

# The Final Round<sup>1</sup>

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**This House Would release all frozen assets to Afghanistan's central government.**

## A Note about the Notes

These are my notes from the final round for the March 4, 2023, tournament held online. They are limited by how quickly I could write and how well I heard what was said. I apologize for any errors, but I hope debaters will appreciate this insight: what a judge hears may not be what they said or wish they had said.

There are two versions of the notes. The one below is chronological, reproducing each speech in the order in which the arguments were made. It shows how the debate was presented. The second is formatted to look more like my written flow chart, with each contention "flowed" across the page as the teams argued back and forth. It's closer to the way I take notes during the debate.

## The Final Round

The final round was between the Bethel team of Max Allen and Ben Pawloski on the Government and New Canaan team of Ankita Kuttichirayil and Ryan Axon on the Negative. The debate was won by the Opposition team from New Canaan.

### 1) Prime Minister Constructive

- a) Introduction/Motion
- b) Definitions
  - i) This House: US Federal Government
  - ii) Frozen Assets: \$7billion held in banks
- c) Plan: release 20% per year over 5 years, with later payments contingent on the earlier funds being spent properly
- d) G1<sup>2</sup>: Net benefits to the Afghan people
  - i) Economic activity trickles down to benefit all
    - (1) Afghan economy is in bad shape, GDP has fallen by 30%
    - (2) Power cuts, food shortages, etc.
  - ii) Giving all the money at once would result in it being spent poorly
  - iii) More funds will lead to more democracy and Westernization

***POI: Why will the Taliban comply with demands?***

  - iv) So far they haven't been asked
  - v) \$7bn is a big deal for Afghanistan, not for the US
- e) G2: Does not require military involvement

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<sup>2</sup> "G1" indicates the Government first contention, "O2" the Opposition second contention and so forth.

- i) 20 years of war had no effect on Taliban
  - (1) Deaths and destruction
- ii) Afghanistan needs money to recover
  - (1) Successive payments will force them to follow the plan
- iii) US left in 2021 for a reason; money isn't important to US
- f) G3: Stops Afghan collusion with nefarious forces
  - i) E.g., land deals with China
    - (1) Part of Chinese attempts to gain influence in other countries
  - ii) Plan gives funds without Afghanistan having to sell resources
  - iii) US is acting like a police state enforcing international standards

## 2) Leader of the Opposition Constructive

- a) Intro/Motion
- b) Plan: Taliban will not cooperate
  - i) Pressure will only increase their extremism
- c) G1: Will \$ lead to Westernization?
  - i) Taliban is extremely anti-West
  - ii) Do they need the money?
    - (1) It's been frozen for 10-20 years
    - (2) We've seen no movement to the West
  - iii) Cutoff later payments?
    - (1) Still can use what they have received for their own purposes
- d) G2: Warrants rely on funds influencing the Taliban
  - i) Taliban has thrived without the funds
  - ii) Taliban has options such as China
  - iii) Taliban won't bend to Western ideals
  - POI: Aren't the Taliban different now?***
  - iv) US pressure will push the to extremes to to China
- e) G3: Taliban isn't inclined to stop working with others
  - i) Rather than give up principles they would turn to China
- f) O1: Release poses a major security risk
  - i) Taliban are connected to terrorism
    - (1) Under Gov at least \$1.4 billion will be misdirected
  - ii) Taliban controls gov't, including central bank
    - (1) Will support terrorism
  - iii) Taliban won't bend on women's rights
    - (1) Money they have goes to police, military
    - (2) Release gives them even more
- g) O2: Taliban lacks the leadership skills to spend the money well
  - i) Taliban leadership is fragmented
    - (1) Difficult for them to make decisions
  - ii) Taliban are fighters with no governing experience
    - (1) Violate civil rights, but illiterate
    - (2) Military orientation
- h) O3: Release not needed to bring about change
  - i) Better to work through charities and NGOs like UNICEF

