

Outline for ROUND TABLE #4–*Security Challenges in Afghanistan & Pakistan*

On December 9, 2009, President Obama announced his decision to commit 30,000 troops to the war effort in Afghanistan. This decision, announced at the United States Military Academy at West Point, was a controversial one and squarely put him on the side of his top military commanders who had requested the troop increase. The decision was not taken lightly. The President spent many weeks mulling his options.

The Afghanistan round table will discuss the ramifications, the process, and the various factors that went into the President's final decision. Various decision making models will be analyzed as well as the military and political determinants.

The overall strategy in Afghanistan i.e. counterinsurgency vs counterterrorism will be analyzed at length.

Finally, the round table should be able to discuss the issues regarding nation building in Afghanistan. What is the overall goal of U.S./NATO intervention? What would constitute victory in Afghanistan?

Short Bibliography

The following articles are highly recommended:

1. Afghanistan in 2005: The Challenge of Reconstruction
by Nasreen Ghufan Asian Survey, Vol. 46., No.1 Jan-Feb, 2006, pp 85-94
2. American Foreign Policy and Global Opinion
by Benjamin E. Goldsmith The Journal of Conflict Resolution Vol., 49 No.3
June 2005. pp- 408-429
3. Constitutional Design and Political Salience of "Community" Identity in
Afghanistan
by Katherine Adency Asian Survey Vol., 48 No., 4 Jul-Aug, 2008. pp 535-557