

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS TREND ON THE TALIBAN

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to navigate the result of international publication trends regarding the Taliban for 27 years, starting from 1994 to 2021, utilizing a bibliometric analysis study that analyzed trends in international publications based on quantitative data sources obtained through one of the Scopus data search engines. In addition, bibliometric analysis in this study employed a data visualization software VOSviewer to analyze keywords that often appear in research data regarding the trend of international publications of the Taliban. The findings in this bibliometric analysis study indicated three outcomes. Firstly, numerous international publications on the Taliban as a research topic were navigated, accounting for 1,538 publication documents based on the Scopus data search engine with the keyword “Taliban”. Secondly, the results of data visualization on VOSviewer show that the largest keywords visualization are Afghanistan and the Taliban. Lastly, the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban indicated that the highest trend of international publications was in 2010-2011 with publication documents are mainly conducted by researchers in western countries, along with the most funding sponsors were the United States and the United Kingdom. This study concluded that the results of international publication trends regarding the Taliban were influenced by the activities executed by the Taliban receiving global attention throughout time. Hence, the novelty of this study lies in the implementation of bibliometric analysis, presenting a dynamic topic about the Taliban and the data search tools used.

Keywords: bibliometric; international publications; Scopus; Taliban; trends.

A. INTRODUCTION

Research concerning the Taliban has been widely studied, gaining attention, primarily through the activities executed by the Taliban from time to time, particularly its activities in Afghanistan, thereby achieving the international spotlight. Referring to types of research regarding the Taliban, this study examines the Taliban from a different dimension by highlighting the trend of international publications based on the analysis of bibliometric studies.

Sethi et al. reported that bibliometric analysis studies implementing several analytical tools through software with respective analytical functions have become a newly favoured type of research style by researchers in facilitating research activities.¹ In addition, researchers are assisted by various software and are capable of navigating, analyzing, or evaluating problems efficiently and almost unlimitedly in a global scope with a vast number of sources. Similarly, this research is considered as a type of bibliometric analysis study assisted by some software to analyze trends in international publications regarding the Taliban as the topic of discussion in this study.

The Taliban, as the topic of discussion in this study, has been defined as a “seek of knowledge,” or as acknowledged as a “student,” not a “preacher” or “mullah”.² Taliban emerged in 1994 as a form of the militant group, formerly alleged to shift the Afghan government’s political order due to the interaction of the Taliban within the Afghan government to eliminate the influence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Further, the involvement of the Taliban in the Afghan government became the beginning of the various threats within the Afghan government due to its influence and radical activities, endangering

¹ Bipin Bihari Sethi, Bulu Maharana, and Barada Kanta Mohanty, “Periodical Literature Bibliometric Analysis: A Case Study of Four International Journals,” *Library Philosophy and Practice* 2016, no. 1 (2016): 1–25, <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3699&context=libphilprac>.

² Manzoor Hussain Javid Ahmad Dar, Ufaira Yaseen Shah, Fayaz Ahmad Loan, Aadil Bashir, “Bibliometric Investigation Taliban : A Bibliometric Investigation,” *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2021, 1–16, <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=12199&context=libphilprac>.

international and regional security.³ Through this, the issues regarding Taliban activities have thus attracted global attention.

The Taliban militant group has become an armed *jihadist* movement in Afghanistan with significant influence and essential status in Afghanistan.⁴ The Taliban refers to a form of the state within a state due to its utterly different movement from governance, political system, law, and others within the Afghanistan government or internationally. Thus, the emergence and involvement of the Taliban in the Afghan government often leads to conflicts in Afghanistan itself.⁵

The conflicts in Afghanistan occurred due to the weakness of the Afghan government to form robust and good governance, comprising all interests of Afghan community groups engaging with ethnicity and condition of the Afghan government. When the Afghan government supported the formation of the country as a republic, the Taliban had a different perspective, attempting to form a government of the Islamic Emirate with Islamic *sharia* laws as the basis of all political activities.⁶ Meanwhile, Islamic law or international law within the governance of a country shall be interconnected and balanced, requiring various improvements to actualize a law of good governance.

Perspective disparities regarding the form of state government between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban, however, sustained the spirit of this militant group to further establish an Islamic Emirate based on Islamic

³ N Nojumi, *The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Mass Mobilization, Civil War, and the Future of the Region*, *The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Mass Mobilization, Civil War, and the Future of the Region* (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in MedfordMA, United States: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-312-29910-1>.

⁴ M Semple, "Locating the Uzbek Narrative of Social Justice within the Afghan Taliban Movement's Political Culture," *Orient* 60, no. 4 (2019): 25–38, <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85074588589&partnerID=40&md5=1de806e68f42718d80e2f38cee83011b>.

