

The Airmic logo features the word "airmic" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letter "i" is a white icon of a house with a peaked roof.

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Airmic Live 2021

Afghanistan Assessment

airmic.com

29 September 2021

Panelists

Control Risks

- **Arsla Jawaid (Analyst, Control Risks)**
- **Alexandra Kellert (Senior Analyst, Control Risks)**

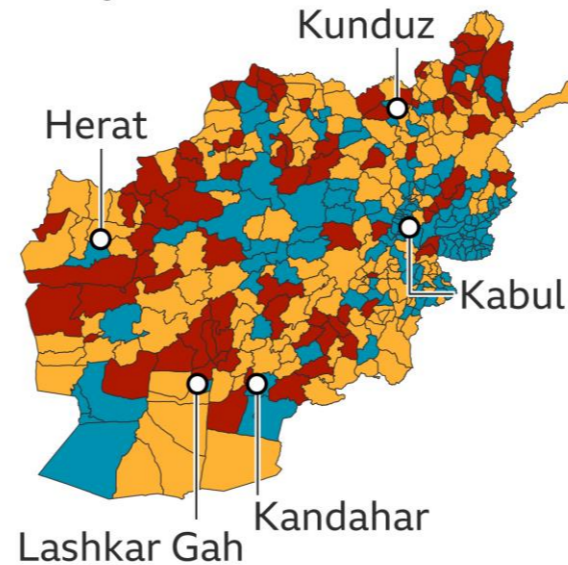
▶ Afghanistan developments

- ▶ Taliban takeover
- ▶ Current composition of the government
- ▶ Key individuals
- ▶ Taliban 2.0?
- ▶ Economic landscape and outlook

Taliban now control nearly all of the country

Militants made huge gains in just over a month of fighting

9 July



Contested



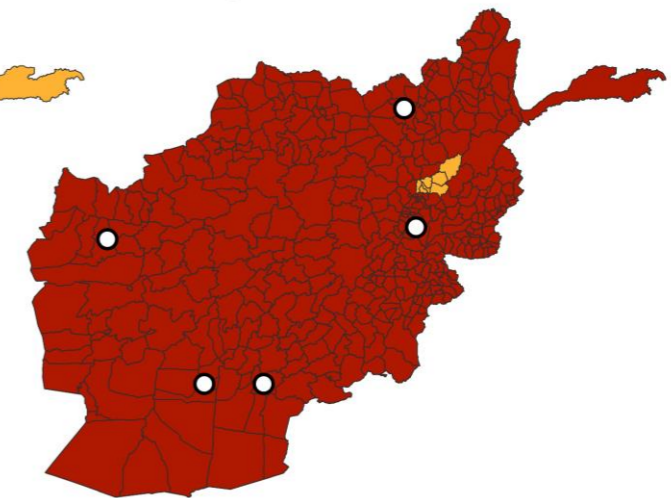
Government



Taliban control



16 August



7

0

391

*Contested is where fighting is ongoing or strong Taliban presence

Source: BBC Research. Districts according to 2005 government boundaries



▶ Regional impact

- ▶ Presence and role of militant groups in Afghanistan
- ▶ Security considerations and the immediate neighbourhood
- ▶ Impact on South Asian dynamics
- ▶ Role of Central Asian states