## 3) Member of Government Constructive

- a) Intro
  - b) O1: How do we know Taliban will comply?
    - i) Opp conceded impact
      - (1) We are only releasing \$1.7bn initially
    - ii) Opp ignores different situation now
      - (1) Taliban controls gov't
      - (2) Wants international recognition
      - (3) Will fail without funds
      - (4) Implies they will make some changes to get funds
    - iii) Chinese energy companies pose a threat
      - (1) Taliban can't thrive without funds
      - (2) They are failing in the status quo
  - c) O2: Central bank corrupt?
    - i) Wall Street Journal quote says they are making strides with Western help
  - d) O3: Charities and NGOs?
    - i) Taliban won't let them in
    - ii) Taliban can seize aid and still commit human rights abuses
    - iii) Program needs US backing
    - iv) Funds spent through Afghan government will trickle down through the economy
  - e) G1 and G3: money will influence Taliban behavior
    - i) Better than relying on China
      - (1) Taliban can steal US aid money and use it for terror
      - (2) Collude with China against West
    - ii) Disburse over time provides incentive to use funds properly
      - (1) Won't collude with Qatar, al Qaeda
    - iii) NGOs can only succeed with military presence
- 4) Member of the Opposition Constructive**
- a) Intro/Motion
  - b) O2: Gov claims Afghan gov't is hitting stride with outside help
    - i) The economy is collapsing
    - ii) Why will Taliban help people if they are harming them now?
    - iii) Give money to gov't, prolong the problem
  - c) O3: UN provides \$billions for humanitarian crises
    - i) UNICEF programs pay teachers
    - ii) Better than giving \$ to Taliban
      - (1) Taliban won't listen to the West
    - iii) Withholding money has had no impact so far
      - (1) With power, Taliban has more tools to enable it to ignore outside pressure
  - d) G1: \$1.4bn is no incentive
    - i) Taliban history shows it holds ideology above all else
      - (1) It will starve population, let economy fail, to fund it's own government
    - ii) Taliban will take the initial \$1.4bn, continue current policy
      - (1) Or it could take all \$7bn and just revert after 5 years
      - (2) More infrastructure, more police, more oppression
    - iii) NGOs are a better option

***POI: Why is the Taliban asking for money?***

- iv) They want to fund terrorism and human rights abuse
- v) Won't change policy just to get funds
- vi) Rather trade with China
- e) G3: The US trades with China
  - i) China has an enormous economy
  - ii) No country can avoid working with them
  - iii) \$7bn is nothing compared to the value of working with China

**5) Leader of Opposition Rebuttal**

- a) Intro
- b) Will the need for \$ pressure the Taliban?
  - i) They might pay their debts
  - ii) Taliban actions show they don't care about welfare
    - (1) Treatment of women, starvation, human rights
    - (2) The Taliban won't help the population
  - iii) Will they bend to the West?
    - (1) Only need is power
    - (2) They will bolster the military
  - iv) Taliban leadership in gov't have harmed women and human rights
- c) Will economic benefits trickle down?
  - i) Taliban has no incentive to help the population
  - ii) Taliban leadership has no expertise to run an economy
    - (1) Afghanistan's infrastructure ruined by war
- d) Will Taliban turn to the West?
  - i) It isn't plausible that they will give in
  - ii) First tranche of Gov plan will be used for arms and to continue human rights abuses
- e) Opp doesn't enable terrorism
  - i) No trickle down economic effects
  - ii) Better to fund NGOs to work directly with Afghan people

**6) Prime Minister Rebuttal**

- a) Intro/motion
- b) G1: Motion benefits Afghan people
- c) G2: No military involvement
- d) G3: No collusion with bad actors
- e) Opp had no reply to our arguments about NGOs
  - i) Only \$1bn in UN aid
  - ii) NGOs turned away in 2021
  - iii) No influence without military support
- f) The funds will be effective
  - i) \$1.4bn, than another, etc.
    - (1) Taliban needs money, best to release it slowly
    - (2) Without money economy will fail
    - (3) Taliban loses power goes back to being guerrilla group
  - ii) Need funds to stop human rights abuses
  - iii) Funds will be used to help the economy

- iv) Already okay with US central bank monitor
- g) Incentive to Westernize
  - i) Welfare more important than military to Taliban survival
  - ii) Women are already rioting, college students have walked out
  - iii) Need elections, pay debt, to strengthen military
- h) Opp: Taliban relies on outside help from bad actors like Chinas
- i) Gov: Taliban changes its behavior