**A. Introduction**

 We, the Taliban, are a Sunni Islamist organization seeking to regain official power in Afghanistan. Our movement evolved from the Mujahideen fighting against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. We have since attempted to protect the region from foreign exploitation while enforcing strict adherence to the Koran. The West has labeled us as human rights violators; as a terrorist organization; as their enemy. Yet these foreign hegemons neither understand our culture and traditions nor consider them as they impose their own values in Afghanistan and across the region. The stable future of Afghanistan and the entirety of South Asia relies on our cooperation. We are powerful and our message is strong. As we gain more followers each day it will become impossible to establish stability and security without considering us and the millions of devout Muslims we represent.

**B. Key Points**

* Establish Taliban governance in Afghanistan recognized by the international community.
* Remove Western military presence in Afghanistan.
* Develop the Afghan economy while keeping the profits within the nation.
* Maintain the purity of the Afghan people by enforcing strict Sharia law.
* Facilitate the proliferation of fundamentalist Islam throughout the region.
* Protect women and prevent the distraction of men by limiting women’s involvement in activities out of the home.
* Create domestic social programs that will better the lives of Afghan people without contradicting their faith.

**C. Background**

The Taliban, a Muslim fundamentalist group, took control of Afghanistan's government in 1996 and ruled until the 2001 U.S.-led invasion drove it from power. Despite its ouster, however, remnants of the Taliban have maintained influence in rural regions south and east of Kabul. The group is known for having provided a safe haven to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda as well as for its rigid interpretation of Islamic law. Though the group has been out of power for several years, it remains a cultural force in the region that undermines the U.S.-backed central government. Clashes between Taliban-linked fighters and coalition forces increased in the first half of 2008 and continued in 2009, highlighting the Taliban's resurgence and complicating efforts by NATO and U.S. forces to stabilize the country. The Pakistani Taliban, meanwhile, have proliferated, destabilizing and attacking the Pakistani government and military.

The Taliban was initially a mixture of mujahideen who fought against the Soviet invasion of the 1980s, and a group of Pashtun tribesmen who spent time in Pakistani religious schools, or madrassas*,* and received assistance from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI). The group's leaders practiced Wahhabism, an orthodox form of Sunni Islam similar to that practiced in Saudi Arabia. With the help of government defections, the Taliban emerged as a force in Afghan politics in 1994 in the midst of a civil war between forces in northern and southern Afghanistan. They gained an initial territorial foothold in the southern city of Kandahar, and over the next two years expanded their influence through a mixture of force, negotiation, and payoffs. In 1996, the Taliban captured Kabul, the Afghan capital, and took control of the national government.

Taliban rule was characterized by a strict form of Islamic law, requiring women to wear head-to-toe veils, banning television, and jailing men whose beards were deemed too short. The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice authorized the use of force to uphold bans on activities deemed contradictory to the teachings of the Koran.

Before its ouster by U.S.-led forces in 2001, the Taliban controlled some 90 percent of Afghanistan's territory, although it was never officially recognized by the United Nations. Since its removal from power, the Taliban has proven resilient. In November 2007, the London-based International Council on Security and Development, or ICOS estimated that the Taliban maintained a permanent presence in 54 percent of Afghanistan, and continued to exert influence on regions outside the central government's sphere of control, predominantly in southern and eastern provinces. By December 2008, the Taliban had expanded its sphere of influence to 72 percent of the country. "Confident in their expansion beyond the rural south," ICOS reported, "the Taliban is at the gates of the capital and infiltrating the city at will."

Prior to the group's ouster in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the Taliban's main supporters were Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Along with the United Arab Emirates, they were the only countries to recognize Taliban-led Afghanistan. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan cooperated in efforts by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to arm the anti-Communist mujahideen. After the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan ceased to be a priority for U.S. strategists, but Saudi Arabia and Pakistan continued their support. Involvement in Afghanistan served a strategic interest for Pakistan, which also has a large ethnic Pashtun population, and appealed to the conservative Wahhabi Muslims who hold substantial political clout in Saudi Arabia. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia became partners in the U.S.-led "war on terrorism" and halted their official support of the Taliban. Some experts, however, believe the Taliban is still receiving support from the ISI.

U.S. and NATO forces have had some success killing or capturing Taliban leaders since the start of the war. Despite the death or capture of some members, however, the movement continues to exert enormous influence on the populace, lobbying Afghans to take up their cause. The Taliban movement has also shown glimpses of its former centralized government structure. In early 2007, the Taliban took control of Musa Qala in the north of Helmand Province, where the group established its own post-2001 administration and judiciary.