⁵ A Giustozzi, "The Taliban's 'Military Courts,'" *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 25, no. 2 (2014): 284–96, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2014.903638>.

⁶ M A Konarovskii, "Historical background of standoff in Afghanistan and prospects for intra Afghan settlement," *Vostok (Oriens)* 2020, no. 2 (2020): 149–60, <https://doi.org/10.31857/S086919080009068-1>.

sharia law.⁷ The Taliban has taken over the government of Afghanistan based on stringent Islamic *sharia* law. Islamic *sharia* law is considered firm and strict in the life of contemporary Islamic society.⁸ Living conditions based on strict Islamic *sharia* law allow people in Afghanistan to feel uncomfortable with the rules set by the Taliban in contemporary life. In addition to women's rights, the Taliban limited all activities and lives,⁹ generating painful conditions experienced by women in Afghanistan. Therefore, the influence of the Taliban's rule during their reign in the Afghan State Government made the Afghan discouraged people to be ruled by the Taliban.

In 2001, the United States intervened in Afghanistan, resulting in the dismissal of the Taliban in the Afghan government. Such intervention was due to the consideration that if the Taliban remained in power, its actions could pose a latent threat to international security as well.¹⁰ Upon the intervention, the Taliban and the Afghan government frequently clashed over power to rebuild the country based on Islamic *sharia* law. The struggle for state power in Afghanistan has continuously exposed a threat in Afghanistan due to the Taliban's ongoing control the Afghan government.

The action of the Taliban, who never surrendered to seize the power of Afghanistan, was evident in 2011 from its action to control Afghanistan and clash with the United States military forces. Upon the intervention of the United States in 2001 against the Taliban, the United States remains the serving military forces in Afghanistan to protect the Afghan government

⁷ S Y Ibrahim, "The Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (1996–2001): 'War-Making and State-Making' as an Insurgency Strategy," *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 28, no. 6 (2017): 947–72, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2017.1374598>.

⁸ T Wimpelmann, *The Pitfalls of Protection: Gender, Violence, and Power in Afghanistan*, *The Pitfalls of Protection: Gender, Violence, and Power in Afghanistan* (Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway: University of California Press, 2017), <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85045474339&partnerID=40&md5=37d762b9d2290028587454a575f471a6>.

⁹ A G Noury and B Speciale, "Social Constraints and Women's Education: Evidence from Afghanistan under Radical Religious Rule," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 44, no. 4 (2016): 821–41, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2016.07.005>.

¹⁰ N M Shahrani, "The Impact of the 2014 U.S.-NATO Withdrawal on the Internal Politics of Afghanistan: Karzai-Style Thugocracy or Taliban Theocracy?," *Asian Survey* 55, no. 2 (2015): 273–98, <https://doi.org/10.1525/AS.2015.55.2.273>.

from the Taliban and the re-emergence of Taliban rule.¹¹

The United States' role in protecting the Afghan government from the Taliban was initiated in 2001 and finalized in 2021 after the United States and the Taliban reached an agreement to wage war in Afghanistan. Thus, upon the completion of the United States intervention by leaving Afghanistan, the Taliban immediately regained its strength and enthusiasm to control all powers of the Afghan government. In 2021, the Taliban proved that this militant group has never given up on returning control of Afghanistan and the Afghan government, marking the United States' pointless efforts to protect the Afghan government from the Taliban due to the return of the Taliban as a high power in 2021.¹²

Referring to the aforementioned explanations, the Taliban has indicated tremendous influence and increasing power from time to time, thereby gaining continuous attention worldwide. Subsequently, many emerging studies and discussions regarding the Taliban provide an existing research topic. An example includes a previous study conducted by Seamus O'Scanlon and Javid Ahmad Dar et al. Seamus O'Scanlon, with the research title "Taliban: Study of book collection on the Taliban in academic, public, and West Point libraries", explained the comparison of document collections in the form of books about the Taliban from several libraries in the United States, such as the Columbia University academic library, the New York public library, and the United States Military Academy West Point library with the WorldCat data search engine.

