
Historical role of loya Jirgha in the Politics of Afghanistan

Abdul Manan Kakar*
Mumtaz Baloch†

Abstract

For historians and researchers it is very important that afghan people still Maintain their code of life for thousand of years. Jirgha is one of the great examples of their Norms and values. Which is an alternative of an elected parliament to maintain their social and political relations among them? Jirgha system played great historical role in Afghan's national interest Jirgha is not related with pushtoon society although the other nationalities of the state like Uzbek , Tajik, Hazara, Balooch Turkman are also adopted jirgha system of their social and political relations.

In the ancient society of sub-continent, Saba or panchayath system were using as jirgha .Local jirgha was used for solutions of local problems and loya jirgha was for the setting of national level decisions.

In the local jirgha all the participations are setting in circle, which shows that there is no difference between them.

Introduction

Loya jirgha is the great democratic institution of afghan society; all the decisions are purely democratic. As compare to the parliament of other state loya jirgha have much power. In the matter of great importance loya jirgha play very crucial rule in the domestic and international field.

Approval of the future plans and state constitution are also concerned with loya Jirgha. In the nineteenth and twenty centuries afghan people talked much important decisions from this institution.

There are no written rules for the process of loya jirgha but it is a fact hat loya jirgha is playing their role as a constitution assembly as well as it is an example of unity of afghan people.

Jirgha system is working purely on merit and its pattern of working is different from civic laws, there is no wasting of time and money, and with out involving in the court legal procedure, all the cases are decided on merit in short time, no one can change the decision of jirgha no one have the power to violate the decision of jirgha.

* Assist. Prof. Depratment of International Relations, University of Baluchistan, Quetta.

† Assist. Prof. Depratment of International Relations, University of Baluchistan, Quetta.

**PhD Sacholer, Department of Political Science, University of Baluchistan, Quetta.

Historically the people of Afghanistan were not well aware of democratic and their code of life has been preparing their national constitution, and they never allow any foreign invader in their country, and obeyed only their laws which are not against their values they have been solving their problems through Loya Jirgha and minor cases are decided through local jirgha.

Grand Nation Jirgha

Basically grand afghan jirgha belong to Afghanistan, because Loya Jirgha is working in the supreme council of Afghanistan, no one challenge their decisions even president or king is bound to obey the jirgha because due to the tribal system traditionally the jirgha system still exist in Afghanistan, with out any discrimination, the people meet together in their respective areas and chose the representative for Loya Jirgha. At the time of the meeting of Loya Jirgha the participations select a person to preside the meeting the president of jirgha could not be a candidate for any designation after that jirgha elects the president of the state according to the Islamic values, Jirgha approves the elected president and allow him to run the state affairs. Loya jirgha always en-converging the tribal system as well as their national integrity where various tribal competing each other to serve their state which are directly encouraging their patriotic afflation due to the afghan Russian war is another example of their bravery.

Loya Jirgha is a sample of unity integrity sovereignty, Islamic brother hood and reflection of pushtun heritage. There are the characters of Islamic education and this system is acceptable for any afghan respectively.

First Loya Jirgha

Jirgha system is a part of administration in Afghanistan for thousand of years. The first Loya Jirgha was convened near about 250 BC at the time of Maha Raja Ashok in which six afghan tribes Dahee, Parni, Khilji, Breach, Baloch and Achackzai were their king Achack.

After that this state was named as the state of khorasan, the old name khorasan was partia achackzai which are the successors of achack and are living in balochistan and in Afghanistan in great number.

Second Loya Jirgha

In 120 BC ashkanians have crossed the area of partia up to Baghdad and they have chosen the city of Thafoon an arachosia (oandahar) due to which once more the anarchy was spreaded their, the tribel chief were gathered to settle the political crices, after long discussion in 72 BC they have convened a jirgha near Qandahar and have chosen a party king the name of the king was Moas.

Moas invaded the western Punjab and the gandara. After the conquest of the Punjab, and gandara once more Moas loses his attention towards archosia and then the people of gandara choses a new chief his name was Moens according to the crust on sean the Mones was speaking afghani pushto.

