

# Afghanistan Smart Book

TRADOC Culture Center

Second Edition Feb 2010

# Purpose

**To ensure that U.S. Army personnel have a relevant, comprehensive guide to help enhance cultural understanding; to use in capacity building and counterinsurgency operations while deployed in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.**

**“We are experiencing a tectonic change in military operations because of culture.”**

**- MG John M. Custer, III**

# About This Book

**The Smart Book contains information designed to enhance Soldier's knowledge of Afghanistan, including history, politics, country data and statistics, and the military operational environment. The Smart Book concludes with an overview of the culture of Afghanistan including religion, identity, behavior, communication and negotiation techniques, an overview of ethnic groups, a regional breakdown outlining each province, a language guide, and cultural proverbs, expressions and superstitions.**

# **Focus**

**“We all must understand the people of Afghanistan. Operate in a way that respects their culture and religion.”**

**- General Stanley A. McChrystal  
Commander, ISAF**

**“COIN Training Guidance,” 10 November 2009**

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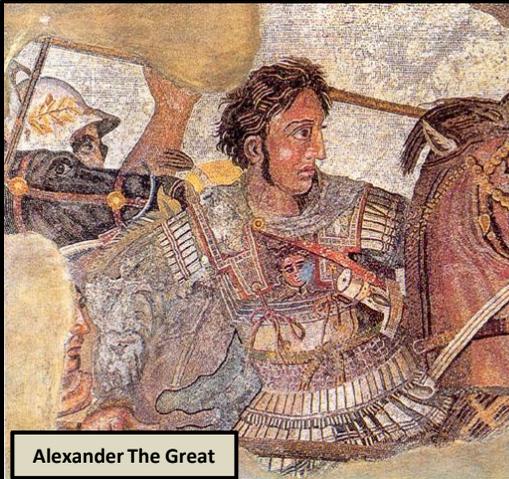
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# HISTORY

# History Timeline

- **334-326 BCE:** Alexander the Great's conquests  
Establishes many trade centers in Afghanistan to include Kandahar and Herat
- **30-248 CE:** Kushan Empire  
The Kushans were great patrons of Buddhist art and culture; Bamiyan Buddha statues erected
- **642 – 1187 CE:** Islamic Conquest of Afghanistan  
Resulting in the conversion of Afghanistan to Islam from the pre-invasion practices of Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and other belief systems
- **962 – 1186:** Ghaznavid Dynasty  
A Persian dynasty of Turkic origins centered in Ghazni, brought in language (Dari) and a rich Persian culture to Afghanistan
- **1219:** Mongol Invasion  
The Mongols devastated Afghanistan, killing the population of major city centers, causing the population to revert to an agrarian rural society
- **1747-1826:** Durrani Empire  
This was the beginning of the modern Afghan State and the Pashtun ruling class

# Great Afghan Conquests



Alexander The Great



Anglo-Afghan Wars



The Mongol Invasions

# History Timeline

- **1839-1842:** First Anglo-Afghan War

The start of the “Great Game”, which was a power struggle between Russia and Great Britain in an effort to win power and dominance in the region; Britain occupies Afghanistan and uses it as a buffer to protect British India from Russian territory

- **1878-1880:** Second Anglo-Afghan War

Afghans attempt to oust British control of the country

- **1893:** British establish the Durand Line

This disputed border separating Afghanistan from British Indian territories would eventually lead to strained relationships between Afghanistan and the new state of Pakistan; Durand line designed with the defense of India in mind

- **1919:** Third Anglo-Afghan War

After which Afghanistan gains full independence from Britain

- **1919 – 1929:** The Kingdom of Afghanistan

King Amanullah moved to end his country’s long-standing isolation and develop diplomatic relationships with most major countries; slavery abolished in 1923

- **1973:** Republic of Afghanistan

Monarchy abolished; establishment of a republic

# Afghan-Soviet War



## Soviet Losses:

14,553 Dead

53,753 Wounded

## Afghan Losses:

1 Million Afghans killed

5 Million fled country

2 Million IDPs

(Internally Displaced Persons)

During the 1980s, one out of two refugees in the world was an Afghan

**Soviet Occupation**  
Dec 1979 – Feb 1989



# History Timeline

- **1978:** Coup by communists backed directly by Soviet Union
- **1979:** Soviets invade, install pro-Moscow government
- **1980s:** Anti-Soviet jihad fought by the Mujahedeen
- **1989:** Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan
- **1992:** Last Communist regime falls; Mujahideen forces vie for power and factional infighting begins
- **1994:** Civil war intensifies; 70% of country destroyed; Taliban rise to power
- **1996:** Taliban capture Kabul and declare Islamic Emirate; Osama bin Laden relocates to Afghanistan
- **1996 – 2001:** Era of Taliban government's "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan"; based loosely in Shari'a Law
- **1998:** U.S. cruise missiles strike an Al Qaeda terrorist training complex in Afghanistan

# Banned by the Taliban

Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Suppression of Vice (PVSV)

- Firecrackers
- Nail Polish
- Christmas Cards
- Lobster
- Music
- Hanging pictures in Home
- Beard Trimming
- Statues
- Wine/Alcohol
- Kite Flying
- Stuffed Animals
- Computers
- Sewing Catalogs
- Clapping During Sporting Events

- Education for Women
- Satellite Dishes
- Movies
- Dancing
- Western Haircuts



**“Innovative form of Shari’a combining Pashtun tribal codes”**

# History Timeline

- **Sep 2001:** Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Masood killed by Al Qaeda; attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon
- **Oct 2001:** Coalition forces begin air and ground operations in Afghanistan, support to Northern Alliance
- **Nov 2001:** Northern Alliance captures Kabul
- **Dec 2001:** Taliban fall from power; Bonn Agreement establishes Afghan Interim Administration with Hamid Karzai elected as chairman
- **Jun 2002:** Hamid Karzai becomes interim President
- **2002-2003:** International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) forces responsible for Kabul
- **Aug 2003:** NATO assumes command of ISAF
- **Jan 2004:** NATO/ISAF assumes responsibility for Northern Afghanistan and begins gradual transition of responsibility from the US led coalition

# United States in Afghanistan



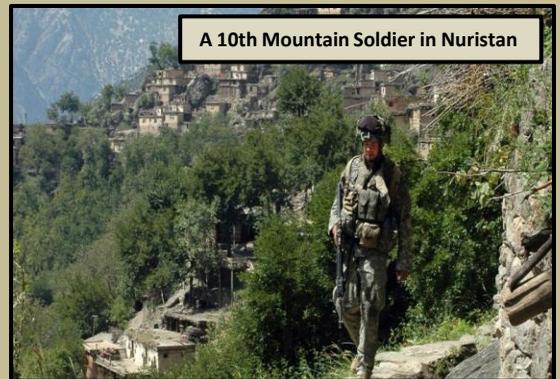
Operation Mountain Fire, 2009



ANA Soldiers in Khost, 2007



Delivering humanitarian aid in Paktia, 2009



A 10th Mountain Soldier in Nuristan

# History Timeline

- **Jan 2004:** New constitution introduced
- **Oct 2004:** Presidential elections, Karzai elected
- **Oct 2006:** NATO assumes responsibility for security across Afghanistan
- **Jul 2007:** Former King Zahir Shah dies
- **Aug 2007:** Opium production soars to a record high, according to UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Nov 2009:** President Karzai sworn in for second term amid controversy and accusations of ballot stuffing
- **Dec 2009:** President Obama to increase troop strength in Afghanistan from 68,000 to 100,000
- **Jan 2010:** Taliban introduce a “Code of Conduct” in an effort to reduce civilian casualties, soften their image, and win allies

**POLITICAL**



# FLAG OF AFGHANISTAN

- **Black** stands for the time period of 1839-1919 when the Afghan people fought three wars of independence against the British Empire
- **Red** represents blood, sacrifice, and the continuous challenge of the people to overcome hardship
- **Green** is the color of Islam and symbolizes peace

The writing on the flag emphasizes the importance of Islam by stating: “There is no God but God and Mohammad is his prophet”

The mosque with the mihrab, is from seal of Abdur Rahman Khan, added by Habibullah Khan (who ruled 1901-1919).

# POLITICAL MAP



**AFGHANISTAN**

**Administrative Divisions**



LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION, STANDARD PARALLELS 30°25' N 37°10' N

803283A1 (G00878) 1:2-08

# AFGHAN PROVINCES

**Afghanistan's 34 Provinces are divided into districts. The number of districts has changed with the division or merging into other districts. The 325 districts that existed prior to 1979 changed with a reorganization in 2004 to an even larger number of 397. Currently, the Afghan Ministry of Interior (Mol) recognizes 398 districts. As Afghanistan continues to organize itself, this number may change over time.**

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- **Executive** — President is head of both state and government
  - Provincial governors for each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces appointed by the president
- **Legislative** — National Assembly consists of two houses:
  - **Lower- *Wolesi Jirga*** (the House of the People)
    - Responsibility for making and ratifying laws and approving the actions of the president
  - **Upper- *Meshrano Jirga*** (the House of Elders)
    - Advisory role with veto power

- **Judicial** — Supreme Court
  - All justices (nine, including Chief Justice) appointed by the president and approved by the *Wolesi Jirga*
  - Subordinate by high courts and appeals courts