Meanwhile, the research conducted by Javid Ahmad Dar et al. presents the Taliban as the topic of discussion in the existing study entitled "Taliban as an investigative bibliometric", acknowledged as global research with 25 years

¹¹ C Jenks, "A Rose by Any Other Name: How the United States Charges Its Service Members for Violating the Laws of War," in *Military Justice in the Modern Age* (SMU Dedman School of Law, Dallas, TX, United States: Cambridge University Press, 2016), 365–80, <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107326330.019>. a US service-member, Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, slipped undetected from Village Stability Platform Belambai (VSP

¹² A Giustozzi, "Afghanistan after the U.S. Withdrawal: Trends and Scenarios for the Future," *Asia Policy* 16, no. 3 (2021): 57–74, <https://doi.org/10.1353/asp.2021.0029>.

of research timeline from 1996 to 2020 using the Web of Science.¹³ Thus, a notable difference (in terms of the data search engine tools and in terms of research timeline) has existed between this study and the latter conducted by Seamus O'Scanlon and Javid Ahmad Dar et al., highlighting that this study utilizes international publications trends from 1994 to 2021 using the Scopus data search engine. Additionally, this study explains further details on international publication trends regarding the establishment of the Taliban from its initiation to the present day with the easiest way through some of the bibliometric data as presented in this study.

The bibliometric analysis study concerning the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban is deemed essential due to limitations in previous research. Thus far, this research adds the discussion on international publication trends based on the author of publications, the countries that write the most publications on the Taliban, and the academic bodies such as universities that often discuss the Taliban as a chief publication topic with data obtained through the Scopus data search engine. This research is thought-provoking due to ongoing discussion regarding the Taliban, which attracts the global community's attention, particularly related to the extreme activities of the Taliban. Based on bibliometric analysis studies, this research attempts to explain the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban from 1994 to 2021 with the research question "How is the trend and the funding sponsor of international publications on the Taliban from 1994 to 2021?".

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study aims to explain the trend of international publications utilizing the Taliban as a research subject of international publication trends. This study is considered bibliometric analysis study based on quantitative data obtained from one of the Scopus data literature search software, providing an array of literature with accurate data generated from scientific journals, books, or articles of a scientific. This research, however, merely focuses on

¹³ *Op. Cit.* Javid Ahmad Dar, Ufaira Yaseen Shah, Fayaz Ahmad Loan, Aadil Bashir, "Bibliometric Investigation Taliban : A Bibliometric Investigation."

international publications discussing the Taliban for approximately 27 years of research timeline, from 1994 to 2021. The data collection technique in this study was assisted by Scopus data search software to reveal the results of international publication trends and to collect data from international publications in the Scopus data search software. The authors used to search, abstract, or the keyword “Taliban.” Hence, the results obtained through the keyword “Taliban” have retrieved 1,538 international publications. Upon the collection of required data, the data was analyzed by employing VOSviewer data visualization software to assist the author in revealing the results of existing data visualization analyses regarding international publication trends on the Taliban.

Inclusion and exclusion in this study are required to filter out both the required and unrequired data for bibliometric analysis. Thus, the publications in this study only contain publications with discussions regarding the Taliban in the forms of articles, books, short surveys, conference papers, letters, and so forth in the period 1994 to 2021. The search for these international publications has no language or geographical restrictions. This research was focused on international publication trends of the Taliban and matters related to the Taliban itself. Issues not related to this study’s discussion topic are excluded.

1. Data Extraction

The publication results generated from the Scopus data search software are then filtered to determine the publication level visualization, category, and other required results, and then stored in a Scopus-based list. The data that have been on the list are further re-analyzed, re-imported, and re-visualized through the VOSviewer data visualization software to observe the network visualization of the data, previously collected in Scopus.

2. Analysis

The authors performed data analysis to navigate, assess, understand, disclose, and explain the results of existing publications, including the level

of publication each year, the type of publication trend that exists, the region that produces the most, and the fields of study for these publications. Data visualization through VOSviewer identifies network relationships between one publication and another. Therefore, international publication trends regarding the Taliban were explored more deeply through bibliometric analysis.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