The Pakistani Taliban, organizationally distinct from the Afghan group, rose up in 2002 in response to the Pakistani army's incursions into that country's tribal areas to hunt down militants. In 2008, Pakistani security forces clashed with pro-Taliban militants in the tribal area near Peshawar, jeopardizing peace talks between the militants and the government. The clashes continued in early 2009, expanding into the Swat Valley. Recently, the Pakistani Taliban has launched a large number of deadly and destructive attacks in Pakistan, threatening to destabilize the country.

Public reaction to the Taliban's rule was often positive. While some struggled with the rigid social standards, the Taliban cracked down on the corruption that had run rampant through the government for years. The new leaders also brought stability to Afghanistan, greatly reducing the infighting between warlords that had devastated the civilian population. Seven years after their ouster, the Taliban continues to provide a semblance of stability in regions where coalition and government officials have been unable to restore order and provide basic services.

The whereabouts of the Taliban’s leaders are not fully known. Experts say many of the Taliban were able to melt back into predominantly Pashtun areas of Afghanistan in the south and east; they have occasionally linked up with others to mount attacks, and many are working to overthrow the current government. Many others have reassembled in neighboring Pakistan, where the Taliban movement was born, and launch attacks from there. Despite their ouster from official power in Afghanistan, the Taliban’s leaders have maintained a sophisticated attack network and continue to demonstrate both the power and reach they have in the region.

**D. Issues**

**Committee on Governance**

"Our organization has led the country of Afghanistan since 1996. Though there have been some setbacks since the U.S. invasion in 2001, even Western sources estimate that our sphere of influence extends to 72% of Afghanistan."

Structure of Government

* Our government follows Sharia law, which forbids politics and political parties, thus leaders are not elected.
	+ They are instead chosen and brought to power by a "Bay'ah" or oath of allegiance, in imitation of the Prophet and the first four Caliphs.
* Cabinet ministers and deputies are mullahs. These ministers and deputies also act as military commanders when they are needed to protect their country.
* We are presently led by Supreme Leader Mullah Omar.
	+ Despite western reports to the contrary, Mullah Omar is alive and well.
		- The west has attempted to subvert our power by claiming they have captured or killed our leaders. These falsehoods are perpetrated in an attempt to pacify Western civilians who are growing impatient with the U.S.'s lack of success.
* Beneath Mullah Omar, decisions are made by consultative tribal structures called shuras, which bring together leading figures in a governing council
* Our government's structure fuses traditional Islamic concepts with Pashtunwali, a combination of Pashtun tribal traditions and moral codes.
* Most of our members are patriotic Afghans who have been displaced by U.S. intervention and violence.

Style of Governance

* Our government enforces Sharia law and the Pashtun code of ethics.
	+ Our body of laws is formed by the desire to live pure lives according to the will of Allah
* Our Sharia courts enforce Sharia law to the fullest extent.
	+ Crimes include refusing to wear a burqa, watching television, flying a kite, and not having a beard of proper length.
* We have often been accused of being violent, however, we simply enforce what is best for the people as outlined in the Koran.

Ethnic and Religious Groups

* Our organization’s members are of a Pashtun and Sunni Muslim majority.
* Although we have been criticized for our treatment of the Hazara minority, it is undeniable that we have the right to enforce Sharia as the government sees fit.
	+ Our government represents the interests of the Afghan people.

Corruption

* Transparency International, a Western organization, ranks Afghanistan as the second most corrupt country in the world.
	+ We believe that these allegations should be directed at the Afghanistan "government" headed by Hamid Karzai, a puppet of the West.
	+ We have been criticized for replacing senior [Tajik](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C4%81jik_people), [Uzbek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbeks) and [Hazara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazara_people) bureaucrats with Pashtuns, however, this was for the betterment of Afghanistan
* Our government has cracked down on the corruption of the previous rulers and reduced violence between warlords.
* The corruption of the current Karzai administration strengthens our momentum each day

Future Governance

* The Afghan people are in distress over poppy eradication and bombing leading to civil causalities; the high levels of unemployment; and their underdeveloped state.
	+ We want to govern Afghanistan with an emphasis on the code of Islam and we want to end Western neocolonialist intervention
* Despite the fabrications of the U.S. government, the Taliban seeks only to restore Afghanistan to its former glory.
* Any allegations of terrorist activity are the results of American intolerance and endeavors to control our region for financial gain
	+ The West has tried to build an oil pipeline that would feed their overconsumption and fatten their petroleum corporations.
* Our strife is caused by the United States’ imposition in the region.
	+ They have tried to install a puppet government and we must protect Afghanistan from their control