Election Billboard, Kandahar

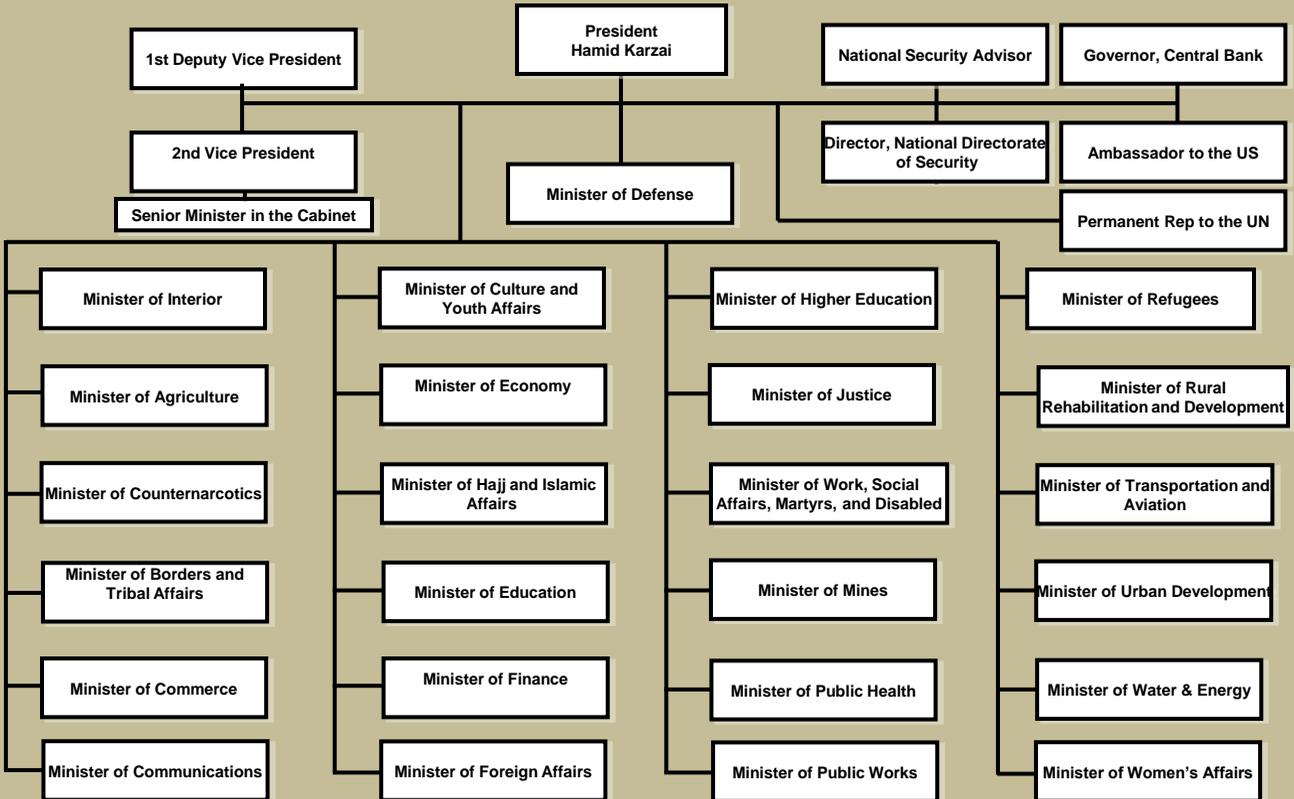


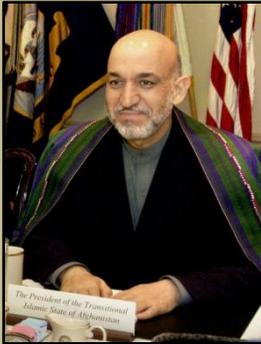
Afghan Parliament Building



Inauguration, Hamid Karzai, 2004

# President of Afghanistan and Cabinet





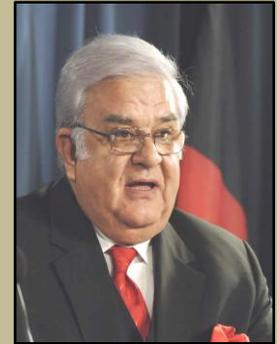
**Hamid Karzai**  
President



**Ahmad Zia Massoud**  
Deputy Vice President



**Karim Khalili**  
2nd Vice President



**Abdul Raheem Wardak**  
Minister of Defense



**Zarar Ahmad Moqbel**  
Counter Narcotics



**Dr. Zalmai Rassoul**  
Foreign Affairs Minister



**Mohammad Hanif Atmar**  
Minister of Interior



**Amrullah Saleh**  
Directorate of Security

# Provincial Governors

**President  
Hamid Karzai**

**Badakhshan  
Baz Mohammad Ahmadi**

**Badghis  
Mohammad Ashraf Nasserri**

**Baghlan  
Mohammed Akbar Barakzai**

**Balkh  
Atta Mohammad Noor**

**Bamiyan  
Habiba Sorabi**

**Daykundi  
Sultan Ali Rozgani**

**Farah  
Rohul Amin**

**Faryab  
Abdul Haq Shafaq**

**Ghazni  
Dr. Muhammad Osman Osman**

**Ghor  
Baz Mohammad Ahmadi**

**Helmand  
Mohammad Gulab Mangal**

**Herat  
Ahmad Yusef Nuristani**

**Jowzjan  
Mohammad Hashim Zareh**

**Kabul  
Haji Din Mohammad**

**Kandahar  
Tooryalai Wesa**

**Kapisa  
Khoja Ghulam Ghous Abubaker**

**Khost  
Tahr Khan Sabari (Acting)**

**Kunar  
Syed Fazal Ullah Wahedi**

**Kunduz  
Mohammad Omar Sulaimoni**

**Laghman  
Lutfallah Mashal**

**Logar  
General Abdurrahman**

**Nangarhar  
Gul Agha Sherzai**

**Nimroz  
Ghulam Dastageer Azad**

**Nuristan  
Jamaluddin Badre**

**Paktia  
Juma Khan Hamdard**

**Paktika  
Abdul Quyum Katawazy**

**Panjshir  
Bahlul Bahij**

**Parwan  
Abdul Basir Salangi**

**Samangan  
Qazi Enayat Enayatullah**

**Sar-i Pol  
Sayed Iqbal Munib**

**Takhar  
Abdul Latif Ibrahimimi**

**Uruzgan  
Asadullah Hamdam**

**Wardark  
Mohammad Halim Fidai**

**Zabul  
Del Bar Jan Arman**

*As of 7 JAN 10*



**Kunar**  
Syed Fazal Ullah Wahedi



**Ghazni**  
Dr. Osman Osmani



**Kapisa**  
Khoja Ghulam  
Ghous Abubaker



**Badghis**  
Mohammad Ashraf  
Nasseri



**Balkh**  
Atta Mohammad Noor



**Bamiyan**  
Habiba Sorabi



**Kunar**  
Syed Fazal Ullah  
Wahedi



**Farah**  
Rohul Amin



**Nuristan**  
Jamaluddin Badre



**Kabul**  
Haji Din Mohammad



**Paktia**  
Juma Khan Hamdard



**Badakhshan**  
Baz Mohammad  
Ahmadi



**Herat**  
Ahmad Yusef Nuristani



**Kandahar**  
Tooryalai Wesa



**Helmand**  
Mohammad Gulab Mangal



**Nangarhar**  
Gul Agha Sherzai



**Wardak**  
Mohammad Halim Fidai

# COUNTRY DATA

# LOCATION AND BORDERING COUNTRIES



**Location:**  
South Central Asia,  
north and west of  
Pakistan, east of Iran

**Border Countries:**

- China
- Iran
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

# COMPARATIVE AREA



# SOCIAL STATISTICS

## Population:

28.396 Million (2009 est.)

0-14 years: 44.5%

(male 7,664,670/female 7,300,446)

15-64 years: 53%

(male 9,147,846/female 8,679,800)

65 years and over: 2.4%

(male 394,572/female 422,603) (2009 est.)

## Total Fertility Rate:

6.53 children born/woman

## Under-5 Mortality:

(m/f) 232/237 per 1000

## Life Expectancy at Birth:

Total population: 44.64 yrs

Male: 44.47 yrs

Female: 44.81 yrs (2009 est.)

## Literacy:

Age 15 and over can read and write

total pop.: 28.1%

male: 43.1%

female: 12.6% (2000 est.)

## School life expectancy:

total: 8 years

male: 11 years

female: 4 years (2004)

Percentage of population using improved drinking-water sources, 2006, total: 20%

GDP per capita: \$700 (2008 est.)

Labor force: 15 million (2004 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 40%

Urban Population: 24% of total population

# ECONOMY OVERVIEW

- **Wheat and cereal production along with fruit and nuts have long been Afghanistan's traditional agricultural mainstays**
- **Afghanistan is extremely poor, landlocked, and very dependent on foreign aid**
- **There is a shortage of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs**
- **Other challenges include corruption and a huge illicit opium trade**
- **Agriculture: 80%, Industry: 10%, Services: 10% (2004 est.)**
- **Afghanistan has a wealth of natural resources to include: natural gas, petroleum, oil, marble, gold, copper, chromate, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, and salt**
- **Exploration indicates abundant deposits of precious and semi precious gemstones, including emerald, ruby, sapphire, garnet, lapis, kunzite, spinel, tourmaline, and peridot; most mining and exportation of these precious and semi precious gems is illegal**
- **Illegal and unregulated deforestation has depleted much of the country's timber industry and has left much of the once forested areas barren**
- **Afghan hand woven rugs are one of the more popular exports along with leather, furs, and hand crafted replica antiques**
- **Overall the economy of Afghanistan has improved significantly since 2002 due to the infusion of billions of US dollars and international aid**
- **Exchange rate: 1 \$US = 50 Afghanis (AFs)**

# ECONOMY OVERVIEW CONT.

- **Afghanistan's economy remains weak as economic production is insufficient to generate sufficient personal incomes, to sustain an effective public sector or to finance its wide-ranging imports of finished goods and services.**
- **In addition to the continuing problems of security, low employment, poor labor productivity, a lack of capital and poor capital productivity, a lack of a comprehensive set of policies to encourage entrepreneurship make the situation very discouraging.**
- **The Afghan economy has historically remained mostly agricultural in spite of the fact the country is only 12% arable and less than 6% is cultivated; there is almost no use of modern farming techniques to include: the use of farm equipment, chemical fertilizer, or pesticides; irrigation is primitive and totally dependent on the winter snows and seasonal rainfall; fruit and nuts exports average around \$115 million a year but could easily be ten times that amount with a little investment.**
- **Although security has been a major hindrance to Afghanistan's economic progress, the ability of the Afghan government to extend its reach throughout the country poses the biggest threat to future economic growth; illicit opium production and trade generates roughly 3 billion dollars a year and remains one of Kabul's largest policy concerns.**

# AFGHANISTAN'S SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY

## REMINDER

**An ISAF unit in a relatively permissive area had a difficult time maneuvering large vehicles along a road because it was lined with fruit trees. To improve mobility, the unit had the trees cut down. Many people in the village had their livelihoods destroyed. IEDs began appearing along the road shortly thereafter.**

**"We all must understand the people of Afghanistan. Operate in a way that respects their culture and religion."**

**General Stanley A. McChrystal  
Commander, ISAF**



# EDUCATION

In 1969 Afghanistan tried its hand at compulsory public education for children between the ages of 7 and 15, but the initiative never had a chance to grow roots. When the Soviets invaded 10 years later, many programs, including compulsory public education, were terminated. Prior to 1969, education was purely at the discretion of the family. Even then, much of the education offered concentrated on rote memory of the Quran, and was reserved for males only.

Families that elected not to send their children to school often did so out of a need for extra hands to maintain the household and field duties. Dari is the language of the educated in Afghanistan.

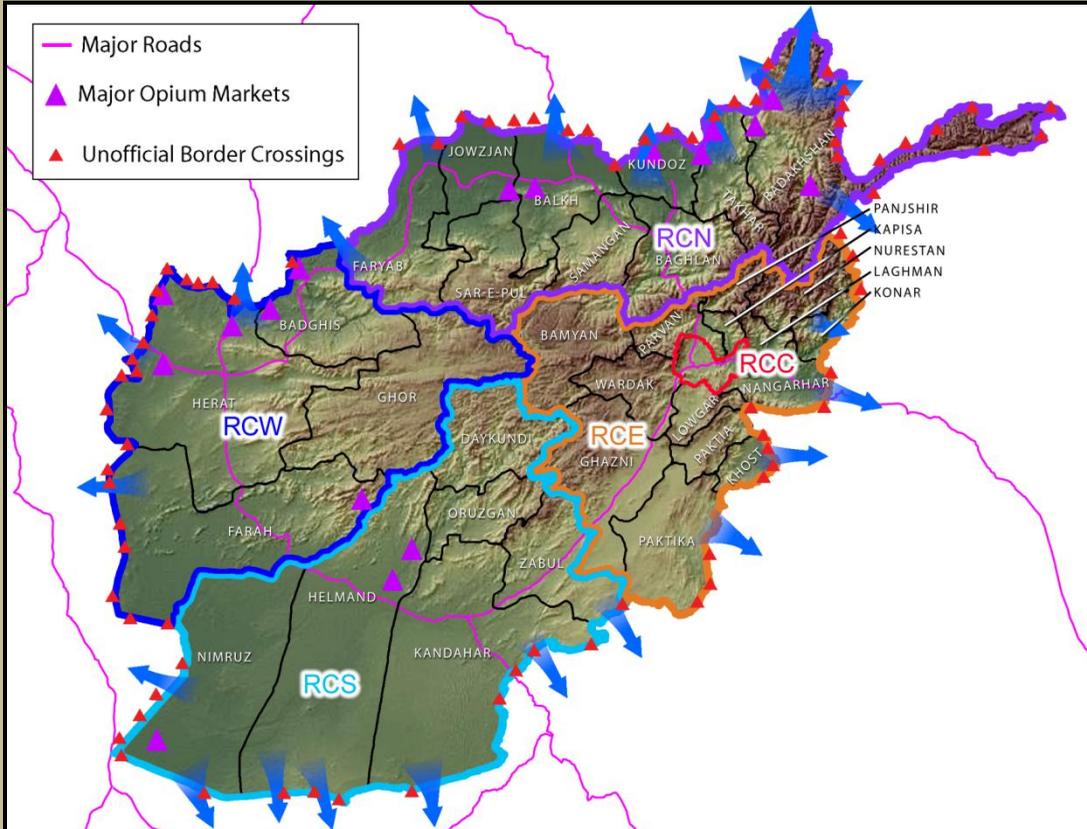
Regardless of their ethnicity, if a family could pool the resources to send their children through an extensive education, they would become fluent in the Dari language. But after the Soviet withdrawal, any semblance of public education disappeared. Even Kabul University closed its doors.

The Taliban had a very different approach to education. Outside of religious education for boys only, public education was forbidden, especially for girls. The result of the last three decades is a literacy rate less than 40%. Most of the literate were concentrated in urban areas, while rural locations accounted for less than 10% of the literate.



# **MILITARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

# TERRAIN & MAJOR LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS BY ISAF RC







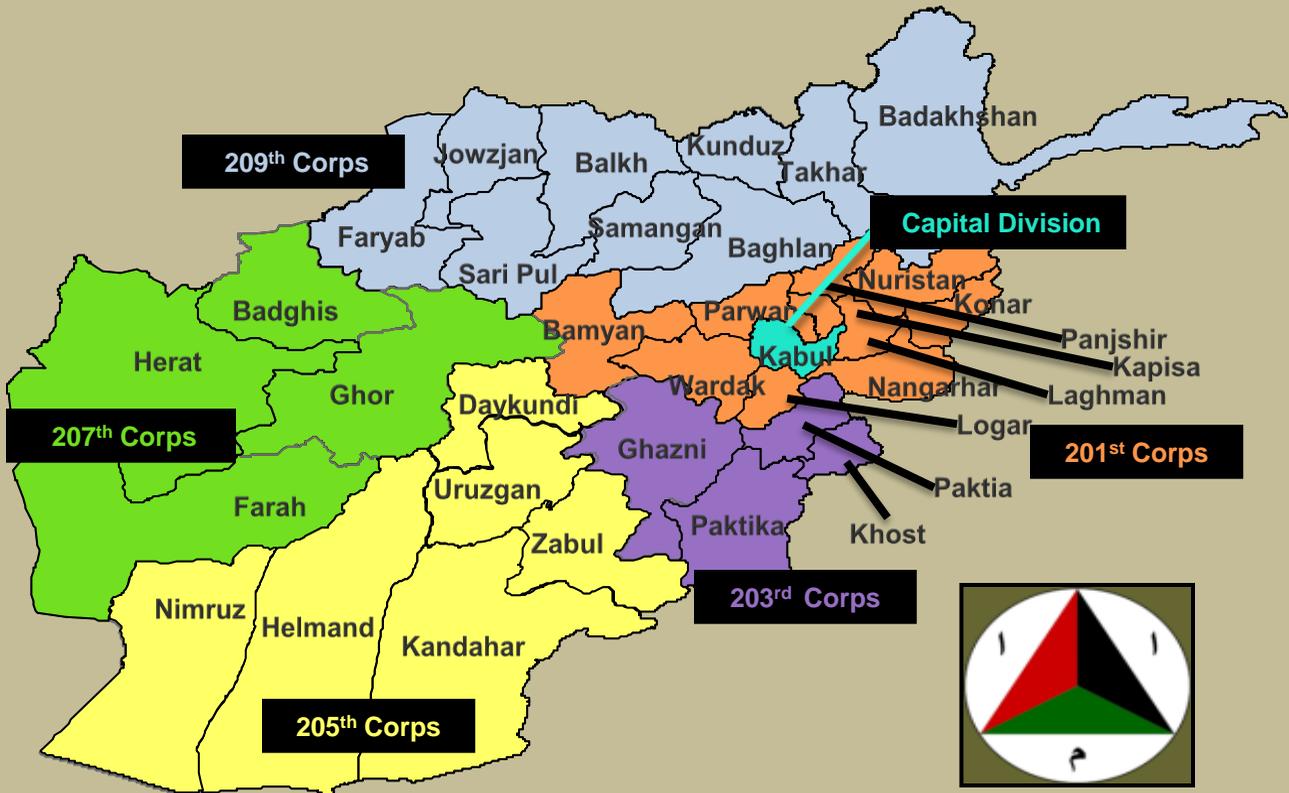
# AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

