



CrS Report for Congress: Afghanistan: Politics, Elections, and Government Performance

By Kenneth Katzman

Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The central governments limited writ and widespread official corruption are helping sustain a Taliban insurgency, and have fed pessimism about the Afghanistan stabilization effort. However, President Hamid Karzai has been able to confine ethnic disputes largely to political debate and competition by engaging in some non-democratic compromises with major faction leaders, combined with occasional moves to weaken them. This strategy has enabled Karzai to focus on trying, with only mixed success to date, to win over remaining members of his Pashtun community, some of which have begun to lean toward or tolerate Taliban insurgents. Karzai has faced substantial loss of public confidence, in large part due to widespread official corruption, but his opponents divided by ethnicity and personal ambition were unable to form a strong electoral coalition, and Karzai is considered a favorite for re-election on August 20, 2009. Winning Pashtun support for the Afghan government is predicated, at least in part, on the success of efforts over the past few years to build local governing structures. New provincial councils will be elected on August 20 as well, although their...

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