> November of 1893 and determining the borders line between Afghanistan and Pakistan which today and Durand border is 2430 km. Finally, according to the Durand treaty Afghanistan abandon most of its lands to the Britain, whereas most of those places were not under Afghanistan sovereignty, they not only giving their tax to Afghan government but also they give their security expense from Afghanistan people. After all Britain agreed that the increase their sustenance from 12000000 to 18000000, at the end they announce their treaty to their nations (Farhang, 1371, pp. 413-414).

In addition, once more they renew their engagement for defense of Afghanistan against foreigners, as they promise in the past. Amir Abdurraman Khan for being ruler sale Afghanistan freedom and lands against Britain in 1893, as his ancestors did in 1893. Durand treaty signed in 7 article, according to the fourth article of this treaty determination of this line has been done with complex boards, at the result, Sowat, Bajawor, Arondi, Waziri, Dower, Chaki, Chaman have been disported from Afghanistan, according to the politics Doctors if Russia attack to the Afghanistan British military soon came to the Kabul and Qandahar. Durand borderline in three stages by three boards, from Kotal to Spinghar, from Spinghar to Gomal river and the last one is from Gomal to Sia Koh, determined, the most section of this line is mountainous area and other section are in deserts, the six geostrategic are (Broghil, Chetral, Khaiber, Kerm, Gomel, and Bolan) are besides this line. Amir Abdul Hossain Khan has signed this treaty in 12<sup>th</sup> November of 1893, who have no information about those areas.

#### **5.5. Durand treaty and further governments:**

Amanullah Khan during 1919 and 1927 wanted modifications from diplomatic ways with Britain but they evade, Zahir Khan mentioned the right of the choosing people destiny by their own in 1947, also shah Mahmood Khan the prime minister of Afghanistan says among lots of peoples in Jalal Abad that the Qabael's Pashtuns have rights to choose their own destiny by their own. This was the starting points that the Pashtunistan issue become one of the main points of Afghanistan foreign policy against Pakistan, in other hand Pakistan choose the strategy of having propaganda against Afghanistan governments and interfering in commercial issues, transits of Afghanistan from Karachi borders, Dowod Khan was the prime minister who take serious this issue during his duty, and Parliament certify a day which name Pashtunsitan day, every year this was celebrated, after Kolombo conference ha went to Pakistan and negotiate with Zolfaqa Ali Boto for Pashtunistan, in a statement has mentioned about immortal friendship with goodwill, so this caused the Pushtunistan issue come down, and both side have propaganda against each other (Babayee, 1375, p. 239). According to above, we can say Afghanistan borderlines are procrustean and all of them have been determined without the satisfaction of Afghanistan's people.

#### **5.6. The result of procrustean borderlines on Afghanistan's geography**

The cruelty and immoral determination of Afghanistan borderslines are the reasons of Russia and Britain competition, and made too worse results to our country, one of them are them is Durand Shameful treaty, in fact, this treaty separated the nation of Afghanistan, the people who live centuries in friendship with each other, and they share their happiness and sadness. This colonizing actions made many political, military and security wars between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and terminated their relax. "one of the most important issues which caused the convulsions between Afghanistan and Pakistan is the pashtunstan issue, which most of Afghanistan parts has been sequestrated by Lahor, Gandomak, Durand, Rowolpendi, and Kabul treaties in 8138, 1879, 1893, 1921 years" (Farhang, 1371, p, 677). Sestan case and after that changing Helmand rivers waters duration are the reasons which Afghanistan and Iran relations became worse, it has progressed about 80 years, finally, after few times negotiations they signed an agreement in march 13<sup>th</sup> of 1973 between Amir Abas Howaida and Mohammad Mosa Shafiq the prime minister of Iran, the conflicts of Afghanistan and Iran has been finished (Haq Shenan, 1363, p.102). Restriction of Afghanistan borders also has bad economic results because at the result of Russia and Britain aggressions and Qajar governments Afghanistan cities one

of other has been colonized and disported from Afghanistan and Afghanistan have become a land lock country whereas Afghanistan have borders and have trades from Ammo and Sind rivers during Temor Shah Durrani Afghanistan commerce was from Sind and Ammo rivers (Folfolzayee, 1350, p.110). The conclusion of being a land locked country Afghanistan trades has been destroyed, and Afghanistan trade rely on Karachi border, ruining the relationship of Afghanistan and Pakistan caused the closure of Karachi borders and afghan traders commodity annihilated, after 1950 Afghanistan trades became more from north borders and transit from Pakistan decreased.

## 6. CONCLUSION:

Afghanistan current borderlines are the results of political-geopolitical games of Russia and Britain in determining of Afghanistan borderlines. Hope of reaching to the warm waters from north by Russia, and British attacks on east of Afghanistan, made collusion of benefits between these two super powers, so Britain determined the north, east and south west borders of Afghanistan, due to the preventing Russia to think about India, even sometimes the competition other colonizing powers like France, Osmani emperor, and soviet interfere in determining of Afghanistan borders, like Panj Deh issue. Afghanistan political borderlines were under threat of Russia and Britain until 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the defeat of Russia from Japan in 1905, they have signed a friendship agreement, and engaged to not attack on Afghanistan, in 1921 both country recognized Afghanistan as an impartial country.

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