CHAPTER-V

Conclusion
The present Globalization has brought many changes in the world and there are both winners and losers in the process. Unfortunately, the Muslim World is one of the main losers in this regard. This situation does not help in bringing global peace and prosperity. Rather, it creates more problems. The present globalization process is involved in the geographical extension of economic activity in general and functional integration of internationally dispersed activities in particular. In this modern age, the Muslim World, which is internally weak, underdeveloped, frustrated, conflict ridden, suffering from internal tensions and often controlled by foreign powers, in a state of crisis.

This situation has created an environment of lack of mutual trust between the Muslims particularly the western world and consequently caused to state of violence and revenge. The masses in the Muslim world are incensed with the global media when some specific offensive terms are repeatedly used in the association with the Muslim world. Such as fundamentalism, terrorism, isolation, rogue states, sanctions etc. in many cases, most of energies of the Muslim countries governments are spent on trying to prove that they are not supporting fundamentalism and terrorism. The economic deprivation and sufferings imposed upon a country through the policies of containment, isolation and sanctions are bound to result in frustration and disparity. Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan were few recent instances in this regard. However, the Afghanistan is the worst victim among all especially during the Taliban reign.

As far as Afghanistan is concerned, it has always been important to external powers due to its strategic location. They have meddled in its affairs both in the past and at present. The countries location at the cross roads between Iran, Central Asian, The Arabian Sea and India has given its mountain passes a
strategic significance for centuries and at certain times Afghanistan has acted as a buffer between competing empires and ideologies; at others it has served as a corridor through which armies marched. Repeated efforts to colonize the country, most recently by the British and the Soviets, have failed and in the process given the Afghans a fierce sense of independence and pride. However, the protracted civil war makes it more vulnerable to external penetration. The external powers are more than willing to do so if it serves their national interest. The Afghan civil war has important regional implications. Various external powers are pursuing divergent objectives in Afghanistan. The most influential such player, Pakistan is aiming to establish a friendly government in Afghanistan. Pakistan wants to attain strategic depth against India. A complete victory by the Taliban might have given Pakistan greater access to Central Asian markets and a safe route for the planned oil and gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to the Arabian sea, plus, the end of the civil war in Afghanistan would have lead to the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Pakistan was growing impatient with the effects of having these refugees in its soil.

Pakistan’s major competitor for influence in Afghanistan is Iran. Iran had sought to give to Northern alliance support as a way to express its solidarity with Afghanistan’s Shiite population. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia was providing financial support to the Taliban to limit Iranian influence in Afghanistan; Saudi Arabia had an affinity to the Taliban’s interpretations of Islam. However, the Saudi government had specific concerns over the activities of Saudi dissident Usama bin Laden, at that time, residing in the Taliban-occupied areas of Afghanistan.

The Americans, Soviets, and Indians all agreed that they desired a weak, divided Afghanistan rather than a united one that might become the launching pad for Islamic nationalism in Central Asia. The great powers determined that
Afghanistan was to its former states as a neutral buffer state. The Islamic revolution had served its purpose at least for the United States. Once the Soviets had been driven from Afghanistan, and the threat to the oil-rich Gulf accordingly removed, Washington cut off all arms and money to the Mujahedin. The Islamic warriors, who had been America's ally, and surrogate army, were now denounced as "Islamic terrorist". The United States and Soviet Union / Russia quietly joined forces to combat the spread of political Islam. The evil Muslim genie was to be put back in its bottle.

The rise of Taliban – student force-between 1995-97 in Afghanistan, both as a political and military force was a major development in this country. The success of the Taliban among the various warring factions was primarily due to both internal and external factors. No nation has been left more ravaged than Afghanistan and none has suffered as much from direct foreign intervention and genocide as this single country. For Afghanistan to be at the centre of both dialogue and conflict between civilizations is nothing new. However Taliban regime at certain levels of their rule in Afghanistan were desirous to look for overall growth and development of the country but western interventions (just for their own interest) was a biggest obstacle in the way of Taliban and non-Taliban people.

The United States, patron of the Afghan rebellion against the Soviet invaders, walked away after the Soviet withdrew its last troops in 1989. The Afghans once on the front line of the cold war were left with a devastated country. One million had died during the ten years occupation. But only three years later, when Kabul fell to the Mujahedin who had fought off the soviet, gory civil war again, gripped the country, fuelled by neighboring countries trying to carve out areas of influence.
In to the political vacuum left by twenty years of war and collapse of stable government has marched a new generation of fundamentalists nurtured and inspired by the Islamist model. Therefore, the Taliban stepped into this vacuum. The movement had its early initiation in the madrassas located in and outside the Afghanistan. The Taliban, vowed to end the factionalism and restore law and order. They gained popularity by cracking down on some of the worst exercises of the renegade war lords and promised to end the drug trade. Though nearly absolutely despised today, this was not the case earlier, when even some Washington diplomats expressed their hopes that they might bring stability to Afghanistan.

