The Biden administration’s decision to withdraw forces from Afghanistan by the 31st of August will mark the end of Australia and the United States’ longest war, leaving many questioning the future of the country. After twenty years, there is significant reflection on the outcome of the conflict.

The continually shifting goals of this war — from fighting Al-Qaeda to the development of democratisation programs that saw a growth in women’s rights and education, is one example that underscores the complex nature of the conflict. Will all that has been achieved be rolled back if the Taliban take control of Afghanistan?

Even after a twenty-year conflict, the US were unable to meet all of their policy objectives within the country. What does US withdrawal from Afghanistan mean for US global power? What will the future hold for Afghanistan?

Questions around the stability of the US-backed Afghan state, the re-emergence of Taliban control in vast areas of the country, and the ability of Afghanistan to combat terrorist threats after the withdrawal are all questions of great importance to the US, its allies, and the region.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Emeritus Professor William Maley, as he reflects upon the past, and speaks about the reversal of progress found in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and allied forces. Following his recent article, On the brink of disaster, published in The Conversation, he will be covering the current state of Afghanistan and its prospects, following the withdrawal of US and allied forces.

**William Maley AM FAIIA** is Emeritus Professor at The Australian National University, where he was Professor of Diplomacy from 2003-2021. He is a Member of the Order of Australia, a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He was admitted as a Barrister of the High Court of Australia in 1982. In November 2003, he received the AUSTCARE Paul Cullen Humanitarian Award for services to refugees. He is author of Rescuing Afghanistan (2006), What is a Refugee? (2016), Transition in Afghanistan: Hope, Despair and the Limits of Statebuilding (2018), The Afghanistan Wars (2021), and Diplomacy, Communication, and Peace: Selected Essays (2021).

This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 27 July at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

RSVP: BOOK ONLINE or call (03) 9654 7271

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