**Committee on Security**

Drug Trafficking

* The Koran expressly forbids the consumption of drugs.
* The sale of drugs is not forbidden, however.
	+ Our leader, Mullah Omar, has described drugs, particularly opium, as western vices that our people can sell in order to defeat the west.
	+ The 20% of opium sales given to our government through the policy of zakat allows us to defend ourselves against western imperialism.
* The cultivation and sale of opium is the only viable economic opportunity in many areas of Afghanistan
	+ Foreign countries including the former Soviet Union and the United States have destroyed infrastructure and industry in Afghanistan.
* America will never stop the Opium trade.
	+ In fact, it is the west’s own citizens who consume the majority of drugs.

Security Measures

* We have a far reaching security network throughout Afghanistan
* The details of our security network will remain confidential. However, we are able to conduct attacks on western institutions throughout the country.
* The west kills 100 innocent civilians for ever Taliban member they kill or capture.

Impact of Refugees

* We have welcomed refugees willing to follow the Koran
	+ We have accepted tens of thousands of Pashtun refugees from Pakistan and allowed them to make a living in Afghanistan

Nuclear Weapons

* We have not been involved in any major attempt to gain control over nuclear weapons.
* Should we gain nuclear capabilities, those weapons would be used only as protection against western imperialists
	+ Western nations do not consider the needs and desires of our people. The acquisition of nuclear weapons would be a way to make the rest of the world consider our culture instead of their own self-interest.

Pervasiveness of Crime

* We do not and will not permit criminal actions
	+ Enforcement, while considered severe by some, is extremely effective.
		- Harsh punishment, even for petty crimes, acts as a powerful deterrent
* Our ability to control crime will benefit the entire country.

Insurgencies and Other Civil Conflicts

* There are many sects of the Taliban. We will hopefully merge under the power of the Supreme Leader Mullah Omar once we retake control of Afghanistan
* We call on all true Muslims in the world to rise up and fight – whether politically, militarily, or otherwise – against the imperialist and culturally ignorant west.

Civil and Military Relations

* We, the Taliban, act as both the government and the military.
* We do not cower behind a sacrificial military, as in the west. We fight our own battles and no man is exempt because of his socioeconomic status.

**Committee on Economic Challenges**

Current Economic Situation

* We run a complex financial network to pay for our freedom fight against the oppressive Americans.
	+ The opium trade currently helps fund many of our initiatives
		- However, we are and have been willing to give up the opium trade.
		- In 2000, we offered to let the UN reorganize the opium trade.
	+ We presently earn roughly from $70 million to $400 million a year from the opium trade.
	+ While some western organizations accuse us of extortion, we protect farmers from American forces who would kill the farmer, burn their crops, and throw salt on their land
		- The American government taxes its citizens at far higher rates than those we receive from opium farmers
* We also receive donations from those who sympathize with our cause
	+ Last year alone we received $106 million to protect the people of Afghanistan and protect the sanctity of the Koran.
* The Afghan Transit Trade, (ATT ) is the largest regional source of revenue and generates an estimated $3 billion annually for the Afghan economy.

Development

* We are trying to encourage growth of industry and foreign investment to help the Afghani people
	+ Violence perpetrated by the US limits regional development
	+ The successful removal of US forces from Afghanistan will allow us to create a prosperous Islamic state following the laws of the Koran.

Education

* We would like to teach every Afghan citizen in the ways of the Koran
	+ We have, in the past, pledged to devote spending to building schools.
	+ The unrest caused by the United States’ presence prevents us from building schools and giving citizens an education that reflects their Muslim faith.
* The West criticizes us for providing an education that reflects our own culture
	+ They want us to promote their own values so they can exploit the Afghan people

**Committee on Resources**

We have been blessed with a rich country with valuable resources, but the ramifications of the war with America have brought our country to shambles. The majority of the Afghan people are deprived of clean water because development has been delayed by war. Copper rich mineral deposits in the South and West have been left quiescent because developers are not secure. Thus, the Afghan people are forced to resort to opium cultivation because all other economic stimuli are unavailable in this harsh wartime climate.

 However, we will liberate our people from this economic drought and fully restore the economic viability that we had before the war with the United States. Recall that before the war, the Taliban established a campaign to build roads throughout Afghanistan. The new roads opened remote regions to the possibility of trade and easy transportation. Stone resources are abundant enough in the south that we can reconstruct the roads now destroyed by ignorant Americans. The cement industry in Kabul is alive and well, but it still has room for growth. However, this growth can only be obtained under a government that respects the needs of its people, which is we, the Taliban.