## Afghan National Army (ANA)

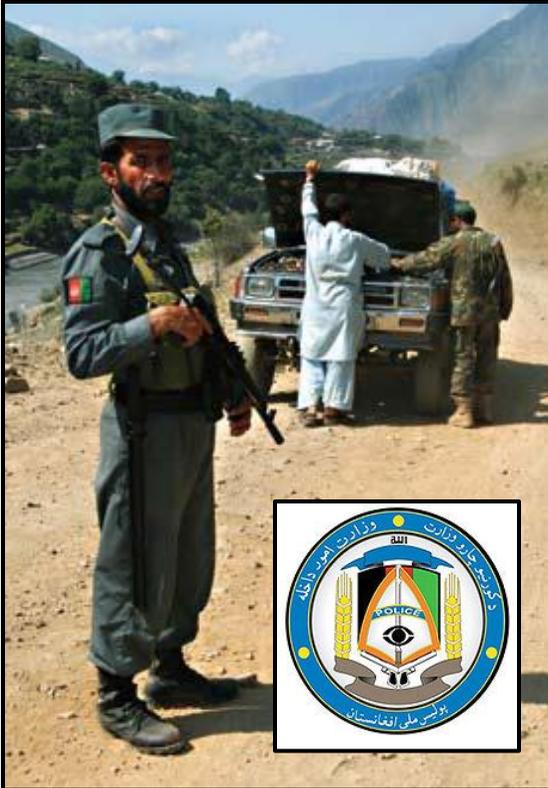
- Strength: 97,000 troops (as of January 2010)
- Target Strength: 240,000 (within five years)
- Capacity: participates in 90% of ISAF operations and leads 62% of joint operations
- Well respected by the Afghan population



# ANA Command Areas of Responsibility



# AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE

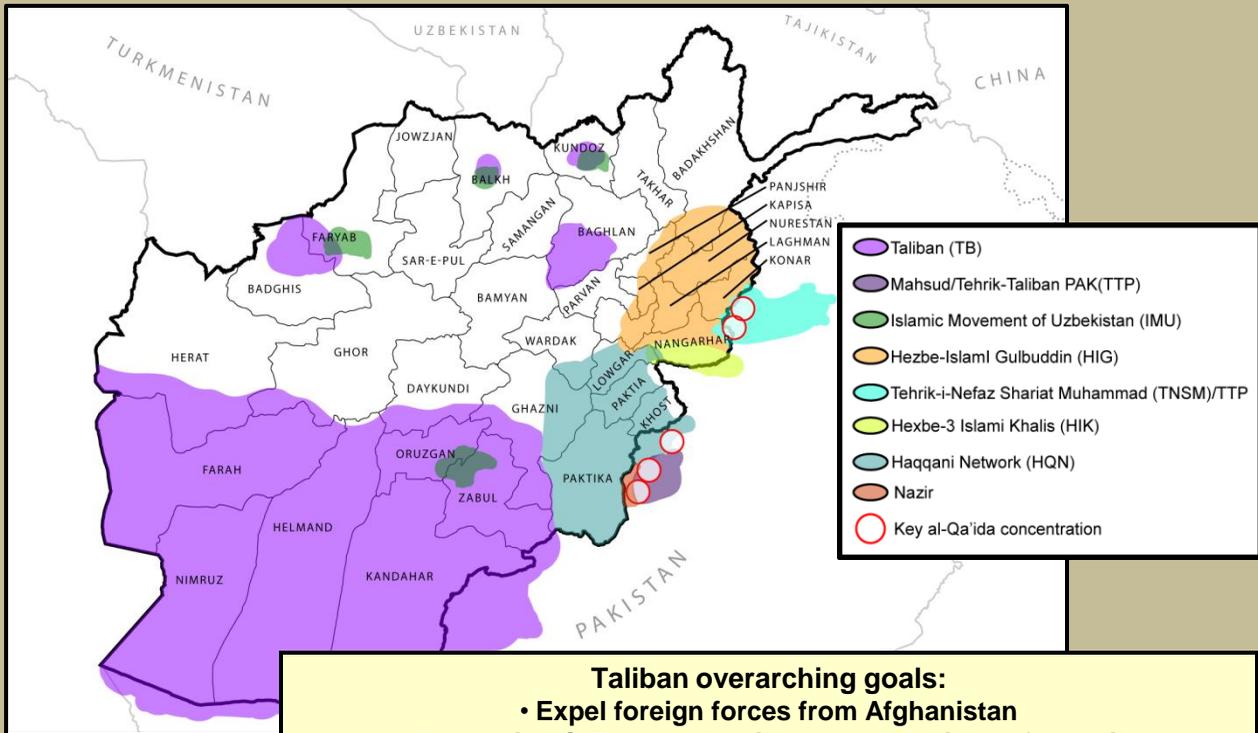


## Afghan National Police (ANP)

- **Strength: 94,000** (as of January 2010)
- **Target Strength: 134,000** (within five years)
- **Composition of the ANP**
  - Afghan Uniformed Police
  - Afghan Border Police
  - Afghan National Civil Order Police
  - Afghan Counter-Narcotics Police
- **Viewed as corrupt; are known to extort the local population; generally not trusted**



# INSURGENCY OVERVIEW



## Taliban overarching goals:

- Expel foreign forces from Afghanistan
- Undermine GIRoA's authority and perceptions of security
- Establish a Sunni state under Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Omar

# Afghan Taliban Intent

## Taliban Code of Conduct published by Taliban leadership, Mid July 2009 (Mullah Omar's COIN guidance – a population-centric strategy)

“This is our mission: to keep people and their property safe. Do not let those people that love money take our local people's property and cause them problems.”

“Keep good relationships with your friends and the local people, and do not let the enemy divide / separate you.”

### Intentions

- We don't have to beat ISAF militarily, just outlast international will to remain in Afghanistan
- Continue population outreach and protection programs
- Continue successful asymmetric operations
- Expand lethal IED and high-profile attacks to deny ISAF freedom of movement
- Emphasize increasing violence in RC North and RC West
- Demonstrate Taliban reach and perceived control of all Afghanistan
- Make the main enemy the United States

### Directives

- Reiterated prohibitions on the following:
  - Mistreating population
  - Forcibly taking personal weapons
  - Taking children to conduct jihad
  - Punishment by maiming
  - Forcing people to pay donations
  - Searching homes
  - Kidnapping people for money

# Taliban Governance

## TB Structure 2009

### Inner Shura committees:

- Military
- Finance
- Ideology
- Administrative
- Political
- Propaganda
- Intelligence

### Inner Shura

Mullah Omar and  
~18 members  
organized in committees

Regional Commander

### Regional Shuras

~15-20 members

Ad hoc shuras  
or committees

Although largely recreated, the Taliban senior structure in 2009 is more consolidated likely due to lack of freedom of movement and operational commander losses

Provincial Shuras /  
Governors

- **Inner Shura:** Supreme ruling body; decisions based on consensus and within Omar's guidance
- **Regional Shura / Committees:** Direct and oversee policy; limited decision-making authority
- **Provincial Shura:** Enforces and implements directives; represents local concerns

\* Decision delays as fighters require guidance from smaller core of TBSL decision-makers

# FATA – NWFP of Pakistan

Federally Administrated Tribal Areas- FATA  
North-West Frontier Province- NWFP



# FATA: Taliban Safe Haven

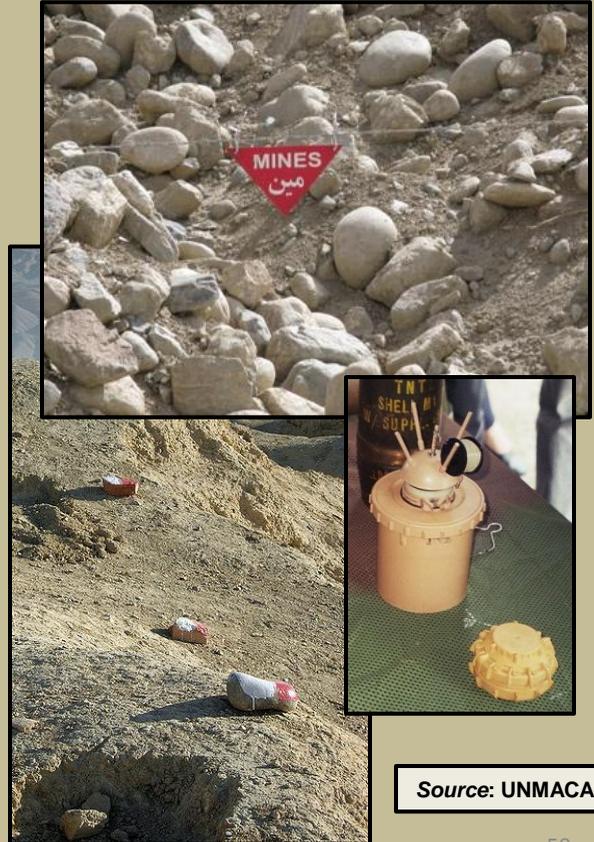
- **Made up of seven tribal agencies (Khyber, Kurram, Orazkai, Mohmand, Bajaur, North and South Waziristan)**
- **3 million tribesmen of FATA are part of the 28 million Pashtuns in Pakistan (15 million Pashtuns in Afghanistan)**
- **Development, literacy, and health facilities are low**
  - **Per capita income US \$500**
  - **Literacy rate: 17% (3% for females)**
  - **Madaris (some built with Al Qaeda money) are a primary means of education and remain popular**
- **Tribes on both sides of border intermarry, trade, feud, celebrate with one another; adhere to Pashtunwali**

# TALIBAN SAFE HAVEN CONT.

- **FATA tribes more rigid and conservative due to a uniquely oppressive administrative system**
  - Ruled directly by the Pakistani President whose agent is the Governor of the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP)
  - Governor appoints “political agents” to each agency
  - Agents adhere to the “Frontier Crimes Regulation” (FCR), a legacy of British colonialism
  - FCR gave no constitutional, civic, or political rights to FATA tribesmen
  - FATA traditionally off limits to journalists, NGOs, human rights organizations and political parties
  - Mullahs and de facto religious parties have filled the void
- **Since the fall of the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan, the area has been destabilized as Pakistani Intelligence (ISI) used FATA as a safe haven for Taliban reconstitution and later as a staging area for TB recruitment, training and operations in Afghanistan**

# LANDMINES

- Mines have killed and/or maimed about 150,000 Afghans since 1989
- Every month 55-60 people fall victim to landmines
- 32 of 34 provinces affected
- Mined areas marked by signs and/or red painted rocks
- Adversely effects nomadic migratory tribes such as the Kuchi



Source: UNMACA

# Opium Poppies in Afghanistan





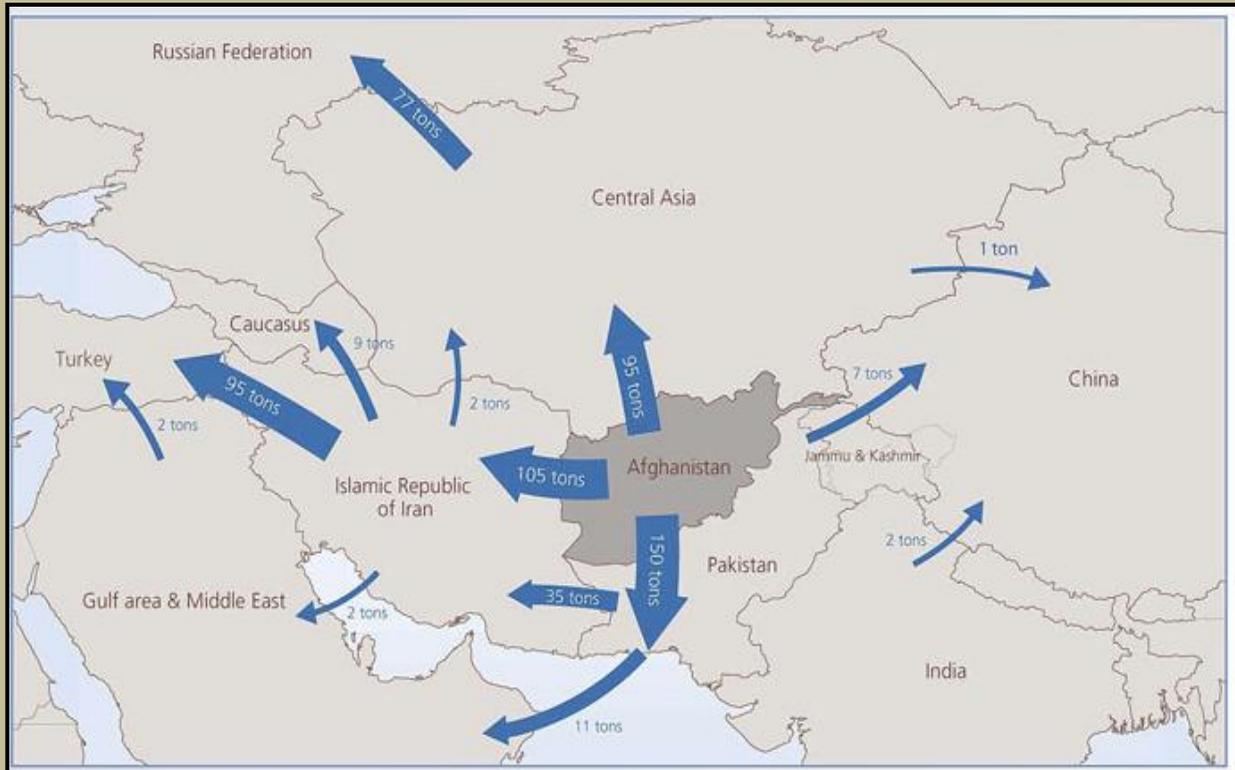
# AFGHANISTAN'S OPIUM PROBLEM

- **Afghanistan now produces around 93% of the world's opiates, more than twice the world's demand; one province, Helmand, has recently produced 50%**
- **Many opium farmers work land owned by rich landowners who often don't live in the area or even the country; sometimes they prevent the farmers from growing anything else, under threat of eviction or worse**
- **Government poppy eradication attempts have often targeted farmers who are unable to pay bribes or are competing with poppy fields under the control of more powerful parties**
- **Extreme poppy eradication methods, such as spraying poppy fields, could drive farmers into the hands of the insurgents**



