

The Role of Loya Jirgah in the Politics of Afghanistan

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Abstract:

This paper pursuits the significance of the Loya Jirga in the construction political developments of Afghanistan. Loya jirga which literally means the Grand Council, has played a vital role in shaping the various dynasties in Afghanistan. The historical Loya Jirgas have brought almost a paradigm shifts in the socio-political scene of Afghans. This is an indigenous institution of electing leadership especially for the collective representation of the tribes as part of the confederacy. Historically Mirwais Khan Hottak a prominent Khilji Chieftain is known as the founder of Loya Jirga in 1708, which later regenerated a confidence in the Afghans to over through the domination of the Persian imperial dominion. The unification of tribes for countering their collective enemy at one hand emancipated and on the other hand its also provoke them to capture the major parts of Persian empire in which Asfahan is considerable. In the wake of the emergence of Durrani dynasty one can also see a prominent role of the Loya Jirga which resulted in making a consensus on Ahmed Khan later emerged as Ahmed Shah Duraani in 1747. This Paper is going to share details regarding the 14 different Loya Jirgas from 1709 to 1987. The series of these Jirgas are always called on the crucial circumstances and in most of the cases it has rendered fruits. The paper also contextualizes the role of Loya Jirga in the current political scenario of Afghanistan.

Key words: Loya Jirga, Mirwais Khan Hottak, Ahmed Shah Duraani, Afghanistan.