 More abundant than our stone deposits, untapped copper reserves surround the urban areas of Heart and Kabul. The country has not taken advantage of this resource for reasons already mentioned. However, the current warlord of Kabul, Hamid Karzai, has promised our copper resources to the Chinese. China signed a 30-year lease with Karzai allowing them to tap copper resources that are valued at $88 billion. A better government would have tapped the reserves themselves instead of giving up our most valuable resource to a growing and more demanding China. China only has China in mind. Thus homegrown jobs that could have lessened our 40% unemployment rate are now in the hands of a country that cares nothing about our people’s well being.

 Praise Allah that our country is also rich in coal, chromate, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, and salts. A Taliban government would do its best to use such natural resources to help the people. For now, in a state of war, these initiatives cannot be implemented. We instead rely on opium to support our country’s economy. Yet and still, the West criticizes our cultivation of opium while leaving us no choice, but to produce them. They highlight that in Taliban influenced areas opium is produced the most. They say we are the greatest producer of heroin in the world. Yet it is Western consumption that drives these industries. They say regions around Kandahar, Lookar Gah, Tar Kowt, Kabul, and the rest of the Helmand province produce more than 94,500 hectares of opium per year. We must grow opium because 10% of Afghanistan’s land is not arable, yet 80% of the population is involved in agriculture. Domestic demand is very low, therefore the profits are low as well. We also produce wheat, grains, fruits, and nuts, but the markets for these are neither strong enough to support our future economy nor strong enough to support the average farmer at this time. Opium is our greatest and most profitable cash crop.

 Water supply has dwindled because of the American invasion. It is interesting to note that since the American invaded, we have experienced one of the worst droughts that our country has ever seen. The drought of the last five years has been tough for everyone, but even more so for the desert people of the southern plateau of Afghanistan. The people will have to flock to cities or to the rivers for adequate amounts of water. Water quality is yet another problem. We have five rivers Ama Dary (Oxus) River, Selseleh-ye Kuhe, Koh-i-Baba, Paraopaminus, and Darya-ye-Helmund. We are a land locked country, so our water supply is crucial. The Ama Darya (river) supplies 55% of the water supply, so a strategic guard or stronghold near its inception would secure the health of the people from selfish warlords. However, the snow and glaciers feeding the major rivers in Afghanistan are shrinking or are completely gone. Climate change, as evidenced by prolonged summers with relentless sun and temperatures, is reducing the size of mountain glaciers in both Kashmir and in Afghanistan. We must secure our water's future, as water supply will become increasingly scarce.

 The quality of the water is another issue. The Americans who have promised our people so much have not even helped us gain access to clean drinkable water. Most Afghans die from major infectious diseases including bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever caused by bad water. Even homes with running water are subject to E Coli and other diseases.

 Water is also our main power generator. It generates 839 million kWh of power per year. It comprises 67% of the countries power needs (36.3% of our power need is fulfilled by imported fossil fuel). The current government imports oil at an unnecessarily high price because Afghanistan has not taken advantage of its oil and natural gas reserves in the North. Afghanistan also has a Uranium deposit in the south that we will develop for energy. Before the war with America, we also established enough stability to develop a pipeline deal with Uncoil and other international companies. But these agreements fell apart due to American caused instability.

 We, the Taliban, have demonstrated that we are truly concerned for the economic well being of our citizen and we put shame on those who have tried to reverse our progress. The resources are there for our taking (not for any foreign power), but the war has hindered our country’s economic vitality. Clean water and water in general are a major future issue for our people. Thus the Taliban will take the actions necessary to help as many people as possible to live a respectable, stable life.

**Committee on Rights and Responsibilities**

Human Rights/Civil Rights Policies

* We support the full implementation of Sharia Law
* We want to stop westernization
	+ Ban listening to music.
	+ Ban watching movies and television.
	+ Ban usage of internet.
	+ Mandatory prayer in mosques five times a day
* Our aim is to set up the world's purest Islamist state
	+ We ban corrupt ideas and ways of life.
* Afghanistan lost 2 million people in war against Soviets before we took power in the 1990’s.
	+ We believe Sharia Law can stop another, similar catastrophe from happening.
* Some consider our methods to be violations of human rights
	+ We follow the Koran, and our methods have manifold benefits
		- We help prevent drug addiction
			* Rehabilitation programs have proven effective, according to patients who underwent our procedures.

