

Policy Analysis /  
Articles & Op-Eds

# As Kabul Evacuation Winds Down, Pakistan Will Take Center Stage

by [Simon Henderson](#)

Aug 30, 2021

Also published in *The Hill*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



### [Simon Henderson](#)

Simon Henderson is the Baker fellow and director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute, specializing in energy matters and the conservative Arab states of the Persian Gulf.



Articles & Testimony

**Although Pakistan will be playing its own games in Afghanistan (and against India), planners in the Pentagon will still need to work with Islamabad to preserve future overflight options.**

**D**espite the drama and tragedies of the U.S. evacuation from Kabul, the “story” is moving inexorably to the next stage. The theme will be geography, and the major player will become Pakistan. A glance at a map may tell only half the story. The nearest foreign capital to Kabul is Islamabad in Pakistan. It’s closer to Kabul than are the major Afghan cities of Kandahar and Herat. And much of the border with Pakistan is mountainous, seriously so. In political terms that makes it hard to control, and easy to hide in...

[Read the full article on the Hill website.](#) ❖



[View/Print Page as PDF](#)

SHARE



## EMAIL ALERTS



[Sign Up](#)



TO TOP

## RECOMMENDED

### BRIEF ANALYSIS

#### Militia Propaganda Around the Attack on al-Tanf

Oct 22, 2021

◆  
Crispin Smith



### ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

#### Discordance in the Iran Threat Network in Iraq: Militia Competition and Rivalry

Oct 21, 2021

◆  
Michael Knights,  
Crispin Smith,  
Hamdi Malik



### BRIEF ANALYSIS

#### Iraqi Militias Show Off Iranian Anti-Air Missile

Oct 21, 2021

◆  
Michael Knights

## TOPICS

Military & Security

Terrorism

STAY UP TO DATE



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS



THE  
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE  
*for Near East Policy*

1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500  
Washington D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202-452-0650  
Fax: 202-223-5364

[Contact](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Subscribe](#)

*The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.*

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

[About TWI](#) /

[Support the Institute](#)



© 2021 All rights reserved.

[Employment](#) /

[Privacy Policy](#) /

[Rights & Permissions](#)