



THE SITUATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN AFGHANISTAN IN 2001-2004. (EXAMPLE OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF AFGHANISTAN PARTY)

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Abstract: This article provides information about the status of political parties in Afghanistan and their importance in the government system between 2001-2004. It also shows the relationship between Hamid Karzai and political parties and their participation in the formation of a new government.

Key words: "Muslim youth", "Control Council", Bonn, political parties, constitution, parliamentary elections, presidential elections.

Аннотация: В данной статье представлена информация о статусе политических партий в Афганистане и их значении в государственной системе в период 2001-2004 гг. Также показаны взаимоотношения Хамида Карзая с политическими партиями и их участие в формировании нового правительства.

Ключевые слова: «Мусульманская молодежь», «Контрольный совет», Бонн, политические партии, конституция, парламентские выборы, президентские выборы.

Before the Taliban movement came to power in Afghanistan, the political parties that had been officially operating since 1978 had insufficient experience in state management and moved towards different goals. In 1996, Afghanistan came under the control of the Taliban movement. After the overthrow of the Taliban government in 2001, these political organizations tried to take their place in the government. Also, the process of holding parliamentary elections in the Afghan government has begun. However, the legal basis for conducting the election process was not created. Before the creation of the new constitution, the 1964 constitution served as the legal basis for parliamentary elections¹.

The old political parties of Afghanistan, which started their activities in 1978, aimed to be part of the new government. The following political parties took part in the parliamentary elections with their candidates:

1. Burkhaniddin Rabbani, former president of "Islamic Society of Afghanistan".
2. "Afghanistan National Scientific Front" Syed Ahmad Gilani.

¹ According to the Bonn Accords, the 1964 constitution was recognized as provisional, with the exception of the articles on royal authority.



3. "National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan" Sebgatullah Mojadadi.
4. "Islamic Union for the Liberation of Afghanistan" by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf.
5. "Afghanistan Islamic Unity Party" K. Halili and M. Akbari.
6. "Afghanistan Islamic Movement" M. Asifi.
7. "Afghanistan National Islamic Movement" Abdul Rashid Do'stum.

The "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" led by Gulbiddin Hekmatyar, together with the Taliban movement, opposed the presence of the existing military in Afghanistan. Two political parties of the Peshawar Seven, "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" led by Yunus Khalis and "Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan" led by Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, joined the Taliban group and were disbanded as a result of the death of the party leaders.²

From November 27 to December 4, 2001, an international conference was held in Bonn under the auspices of the United Nations. The main goal of the conference was to create a modern statehood in Afghanistan. 4 large Afghan delegations participated in this conference. The Bonn Agreement was signed between the representatives of "Peshavor group", "Rome group", "Kipr group", and "Northern Alliance"³.

According to Article 35 of the new constitution of Afghanistan on January 26, 2004, Afghan citizens had the right to form political parties in the following cases:

1. The party program should not contradict the principles and values of the holy religion;
2. Party structure and financial resources should be open;
3. The party should not have military forces or military objectives;
4. The party should be independent from foreign political parties and other external forces;
5. The party should not be formed on the basis of ethnic, regional, linguistic and religious principles; such cases were determined on the basis of normative documents⁴. The law of Afghanistan "On Political Parties" states that "the basic principles of the Afghan state system are based on democracy and multipartyism."

² Until the end of April 2005, parties with this name were not registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

³ Afsah E. Guhr.A.H. Afghanistan: Building a state to keep the peace. Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law, Volume 9, 2005.-P.410.

⁴ <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/2357215>



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The adoption of new regulations governing the internal infrastructure of Afghanistan led to an increase in the number of parties participating in the parliamentary elections. For example, in the process of registering parties in 2004, 2 parties were registered, and by 2005, their number exceeded 80. Between 2001 and 2004, there were major changes in the structure of the Peshawar Seven and other political parties. These processes are the result of the inability of the party leaders to agree with each other and the personal ambitions of Hamid Karzai, who came to the temporary government. The list of the members of the provisional government, which planned to register new political parties, mainly contained the names of armed parties that fought against the forces of the Soviet Union. Among the listed parties, the influence of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" party was significant. Ghulam Mohammad Niazi, dean of Kabul University, contributed to the founding of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" party. The main support of the party was the "Muslim Youth" group of students. By 1973, the name "Islamic Society" was given and the party was started under the leadership of Burhoniddin Rabbani.⁵

The party "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" was considered superior to other parties. Because this party had supporters among all ethnic groups. In the presidential elections of 2004, the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" supported the presidency of Hamid Karzai, and Burhoniddin Rabbani's son-in-law Ahmad Zia Masud (brother of Ahmad Shah Masud) nominated himself for the position of the first vice president. However, after the Bonn conference, the Rabbani party split into two. Supporters of Ahmad Shah Masood left the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" and formed a new party in 2002 called the "Afghan National Movement".

The establishment of the "Afghanistan National Movement" party is related to the 1980s. In 1983, the "Control Council" structure headed by Ahmad Shah Masood was established within the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan". The task of the structure was to manage the armed detachments of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan", solve civil tasks and create a new system. Then Ahmad Shah Masood decided to unite the units of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" in the north, outside of Panjsher, under his command.

Later, the "Control Council" structure began to have its supporters, press and views. Analyzing the activity of Ahmad Shah Masud in the government system, he always tried to be independent. As proof of this, according to his

⁵ И. Косимшо. Политические партии и движения Афганистана накануне парламентских выборов 2005 г. <https://afghanistan.ru/doc/5606.html>





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brother Ahmed Walid, he expressed his displeasure with the activities of all Islamic parties and tried to form a party with his own political views. There were disagreements between the "Control Council" and the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" in the fight against the Taliban. But the fact that they had one enemy united them. Yunus Qonuniy, who led the Bonn conference, opposed the future plans of Burhanuddin Rabbani. According to Rabbani, only the process of formation of the Afghan government should be discussed at the conference, the remaining issues should be discussed together with the Afghan people. It should be noted that this position of Yunus Qonuni can be evaluated as a result of strong pressure from external forces.

Thus, new parties were formed in almost a few months. Its founders set themselves the goal of uniting all national, progressive and patriotic forces, creating an organization that includes all layers of national, political and religious society.

In the situation after the Bonn conference, the Panjsher elite occupied the main positions and began to support Hamid Karzai's government. There are main reasons for this, first of all, the Northern Alliance controlled the capital regions. Second, the Karzai government relied on NATO and Northern Alliance forces in the fight against the Taliban. Third, Panjsher troops were needed to fight the many armed forces in Afghanistan. Also, Bob Woodward in his book "Burch's War" stated that President George Burch said, "The Northern Alliance is our friend"⁶.

It can be concluded that external pressure was of great importance in various presidential and parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. Because not a single person from the representatives of the Northern Alliance came to the government. Hamid Karzai's coming to power was greatly supported by the United States of America. There are several factors in the failure of political parties in Afghanistan to come to power. First, there are divisions within political parties, and these divisions are the result of different leaders striving for different goals. This, in turn, hindered joint action. Secondly, in participating in the election process after 2001, they saw themselves not as a new party, but as armed parties that fought against the Soviet Union. Thirdly, in the process of forming a new government in Afghanistan, as a result of the presence of military forces of Western countries in Afghanistan and political pressure, the importance of political parties in the government system in Afghanistan has decreased.

⁶ И. Косимов. Политические партии и движения Афганистана накануне парламентских выборов 2005 г.
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