Women’s Rights

* Education
	+ The Koran expressly forbids the education of women. Women’s education could corrupt women’s purity and distract them from their societal roles.
* We mandated that windows painted over so women couldn’t see outside and women couldn’t be seen inside.
	+ This prevents men from being distracted by desire and lust.
* If women were given freedom of movement and dress, society would become more sexually liberal, something forbidden by the Koran.
	+ Armed forces, distracted by women’s sexuality, would be distracted from more important goals.

Economic Rights

* We encourage the cultivation and sale of opium, although not the consumption by our people
	+ Mutually beneficial: 20% of the value of sold opium goes to support our government through the policy of zakat. Farmers are able to sustain themselves and their family.
		- Farmers get good price for opium
			* Afghan opium farmers make over US$100 million annually
		- Farmers would resist a ban on opium considering its profitability.

Social Rights

* We give opportunity to refugees
	+ Tens of thousands of Pashtun refugees from Pakistan farm the lucrative opium crop.
* We give people the chance for a cohesive cultural identity as a member of the Taliban
	+ Loyalty is not matter of individual choice, it is a matter of family honor to fight in memory of relatives who have been killed.
	+ Membership in the Taliban is an opportunity for social betterment.

Unemployment

* An estimated 40% of 25 million Afghans are unemployed.
	+ We help to stop this excessive unemployment by creating jobs.

Poverty

* High rate of poverty drives young men to join our cause.
	+ Government soldiers are paid $200 annually while Taliban soldiers earn $400.
	+ More than half of Afghanistan lives under the poverty line.
		- We help prevent further poverty.
	+ Opium cultivation and sale helps feed entire families.
		- Taliban helps protect these opium fields.

Health Care

* + We do not play a role in setting the standard or cost of health care.
* Access to health care
	+ We do not encourage females and males receiving care at same institutions
		- Females are not permitted to be seen without a burqa by men other than husbands and blood relatives.

Education

* Hundreds of schools closed not because of our own attacks, but out of fear of attacks from enemies of Islam.
* Western style education is an intrusion on Afghan culture and religion
* We do not support girls education
	+ It is forbidden by the Koran and an integral part of Sharia Law
* We are not unilaterally against education, however.
	+ We announced plans to build three schools in Afghanistan in 2007.
	+ We approve of education that reflects our culture and society
		- Promote the teaching of Islam in madrassas
	+ We are wiling to provide textbooks that neither libel Islam nor promote western values

Freedom of Press/Expression

* We are against freedom of expression that promotes the current government.
	+ Never in favor of journalists backing government
		- Government authorities pressure journalists into writing pro-government propaganda
* Freedom of press is less important than following Islam.
	+ We changed the name of the national radio station in Afghanistan to “The Voice of Sharia”
		- It is most important to stress the value of Sharia education
	+ Clearly, freedom of press is not sought by the current administration either.
		- Despite seven years of western neocolonialism, it is still unsafe for journalists to do their job properly.
		- While certain factions of the Taliban have attacked journalists, so have gangs and mafia groups.
			* The Karzai administration has not fixed this problem
				+ They exacerbated the problem by arresting journalists and increasing the monitoring of the press by the Afghan intelligence agency and the police.

**Committee on Religion and Identity**

Historical Memory

* British supported Amir Abdul Rehaman’s claim to throne after second Anglo-Afghan war (1880)
* Iron Amir (1880-1901) was supported by British – he centralized and strengthened the Afghan state
	+ Subdued rebellious Pashtuns (recently divided between British India and Afghanistan)
	+ Ended autonomy of Hazaras and Uzbeks in North
	+ Created first successful police force through violent enforcement
	+ Influence on us:
		- Isolation of Afghanistan from Western modernizing influences and education
		- Emphasis on Islam by enhancing the power of Pashtun mullahs
		- The concept of divine right to rule
* End of Durani Dynasty – Afghanistan declared Republic and Mohammad Daoud Khan becomes president
	+ He was helped by leftist officers and a small urban-based Parcham party
	+ They persecuted the foundations of the Islamist fundamentalist movement
		- Leaders of the movement fled to Peshawar in 1975, backed by Pakistan’s Prime Minister (Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto) to continue opposing Daoud
			* Parcham party leaders later became the Mujahideen
* 1956-78: Soviet Union gave billions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan
	+ The Soviet Union brought the country into their sphere of influence at height of Cold War
	+ US gave aid at same time, however the United States lost interest in Afghanistan in the 1950s
* Daoud’s regime restricted democratic representation
* April 1978: The Soviet Union overthrew Daoud in military coup
	+ Mullahs and khans declared jihad/holy war against infidel communists
	+ Afghan Mujahidin were backed by a US-led coalition
* Soviet invasion was another attempt by outsiders to subdue the Afghan people and replace their culture, religion and society with an alien ideology and social system
	+ Jihad proliferated; the US, China, and Arab states economically supported the Mujahidin
* Soviet troops withdrew in 1989
	+ We emerged from the Mujahideen

