War in Afghanistan **Basics**

	Overview
War in	• War in Afghanistan (2001-2021): A war between a U.S./U.N. coalition vs. the Taliban/Al Qaeda
Afghanistan	 Cause: The war started after the September 11th attack by Al Qaeda on the U.S. Al Qaeda was based in Afghanistan and supported by the Taliban government
	 Conflict: The U.S./U.N. coalition took the following actions over the 20-year war Defeated & dispersed the Taliban and Al Qaeda within 3 months (2001) Tried to build a nation in Afghanistan vs. the Taliban insurgency (2002-2020) Killed Osama-bin-Laden (2011) and ended the coalition combat mission (2014) Transferred security and supported the new Afghan Government (2014-2020) Signed the Doha Agreement (2020) and withdrew U.S. forces (2020-2021)
	Osama bin Laden is dead, Al Qaeda is degraded, but the Taliban remain U.S./U.N. Killed Osama bin Laden and disrupted the Taliban/Al Qaeda Failed to establish a new, democratic Afghan government Al Qaeda Lost key leaders (e.g., Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri) Has been severely degraded, but still exists as an organization Has regained control of Afghanistan after a 20-year struggle Isolated from the global community, but has resources & opium
War Statistics	War Statistics: A 20-year war costing \$2.3 T, with 175 K military and 46 K civilian casualties
 Overall 1st Phase 2nd Phase 	 1st phase: Operation Enduring Freedom, Oct 2001 – Dec 2014 (13 years, 3 months) 2nd phase: Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Jan 2015 – Aug 2021 (6 years, 8 months)
Opposing Forces	COALITION TALIBAN/AL-QAEDA
	• Peak Strength U.S. & Coalition Forces (ISAF) 130,000 Taliban 58,000 – 100,000 Afghanistan Forces (ANSF) 300,000 Al Qaeda 3,300 Others (Contractors, etc.) 140,000 Others (ISIS-K, HIG, etc.) 14,000
	Total Causalities: U.S. 2,420 Killed 20,713 Wounded 23,133 Total U.S. 2,430 Killed 20,713 Wounded 23,133 Total U.S. 2,400 Killed 24,000 Killed 24,000 Killed 25,000 Killed 26,000 Killed
U.S. & Coalition Troop Levels	U.S. & Coalition Troop Levels: The number of coalition soldiers in Afghanistan varied over the 20 years of war Troops increased from 2001 until the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011 Troops decreased from 2012 until the combat mission ended in 2014 Troop supported Afghanistan Security Forces (ANSF) from 2015-2020 until the Doha Peace Agreement All troops were withdrawn in 2021 https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2021/afghanistan-visualising-impact-of-war/index.html All troops were withdrawn in 2021 https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2021/afghanistan-visualising-impact-of-war/index.html All troops were withdrawn in 2021 https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2021/afghanistan-visualising-impact-of-war/index.html
Doha Peace Agreement U.STaliban Deal	 Doha Peace Agreement: Agreement between the U.S. & Taliban to end the War in Afghanistan The U.S. coalition left Afghanistan in return for Taliban commitments to counter terrorism The Afghan government wasn't directly involved in the agreement until after it was signed Required a release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners before Inter-Afghan Peace talks could began
Video Overviews Richard Engel Azmat Khan Colonel Chris Kolenda	 Video Overviews: 25 minutes of objective YouTube videos on the War in Afghanistan Overview (02-JULY-2021) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUyRfAqK6Xc 3 minutes Overview (25-AUG-2021) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sueJoTVqxw 8 minutes Reflection (15-AUG-2022) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQINSDbcGeQ 14 minutes

Timeline

Timeline of the War in Afghanistan

2001

The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan toppled the Taliban / Al Qaeda within 3 months

 OCT The U.S. allied with the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan against the Taliban

NOV U.S. Special Forces toppled the Taliban government & captured the city of Kabul

DEC At the Battle of Tora Bora, Osama bin Laden escaped into hiding in Pakistan

2002-2014

13 years

6 years

8 months

3 months

A U.S./U.N. coalition tried to rebuild Afghanistan & fight the War on Terror

■ The Bonn Agreement in 2001 established an Afghan Interim Administration

The coalition provided security in Afghanistan against a growing Taliban insurgency

Osama bin Laden went into hiding in Pakistan for 10 years, but was killed in 2011

The coalition transferred security to the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2014

2002 The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was established by the U.N.

2003 NATO takes over the ISAF command as the U.S. focus shifts to the Iraq War

2004 Afghan constitution approved; Afghan Election (2004): Hamid Karzai president

2005

NATO expands its mission to provide security beyond the capital city of Kabul

2006 London Conference created a plan for international support & Afghan reform

2007 The U.S. deploys more troops to counter the increasing Taliban insurgency

2008 U.S. Election (2018); a new administration takes control (Bush → Obama)

2009 Afghan Election (2009); Hamid Karzai was re-elected; U.S. Troops increased

2010 London Conference created an Afghan transition plan & Taliban peace offer

2011 Bonn Conference (10th Anniversary) prepared for Afghan transition/support

2012 U.S. reduces its combat role, focusing on training Afghan security forces (ANSF)

2013 Taliban opened a political office in the city of Doha, Qatar to allow peace talks

2014 Afghan Election (2014); Ashraf Ghani is president & Abdullah Abdullah is CEO

The U.S. & Coalition combat mission ended in December, 2014 =====

International

Afghanistan

Conferences on

2015-2021 The U.S./U.N. coalition supported the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan until 2021

2015 Murree Talks: 1st peace talks between Afghans & Taliban in Murree, Pakistan

2016 Peace talks collapse; Rise of Islamic State (ISIS-K); U.S. Election (2016) of Trump

2017 The U.S. announces a new strategy of conditions-based troop levels

2018 Eid al-Fitr holiday ceasefire; the U.S. and Taliban begin peace negotiations

2019 Afghan Election (2019); Ashraf Ghani is reelected (with Abdullah Abdullah)

2020 U.S.-Taliban deal; 5,000 Afghan prisoners released; U.S. Troops 10,000 → 2,500

The last Taliban offensive; the Fall of Kabul; the end of U.S. withdrawal (AUG) 2021

Country Overview



History of Afghanistan

- **1823**
- Kingdom (until the Daoud coup) 1926
- 1973 Republic (until the Saur Revolution)
- 1978 Democratic Republic (under U.S.S.R.)
- 1992 Islamic State -
- 1996 Islamic Emirate -----
- Islamic Republic (reinstated) ◀ -2001 Islamic Emirate (reinstated) 2021
- Control of Afghanistan (1978-2021)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AR66s5HVYQ

Understanding Afghanistan

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/12/10-maps-tounderstand-afghanistan-interactive

- Roughly the same size & population as Texas
- 8th most mountainous country in the world
- Very large producer of opium in the world
- Very high poverty rates (>70%)
- Very low literacy rates (<45%)
- Many internally displaced people (385,000)
- Many global refugees (2.6 million)

Kev Facts about Afahanistan

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/map-explainer-key-facts-about-

- Has a young population (median age = 19 years)
- Nearly all of the population is Muslim (99.7%) A critical source of fresh water in the region
- Rich in strategic mineral resources