From Mones to Mir wais there is no sign of any Jirgha, if we search the history of Afghanistan and India, the afghan have ruled for a long time but there is no prove of any afghan king who have been chosen by Jirgha,at that time afghan's geographical structure was not yet settled, the country was consisted of many tribes. Eastern part of the country was related to India (new Pakistan) western and northern part of the state was under Persian dominance and some tribes were leaving independently. Their people were not under the any country and not they followed the leave of any state they had been settling their disputes according to their own Jirgha.

Mir Wais Loya Jirgha

When in 1702 the government of Persia appointed the Georgian as governor general of Qandahar to strengthen their hold on Afghanistan. IN 1709 the Ghilzai rose under Mir Wais and slaughtered the hated Georgian and garrison and toke Qandahar from Persia safari dynasty, and convened loya Jirgha at Qandahar, in which all the Afghan tribes, chieftain ulma (religious scholors) were invited all the tribes of khiljais and durranies participated.

In this jirgha Mir Wais presented a Fatwa of ulma of Macca against the Georgian, which indicated the righteousness of a Sunni revolt against the "HERETICAL" safavid Shia's. And also delivered a brief speech and suggested some proposals of the future of afghan sovereignty. After a long discussion Mir wais was chosen as first chief of the nation, and according to the tribe assure him for any kind of sacrifices to save afghan from any foreign invader.

MIR WAIS dies peacefully in 1715 and lies in a mausoleum in Qandahar. He never proclaimed him self – king, but simply wakil (governor or regent) of Qandahar.

Third Loya Jirgha

After the death of Mir Wais his brother Abdul Aziz chosen as wakil and ruled Qandahar for eighteen months. Abdul Aziz was chosen as wakil by loya jirgha Abdul Aziz wished to make peace with the Persians and make Qandahar once more a safavid province .When Abdul Aziz want to convene loya Jirgha about their wishes .

The participants of Jirgha strongly oppose his proposal and rejected. But about Abdul Aziz given a message to Persia.

When Mir Mahmud the eldest son of Mir Wais was informed about this secret message, he with the help of other forty tribal chieftien and ulma exiled Abdul Aziz and convened a loya jirgha.

In this loya jirgha Mir Mahmud informed All the jirgha members about the conspiracy of Abul Aziz , and also announced the death of Abdul Aziz in this occasion he taken the approval of the jirgha and seized power in 1717.

Shah Mahmud just as his father done. Mahmud sensed correctly the helplessness of Shah Sultan Husain and he marched into Persia in 1719 and occupied with almost without opposition. About nine months Mahmud returned precipitously to Qandahar and put down to volt by the governor left in charge Bijan Sultan.

On April 25, 1725 Mahmud agonies came to an end at the age of 27 years. The next day Ashraf proclaimed himself the SHAH and there force effectively cut himself off from Qandahar. For the brother of Mahmud, Husain and other kinsman would never accept the 26 or 27 year old ASHRAF as SHAH

After 4 years Ashraf hunted by both nadir and Husain sultan of Qandahar (Ashraf's cousin); was probably killed by Husain sultan of Qandahar in February 1730, with the assignation of Ashraf was the end of afghan ghilzai rule over Persia.

Ahmed Shah Durrani Loya Jirgha Of 1774

The modern state structure of Afghanistan took its first shape in 1747. As the nation of any antonymous state prompted by the death of a famed passion military general Named Nadir Shah, Who died enrooted on return from northern India (Afghanistan), number of high ranking officers opted for independence, choosing know for his chivalry and courage in battle fields ,Ahmed Shah.

It was during the regime of Ahmed Shah (1747 to 1773) that Afghanistan emerged as a nation state .Ahmed Shah was chosen as a paramount chief of Durrani tribe and the head of the country by chiefs of the various tribes representing as an Electoral College or Loya-Jirgha. Ahmed Shah who displayed a subsequent career of conquest and skillful administrative capabilities representing a trumping pointing afghan history, before 1774. Afghanistan as a state had no national identity.

