**Type of Article:** Opinion Piece

**Title:** Despite the Horrors, Afghan Fight has Merit

**Author:** James Travers

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**Synopsis:** Travers writes of the Afghan mission as a steeply rising learning curve for Canada and its allies. He calls the mission a dismal failure due to its inability to transform Afghanistan into a functioning democracy and market economy.

He categorically describes the Western mission as the introduction of new values in what he considers a feudal society.

**Quote: “**Worse, even this unsatisfactory end to the Afghanistan campaign is a consequence of unsavoury alliances as well as the tactical suspension of values Western troops are there to seed.”

“Dreams of fashioning a model democracy out of a feudal society have become, predictably enough, the recurring nightmare of rising costs and casualties.”

“Tested against those criteria, the Afghanistan adventure is a dismal failure. It hasn't transformed warlords into democrats, replaced opium addiction with a market economy or persuaded a U.S. administration that uses security fears as cover for trade protectionism that Canada should be trusted to guard America's back door.”