



[The Biden Administration Faces Bipartisan Criticism for the Manner of Its Afghanistan Pullout](#)

The Biden administration has faced a significant amount of bipartisan criticism from both current and former officials regarding the manner of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. For these observers, the backlash is not towards the pullout itself – as many have long advocated for putting an end to “forever” wars like this – but the way in which it has been carried out. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) questioned this, while Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA) expressed a desire to know “why we weren’t better prepared for a worst-case scenario involving such a swift and total collapse of the Afghan government and security forces.” Ryan Crocker, Ambassador to Afghanistan under President Obama, echoed a similar sentiment and stated that the Biden administration lacked a coordinated post-withdrawal plan. Other former Obama and Clinton officials including David Axelrod, Brett Bruen, and Leon Panetta have also spoken out about the execution of the United States’ strategy in Afghanistan. Ultimately, a diverse group has lamented that the White House appears to have been caught off guard by the rapid advance of the Taliban in recent weeks.

The manner of the U.S. troop withdrawal in Afghanistan has allowed the Taliban to take control of the country, as the Afghan government and security forces have been unable to halt their advances. This has had a devastating effect on the civilian population as thousands attempt to flee the Taliban’s rule. Both Republicans and Democrats alike have criticized the way in which the Biden administration has carried out its Afghanistan strategy, while Biden himself has tried to defend the actions by arguing that there will never be an ideal time to carry out the withdrawal and that U.S. officials underestimated how ill-equipped Afghan forces were to stave off the Taliban.

Democrats have criticized the Biden administration for the execution of the withdrawal even though support for ending the United States’ involvement itself is still high. Former United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had foreseen this potential scenario back in May of 2021 when she said that there could be major consequences from the withdrawal including the return of terrorist activity in Afghanistan and a possible refugee crisis. As a whole, the party is struggling to support the actions because of how the withdrawal played out – despite whether or not removing the troops was ultimately a desired aim. Meanwhile, Republicans have been using the latest developments as a means of criticizing the administration. Even though the origins of the war date back to the George W. Bush administration and the withdrawal timeline was pushed forward under Trump, many GOP officials are claiming that it was a profound mistake or that it should have at least been executed better. Republican entities have also been conducting mass advertisements condemning the withdrawal and comparing it to Vietnam.

President Biden has tried to counter the criticism by expressing that there will never be a perfect time to carry out the pullout and that ending American involvement is ultimately more important than whatever transpires after that. He stated that counterterrorism missions can be run without military presence in the region, and has defined the main goal as eliminating these threats through training and support operations to local Afghan forces. Yet still, most analysts, issue experts, and a bipartisan collection of officials believe that the withdrawal strategy in Afghanistan was not carried out in the best possible manner.