

Afghan National Flag (2004)



Where in the world is

AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan and her neighbors



Ethnic groups in Afghanistan



Brief History of Afghanistan

- 3000 BCE Aryans settled there on their way from Europe to India
Historically it was a main major thoroughfare on Silk Road between China and Europe
- 300 BCE Alexander the Great led his Macedonian Greeks through the Hindu Kush conquering central Asian and North West India (now Pakistan.) He lost much of his army in the mountains
Many tribes and hordes invade/travel through the area
- 3-4th Cent. CE Small Buddha (125') sculptured into the cliffs at Bamiyan as well as tunnels, stairways and paintings.
- 4-5th Cent. CE Large Buddha (175') sculptured into the cliffs at Bamiyan also with tunnels etc.
- 7th Cent Arab armies brought the Muslim faith
- 10th Cent Various rulers in Ghazni reigned over a kingdom extending from Persia (Iran) to the Gangees in India
- 12th cent The journeys of Marco Polo
- 13th cent Genghis Khan and his Mongolian Horsemen rules the general area for a short time (1219-27.)
He ravaged much of the populated area breaking up the 10th cent kingdom as well as the extensive and effective irrigation system in Afghanistan (Kareez)
- 14th cent Tamerlane led Turkish armies over the Hindu Kush
- 16th cent Babur, of Turkish and Mongolian descent, conquered Afghans and moved on to India to found the Mogul dynasty.
- 1738 Persian leader Nadir Shah Afshar captured Kandahar
- 1747 Nadir Shah is assassinated
- 1747-72 Afghanistan came into existence - founded by Ahmad Khan Sadozai.
- 1772-1826 Infighting
- 1826 Dost Muhammed Khan secures the throne (Kabul only)
- 1839-42 First British Afghan War
'39 Alexander Burnes marched through the Kyber Pass with 15,000 troops and 30,000 for baggage (2 for cigars!)
He ordered his troops to "Take Afghanistan and make it a British dependency"
'41 With his troops and hundreds of local allies withdrew during winter. He was hacked into pieces by a crowd of Afghans. One week later a lone soldier was seen east of the pass - a sole to survivor.
- 1978-80 British try again!!!
Britain and Russia tried to divide up Afghanistan.

- 1893 Establishment of the Durand line (British division between Afghanistan and British India - basis of many conflicts between Afghanistan and Pakistan - not considered valid by many Afghans - not currently applied.)
- 1901 - 1919 Habibullah becomes King of Afghanistan
- 1919 Third British Afghan War - many are slaughtered in the Kyber Pass
- 1921-1973 Afghan monarchy established by Amahullah and his allies. He led Afghanistan to independence over its foreign affairs from the United Kingdom,
- 1926 King Amanullah assumes role of King: his rule was marked by dramatic political & social change.
- 1928 More internal rebellion - Pashtuns (multi ethnic tribal group) dominates politics
- 1929 Inayatullah Khan Seraj (14 January 1929 to 17 January 1929)
- 1929-1933 An Aghan Jigah proclaims Nadir Shah King
- 1933-1973 Zahir Shah, 19 yr. old son of Nadir Shah, becomes King.
- 1950's-70's Americans and Russians vie for Afghan support but do very little to maintain their efforts.
- 1973 Coup, Dethroning King Zahir Shah
Creation of a Republic with President Mohammed Daoud (cousin of Zahir Shah)
Russians increase their interest and influence
- 1978 Communist Coup and puppet leader installed in Kabul
- 1978-1989 Russian invasion and occupation to prop up puppet government (Brezhnev)
American (CIA) begin to send funds to Mujahedeen 3-4 millions refugees in the Iranian border areas (530 miles long)
- 1980's Osama bin Laden enters Afghanistan to fight with the Mujahedeen. Ahmad Shah Massoud is also involved. He learns how to be an effective guerilla and became the leader of a large militia
Initial emergence of the Taliban
- 1985 CIA increases their supply of arms to the Mujahedeen
Some infighting in groups due to interest in "Poppies"
- 1989 Russians leave Afghanistan
America drops all interest in Afghanistan and the Mujahedeen who had looked to the USA for support
1.5 million people "lost" to Afghanistan (some killed, others flee the country.)
The country is strewn with 15 million land mines.
Taliban, students from Madrash (religious schools) in Pakistan begin to fight for control.
Hazaras (Mongols), 15% of the population head up the resistance that becomes the Northern Alliance.
- 1989-90 America turns a blind eye to supplies being sent to the Taliban due to their hostility with Iran.

