

# PROSPECTS OF A PEACE PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

Prof. William Maley (ANU), Dr. Timor Sharan (ANU) &  
Dr. Niamatullah Ibrahim (Deakin University) in conversation with  
Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh (Deakin University)



And book launch

## AFGHANISTAN, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN A GLOBALISING STATE

Dr. Niamatullah Ibrahim (Deakin University) &  
Prof. William Maley (ANU)

3 February 2020,

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Building BC,

Deakin University Burwood  
Campus

RSVP: 27 January 2020

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## ABSTRACT

Several rounds of negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban have created the hope of a peace process that can end the conflict in Afghanistan. While some pin their hopes on a 'peace process' to solve these problems, there are good reasons to be sceptical about what the current endeavours of the US Administration might deliver. Complex, deep-rooted problems are not amenable to 'rabbit out of a hat' solutions. A durable peace process with the Taliban raises many challenges, including the re-integration of Taliban leaders and combatants in the state and society. This seminar discusses these challenges and opportunities and provides Afghan perspectives on the process.

NIAMATULLAH IBRAHIMI  
AND WILLIAM MALEY



## Afghanistan: Politics and Economics in a Globalising State

Dr. Niamatullah Ibrahim, &  
Prof. William Maley

The book begins with an account of some of the key features that make Afghanistan unique and proceeds to discuss how the Afghan state acquired a distinctive character as a rentier state. In addition, the authors outline a complex range of domestic and external factors that led to the breakdown of the state, and how that breakdown gave rise to a set of challenges with which Afghan political and social actors have been struggling to deal since the 2001 international intervention that overthrew the anti-modernist Taliban regime. It then presents the different types of politics that Afghanistan has witnessed over the last two decades; examines some of the most important features of the Afghan economy; and demonstrates how Afghanistan's geopolitical location and international relations more broadly have complicated the task of promoting stability in the post-2001 period. It concludes with some reflections on the factors that are likely to shape Afghanistan's future trajectory and notes that if there are hopes for a better future, they largely rest on the shoulders of a globalised generation of younger Afghans.