



The Taliban has seized control of the Afghan capital Kabul, and it has declared that Afghanistan is under its control.

The **insurgents** took control of nearly all of Afghanistan in just over a week, and gunmen took control of the presidential palace. They took down the flag of Afghanistan inside the palace just hours after the president Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

The Islamist militants **encountered** no resistance as they took back power two decades after the US overthrew them. Chaotic scenes erupted at Hamid Karzai International Airport as thousands of people flooded the **tarmac**, desperate to get a flight out of the country. Thousands more attempted to flee the country by road.

The US and UK sent military to secure Kabul's airport and to help foreign nationals leave Afghanistan.

Difficult words: **insurgent** (a person fighting against a government), **encounter** (to experience something unexpectedly), **tarmac** (the area of an airport where aircraft park).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *insurgent*, *encounter* and *tarmac*
2. How long did it take the insurgents to take control of nearly all of Afghanistan?
3. What did the gunmen do hours after the president of Afghanistan fled the country?
4. What was the situation at the tarmac of Hamid Karzai International Airport?
5. What role did the US and UK play when chaotic scenes erupted at the airport in Kabul?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Do you know what caused crisis in Afghanistan?
2. The Afghanistan war is considered the longest war with the US participation? How long did the Afghanistan war last?
3. Who are affected the most by the crisis in Afghanistan?
4. What do you think the future of Afghanistan will be?