# Regional Heroin Flows From Afghanistan, 2008

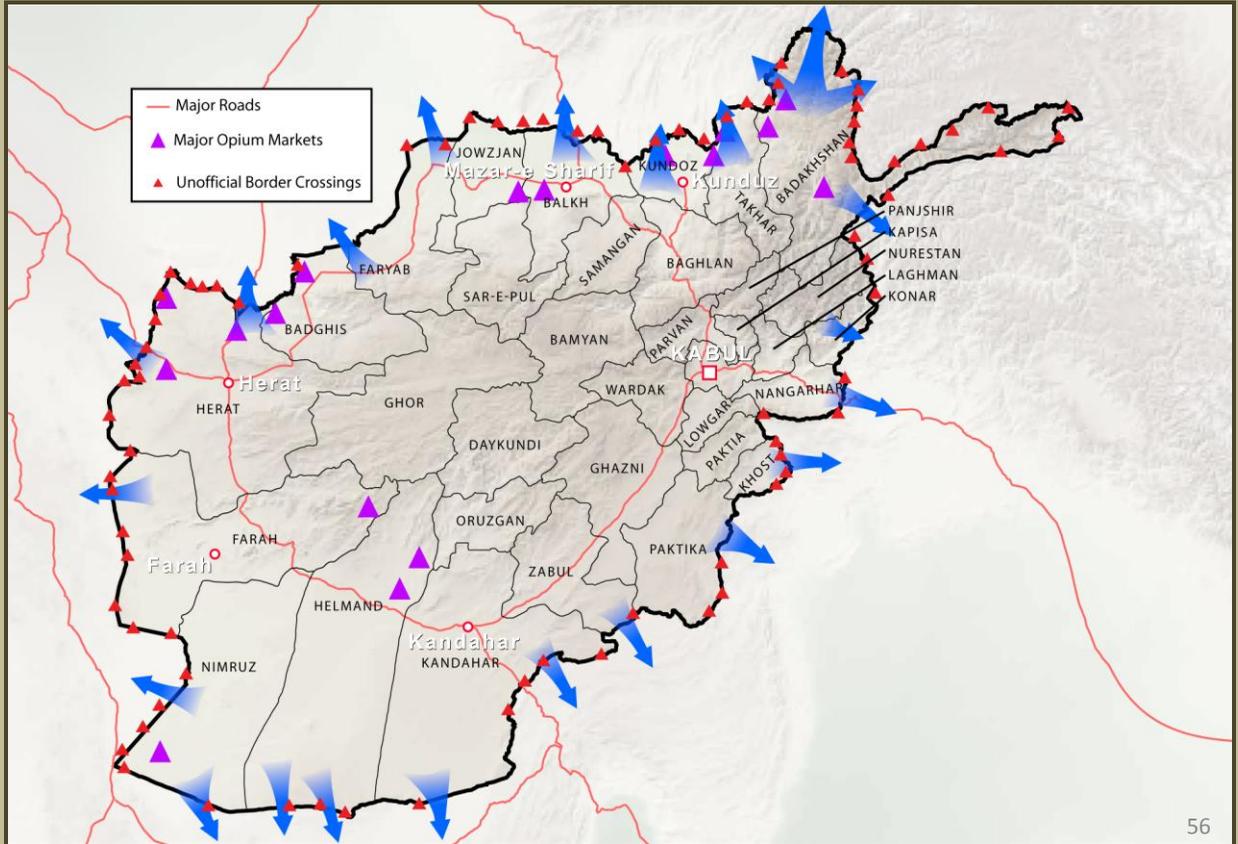
(Source: UNODC)



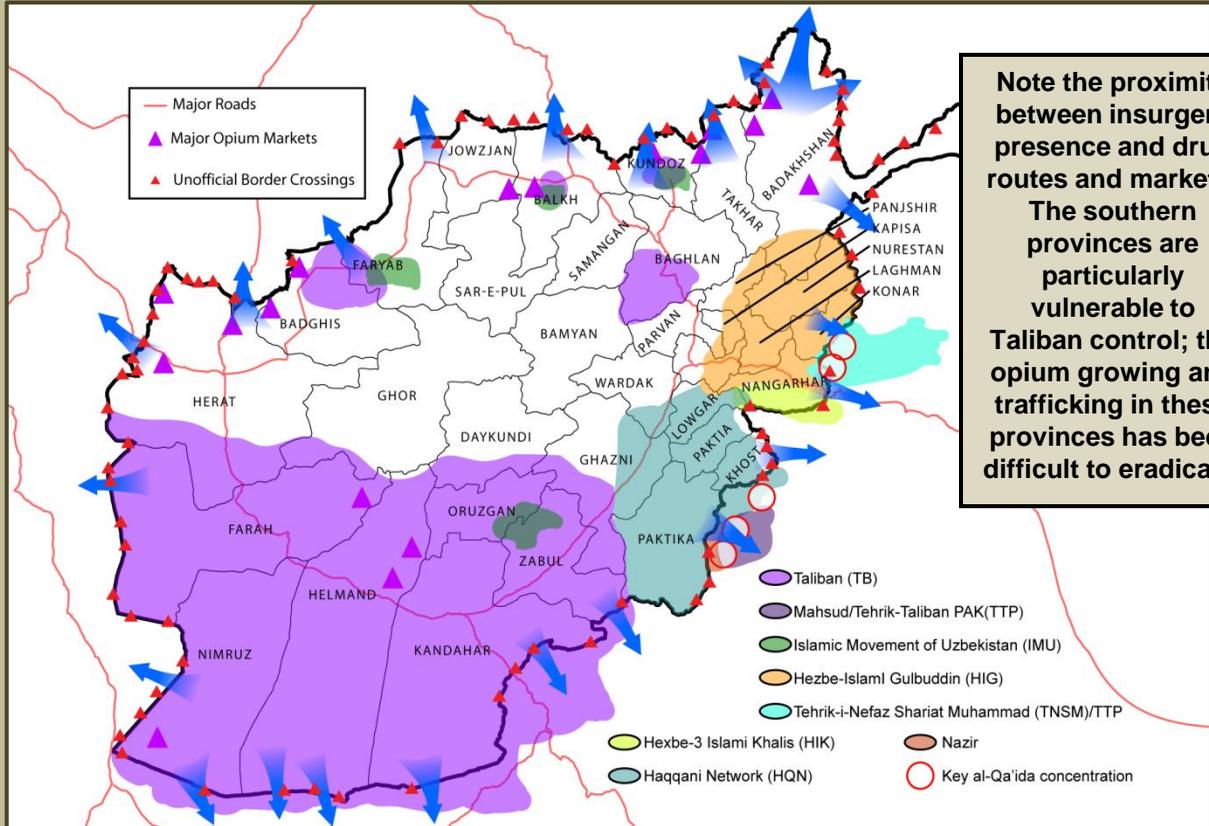
# REGIONAL OPIUM FACTS

- **Opium crop takes 4 months to mature and requires little water or care**
- **Ten kilograms of opium paste produces one kilogram of heroin**
- **In 1987 Pakistan produced 70% of the world's heroin supply**
- **With US assistance, Pakistan nearly eradicated poppy cultivation**
- **Due to agricultural destruction (particularly of irrigation works) during the Soviet-Afghan and Afghan Civil Wars, opium production dramatically increased in Afghanistan in the 1990s**
- **Taliban taxed both the production (*usher*) and trafficking (*zakat*) of opium**
- **Taliban banned poppy cultivation in 2001 in order to increase prices**
- **Afghan farmers receive 20% of the revenue from drugs; traffickers receive 80%**
- **Roughly 170,000 Afghans (to include 30,000 women) are heroin addicts**
- **3% of Iran's population over the age of 15 are heroin addicts**
- **Nearly half of Iran's 170,000 prisoners are held on drug related offenses**
- **Since 1990, some 3,000 Iranian security officials have been killed in battles against traffickers**

# OPIUM EXPORT ROUTES



# OPIUM EXPORT ROUTES AND INSURGENCY



Note the proximity between insurgent presence and drug routes and markets. The southern provinces are particularly vulnerable to Taliban control; the opium growing and trafficking in these provinces has been difficult to eradicate.

# **CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION**

# Victory of the Muslim Nation Parade in front of Eid Gah Mosque, Kabul

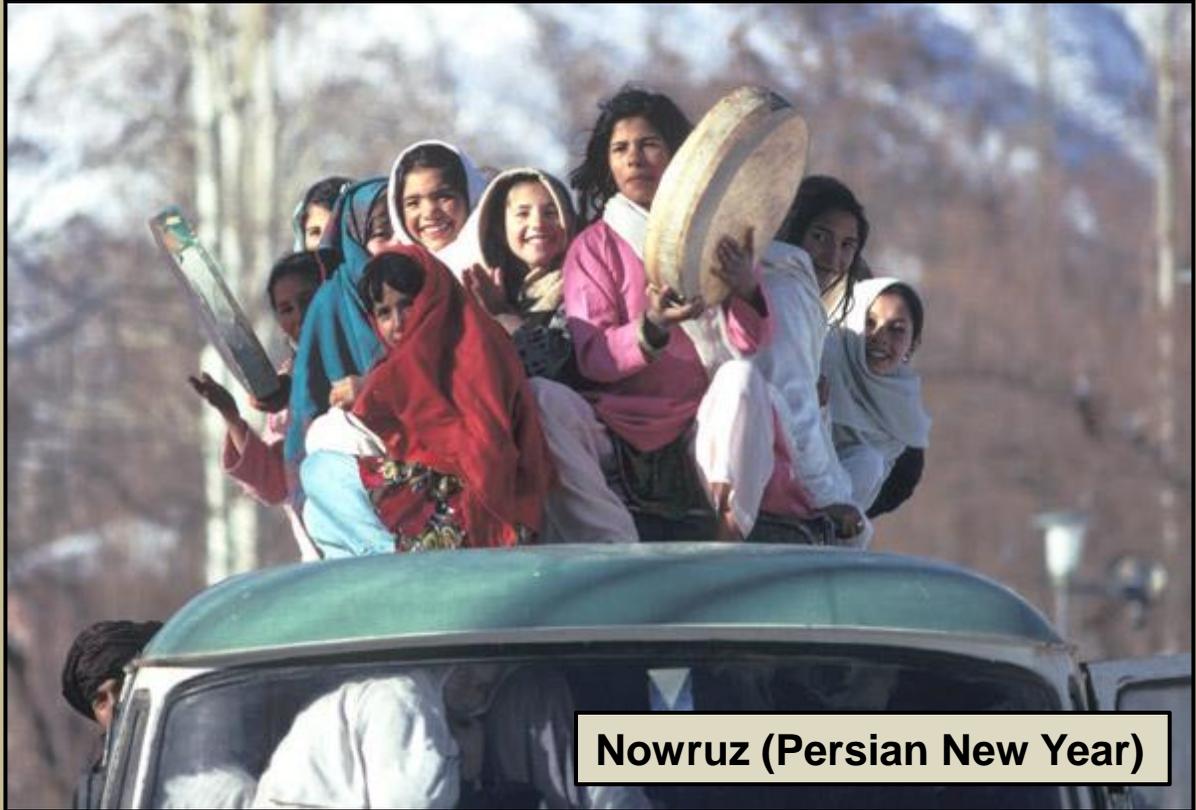


# HOLIDAYS (dates\* for 2010)

- **26 Feb: Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad)**
- **21 Mar: Nowruz (Persian New Year)**
- **28 Apr: Victory of the Muslim Nation (Withdrawal of Soviet Forces)**
- **01 May: Labor Day**
- **19 Aug: National Day (Independent Sovereignty from Britain)**
- **09 Sep: Masood Day, commemorating the assassination of Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Masood**
- **10 Sep: Eid al-Fitr (After a month of fasting, Afghans visit and/or entertain their friends and give gifts)**
- **15 Nov: Eid-al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice — commemorates the Prophet Abraham's devotion to God)**
- **16 Dec: Ashura (Shi'a day of mourning commemorating the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Husayn at the Battle of Karbala in 680 C.E.)**

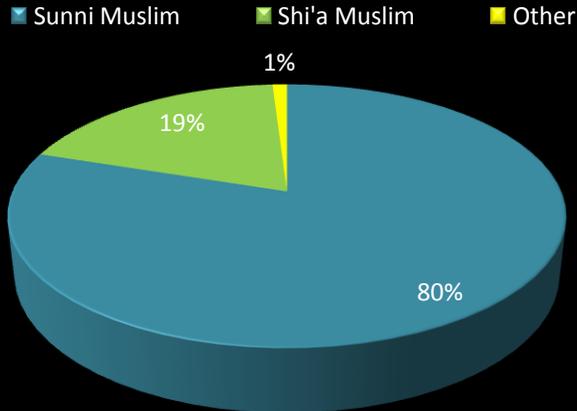
**Note: The week prior to Eid al-Fitr is an appropriate time to provide performance or other types of bonuses to Afghan national employees such as interpreters/translators; dates for religious holidays are approximated; each year the holidays are adjusted to the lunar calendar**

# AFGHANS CELEBRATING Nowruz



Nowruz (Persian New Year)

# Religion in Afghanistan



- Majority of Afghan Muslims are Sunni of the Hanafi School of thought (Hanafi is the oldest, largest, and most liberal of the four main schools of Sunni Islam)
- Shi'as in Afghanistan are "Twelvers" along with smaller numbers of Ismailis; most are from the Hazara and Qizilbash groups
- Sufism, a mystical school of Islam, is practiced by many Afghan Sunni and Shi'a Muslims in a form unique to Afghanistan
- Islam in Afghanistan can include many local superstitions such as the use of folk medicines and remedies