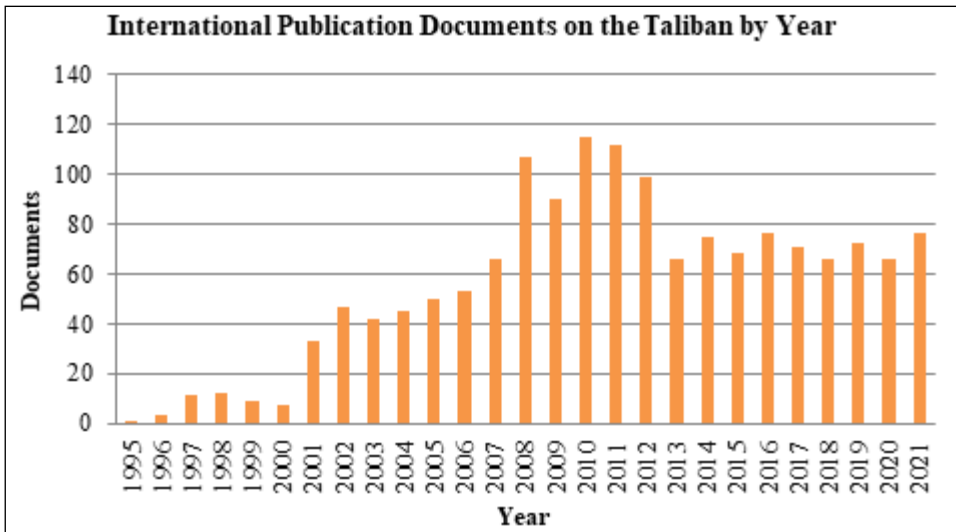
1. Results

As one of the research subjects, the Taliban has attracted attention from researchers globally due to its extreme activities in the past, affecting the global popularity or trend of publications. This study indicates that international publications regarding the Taliban have continuously existed. Additionally, this study further explains the trending authors, countries, institutions, subjects, types of publications, and sponsors who fund the research publications.

a. Publication Trend on The Taliban

Numerous activities executed by the Taliban have consecutively determined the level of publication trend, providing the background of the increasing or decreasing publications worldwide. The results of data search through Scopus data software with the keyword “Taliban” generated 1,538 international publications about the Taliban.

However, the authors of this study navigated an increasing trend of international publications regarding the Taliban starting in 1995 with a relatively low number of publications below 20 publications until 2000 due to the Taliban’s relevant timeline of establishment, which was officially formed in 1994. Thus, international publications regarding the Taliban in the period 1994 to 1999 tend to be less popular. From 2000 to 2021, the trend level of international publications significantly increased, indicating the highest trend in 2010 with a total of 115 publication documents and in 2011 with a total of 112 publication documents, as illustrated in **Chart.1**.

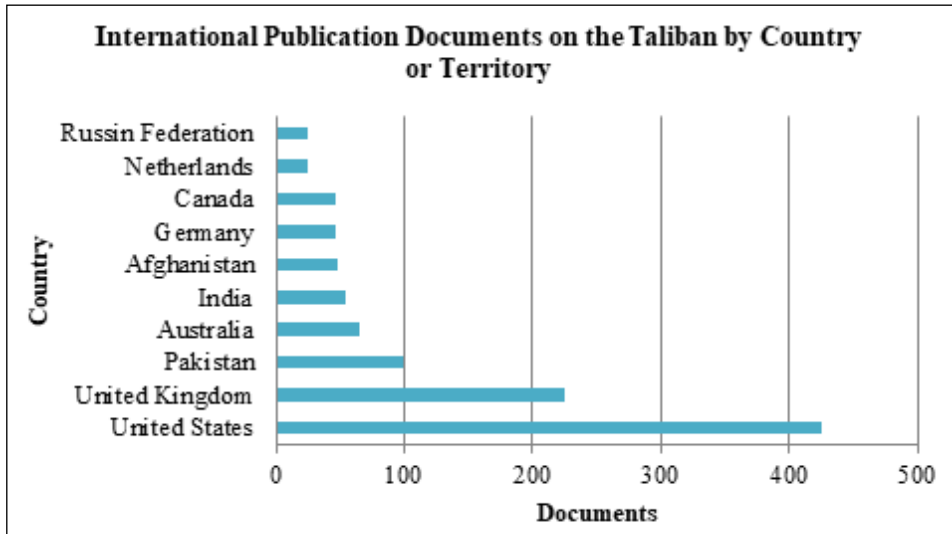
Chart 1. International Publication Documents on the Taliban by Year.

Source: Scopus (2021)

b. Geographical Distribution

The number of publications regarding the Taliban based on data search results from Scopus data search software from 1994 to 2021 generated 1,538 international publications. Based on the geographical distribution of international publications regarding the Taliban, most of the authors are from western countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom which occupy the first and second positions as countries with the highest number of international publications regarding the Taliban. The 425 international document publications were distributed from the United States, 225 international document publications were distributed from the United Kingdom. Other countries that have produced international publications regarding the Taliban include Pakistan, Australia, India, Afghanistan, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, and Russia, amounting to no more than 100 international publication documents, as depicted in **Chart 2**.

Chart 2. International Publication Documents on the Taliban by Country or Territory, Compare The Document Counts For Up To 15 Countries/Territories.



