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Title: Taliban and the State of Things in Afghanistan

Author: Unknown

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Synopsis

This document is a fragment of a document that discusses the geopolitical situation surrounding Afghanistan and the Taliban some time between 1998 and 2001. The author also defends the Taliban against various charges.

Key Themes

There is now a great opportunity for Sunnis, and more generally Muslims, to change the balance between Muslims and their enemies. The author cryptically takes note of "last week's local and global events," then argues that the Taliban are moving forward. This has caused the great powers, in the form of Iran, Russia, and the US, to threaten to intervene. The domestic opposition to the Taliban then rose in prominence to take advantage of the situation. The author hopes the recent economic failures in Asia [possibly referring to the Asian financial crisis of 1997] lead to the "final fall of Asia forever."

Iran has massed its troops on the border with Afghanistan, and Israeli advisers have been sent to help the Northern Alliance. The US launched missile attacks against Arab training camps and threatened to use nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Despite these attacks, Mullah Omar refuses to extradite Osama bin Laden.

From the military point of view, Iranian deployments have forced the withdrawal of the Taliban from some fronts. This has led to gaps in the front lines, which are potential weaknesses in the event of a coordinated attack. On September 5th, the Northern Alliance (in the form of the forces of Mas'ud and Sayyaf) attacked the Taliban, which led to setbacks, both for the Taliban and Arab fighters.

There are also allegations by some 'youths' that the Taliban support polytheists, and use secular laws to levy taxes. There is no evidence these charges are true, and the author warns against proceeding on hearsay. He cannot discount heresy in a country where 90% of the population is illiterate, but he has not seen it. Rumors are the deadliest weapon among Muslims, and should be avoided.