# ISLAM

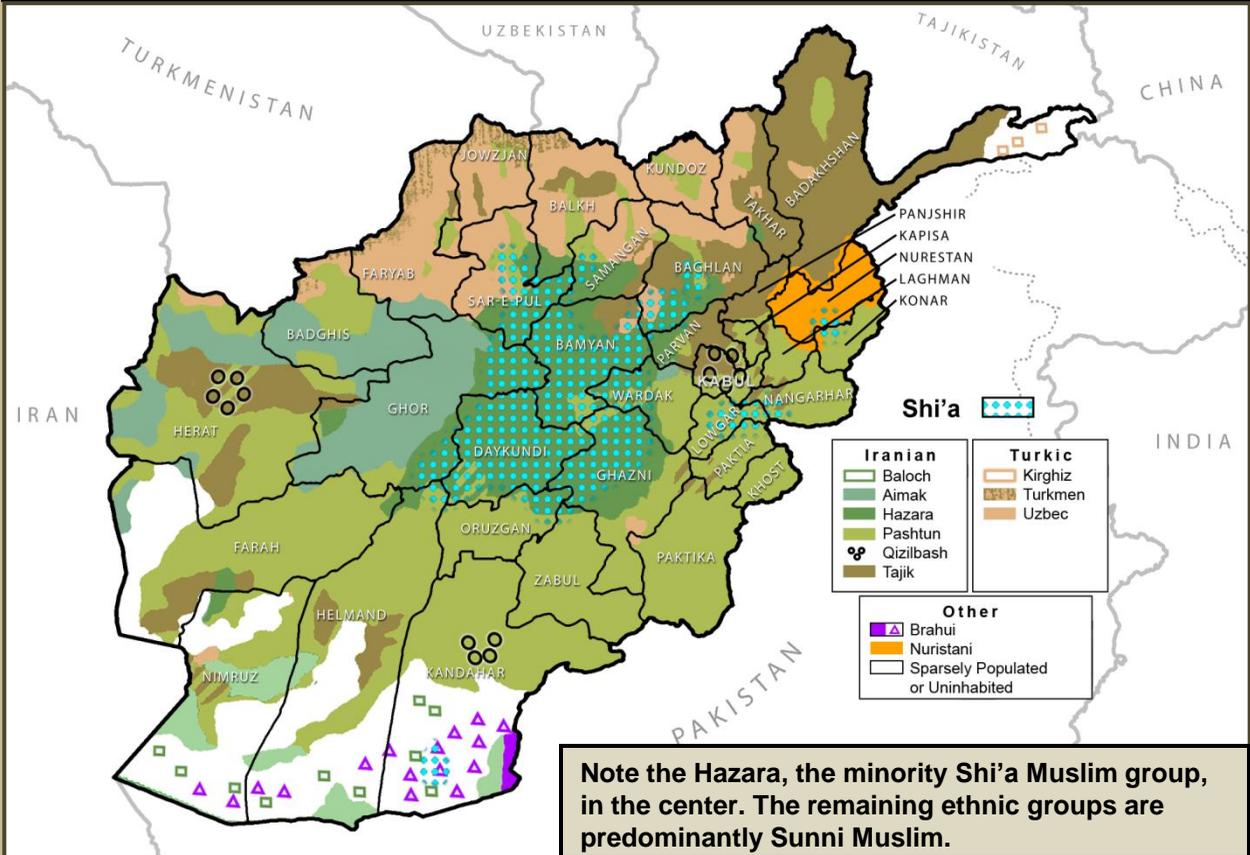
- Abrahamic religion-shares roots with Judaism and Christianity
- Qur'an holy book – infallible authority
- Five Pillars: Testimony of faith (*Shahada*), Prayer (*Salat*), Charity (*Zakat*), Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Hajj*), Fasting during month of Ramadan (*Sawm*)
- Other Beliefs: Faith (*Iman*), Oneness of God (*Tawhid*), Prophets, Angels, Judgment Day, the Books (Qur'an, Bible, Torah), Fate and Predestination
- Division between Sunni and Shi'a not as important as ethnic/tribal differences
- Pervasive part of daily life – Prayer 5x/day, education, Friday mosque gatherings
- Religious figures (*mullahs*) respected and influential
  - The Mullah is a religious leader or teacher
  - Most are qualified by their ability to quote the Koran from memory
  - Often times the Mullah retains the role of a leader who arbitrates local disputes based of Islamic principles, and teaches Islamic law and doctrine
- Literacy issues: misinterpretation; opportunity for perceived religious authorities to mislead those who cannot read

# DISTRIBUTION OF SHI'A AND SUNNI



The Shi'a of Afghanistan, who are primarily Hazara, are located in the center, the capital, and other major cities of the country. The center of the country is mountainous and harsh terrain that has provided security and seclusion from other groups that have threatened and/or discriminated against the Hazara in the past. Hazara today can hold government posts, obtain higher education, and participate in the military.

# ETHNOLINGUISTIC GROUPS AND ISLAMIC SECTS

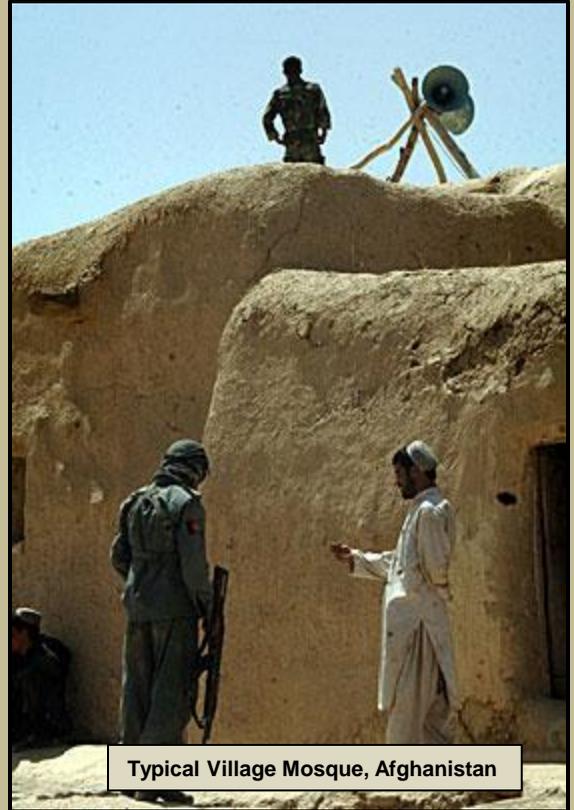


Note the Hazara, the minority Shi'a Muslim group, in the center. The remaining ethnic groups are predominantly Sunni Muslim.

Lashkar Gah Mosque, Helmand



## Mosques in Afghanistan



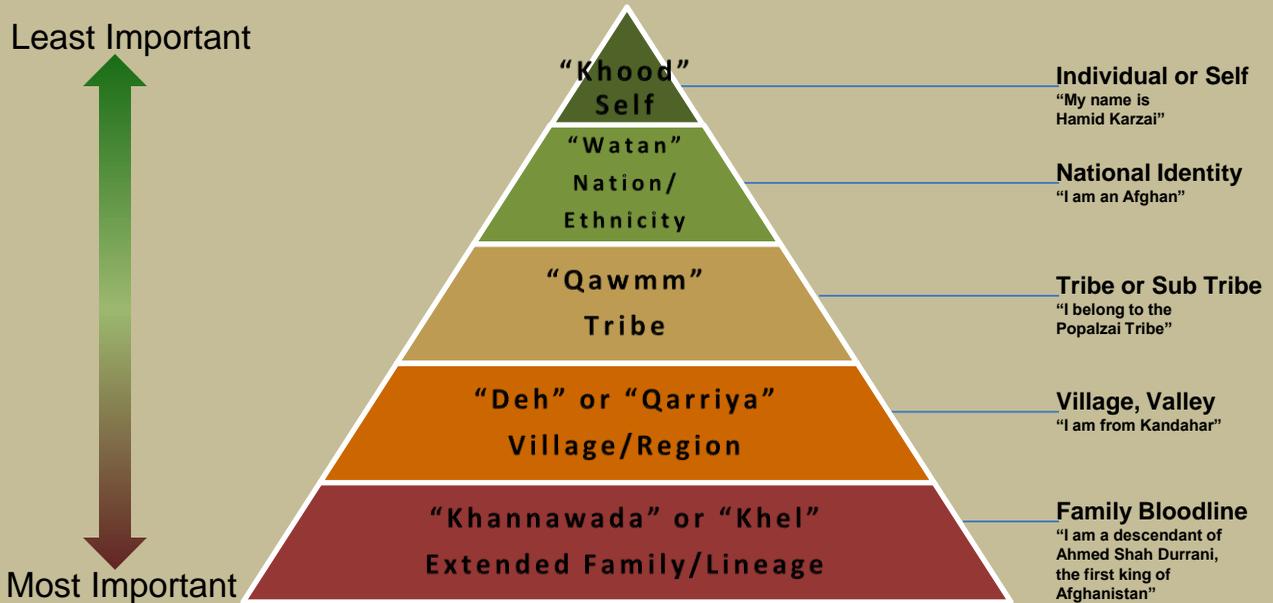
Typical Village Mosque, Afghanistan

Masjid (Mosque) Jami, Herat



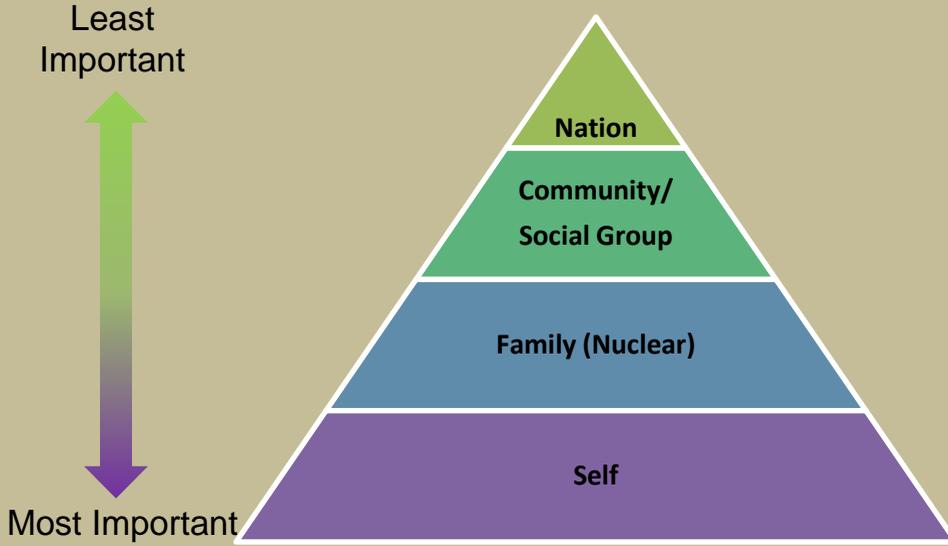
# AFGHAN IDENTITY

## Loyalty and Decision-Making



Allegiance is given to family above all other social groupings; family is also the main source of an Afghan's identity and is the primary factor in decision-making. Ethnic groups, tribes, and community define one's loyalty. Self is the least important consideration in such a collective society.

# AMERICAN IDENTITY

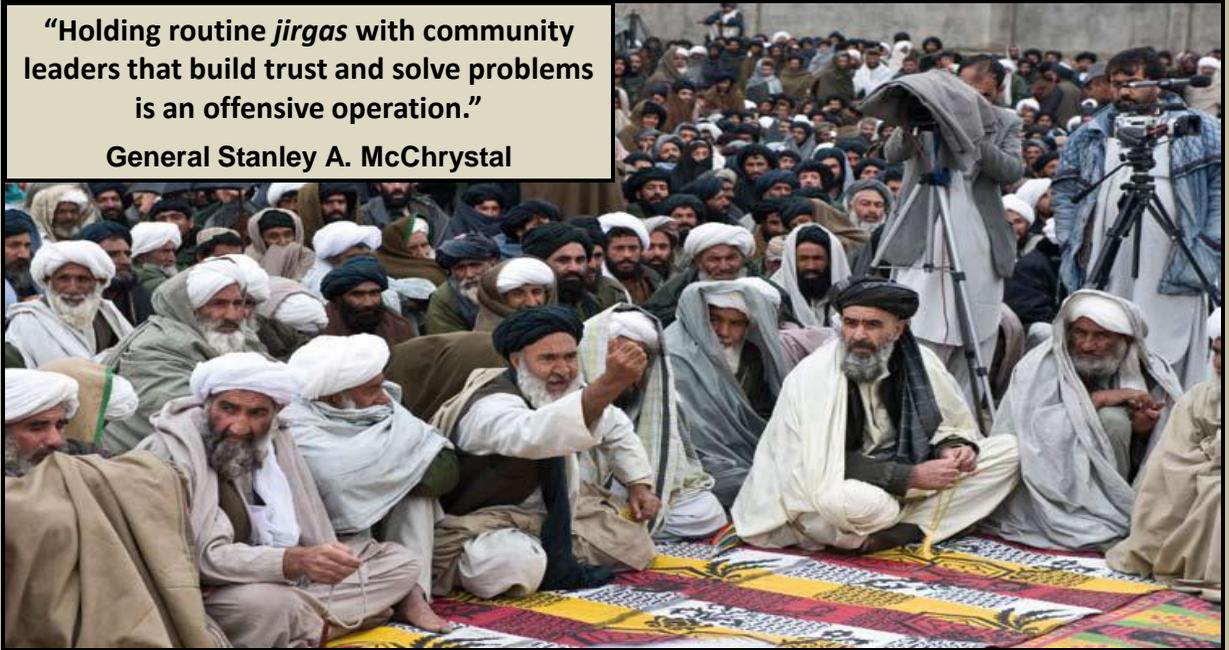


While Afghan society is in general collective and group-oriented, individualism and independence are characteristic of American culture and permeate most aspects of American society. Independence is of great value in America, and Americans place emphasis on individual liberties and personal freedoms. In general, in America, the individual represents themselves, and family ties usually carry less significance in America than they would in Afghanistan. The nuclear family, more often than the extended family, serves as the primary support for most individuals in America, but individuals are expected at some point in their early adult life to support themselves. Additionally, in America an individual's social network is an important factor which creates their identity. Americans share a strong sense of national unity.