Impact of Historical Memory

* Our wounds, physical and emotional, are a reminder of 20 years of war that devastated the country.
* Our leaders promote the necessarily harsh style of war taking place around Kandahar in the 1980s
* We continue Jihad against the neocolonialist West and other enemies to our practice of Islam
* We feel rightful anger towards foreigners
	+ They have and continue to ignorantly ignore and attack our culture in an effort to protect their own interests
* We provide an identity and sense of purpose to men, many of whom are uneducated, who were affected by the destruction from the Soviets and lack of aid thereafter.

Role of Extremism and Identity

* We come from a majority Pashtun ethnic group
* Our sudden rise in 1994 revived hopes that once again the Pashtun majority would control the development of Afghanistan
* We implemented the true interpretation of Sharia/Islamic law
	+ There was some resistance, yet those people do not understand true Islam
* We do not permit girls to have an education
	+ The Koran forbids most forms of social interaction for women in an attempt to protect them and protect men from their wicked influences
* We forbid most forms of entertainment, particularly western ones
	+ They are a distraction from the devout following of Islam
	+ Western entertainment is an attempt to indoctrinate our people with foreign cultural and social values
* Our pure, fundamentalist interpretation of Islam is subject to defamation from the West
	+ Western news sources say we changed Islam’s message of peace and tolerance and its capacity to live with other religious and ethnic groups
		- Yet these foreigners do not truly understand our cause and struggle.
* We support public executions for those who disgrace Islam and the Koran
* Amputations of either one hand/foot or both are common Taliban punishments for thieves
	+ These punishments display to the public what is right and what is wrong and have proved extremely effective
	+ It is supported by the Koran

The Role of Religion

* A mixture of fear, acceptance, total exhaustion and devastation from years of war and more than 1.5 million deaths have rightfully led many Afghans to accept our pure form of Islam.
* We create hope by unifying students of Islam with the goal of bringing peace to the country.
	+ By following the Koran, we disposed of the warlords who had devastated people’s lives since the overthrow of the communist regime in 1992.
* Our powerful message has spread throughout the region, causing Muslims in neighboring countries to take up the fight against enemies of Islam.
* Tension between those who subvert true Islam and those who support it have caused unprecedented polarization in the region

**Committee on Kashmir**

Future of Kashmir

* India needs to relinquish control of the areas in Kashmir with a Muslim majority
* Muslims should have the right to establish an Islamic society and government
* India has never had a legitimate claim that all of Kashmir is an integral part of India
* India has no right to the Pakistani controlled Northern Areas and Azad Jammu and Kashmir which are virtually entirely Muslim
* The Kashmir Valley should not be part of India because it is overwhelmingly Muslim
* We cannot accept the Line of Control as a legitimate border because India would retain control over the majority-Muslim Kashmir Valley
* India did not fulfill its promise in 1947 to give the people of Kashmir an opportunity for self-determination.
* The Indian army improperly restricts freedom of movement in Kashmir and along the Line of Control
* India has falsely claimed that it gives Jammu and Kashmir’s state governments autonomy in local matters but in fact India retains full control over these regions’ governance.

Most Important Factors Concerning the Future of Kashmir

* India should not be controlling areas in which Muslims are the overwhelming majority
* India has deprived and cheated Pakistan out of territory
* India has committed human rights atrocities against the Muslim majority in Kashmir.
	+ Atrocities include assassinations, rape of Muslim women, torture, shooting of protestors, arson, and imprisonment
* Muslims have the right to protect themselves from subjugation and abuse from India.
* India unfairly blames us for terrorist acts in Pakistan rather than recognizing that these acts are a natural result of India’s mistreatment of the Kashmiri people
* The U.S. supports India’s attempt to control Kashmir and persecute its Muslim population
	+ This is an extension of western attempts to destroy our culture and protect their hegemony at any cost.
* Indian security forces and governments in Kashmir are corrupt
	+ Elections have not been free and fair and do not truly represent the local population
* Violence in Kashmir caused by India has destroyed the local the economy and restricted trade
	+ The Indian government has no interest in the economic success of the Kashmiri people
		- They wish only to use the natural resources for their own benefit.