Source: Scopus (2021)

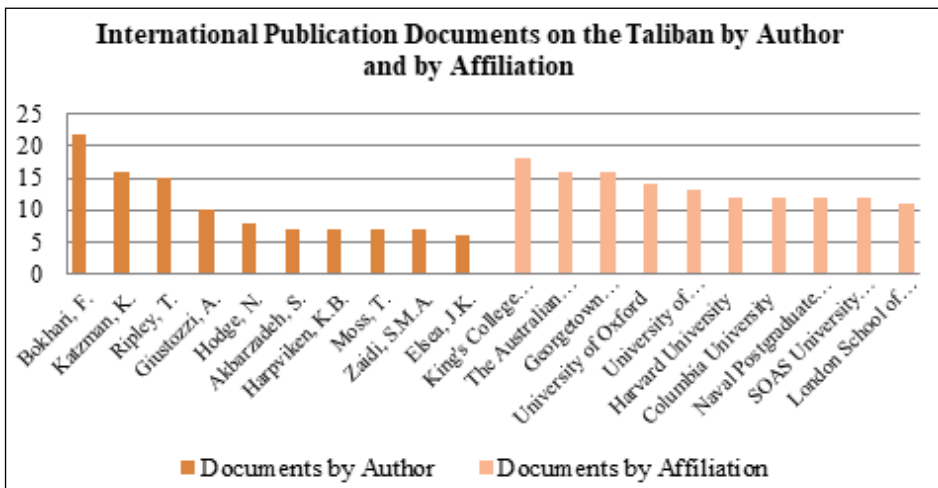
c. Authorship

The international publication documents regarding the Taliban were generated from Scopus data search software indicating the active ten authors in decreasing order (see **Fig. 3**), including Bokhari, F. as the lead author, with the highest results of 22 publication documents; Katzman, K. with 16 publication documents; Ripley, T. with 15 publication documents; Giustozzi, A. with 10 publication documents; Hodge, N. with 8 publication documents, Akbarzadeh, S., Harpviken, KB, Moss, T., and Zaidi, SMA, each with 7 publication documents; and Elsea, JK with 6 publication documents.

The existing authors are mostly affiliated with several institutions (**Chart 3**), Including King's College London with publication documents 18 publication documents as the highest institutional affiliation; The Australian National University and Georgetown University with each 16 publication documents; the University of Oxford with 14 publication documents; the

University of Peshawar with 13 publication documents; Harvard University, Columbia University, Naval Postgraduate School, and SOAS University of London with each 12 publication documents; and lastly the London School of Economics and Political Science with 11 publication documents.

Chart 3. International Publication Documents on the Taliban by Author and by Affiliation, Compare The Document Counts For Up To 15 Authors and Affiliations.



Source: Scopus (2021)

d. Publication Type

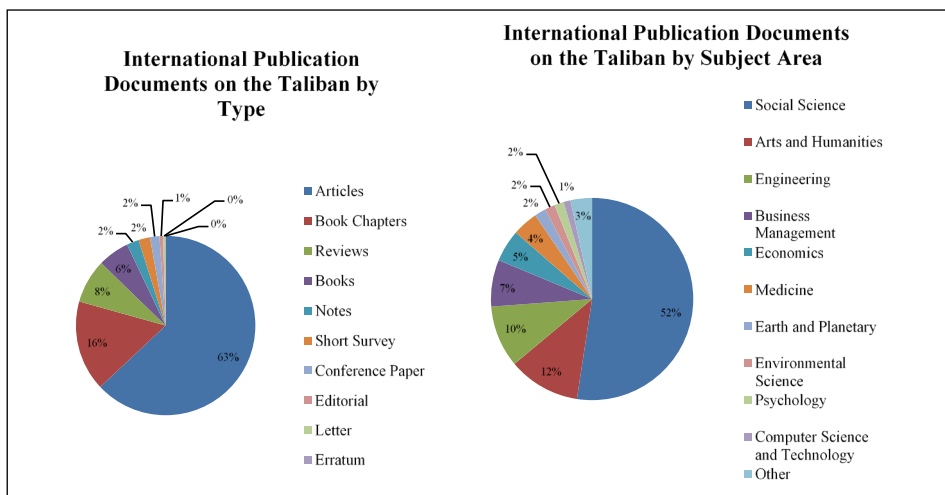
International publications regarding the Taliban from Scopus data retrieval software-generated 1,538 publication documents from 1994 to 2021 comprising several types of publications, as illustrated in **Chart 4**.