To elect the king a loya jirgha of tribal chiefs was held at Mazar-e- Shar-e-Surkh Qandahar in October 1774. After nine prolonged session of jirgha endorsed the formation of a modern Afghanistan state and elected Ahmed shah as the king.

Amir Shair Ali Loya Jirgha Of 1865

In the nineteenth century several amir ruled twice Kabul Shah Mahmud (1800-03; 1809-18. and then in hearth until 1829) SHAH SHUJA (1803-09; 1839-42); Dost Muhammad (1826-39, although civil kept him self from declaring him self amir-ul muminin until 1836; 1842-63); Sher Ali Khan (1863-66; 1868-79 although he never gave up his title amir even when out side from Kabul).

In 1865 Amir Sher Ali convened a loya Jirgha for the endorsement of his politics and program in order to put an end to the civil war and internal conflicts ensure national society and extend central authority to the entire country almost soon tribal chiefs approved his plans.

Amanullah Khan Loya Jirgha

Shah Shuja was the last ruler of durrani dynasty. Shah Shuja faced a difficult time in defending his kingdom from the sick attacks and fear attacks s by Alexander (I) of Russia and napoleon bona part. Due to their fear Shah Shuja found it necessary to have good relationa with British India. He signed at rotary with British in 1809 in Peshawar.

Shah Shuja was deposed by his own vazeer Fateh Khan the dynastic rule of barakzai replaced that of Durrani's with Dost Muhammad a capable ruler. Dost Muhammad died in 1863, and succeed by his son Sher Ali, Ali by his son Yaqoob Khan, Yaqoob Khan was not effective ruler and soon after his cousin Abul Rehman stepped into power.

After the death of Habib Ullah his elder son Amanullah stepped in power Amanullah Khan like Abul Rehman Khan was known for his administration capabilities. He believed in establishing friendly relation with Soviet Union. King Amanullah Khan War regained the land across the Amu Darya, the oaser of men and panjadedh.

The Soviet Union wanted to win the favor of Amanullah Khan to suppress the growing resistance by soviet Muslims minority Balchevikisim in 1921 a treaty b/w Afghanistan and Soviet Union was signed. The Soviet Union provided aid cash subsidies and air plan plants, transport and communication technology and carried out the lying of telephone line B/W Kabul and mazar-e sharif and heart of Qandahar.

Amanullah Khan was zealous reformist and believed in introducing many reforms to hang the status of his country from traditional society into a strong modern society. Amanullah Khan introduced many rapid reforms. Introduction of the modern education for both male and female, Replacement of tribal system with strong administration system, and establishment of friendly relations with west the reforms the reforms included the 1923 contitution guaranteed many civil rights, he established a new national bank and introduced Afghanistan anew unit of currency. He also provided a university, national resignation and identity cards and established the legislative assembly.

First Loya Jirgha of Amanullah Khan In 1919

After the incident of Jalawala Bagh the delegation of Indian Muslims came to Kabul and informed the King Amanullah Khan about the cruelty of the British on inclines. After meeting with thw delegation of Indian muslims Amanulluah Khan conened a loya jirgha and he delivered an effective speech against the British , The afghani ulma released a fatwa of jihad against the british, and the participants were agreed to help their Indian Muslim brothers and afghan tribes started jihad against the

britisharmy and defeated the british army under the command of journal nadir khan at all, and they siege Zhob Quetta and Wana continent. After that the British govt ordered the general dairy to seas fire.

2nd loya jirgha of 1923 for the approval of constitution

On 26 February 1923, the second loya jirgha convened by King Amanullah Khan at jalalabad the number of participants were 872 and gave approval of constitution after long decision.

Third Loya Jirgha of 1923 for the Approval of Constitution

After a long tour of Europe in 1928 King Amanullah Khan called his third loya jirgha at pagman in which two thousand representatives of various section e.g. tribal, inductive, ulma and senior Govt officials participated and gave approval of new laws and introduced some new amendments about judiciary defense, national dress andnational flag.