# AFGHAN SHURA OR TRIBAL COUNSEL

“Holding routine *jirgas* with community leaders that build trust and solve problems is an offensive operation.”

General Stanley A. McChrystal



It is important for the soldier to realize that Afghans are a tribal society and that individual Afghans (regardless of position) often times cannot make decisions for the tribe. The “Shura” is an older and highly successful form of democracy that has been used for centuries in Afghanistan to solve problems and reach agreement /consensus within the tribe. Attending these Shuras are an incredibly important way to meet with tribal leaders who can make decisions and implement change. But most importantly it is a great opportunity for soldiers to build relationships of trust and foster cooperation with Afghans.

# AFGHAN PSYCHE AND BEHAVIOR

## Influences and corresponding mindsets/behaviors

- **Recent history of conflict:** Suspicion, warrior mentality, basic survival, uncertainty
  - **Soviet Invasion and Mujahideen:** Many Afghans refer to this time period as an example of their strength; it is a source of pride and glory and also fueled ongoing suspicion of outside forces and their objectives.
  - **Civil War:** After the Soviet withdrawal, fighting amongst Afghan ethnic groups for control of the country increased sectarianism, resulting in a significant decline in an already weak sense of nationalism.
  - **Taliban:** Due to the incredibly anarchic situation during the Afghan Civil War, the Taliban were initially welcomed by the majority of hopeful Afghans. This sense of hope, however, turned into betrayal when the Taliban government turned inward, repressive, and was seen as detrimental to the people. This betrayal has resulted in a mindset of distrust towards government.
  - **Current situation:** With the defeat of the Taliban, Afghans expected improvements to their lives through the assistance of the international community. Almost a decade after the Taliban, the standard of living has not measurably improved. As the national government, which is backed by the US and NATO partner countries, is increasingly seen as corrupt, the sense of disappointment has resulted in a population often ambivalent to all sides.

# AFGHAN PSYCHE AND BEHAVIOR

## Influences and corresponding mindsets/behaviors continued

- **Religion:** “Insha’allah” attitude
  - **Fatalism:** Religion is often used as a source of comfort in a situation where many Afghans live in poverty; fatalism provides a way to cope with a lack of food, clean water, security, and healthcare.
  - **Islam a source of guidance:** Problems within a family or community are often resolved by consulting religious texts or those who are familiar with the texts; a religious leader is often the source consulted due to the high rate of illiteracy.
  - **Most are not extremist:** The majority of Afghans are not extremist, but are religiously conservative; extremism that does exist is a result of the Soviet-Afghan War and the importation of Al Qaeda ideology.
- **Traditional Afghan values:** Hospitality, Honor, Family
  - Regardless of past and present events, most Afghans are committed to maintaining their traditional values and customs.
  - **Hospitality** is a trademark of Afghan culture; regardless of their opinion of a person, they will be hospitable.
  - **Honor** is a common Afghan value behind behaviors such as: saving face, not saying “no,” being hospitable and giving, and guarding the virtue of female family members.
  - **Family** is the priority for most Afghans and is often the driving force behind many of their actions.

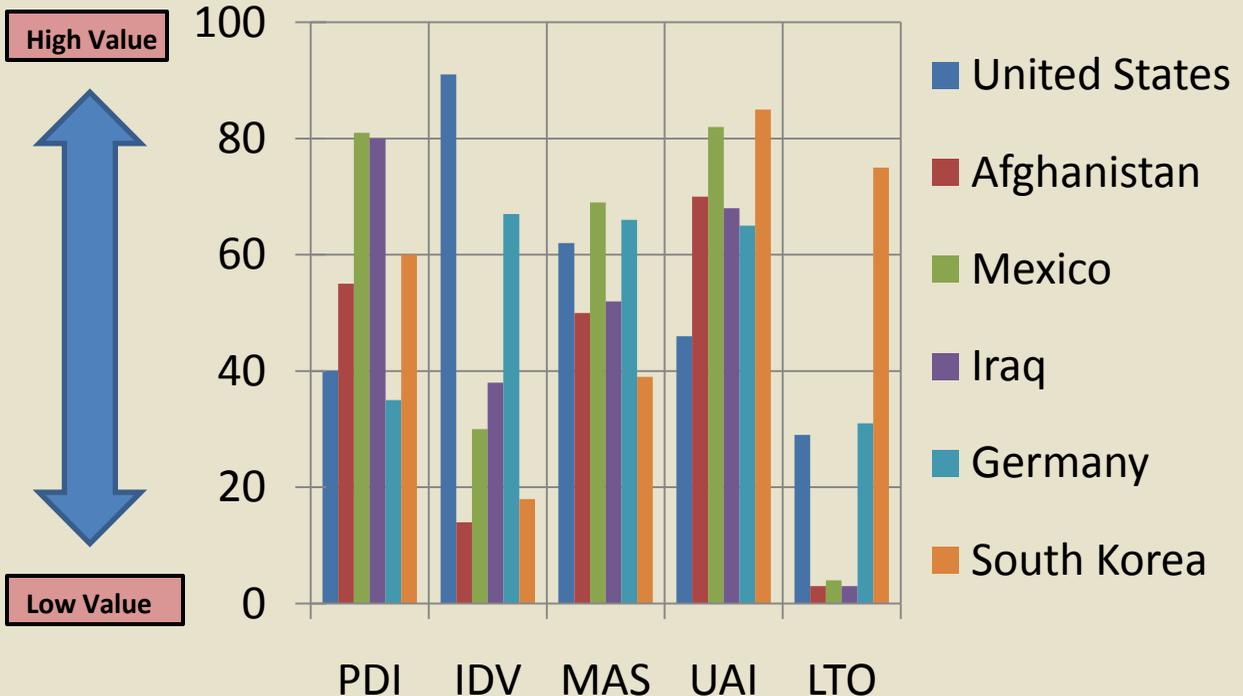
# GEERT HOFSTEDE'S FIVE DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE

- Low vs. High Power Distance
  - Afghanistan is a high power society as members do not see themselves as equals but subject to those in power
- Individualism vs. Collectivism
  - Falling under a tribe or ethnic group would define Afghans as a collective society; individuals answer to the tribe as a whole
- Masculine vs. Femininity
  - Afghanistan is very much a masculine society where competition, assertiveness and power play a crucial role in every day life; women play a subordinate role in this society
- Low vs. High Uncertainty Avoidance
  - A high uncertainty avoidance society prefers rules and structured activities like tribal laws and religious values to dictate daily life; superstitions can also play a role
- Long vs. Short Term Orientation
  - Afghanistan is a short term oriented society where saving face, respect for tradition, and immediate stability are important

# Application of the Five Dimensions of Culture

- **High Power Distance**
  - It is critical to identify the power broker of a community, whether it be the local mullah, tribal elder, politician, or businessman; directly dealing in a positive manner with those with power will increase the effectiveness of meetings and negotiations
- **Collective Society**
  - For any decisions of significance, expect a consensus approach that may require patience on the part of Soldiers
- **Masculine Society**
  - In Afghanistan, men and women have very distinct gender roles and norms of interaction that may not conform to Western values; consult your Rules of Interaction should any situations of concern arise
- **High Uncertainty Avoidance**
  - Soldiers should attempt to provide full explanations, assurances, and demonstrate beneficial outcomes when introducing new concepts. It is also advisable to arrange meetings that do not disrupt daily religious and cultural rituals, such as prayer
- **Short Term Orientation**
  - At the end of a meeting, do not expect command decisions to be made in a timely manner

# Hofstede's Cultural Value Country Comparison



**PDI** - Power Distance Index

**IDV** - Individualism

**MAS** - Masculinity

**UAI** - Uncertainty Avoidance Index

**LTO** - Long-Term Orientation

100 - being high value 0 - no value

# COMMUNICATING WITH AFGHANS

## Greeting:

- Handshake or right hand over heart with slight nod
- Greeting in Pashtu or Dari is appreciated
- Men should not attempt to greet a woman unless the woman initiates the greeting
- It is preferable to greet the eldest or most senior first



## Small Talk:

- Casual conversation is a must at the beginning of every encounter
- Consists of repeated inquiries about health, family, weather, crops
- Do not make specific inquiries about female family members
- Build rapport by sharing personal information (within the limits of your comfort and security)
- Accept offerings of food or tea (if you must decline, do so gracefully)

# COMMUNICATING WITH AFGHANS CONT.

- **Possible lines of communication that may contribute to greater efficiency and maximum impact:**
  - Through government authorities in the cities
  - Through religious figures in villages
- **Providing gifts, such as school supplies, for children can help build rapport**
- **Avoid communicating preference for one ethnic group over another**
- **Respect for the elderly can be the first step towards communication; do not be afraid of a hug or a kiss**

# MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS

## **To foster rapport and willingness to cooperate:**

- Do not expect to address your goals during the initial meetings
- The first few meetings should focus on the goals and interests of the Afghans
- Never make a promise that you cannot keep
- Try to compliment the leader and avoid negatively affecting his honor
- Try not to openly disagree with their goals in public; instead, suggest further discussion may be needed
- Do not openly express anger or shout, as such behavior is viewed as disrespectful and shows a lack of self control
- Greet in Dari and/or Pashtu at the start and end of meetings
- In negotiations, allow your counterpart to ask about your agenda, only allow for small pieces to be revealed (enough for your counterpart to feel comfortable and build his trust in you)

# Combined Meeting with US and Afghan Security Forces



# COMMUNICATING WITH AFGHANS - THINGS TO AVOID

- **Pointing at some one**
- **Sticking out the tongue**
- **Yelling at someone in front of others**
- **Spitting, whether on the ground or at someone**
- **Sitting with legs stretched in front of others, especially the elderly**
- **Talking with hands in pockets or behind one's back**
- **Making offensive hand gestures**
- **Talking to females directly or inquiring about an Afghan's wife or older female family members**



# DINING WITH AFGHANS

- To be invited is an honor, and attending a meal is a powerful way to build rapport
- Do not expect a quick dinner, nor a mixed gender dining arrangement
- Try to take a small gift (no alcohol); the gift will not be opened in front of you
- Allow the host to seat you
- Most likely floor seating – do not sit with legs stretched out in front of others



- Food is often served and consumed from common plates; always use right hand (silverware may or may not be available)
- Try to avoid leaving excess food on your plate and expect offers of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> helpings



# Afghan Family Life

- In rural areas, life centers on the *Qalah* (pronounced “kala”), a walled compound/fort occupied by an extended family
- Extended family obligations, often supersede other responsibilities, including allegiance to spouse, job, and individual need
- Most marriages are arranged (between cousins) to reinforce alliances and/or ensure that property & wealth remain in family control
- Privacy & Protection from strangers or non-family members is a paramount concern --- however, privacy from family is virtually unknown

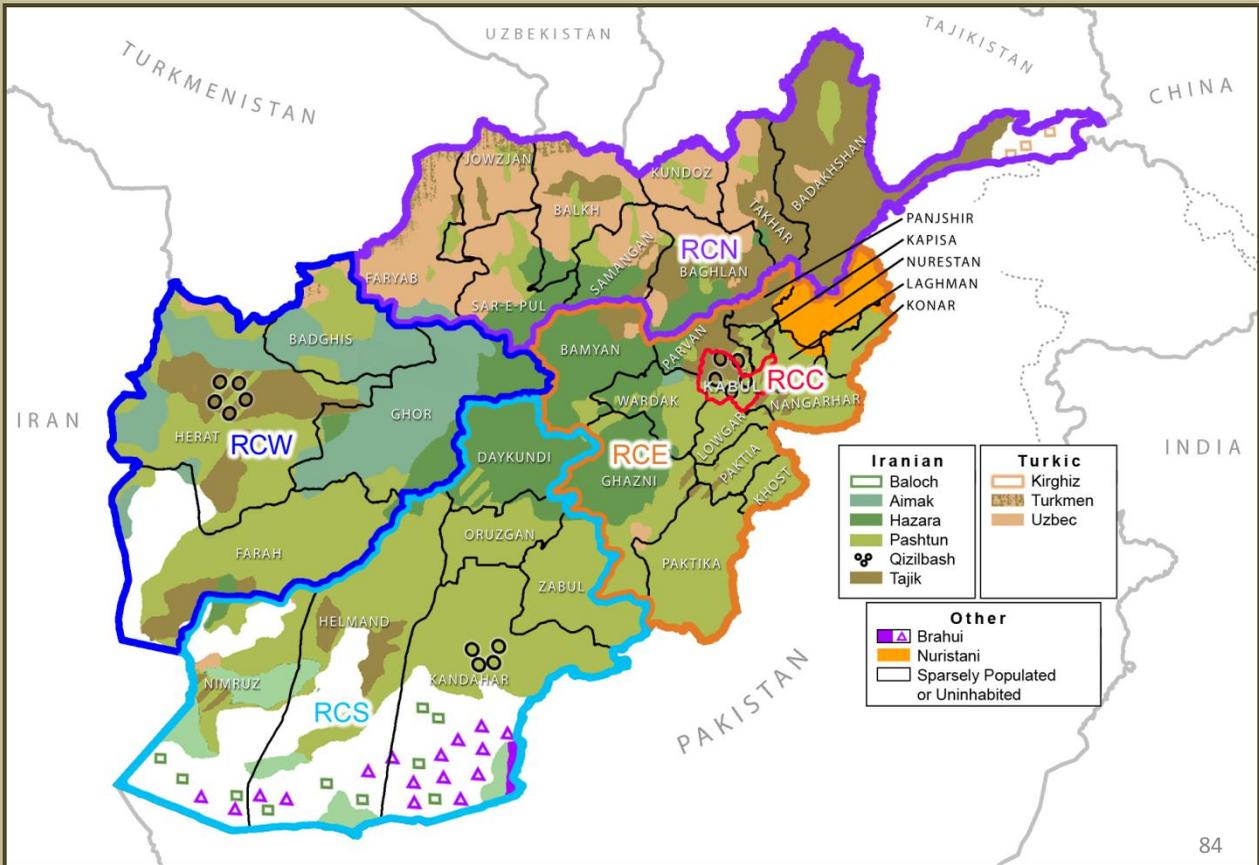
# Buzkashi - The Afghan National Sport

- *Buzkashi* literally means “goat grabbing” in Dari. The origins of this game are believed to go back to the era of the Mongol conquest, when the Mongol riders would hunt, kill and pick up goats without dismounting from their horses. Purportedly, Afghan horseman learned to fight back and retook their animals from the Mongols who wanted to ride away with the livestock.
- Today *buzkashi* is an organized field game of ten to twelve players per team. The teams must transport the headless carcass of a calf or goat, weighing up to 60 kg, (130 lbs) the length of a football field and back, and then over a goal Line, without dropping it or allowing someone from the other team to wrestle it from them. In bigger cities, tournaments are played in stadiums. The rules forbid the use of knives or any direct physical attack of the person carrying the carcass.
- It is a rough sport that requires exceptional riding skills and well-trained horses.
- *Buzkashi* is typically played on special occasions, such as the Afghan New Year (Nowruz), Eid, and weddings, though typically women are not allowed to watch.