The authors of this study revealed the most dominant types of publication documents including Articles with a percentage of 63.0% (969 publication documents), followed by Book Chapters with a percentage of 16.3% (251 publication documents), Reviews with a percentage of 7.9% (122 publication documents), Books with a percentage of 5.6% (87 publication documents), Notes with a percentage of 2.2% (34 publication documents),

Brief Survey with a percentage of 2.1% (32 publication documents), Conference Paper with a percentage of 1.7% (26 publication documents), Editorial with a percentage of 0.7% (10 publication documents), Letter with a percentage of 0.4% (6 publication documents), and lastly Erratum and other forms each with a percentage of 0.1% (1 publication document) from all international publications regarding the Taliban.

From the aforementioned presentation, it is evident that the authors of international publications produced more articles and publications than other types of publications.

Chart 4. International Publication Documents on the Taliban by Type and by Subject Area.



Source: Scopus (2021)

e. Publication Subject Area

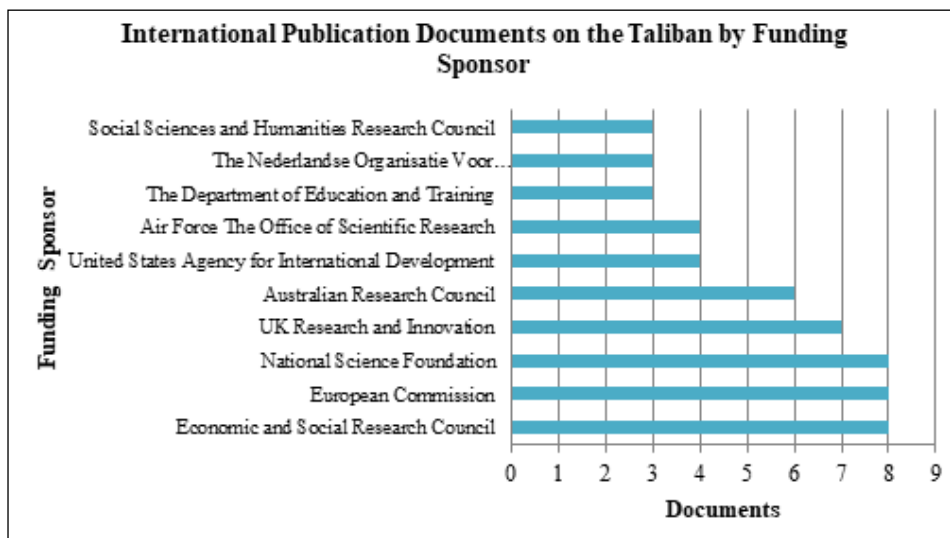
The number of international publications regarding the Taliban under various types of publication documents is also discussed in other scientific fields, as depicted in Fig. 4.

Other scientific fields include Social Science with a percentage of 52.4% (806 publication documents), followed by Arts and Humanities with a percentage of 11.5% (177 publication documents), Engineering with a percentage of 9.9% (152 publication documents), Business Management with a percentage of 7.5% (115 publication documents), Economics with a percentage of 5.2% (79 publication documents), Medicine with a percentage of 4, 1% (63 publication documents), Earth and Planetary fields with a percentage of 1.8% (28 publication documents), Environmental Science with a percentage of 1.6% (25 publication documents), Psychology with a percentage of 1.5% (23 publication documents), Computer Science and Technology with a percentage of 1.1% (17 publication documents), and other not mentioned fields with a percentage of 3.4% (53 publication documents).

Hence, it is marked that Social Science dominated the publication regarding the Taliban as a topic of discussion. **Funding Agencies**

The authors of this study navigated the ten sponsoring institutions which funded international publications regarding the Taliban, as illustrated in **Chart 5**, including the Economic and Social Research Council, European Commission, and National Science Foundation, followed by UK Research and Innovation with 7 publications documents, Australian Research Council with 6 publication documents, United States Agency for International Development with 4 publication documents, The Office of Air Force Scientific Research, the Department of Education and Training, the *Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council with each three publication documents.

Chart 5. International Publication Documents on the Taliban by Funding Sponsor, Compare The Document Counts For Up To 15 Funding Sponsors.



Source: Scopus (2021)

f. Co-Occurrence Network of International Publications Trend on The Taliban

This study categorizes several keywords in international publications related to the discussion topic regarding the Taliban, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

Several keywords include Afghanistan, Taliban, Terrorism, Pakistan, United States, War, Islamism, and many others. However, Afghanistan appears to be the most prominent keyword in the visualization analysis due to serving as a place for the establishment of the Taliban, followed by Taliban, Terrorism, Pakistan, and the United States. Further, the visualization of the Taliban appears at the second rank due to its close relationship with Afghanistan. Apart from being the place where the Taliban is located, the Taliban also often poses various threats to the Afghan government because

of their enthusiasm to take over the power in Afghanistan.¹⁴ Therefore, the visualization presentation of Afghanistan and the Taliban is similar, even though the visualization of Afghanistan is bigger than the Taliban compared to other existing keywords.