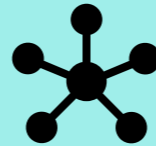


▶ Business considerations: Afghanistan

Security threats to assets and personnel



Operational disruption



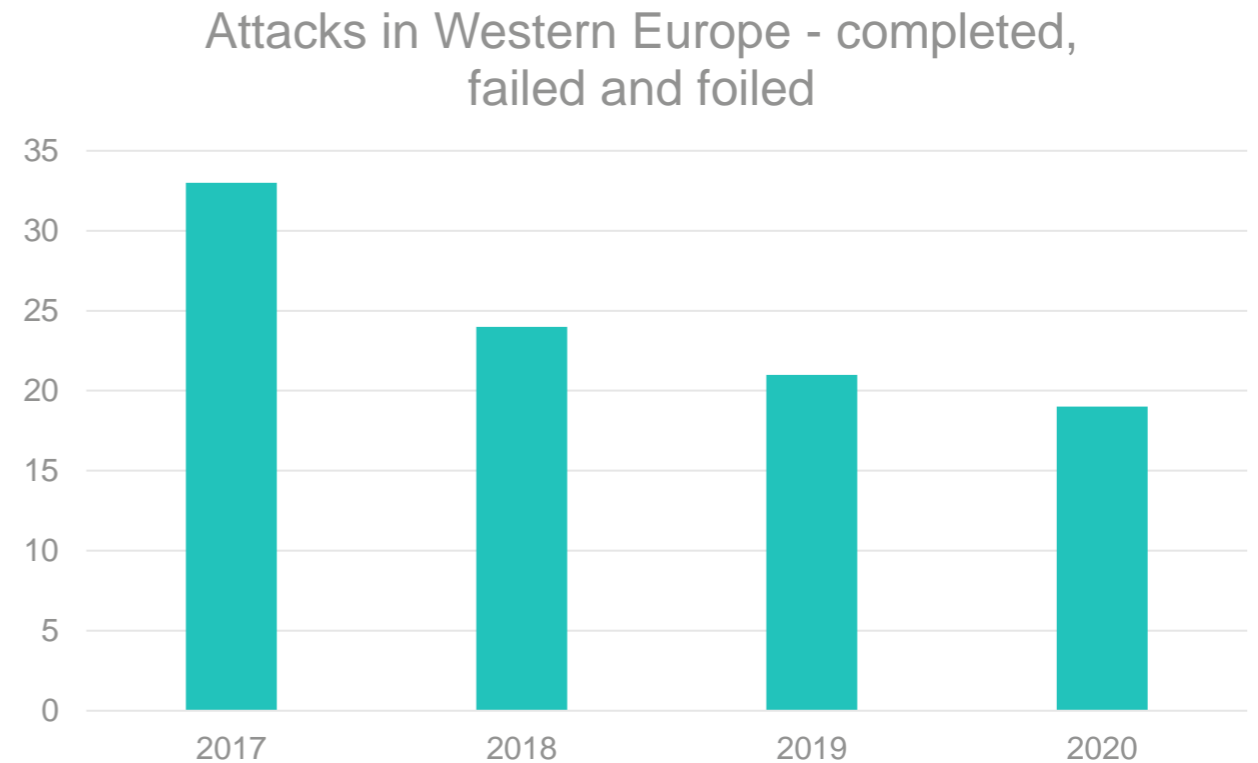
Taliban as a reliable partner?



► Attack trends in Western Europe

Fewer attacks, less sophisticated methods

- Security services have significantly reduced the capabilities of Islamist extremist networks – uncover most complex plots before they can be carried out
- But, intent remains
- Individuals not networks most likely to carry out attacks
- Unsophisticated attacks (knives and/or vehicles)
- Generally in crowded public spaces: shopping precincts, bars/restaurants, public transport
- Shift to more opportunistic locations – not just city centres



▶ Threats to businesses

Targets since 2017	Frequency
Public space	17
Police/military	13
Retail	6
Religious building	3
Educational establishment	2
Sporting/cultural event	2
Public transport	2
Political location	2
Media	1

- ▶ Businesses themselves are not seen as attractive targets and this is unlikely to change
- ▶ Exception is retail
- ▶ Incidental threat of damage reduced by shift from explosives
- ▶ May experience knock-on disruption via closures following attacks in the vicinity
- ▶ Threats to personnel:
 - ◆ Commuting
 - ◆ Business travel
 - ◆ Socialising
 - ◆ Shopping

► Impact of Afghanistan fallout on terrorism outlook

Short term – the coming months

- Authorities have expressed concerns that the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan will increase terrorism threats in Western Europe
- No indication that anyone intending to carry out an attack successfully made it to Europe during evacuation
- Possibility of inspired attack, but likely limited impact on existing intent
- Potential veteran/right-wing attack
- More likely drivers of attacks:
 - ◆ Pent up demand from lockdowns
 - ◆ Response to Bataclan trial

Longer term

- Potential resurgence in jihadist training activities in Afghanistan = potential knock-on impacts on terrorist capabilities in WE
- Islamist extremists from region previously travelled to train in camps and are likely to seek to do the same if feasible
- Could increase terrorism threats when they return
- However, once again, the strength of the intelligence services would likely mitigate much of threat

The logo for airmic, featuring the word "airmic" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a small white roof-like shape above the letter 'i'.

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The logo for Control Risks, consisting of the words "Control Risks" in a white, sans-serif font inside a white rectangular box with a thin black border, set against a dark teal background.

Control Risks

Thank you!

Q&A

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Driving Transformation

Shaping the future

Airmic Conference 2021

 5 - 6 October

 Brighton Centre

 www.AirmicConference.com