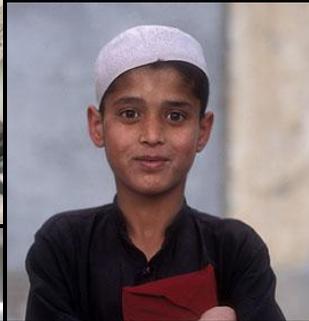


# ETHNIC GROUPS

# ETHNOLINGUISTIC COMPOSITION BY ISAF RC



# PASHTUN



- Largest single Afghan ethnicity
- Pashtu primary language
- President Hamid Karzai is Pashtun
- Independent, fierce
- View themselves as rightful leaders of Afghanistan
- Ghilzai Pashtun tribe forms backbone of Taliban
- The term "Afghan" is historically synonymous with Pashtun

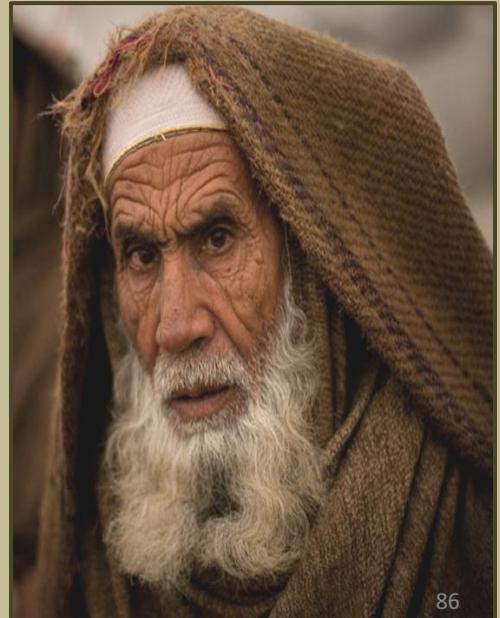
**Pashtun proverb: "I against my brother; my brother and I against my cousin; I, my brother, and my cousin against the stranger"**



# **Pashtunwali** – The Way of the Pashtun

Pashtunwali is a term coined by anthropologists; while the term itself is unfamiliar to Pashtuns, it is an accurate description of an unwritten code or set of values important to their way of life

- ❖ **Melmastia** - Hospitality
- ❖ **Badal** - Justice/Revenge
- ❖ **Nanawateh** - Asylum
- ❖ **Zemaka** – Defense of land/earth
- ❖ **Nang** – Honor
- ❖ **Namus** - Honor of women
- ❖ **Hewad** – Nation - “Pashtunistan”
- ❖ **Dod-pasbani** - Protect Pashtun culture
- ❖ **Tokhm-pasbani** - Protect the Pashtun
- ❖ **De Pashtunwali Perawano** - Adhere to Pashtunwali

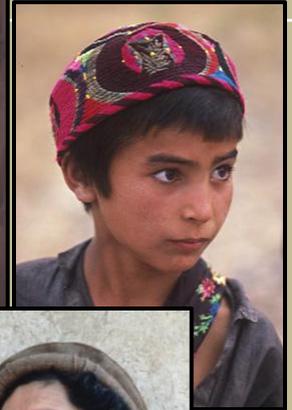


# PASHTUNS AND ISLAM

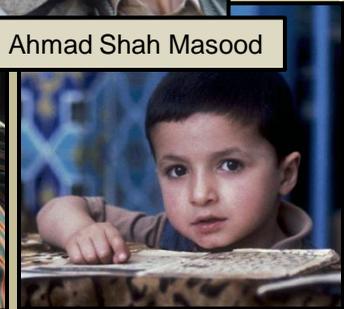
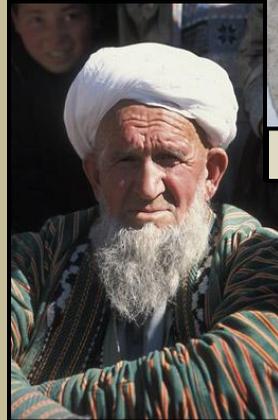
One thing that is common to most Pashtuns is their commitment to Islam as both a value system and a social structure. Many times their strong belief in Islam is blended with Pashtun tribal tradition. Still, they do rely on the pillars of Islam to live their lives and often the Mullah takes on the role of a community leader and arbitrator. The mosque is the center of the community. Pashtuns also rely heavily on the code of conduct known as Pashtunwali. It is an unwritten law passed down from one generation to the next. It covers many aspects of life to include: self authority, equality, assembly or counsels, elders, respect for all people, remedies for grievances, clan relationships, care for the needy, need for protection, hospitality, and many other day to day ways in which one and the tribe are to behave. At times it may supersede Islam.

# TAJIK

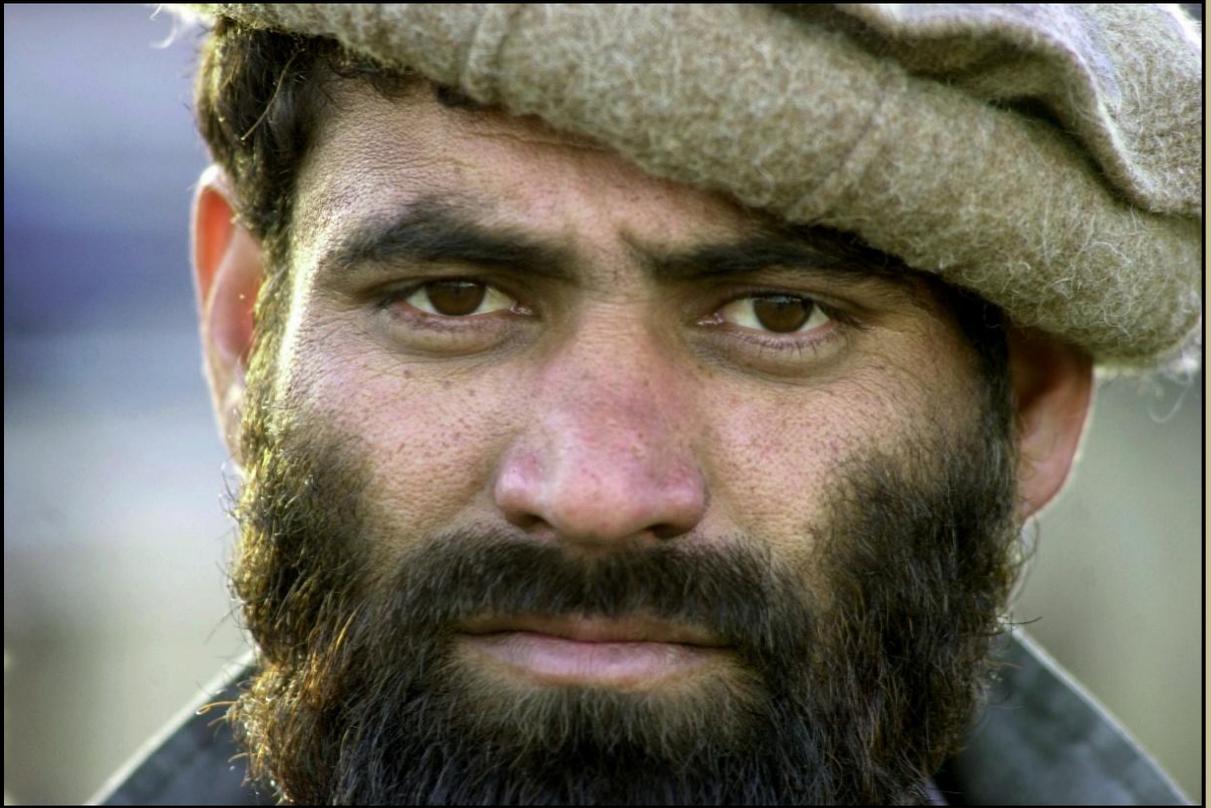
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest ethnic group (25 – 30% of population)
- Refer to themselves as “Farsiwan” or speakers of Farsi/Dari
- Formed the backbone of Northern Alliance against Taliban
- Social organization by geography, not tribe
- Tied together by perceived threat of Pashtuns
- Ahmad Shah Masood, Leader of the Northern Alliance, was Tajik
- Mostly Sunni Muslim, with few Shi’a



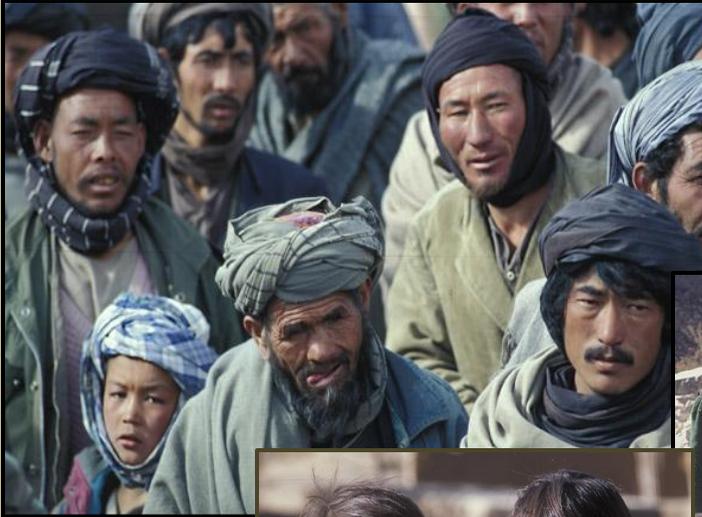
Ahmad Shah Masood



# Tajik Militiaman



# HAZARA



# Hazara

- **Mongolian descent**
- **Tribal and agrarian**
- **Distinct ethnic and religious group**
- **Vast majority Shi'a Muslim**
- **Historical target of discrimination by Sunni Tribes; mostly by Pashtuns**
- **Still perform the most menial jobs**
- **Often anti-government, anti-Pashtun**
- **Persecuted by Taliban**
- **Occasional feuds with nomadic Kuchi**



# UZBEK

- Turkic-Mongol descent
- Located in Northern Afghanistan and Uzbekistan
- Uzbek and Dari speakers
- Most Sunni Muslim
- Introduced Buzkashi, Afghanistan's national sport



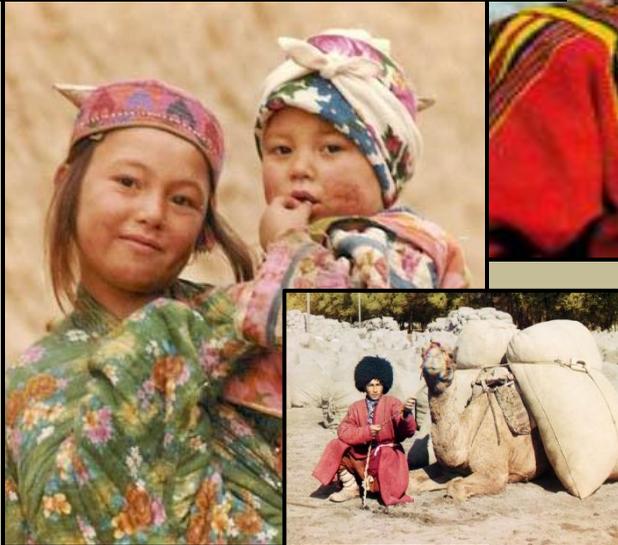
# NURESTANI

- Located primarily in NE Afghanistan
- Claim lineage to Alexander the Great and/or Quraysh tribe of Arabia (who rejected Islam); both stories believed to have originated in myth
- Previously named “Kafirs” – infidels; they were forcibly converted to Islam by Amir Abdur Raham Khan in 1895
- Converted to Islam late 19<sup>th</sup> century
- 15 tribes with numerous sub-groups
- 5 languages with several dialects
- Tepid relations with other Afghans
- Animosity towards Arabs
- Protective of distinctive culture
- Many have European features – light eyes, hair

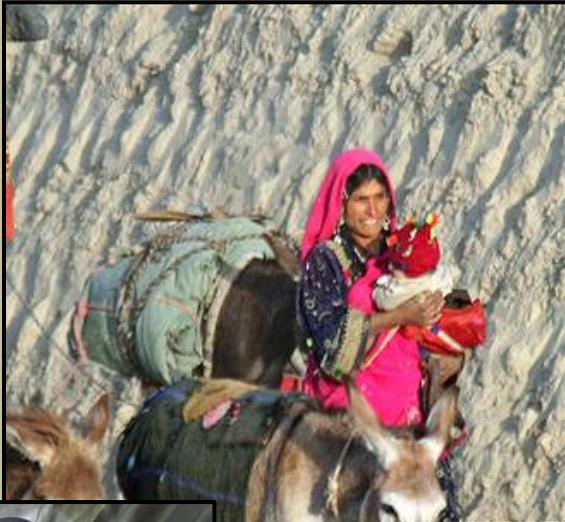


# TURKMEN

- Turkic-speaking group
- Turkic-Mongol origin
- Tribal structure based on patrilineal; meaning “father line”
- Farmer-herdsmen
- Jewelry and carpet makers
- Considerable contributions to the Afghan economy
- Live in areas neighboring Turkmenistan



