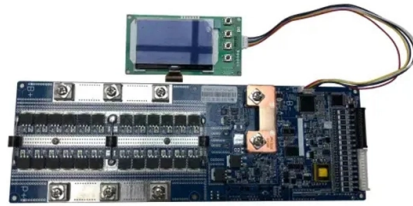


Afghanistan has good and bad distinctions



Overview

Afghanistan remained the only country where girls and women were banned from secondary and university education, while also facing significant barriers to employment and freedom of movement, assembly, and speech. Pakistan's military has said it does not distinguish between different Taliban factions, declaring that "there is no such thing as good or bad Taliban." The statement did not clarify whether the term "bad Taliban" referred to both the Afghan Taliban and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The US has shown willingness and capability to go after Taliban leaders on Pakistani soil, upsetting its relations with Islamabad. Regardless of the solution, the Afghanistan issue is still influencing the relationship between India and Pakistan and role of major powers such as the US, China and Russia. The report, covering the period between August 2025 to January 2026, was. I was sitting in Starbucks in Doha looking out at the water in the middle of a lush green park when I tapped my son on the leg and pointed to a group of men out for a morning stroll. "That's the Taliban," I said. He looked at me in disbelief but I assured him it was indeed them. They were. Pakistan has consistently maintained claims of its sacrifices in the fight against terrorism in terms of human losses and financial resources.



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Similarly, Afghanistan, then under the leadership of President Hamid Karzai, 9 did not dither from embracing the good/bad schism, which since then has taken many shapes. Amid the

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