

Notification No.: F.NO. COE /Ph.D./569/2024

Date: 25-10-2024

**Name: Dr. Manzar Imam**

**Supervisor's Name: Prof. Mohammad Sohrab**

**Subject: International Studies**

**Department: MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Faculty: Social Sciences**

**Title of Ph.D.: The Imperative of Cooperation in Southwest Asia: Peace and Stability in Afghanistan**

**Keywords: Afghanistan, Taliban, Southwest Asia, Regional Security Complex, geostrategy.**

#### **Findings**

This Ph.D. thesis titled "The Imperative of Cooperation in Southwest Asia: Peace and Stability in Afghanistan," is a profound exploration and a comprehensive study and analysis of the causes of conflict in Afghanistan. It seeks to examine two hypotheses: One, that regional peace initiative is imperative for conflict resolution in Afghanistan in the backdrop of the failures of earlier peace initiatives dominated by the external powers. Two, that the idea of New Silk Route envisaging a new era and discipline of cooperation in Southwest Asia can be achieved by establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan. It finds that the behavioral approach introduced in human geography has been largely ignored in the case of Afghanistan. There were two kinds of attacks on Afghanistan: the British attacked on its geography, while the Soviet attacked on its language and culture. The third finding is the busting of the myth that Afghan ethnic groups do not interact among themselves. In fact, it finds that the practices of politically-motivated exclusions are a recent phenomenon through malicious use of the media. A fourth finding is that Afghanistan has not remained secluded from the outside world. It even played its part in India's freedom struggle. Another important finding is that the Taliban have merely continued the long established cultural and religious traditions, rather than breaking away from them or establishing new canons.

It is expected that the study will add value to the existing knowledge for a range of stakeholders such as students, media persons, researchers, policymakers and diplomats to understand the root causes of regional conflicts and to help them adopt holistic and problem-solving approaches to conflict resolution. Thus it will help them make informed decisions about longstanding conflicts within domestic, national and regional contexts without undermining state sovereignty and tinkering with people's religious sentiments and cultural identities. Lastly, this will help civil society bodies and international NGOs working for establishing peace and resolving conflicts to gain deeper understanding and insights into the dynamics of conflicts under different social, cultural, religious and geographical settings as has been discussed in detail throughout the work.