Besides Afghanistan and the Taliban, other keywords with notable visualization include Pakistan, Terrorism, and the United States, denoted in a green network line, indicating the relationship between the three (despite the less-favoured relationship due to the war).¹⁵

The following keywords include Terrorism and the United States, also indicating a relationship associated with terror events that occurred in the United States. The incident is referred to as the 9/11 incident arising the term “Islamophobic” in western countries towards Islam, unlimited to extreme activities of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan exposing various threats that endanger state security.¹⁶

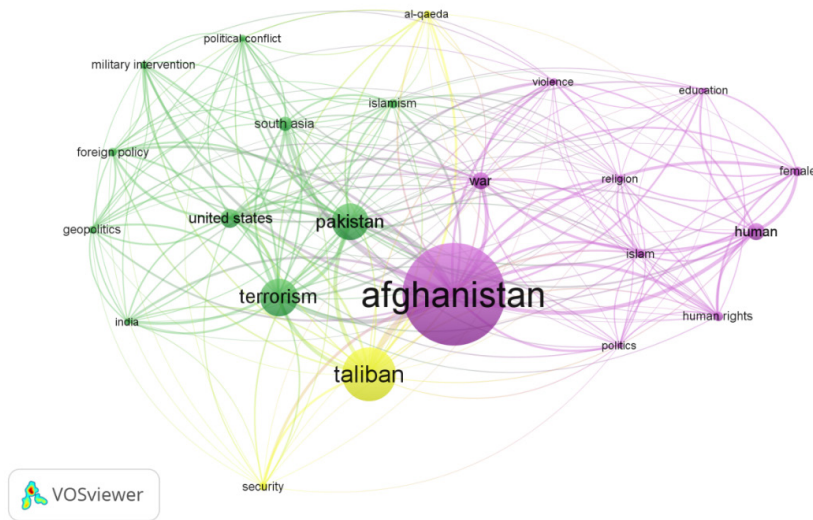
Thus, the data visualization containing the keyword network in the international publication indicates a relationship. The most prominent visualization is illustrated with the most frequently appearing keywords and the color of the existing keyword network. The network group color indicated with similar keyword color appears in similar publication documents.

¹⁴ A Borthakur and A Kotokey, “Ethnicity or Religion? The Genesis of the Taliban Movement In Afghanistan,” *Asian Affairs* 51, no. 4 (2020): 817–37, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03068374.2020.1832772>.

¹⁵ Sanaullah, “Effectiveness of Civilians’ Survival Strategies: Insights from the Taliban’s Insurgency (2007–09) in Swat Valley, Pakistan,” *Global Change, Peace and Security* 32, no. 3 (2020): 275–96, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14781158.2020.1809366>.

¹⁶ F Bashir and S Aman, “Us Security Assistance to Pakistan in Post 9/11 Period,” *FWU Journal of Social Sciences* 15, no. 2 (2021): 96–116, <https://doi.org/10.51709/19951272/Summer-2/6>.

Figure 1. Co-occurrence Network of The Keywords of International Publication Documents on the Taliban.



D. DISCUSSION

The discussion in this bibliometric analysis research on the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban explains the two notions: the trend of international publications and the most funding sponsors for researchers regarding the Taliban.

1. International Publication Trends About The Taliban

This bibliometric analysis study related to the trend of international publications indicates that the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban appears annually, especially after 2000 and 2001. The Taliban has constantly been in the international spotlight, affecting international publication trends.

The trend of international publications regarding the Taliban increased significantly after 2000 and 2001. In contrast, international publications regarding the Taliban experienced a sluggish increase from 1996 to 2000,

compared to 2000 and 2001. The increasing publications regarding the Taliban are continually related to the extreme activities of the Taliban, especially in Afghanistan. In 1996, the trend of international publications regarding the Taliban indicated a steady increase since the Taliban took over the power of the Afghan government and regulated all activities of the Afghan people under strict Islamic *sharia* law, considered a radical regime.¹⁷

Upon overtaking control of the Afghan government, the Taliban was overthrown by the United States intervention in 2001 after the 9/11 events. Such an event attracted international attention because of the 9/11 bombings by the Al-Qaeda group, which was suspected of having ties to the Taliban group. The United States pursues to mitigate the radical and harmful influences caused by the Taliban, legitimising the United States' attempt to overthrow the Taliban's rule in the Afghan government in 2001.¹⁸