Involvement in the Kashmir Issue to Date

* We have provided security and protection to Muslims who persecuted by India’s secular Hindu majority.
* We support the people of Kashmir in their efforts to combat oppression and subjugation
* We have tried to protect the practice of the Muslim faith
	+ Indian forces try to limit the religious practices of the Muslim people, labeling them terrorists for practicing their religion.
* We have tried to stop India from further infiltrating Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

Alliances in the Kashmir Conflict

* We support the Kashmiri people’s fight against oppression by Indian security forces
* We support groups fighting unjust occupation of Kashmir by India
* We support Muslim groups fighting discrimination throughout the region
* We support Islamic groups trying to combat secular influence from India
* We are aligned with Islamic groups and jihadist groups fighting against foreign influence in Kashmir

Impact of Resolution on Security and Stability in South Asia

* If the Kashmir conflict remains unsolved:
	+ Tension between Pakistan and India will preserve instability and the possibility of nuclear confrontation
	+ India and Pakistan will maintain troops on their side of the Line of Control, promoting further violence
	+ The Indian army will continue to oppress the Muslim majority, creating further unrest and resentment amongst the Kashmir people
		- The Kashmiri people will respond with increased violence from homegrown militant groups.
	+ Kashmir’s economy will continue to suffer, causing further suffering for the Kashmiri people
* As long as India insists on Muslim-majority Kashmir being a part of its country, the violence and tension associated with the Kashmir conflict will continue.
* Pakistan cannot address its internal economic issues as long as it is forced to protect Muslims in Kashmir from India.

The Role of Resources in our Kashmir Policy

* India must not have complete control over the water supply, including the Siachen glacier, and valuable resources including timber.
* We want to prevent the exploitation of Kashmir’s resources for the benefit of western nations and India.

**Five Issues**

* The official, internationally acknowledged involvement of the Taliban in Afghanistan’s government.
* The accelerated and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.
* The development of Afghanistan’s economy without exploitation by foreign powers.
* The enforcement of Sharia Law throughout Afghanistan.
* The creation of infrastructure and social welfare programs consistent with the teachings of Islam.

Works Cited

Bajoria, Jayshree. “How the Kashmir Dispute Affects Security in South Asia.” Interview by Daniel

Markey, et al. *Council on Foreign Relations*. 14 July 2009. 22 Feb. 2010.

<http://www.cfr.org/‌publication/‌19805/>.

Baker, Aryn. Time. “The Taliban: Friend to Education?” 1 Jan. 2007.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1581119,00.html>

Brossel, Vincent, Jean-Francois Julliard, and Reza Moini. "What gains for press freedom from Hamid Karzai's seven years as president?" *Reporters Without Borders*. Web. <http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/Report\_Afgha\_Eng.pdf>.

Bruno, Greg, and Eben Kaplan. "The Taliban in Afghanistan." Council on Foreign Relations. 3 Aug.

 2009. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.cfr.org/publication/10551/>>.

"Corruption Perceptions Index 2009." Transparency International. 2009. Web. 26 Feb. 2010.

 <<http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009>>.

Curtis, Lisa. “India and Pakistan Poised to Make Progress on Kashmir.” *Backgrounder* (Jan. 2007).

Dorronsoro, Gilles. "The Taliban's Winning Strategy in Afghanistan -." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. June 2009. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=23331>>.

Dorronsoro, Gilles. "Who Are the Taliban?" *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=24029>.

Filkins, Dexter. "In Blow to Taliban, 2 More Leaders Are Arrested." New York Times. 18 Feb. 2010. Web. 26 Feb. 2009. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/19/world/asia/19taliban.html?scp=1&sq=the%20taliban&st=cse>>.

Grassi, Ricardo. "Afghanistan: Taliban Kidnapping Motivated by 'Press Freedom'?" *IPS Inter Press Service*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=36878>.

Habibullah, Wajahat. *My Kashmir: Conflict and the Prospects for Enduring Peace*. Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2008.

Hafvenstein, Joel. *Opium Season: A Year on the Afghan Frontier*. Guilford: The Lyons Press, 2007.

Jha, Lalit K. "Press freedom in Afghanistan getting worse." *The Revolutionary Association of the*

*Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010.

<http://www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2008/05/01/press-freedom-in-afghanistan-getting-worse-cpj.html>.

