**Type of Article:** Interview

**Title:** Jack Layton: the leader of the NDP policy ... and talking with the Taliban

**Author:** Scott Taylor and Sara Caverley

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**Synopsis:** Layton discusses a number of issues pertaining to the Canadian military including the inadequate support provided to its members and their families at home in the form of housing and the lack of ships available to protect the enormous Canadian coastline.

He reflects on the draconian Islamic laws in effect even under the supposedly moderate Karzai government. For Layton, such laws were inevitable considering the presence of Islamic fundamentalists in the Karzai government and the fact that they reflect sensibilities that predate the Taliban by hundreds of years.

Revealingly, Layton does not believe that the Taliban is a unified entity; rather he considers it, in its modern form, to be a convergence of tribal interests committed to the betterment of their tribes.

-Would you say that Layton would be in the category of the people who put the Afghans in the clan of “primitive”, that same preconception which is despised by Blatchford? If yes, do you have an example (a quote or two from the article)?