Although it had not been conclusively proven that the Taliban were Pakistan’s creation, much criticism along these lines has been leveled against it. Pakistan is said to have played a key role in turning Taliban into a military force by providing training, logistic support and equipment. Infact, Pakistan was the first country to grant international recognition to the Taliban’s government, in 1997. Pakistan’s decision to recognize the Taliban government was based on the fact that the later was effective control of most of Afghanistan’s territory, including the capital. By the time recognition was given, the Taliban government had occupied 90% of the Afghanistan, which comprised a population that was representative of all the country’s ethnic groups. Besides Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE too recognized the Taliban’s government. Apart from these three countries, the Taliban had not managed to establish political ties with any other state. The United States has been a major country involved in Afghanistan. Along with the Soviets, the US had fed the Afghan civil war since the days of the cold war. When Taliban captured Kabul, the US state Department announced that it would establish diplomatic relations with the Taliban by sending an official to Kabul. Though this announcement was quickly retracted, the state department spokesman said the US found nothing objectionable in the steps
taken by the Taliban to impose Islamic law and described the Taliban as anti-modern rather than anti-Western. While US was hobnobbing with the Taliban for various concessions irrespective of the domestic policies of Taliban, some members of the Congress expressed their pleasure for bypassing Iran regarding the laying of pipe lines. But the US soon moved to the other extreme of rejecting and denouncing Taliban completely. The US rejection was largely because of the pressure exerted by the feminist movement. Washington’s denunciation of the Taliban also came in the backdrop of the presidential elections in the US in order to project its clean image as supporting a regime that held no respect for human right would had negatively affected Clinton’s position. Intact, from September 1994, the Taliban went about their job systematically, and gained control of most of Afghanistan, with little or no resistance using mostly non-military means. By early 1996, the Taliban came to be reckoned with as a force capable of enforcing some order lines in the war ravaged Afghanistan. Pakistani administrators were of the opinion that they will be in a position to develop a firm political base in Afghanistan by supporting Taliban regime in Afghanistan. But it proved a failure in long run mainly when Taliban leaders could not visualize broader perspectives of socio-economic and religious outlook. Some of the Taliban fighters had least understanding of Islam and were imparting harsh punishment to people. This outlook of theirs pushed them to bottom. Besides they were also not in a position to maintain diplomatic and political relations and other developed countries and congruently had a down fall.

At the same time, most important drawbacks of the regime and the immediate cause for its downfall became its incoherence with international system. Apart from the intolerable gender polices and human rights abuses, the regime lent active support for the Islamic militants who were apparently jihadis fighting for a “holy cause”. Though, Mujahidin internal conflicts, which inflicted heavy damages and huge suffering on Afghanistan, provided the Taliban with a golden
chance to verify their claim over the corruption and hypocrisy of their opponents. But they have gained international notoriety because they have banned women from working. Women were obligated to observe strict *pardah*. Girls had been stopped from going to schools. The Taliban had told all women working outside their homes to stay at home. Although women who had been working will continue to receive their salaries, the Taliban claim that there is no need for them to work any longer. They claim that there restrictions have been put in place to protect the honour and dignity of women. Despite the fact claimed that they are not against the women working or receiving an education. Taliban justified their statement and maintained that they need time and resources to create the proper environment, right texts and curriculum for women’s education.

On the other hand, Afghanistan’s socio-economic opium production is the only available economic means for access to land, labour, and credit. Currently the Afghan peasants which heavily depends upon opium production, associated with the political territorial realities of the tribal society typified by fragile political allegiances, and the international sanctions had also affected the incentives of local farmers to turn away from poppy production. All this was making it difficult for the Taliban to make any serious attempts at eradication. Besides, Mullah Omar on several occasions emphasized his will to fight against opium production. Taliban’s assistance proved critical and pave way to another serious allegation against the movement.

The universal outrage at the offensive launched by the Taliban rulers against Afghanistan’s Buddhist statue, had not remained confined to non-Muslim states bent even Islamic countries including Iran had been appalled by the destruction of Buddhist statues in the province of Bamiyan. The Bamiyan incident stirred up
dual controversies, about both the character of the Taliban regime and the relationship between culture, religion, and national heritage in the Islamic state.

Right from the emergence to the collapse of Taliban, there are positive as well as negative aspects of Talibanization; Positive side of their administration was mainly to put whole nation in a proper religious order. Negative part includes the extreme measures and harsh verdicts in implementing Islamic ideology which runs contrary to the liberal socio-religious ideology frequently propagated both in Muslim and non-Muslim world;

Even in the implementation of Islamic Shariah they failed to prepare grounds on the Afghan soil for the smooth implementations of shariah code. Their harsh rules with regard to women and education earned globally disfavor and disregard for Taliban rule; statements by scholars on this seemingly great divide between the textual Islam and the locally interpreted Islam in Afghanistan appear to have resulted from a flawed distinction between literacy and illiteracy, and between the modernization and traditionalism.

Consequently Taliban regime and Talibanization has gone deep inside the ditch. However, certain questions do come up with regard to their course of action which is as follows:-

What is the potential of the remnants of Taliban?
Will the remnants be able to re-emerge again?
Will the remnants breakup into smaller groups to wage guerrilla war and join the ranks of the other similar organizations around the World

Will they re-organize and put threat to external powers and unity their own country?

What will be the future of Afghanistan? The Afghan experience since 1978 demonstrates that war and political violence can be extremely harmful to
national development, even leading to the disintegration of the state. More than
two centuries of slow and painful progress toward the development of a viable
Afghan state that was an important part of Afghan society were destroyed in just
a few years of intense conflict. It is unclear how this damage will be repaired.
Afghanistan has been shattered, and so far there has been no element in Afghan
society or the post cold war World order with sufficient interest, power, and
political will to put it back together again. Afghanistan has been and remains
today a country that is 'significantly affected by its neighbors while affecting
them significantly as well. So far the war and the activities it has promoted, such
as arms trafficking and drug smuggling has been the primary ways in which
Afghanistan and its neighbors have influenced each other. If geo-economics
increasingly pushes geopolitics of the state, then growing pressure from outside
out actors to end the Afghan conflict may allow trade to replace war as the
primary way in which Afghanistan interacts with its neighbors. The likelihood of
this and other possibilities for Afghanistan's future is subjected to its changing
regional environment and participation of Taliban as well. There are new socio-
political as well as socio-economic challenges which Afghan people have to face
in future.