

Back to the Future*

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Resumo

Retorno ao Futuro

É inquestionável o facto de o Ocidente ter decidido intervir militarmente no Afeganistão em Outubro de 2001 sem ter uma ideia clara sobre as consequências de tal decisão, bem como poderia mais tarde vir a retirar-se deste teatro de operações. Sem se aperceber, o Ocidente envolveu-se num conflito multidimensional e com múltiplos actores que se digladiam entre si há várias décadas.

Este é um conflito que coloca em confronto várias forças políticas afegãs, o Islão com o secularismo, a tradição com a modernidade, as cidades com as zonas rurais, os Sunitas com os Xiítas, os camponeses com os nómadas, os Pashtuns com os Tadjiques, os Uzbeques com os Hazaras. O conflito irá continuar a não ser que estas díades dialécticas sejam resolvidas, bem como as relações do Afeganistão com os países vizinhos, através de um processo ambicioso e continuado assente num modelo tipo *jirga* que envolva as dimensões internas e externas do país e que seja patrocinado pelos Estados Unidos e pelas Nações Unidas e apoiado pelos cinco Membros Permanentes do seu Conselho de Segurança (EUA, Rússia, China, França e Grã-Bretanha), pela NATO, pela União Europeia e pelos restantes actores regionais.

Abstract

It is unarguable that the West got into Afghanistan in October 2001 without a clear idea either of what it was getting into or of how it was going to get out. Without realising it, the West became involved in a multi-player, multi-dimensional, multi-decade civil conflict, the origins of which go back many years. It is an unresolved struggle, over the nature of the Afghan polity, between Islam and secularism, tradition and modernism, town and country, Sunni and Shia, farmer and nomad, Pashtun and Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara.

Unless and until those problems, and Afghanistan's relations with its neighbours and near neighbours, are addressed through an ambitious and continuing jirga-like process, internal and external, sponsored by the US and the UN, supported by the Permanent Five Members of the UN Security Council (the US, Russia, China, France and Britain), NATO and the EU, and engaging all regional players, conflict will continue

* This article is an edited extract from the author's latest book "Cables from Kabul: The Inside Story of the West's Afghanistan Campaign", published in May 2011 by Harper Collins Ome.