- 1991 Unocal and Delta propose a gas line, to be followed by an oil pipeline of 930 miles (460 in Afghanistan) from Central Asia through Afghanistan to the Pakistan coast to bypass Iran. The US, describe the victories of the Taliban as "positive" and they "could favor the gas pipeline project."
- 1989-1994 Political vacuum and rise of the "Warlords"
Rapid increase in growing of Poppies to fund fighting
- 1994 The Taliban emerge as "leaders" as Afghanistan sank into Anarchy.
They are funded by USA, UK, and the Saudis
- 1994 on Taliban (2009 - rampant in 72% of Afghanistan)
- 1998 Some increased tension between Afghanistan and Iran - typical of the last 1300 years due in part to religious differences: Afghans (Sunni Muslims) & Iranians (Shia Muslims.)
6-7,000 males (over 16) Afghan Shia Muslims had their throats slit by the Taliban in front of their families.
Younger males had BOTH hands **CHOPPED OFF**
October - Taliban and Iran exchange fire on their borders
Iran holds the Taliban responsible for the loss of 10 diplomats following fighting in Mazar-i-Sharif.
- 1994-2001/2 Taliban leadership defines and defies rights for men, women and children in Afghanistan.
- 2001 (March) Taliban destroy both giant Buddahs as well as other Buddhist artifacts
- 2001(May) Evidence that men are "punished" by being placed in cages hung in trees.
- 2001 (Sept) Ahmad Shah Massoud is assassinated.
- 2001 (Oct.) Western bombing of Afghanistan in retaliation to terrorism
- 2001 (Sept. 11th) Planes fly into the World trade Center
- 2001-2009 Hamid Karzai
2001 (Dec) - Chairman of the Transitional Administration
2002 - Interim President (New National flag developed and used.)
2004 - President of Afghanistan.

Compiled from various sources.

Comparative interesting facts

| | <u>Afghanistan</u> | <u>USA</u> |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Population | 29,929,000 | 303,824,640 |
| Area | 652,090 square K | 9,161,923 square K 27% flat 63% Mountainous |
| Capital | Kabul; 2,956,000 | Washington DC: 3,927,000 |
| Language | Pashtu, Afghan Persian (Dari), Uzbek, Turkmen, 30 minor languages | English 82.1%, Spanish 10.7%, other Indo-European 3.8%, Asian and Pacific island 2.7%, other 0.7% |
| Religion | Sunni and Shia Muslim | Protestant 51.3%, Roman Catholic 23.9%, Mormon 1.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%, other or unspecified 2.5%, unaffiliated 12.1%, none 4% (2007) |
| Currency | Afghani | Dollar |
| Life Expectancy | 46 yrs | 77.8 yrs |
| GDP per Capita | U.S. \$700 | \$45,800 60% in poverty |
| Literacy Percent | 36% (level?) (2003) | 99% age 15 + can read and write |
| Infant Mortality | 154.67 deaths/1,000 live births | 6.3 deaths/1,000 live births |
| Environmental problems | | Deforestation Soil erosion Water Landslides No waste management <u>Air, e.g.</u> dust from roads. Brick factories Cars Asphalt factories - (Herat) |

Brief List of Resources

Books

- Ahmedi, F & Ansary, T. (2005) **The Story of My life**. Simon Spotlight Entertainment. (Imprint of Simon Schuster.) 1230 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY. 10020. ISBN: 1-4169-0670-3
- Blood, Peter, R, ed. **Afghanistan: A Country Study**. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 2001.
- Doubleday, V. (1988) **Three Women of Herat**. University of Texas Press. Box 7819 Austin Texas, 78713-7819. ISBN 0-292-78112-1
- Dupree, N, & Kohzad, A.A. (1972) **An Historical Guide to KABUL**. The Afghan Tourist Organization. Libray of Congress #: 73-189952 (Out of print)
- Elliot, J. (1999) **An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan**. Picador (Imprint of Pan Macmillan) 20 New Wharf Road, London, UK. N1 9RR. ISBN: 0-3303-7162-2
- Hosseini, Khaled,(2007) **A Thousand Splendid Suns**. Riverhead Books. (A Division of penguin Book Inc. USA.) 375 Hudson St. New York NY. 10014. ISBN: 1-59448-950-1
- Hosseini, Khaled, (2003) **The Kite Runner**. Riverhead Books. (A Division of penguin Book Inc. USA.) 375 Hudson St. New York NY. 10014. ISBN: 1-57322-245-3
- Jungar, Sebastian. () **The Lion in Winter**
- Jones, A (2005/6) **Kabul in Winter: Life Without Peace in Afghanistan**, Metropolitan Books.
- Lamb, C (2002) **The Sewing Circles of Herat**. Harper Collins, 10 East 53rd St., New York, NY.10022. ISBN: 0-06-050526-5
- Stratton, M. (2002) **Guests in the land of Buzkashi: Afghanistan Revisited**. 1st books library (WWW.1st books.com). ISBN: 0-7596-6720-9
- Kessel, J. Michaud, R (1979) **Afghanistan**, Cardinaux-Realities. 13 Rue Saint Georges, Paris, 9^e

Web Sites etc.

Afghanistan on line (Environment, water, deforestation, women

<http://countrystudies.us/afghanistan>

<http://ciifad.cornell> (environmental problems in Afghanistan)

National Geographis.com (Map of Afghanistan)-

PIPS (Pak institute for Peach Studies)

www.aopnews.com/today.html

"The man who would have led Afghanistan"

uk.truveo.com Back to School in Afghanistan/id/2226840218

www.afghanan.ne

www.afghan-web.com

www.actionaid.org.uk

www.afghan-web.com (Afghanistan on line)

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/af.html

www.mobycapital.com

www.rawa.org/recent2.htm

www.Thirdworldtraveller.com

Misc.

Paso Robles library has a section on Afghanistan

National Geographic DVD. Treasures of Afghanistan.