

## **State, Pashtunwali and the Constitution of Loya Jirga in Afghanistan: A Historical Analysis**

**Dr. Abdul manan Bazai** (Chairman, Department of International Relations, UOB, Quetta)

**Mirwais Kasi** (Lecturer, Department of International Relations, UOB, Quetta)

### **Abstract:**

*The institution of Loya Jirga has always acted as a political instrument for finding out solutions to issues of great national importance in Afghanistan. For many Afghans, this term is associated with the good old days before the devastating war, when every segment of the population knew its place in society. This institution has moved further and evoked the ideas of participatory democracy and equal rights. Mount Stuart Elphinstone described the Loya Jirga as the internal government of the Pashtun tribes interestingly the terminology employed for the tribal assembly does not suggest that it was specifically a Pashtun institution from the very beginning. Etymologically the term "Jirga" has Mongolian origins and means circle or gathering. Loya Jirga has provided the Afghan society a historical, social and political structure, which has always helped Afghans in dealing with the situations of emergency. The Afghan history shows that whenever the Afghan nation was confronted with crucial issues, the Loya Jirga played a decisive role. It is important to note that the foundation of the present day Afghanistan was also laid on the decision of a Loya Jirga convened by the iconic Afghan ruler Ahmed Shah Abdali in Kandahar in 1747.*

**Key words:** Afghanistan, State, Pashtunwali, Constitution, Loya Jirga.