Nadir Khan Loya Jirgha In 1929

General Muhmmad Nadir Khan returned from self improved exited to over through Habibullah (Bacha saqqao). Whose reign lasted only nine months. Nadir Khan former commander of Amanullah's army had faught the military cut backs of the young king. He was sent to pairs as ambassador in April 1924, and letter retired to protest Amanullah's rapid modernization program. In September 1930 King Nadir Shah Summond loya Jirgha the assembly confirmed him as king of Afghanistan, announced support of his November 1927 price legation.

The loya jirgha of king zahir shah in 1914

In September 1939 when the Second World War started, the Russia joined allied forces against Germany; the British asked logistic support from Afghanistan and Persia, Iran rejected any kind of cooperation against Germany. The afghan Govt convened loya jirgha in 1941 for discussion on the demand of allied forces. After prolong discussion the jirgha rejected the demand of logistic support.

The loya jirgha of 1949

This jirgha was convened when tha Pakistan Air Force was caring out occasional Air strieks in Pakistan tribal agencies to quell disturbances there. Pakistan Aircraft bombed inadvertently. On June 12, 1949 the village mughalgai 2100 years under the border of Afghanistan. The afghan GOVT thereafter convened a loya jirgha in July 26, 1949.

The Loya Jirgha of Prime Minister Daud In 1955

The afghan prime minister Daud Khan called a 360 member, loya jirgha after the announcement of one unit plan by Pakistan the jirgha took the following decision

1. Support to the pushtunistan issue and the government stand in demanding a plebiscite in the pushtun areas of Pakistan.

The Loya Jirgha of 1964

For the approval of a new constitution King Zahir Shah called loya jirgha on October 01, 1964, 455 members participated in this jirgha and approved the countries future constitution.

The Loya Jirgha of Prsident Daud In1976

At the end of January 1976 president Daud called a loya jirgha under the president ship of Azizullah Wasti for the purpose of the new constitution and selecting the president of the state after having 24 sessions.

The Loya Jirgha of President Babrak Karmal (1885-1886)

On April 23, 1985 the first session of the loya jirgha was held in the Kabul Polythenic. 1796 representatives from all over the country who had been elected by the local jirgha in the traditional free and democratic atmosphere a 200 invitees were participating in the loya jirgha. The 200 invitees including others Ajmal Khattak, Khair Bakhsh Marri about 70 to 80 tribes man from the Pakistan side of the border and 40/50 from than.

The Loya Jirgha of Doctor Najeebullah 1987

On November 29, 1987, 1500 delegates nominated ,elected and 400 foreign guests, including delegation from the awami national party society party, national libration front of Baloch people and Hizb-e- Ichruk-e qabail from Pakistan Abdul Rahi Hatif its located deputy chairman, for the duration of the jirgha.

References

- Sultan muhammad sabir loya jirgha (Lahore frontier post publications. 1994) P. 9.
 - Ibid, P. P. 13. 14.
 - Louis Dupree Afghanistan (Princeton university press, 1980), P. 327.
 - Tate the kingdom of Afghanistan a historical sketch, Karachi: Indus publication. 1973, P 233.
 - Ibid
 - Louis Dupree, OP-CIT, P, 403
 - Fida sayed younus, Afghanistan jirgha and loya jirgha, the afghanitan tradition,
(the Aays, Rahatabad Peshawar), 1999P. 37.
 - Tate op Cit, 234.
 - Ibid.
 - Richard F. Nyrop Donald. M. Afghanistan A-country study. Washington D.C American University , 1986.P . 44.
 - Ibid _ P. 49.
 - D. Abdullah- reforms and rebellions in Afghanistan 1919-1929. Aminullah failure to Mudrovize a tribble society New York. Cornell university Press . 1973.
 - Sultan Muhammad Sabir op Cit P P, 59. 10.
 - Ibrahim Muhammad Atta. DA Afghanistan par mahasar tarik yawa khatana (pushto) Kissa Khwani bazaar Peshawar, 1380. P 219.
 - Louis Dupree Op cit p, 463.
 - Sultan Muhammad sabir OP-Cite, P73
 - Ibid P. 55.

 - Lt. general macmun Afghani. Publisher Gosh-e Abad , quetta.P. 317.
 - Wafa OP.CIT OO-22.23
 - Ibid,ppp. 25. 26. 27.
-