Matinuddin, Kamal. *The Taliban Phenomenon: 1994-1997*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Mazzetti, Mark, and Eric Schmitt. "Afghan Strikes by Taliban Get Pakistan Help, U.S. Aides Say." *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia*. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/26/world/asia/26tribal.html>.

Mendes, Jessica. “Taliban Rulers Curtail Women’s Freedom, Health Care.” *The Revolutionary*

*Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA).* Web. 25 Feb. 2010.

<[www.rawa.org/ecmaj.htm](http://www.rawa.org/ecmaj.htm)>

Moore, Una. "Afghan Civil Society Fears Taliban Talks Will Compromise Rights." *UN Dispatch*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.undispatch.com/node/9515>.

Ninian, Alex. “Kashmir.” *Contemporary Review* 289.1685 (2007): 220-227. *Academic Search Premier*. 26 Feb. 2010.

“Pakistan’s New Generation of Terrorists.” *Council on Foreign Relations*. 26 Oct. 2009. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.cfr.org/‌publication/‌15422/>.

Peters, Gretchen. "Learn to Tax from the Taliban." *The New York Times*. 02/24/2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/04/opinion/04afghanistan.html?pagewanted=

all>

Peters, Gretchen. Seeds of Terror: *How Heroin is bankrolling the Taliban and Al Qaeda*. New

York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2009.

"Press Freedom Getting Worse In Afghanistan, RSF Says." *Radio Free Europe*. Web. 25 Feb.

2010. <http://www.rferl.org/content/Press\_Freedom\_Getting\_Worse\_In\_Afghanistan\_RSF\_Says\_/1370440.html>.

Qazi, Abdullah. "Afghanistan's Water Resources and Pollution." *Afghanistan Online*. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <http://www.afghan-web.com/environment/water.html>.

Rashid, Ahmed. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. New Haven:

Yale University Press, 2001.

Royle, Trevor. "Poverty and Corruption: the Real Allies of the Taliban." *The Scotland Herald*.

Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/poverty-and-

corruption-the-real-allies-of-the-taliban-1.933514?localLinksEnabled=false>.

Schaffer, Howard B. *The Limits of Influence*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institute Press, 2009.

Schmitt, Eric. "Many Sources Feed Taliban's War Chest." The New York Times. 02/24/2010.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/19/world/asia/19taliban.html?\_r= 1&scp=1&sq=SCHMITT,%20ERIC,%20and%20Carlotta%20Gall.%20%22Diver se%20Sources%20Pour%20Cash%20Into%20Taliban%27s%20War%20Chest&st=cse>

Shoup, Anna. "Afghanistan and the War on Terror: The Taliban." PBS. 3 Oct. 2006. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/asia/afghanistan/keyplayers/taliban.html>>.

Sidhu, Waheguru Pal Singh, Bushara Asif, and Cyrus Samil, eds. *Kashmir: New Voices, New Approaches*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2006.

"Some of the restrictions imposed by Taliban in Afghanistan." *The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.rawa.org/rules.htm>.

"Poverty, unemployment driving Afghanistan towards instability." *The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2008/09/28/poverty-unemployment-driving-afghanistan-towards-instability.html>.

"Taliban: Government." *Lycos*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.lycos.com/info/taliban--government.html>.

"Taliban: Women." *Lycos*. Web. 27 Feb. 2010. <http://www.lycos.com/info/taliban--women.html?page=3>.

Tawhidi, Sediqullah. "Freedom of Journalism in Afghanistan." *Internews*. Web. 27 Feb. 2010.

<http://www.internews.org/pubs/afghanistan/070301\_jfr\_20.shtm>.

“The Future of Kashmir?” *BBC News*. 26 Feb. 2010. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/‌2/‌shared/‌spl/‌hi/‌south\_asia/‌03/‌kashmir\_future/‌html/>.

USAID. “USAID, Making Development Work in Afghanistan: A Case Study of the Health Sector.”

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia/documents/health\_case\_study.pdf

"Water Resources Assessment, Monitoring and Capacity Building." *USGS Projects in Afghanistan*. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <http://afghanistan.cr.usgs.gov/water.php>. Web.

Wilson, Simon. "Where do al-Qaeda and the Taliban get their money?" *Investing, Investment Advice, Financial News & More - MoneyWeek*. Web. 26 Feb. 2010. <http://www.moneyweek.com/news-and-charts/economics/where-al-qaeda-and-the-taliban-get-their-money-45809.aspx>.

"Women and Global Human Rights." *Webster University*. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <http://www.webster.edu/~woolflm/taliban.html>.