After the 9/11 incident, the activities of movement groups that often did radical things that endangered a country became a matter of concern, significantly raising international publication trends. During 2010-2011, a number of international publications discussed the death of the leader of the Al-Qaeda group, Osama Bin Laden, which previously was the Al-Qaeda group interlinking with the Taliban that often conducted radical things such as terrorism.¹⁹ Other triggered events for the increasing international publication trends included activities between the United States Army and

¹⁷ N Terpstra, "Rebel Governance, Rebel Legitimacy, and External Intervention: Assessing Three Phases of Taliban Rule in Afghanistan," *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 31, no. 6 (2020): 1143–73, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2020.1757916>.

¹⁸ H Rothstein and J Arquilla, "Understanding the Afghan Challenge," in *Afghan Endgames: Strategy and Policy Choices for America's Longest War* (RAND, United States: Georgetown University Press, 2012), 3–16, <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-84904370535&partnerID=40&md5=905a2abddcceb2828ff756c6795774e>.

¹⁹ A Rai, S Rajiv, and FNSR Research Staff, "Pakistan's National Security 2011," in *India's National Security: Annual Review 2012* (Taylor and Francis, 2016), 257–82, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315539935-14>.

the Taliban in Afghanistan,²⁰ which was the electoral crisis in Afghanistan.²¹

The Taliban refers to one of the militant groups that have attracted international attention, especially in western countries, because of its frequent radical activities and its association with the Al-Qaeda group. Consequently, western countries as anti-terrorism countries hold a bad blood towards the Islamic movement or are acknowledged as Islamophobic, also becoming a prominent topic for international publication in both the United States and the United Kingdom. This condition is related to Islamic movement groups such as the Taliban and the large number of Muslim researchers who studied abroad, such as the United States, making the United State the highest western country to publish trends regarding the Taliban.

The bibliometric analysis of international publication trends regarding the Taliban reinforces that the existing publication trends are from researchers in western countries predominantly non-Islamic, although the topic genre of discussion is Islamic.

2. Most Funding Sponsors

The result of this bibliometric analysis of international publications demonstrates that the most funding sponsor of research or publication on the Taliban is the Economic and Social Research Council, one of the largest donor organizations in the United Kingdom and primarily funds research on economic or social matters. In the next rank, the most funding sponsor is the European Commission under the European Union Organization. Lastly, the most funding sponsor of publications regarding the Taliban is the National Science Foundation, located in Virginia, also funding various research fields

²⁰ J Lindley-French, "Pulling Together?: NATO Operations in Afghanistan," in *Understanding NATO in the 21st Century: Alliance Strategies, Security and Global Governance* (Netherlands Defence Academy, University of Leiden, Netherlands: Taylor and Francis, 2013), 119–34, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203076002>.

²¹ T Sharan, "The Dynamics of Informal Political Networks and Statehood in Post-2001 Afghanistan: A Case Study of the 2010-2011 Special Election Court Crisis," in *The Afghan Conundrum: Intervention, Statebuilding and Resistance* (University of Exeter, United Kingdom: Taylor and Francis Inc., 2016), 98–114, <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-84978439796&partnerID=40&md5=caf925596fe27242653b086dceec9fb>.

such as social, economy, environment, education, and many other areas.

Since the most funding sponsors for international publications regarding the Taliban are currently from western countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, it is denoted that international publications are also originated from the United Kingdom and the United States. Hence, the country origin that produces most publications regarding the Taliban will be associated with the sponsor who funded the publications.

E. CONCLUSION

Bibliometric analysis of international publication trends on the Taliban were assisted by several data analysis tools in this research, resulted in 1,538 of international publications regarding the Taliban collected under the timeline 1994 to 2021 from Scopus data search engine. It showed that international publications on the Taliban did not exceed 20 publication documents in 1994 to 2000. However, from 2001 to 2021, published documents about the Taliban increased significantly and in a period time exceed to 100 publication documents. 2010 became the highest publication with 115 documents, followed by 112 documents in 2011. Such a trend was associated with activities or events executed by the Taliban, further gaining global attention and increase of published documents. In addition, the most of international publications about the Taliban were written by researchers in western countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Which, the United States and the United Kingdom also dominated countries that fund international publications concerning the Taliban. The most common types of international publications regarding the Taliban are from articles in the Social Science field.

In sum, this bibliometric analysis study of international publication trends on the Taliban through the Scopus data search engine shows that the highest trend of international publications on the Taliban in 2010 and 2011, with western countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom dominating the funding of publication documents as well as authors of published documents on the Taliban.

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