# KUCHI (NOMADIC)



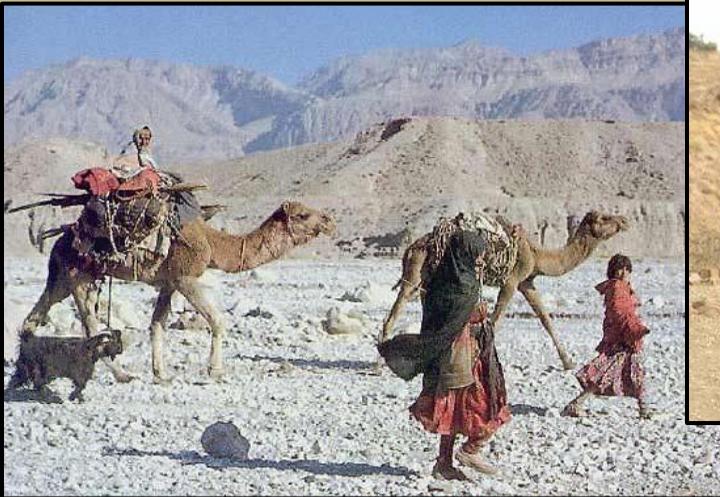
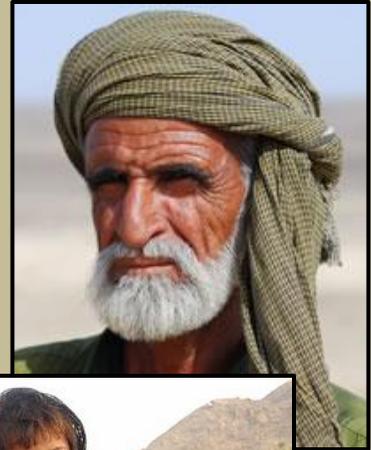
- Nomadic herdsman
- Primarily Pashtun and Baluch
- May seasonally relocate and/or cross-national borders
- High illiteracy rate
- Feud with settled populations over free grazing
- Number around 3 million
- Continue to fall victim to landmines emplaced during and after Soviet-Afghan War



# BALUCH

Photo Source: Ahsan Ali

- **Baluch: Iranian descent; speak Baluchi (Iranian language)**
- **Their traditional homeland is the Baluchistan Plateau**
- **Largely pastoral and desert dwellers; Sunni Muslim**
- **Baluchi Nationalism, which continues to this day, has resulted in several uprisings that have been violently put down by Pakistan**
- **Have a distinct cultural identity maintained by their isolated and nomadic life style**
- **Known for their beautiful natural colored camel hair rugs**



# OTHER GROUPS

## Pashai

- Very little known about them
- characterized by language – Pashai (Dardic language)
- Many consider themselves Pashtun
- often associated with or referred to as Kohistani
- Inhabit Nuristan, parts of Laghman, and N. Nangarhar
- Many in timber and livestock businesses

## Qizilbash

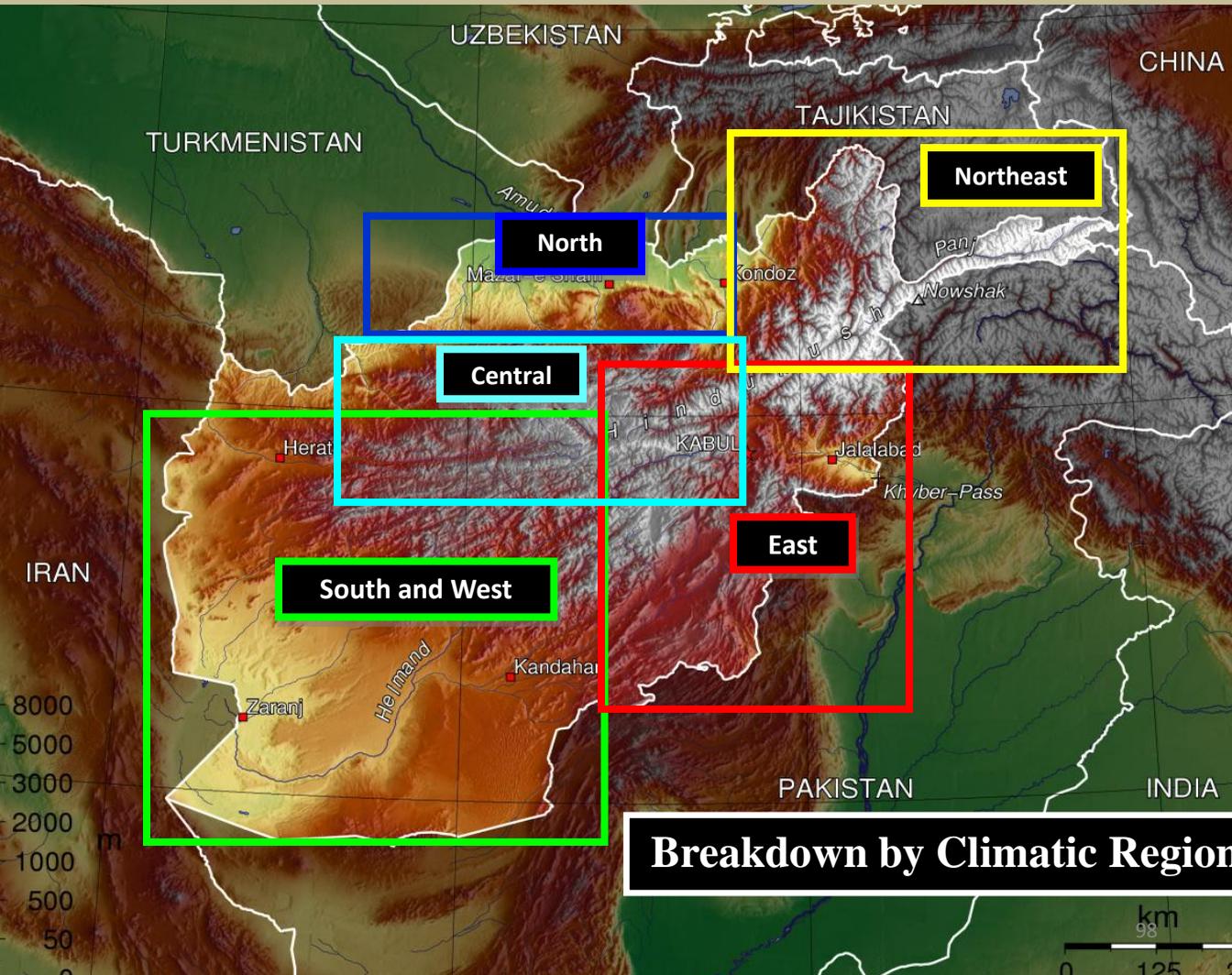
- Imami Shi'a group
- Thought to be descendants of Persian mercenaries and administrators of Safavid empire; were influential in Afghan court and government due to higher levels of education and experience
- Appear to inhabit urban centers as professionals (doctors, teachers, engineers, lawyers)

## Kabuli (Kabul)

- Elites
- Heterogeneous urban population of Kabul City
- Ethnic-neutral (i.e. mixed)
- Generations of intermarriages
- Speak Dari in addition to mother tongue
- Often secularly educated
- Familiar with/adopt Western-oriented outlook
- Many left capital during past three decades of war

## Other Ethnic Groups

- Gujjar: Nomadic; language not Indo-European; millennia old traditions; possibly related to Nuristanis
- Hindus: known for moneylending; persecuted under Taliban; many returning to Afghanistan
- Sikhs: known for craftsmanship; must carry knife; persecuted by Taliban; many returning
- Aimak: Perisan-speaking, nomadic/semi-nomadic, Mongolian/Iranian mix



UZBEKISTAN

CHINA

TURKMENISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

**Northeast**

**North**

**Central**

**East**

**South and West**

**Breakdown by Climatic Region**

IRAN

PAKISTAN

INDIA

8000  
5000  
3000  
2000  
1000  
500  
50  
0

m

0 98 125 km

# Provinces by Region

## Southern and Western Regions:

Herat, Farah, Nimruz, Helmand, Kandahar

## Eastern Region:

Konar, Nangarhar, Lowgar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Zabul, Laghman

## Northern Region:

Faryab, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Badghis

## Northeastern Region:

Takhar, Panjshir, Nurestan, Badakhshan

## Central Region:

Ghor, Daykundi, Oruzgan, Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Parvan, Bamyan

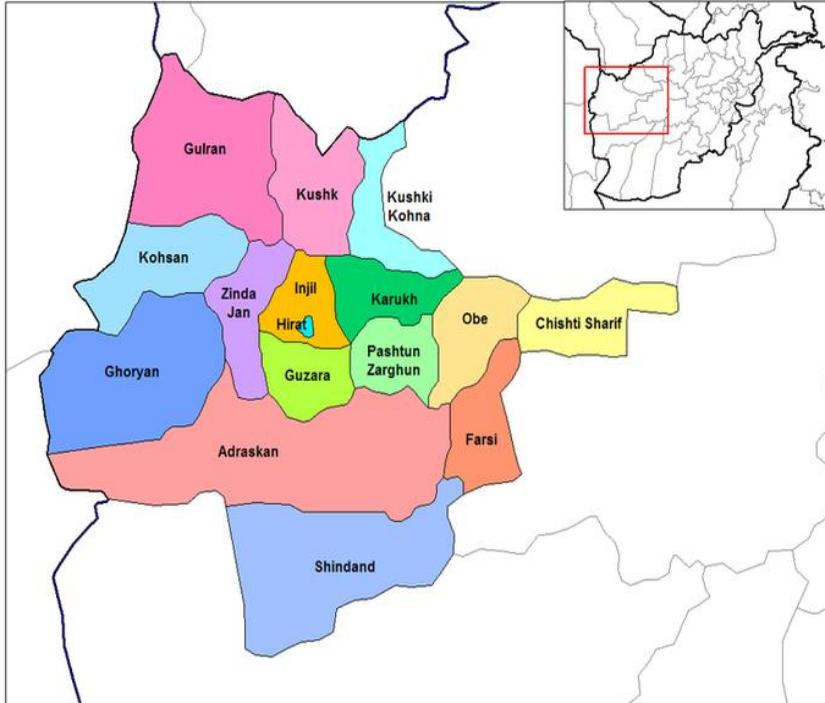
# **SOUTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS HERAT, FARAH, NIMRUZ, HELMAND, KANDAHAR**



# Southern and Western Regions

The southern and western climate generally covers the Herat, Farah, and Nimruz provinces in the West and the Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the South. This region has incredibly hot summers. Snow rarely falls in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar during the winter, whereas the Western provinces will see some snow with little to no accumulation. Nimruz and Farah provinces have large, sandy deserts known locally as Registan or “Sandy Land.” The entire southern region experiences high winds and sand storms from May – September. The region has a Pashtun majority, followed by a concentration of Baluch in the southernmost areas. There are pockets of Tajik populations in the region, and a small amount of Hazaras and Aimaks. The security situation has been unstable, and insurgent groups have controlled districts in the region. Helmand province is of great significance as it is responsible for over 50% of the world’s opium production.

# Western Afghanistan - Herat



**Ethnic Groups:**

**Pashtun**

**Tajik**

**Hazara**

**Languages:**

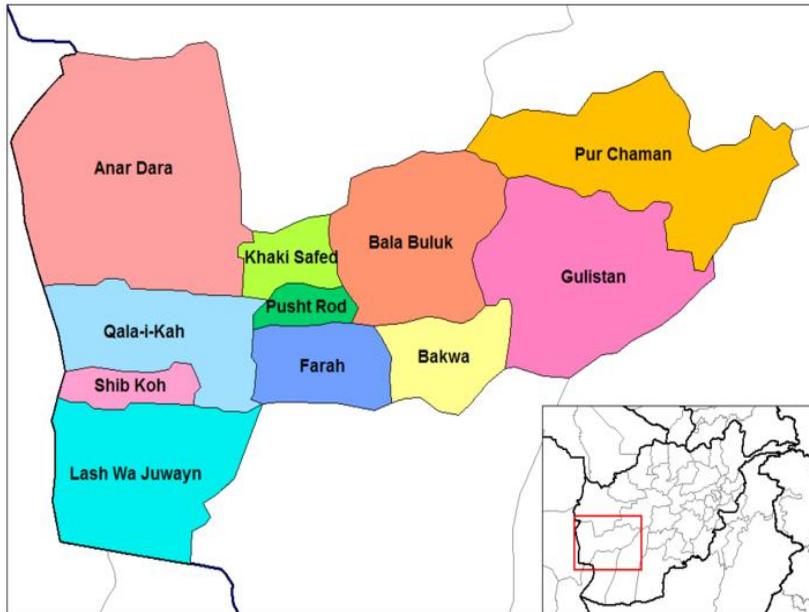
**Pashtu**

**Dari**

# Herat Province - Capital: Herat

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Bounded by the Khorasan desert in the west, mountains in the east and north fertile tract that contains the districts of Herat, Ghoryan, Obe, and Karukh</b> |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>One of the country's richest agricultural communities; agriculture, livestock, and carpet weaving</b>  |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Most of the opium production takes place in Shindand District where insurgent groups are very active</b>   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>High level of criminal activity throughout the province— particularly rural areas</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Once a center of Persian poetry and philosophy, Herat is still in Iran's sphere of influence</b>   |

# Western Afghanistan – Farah



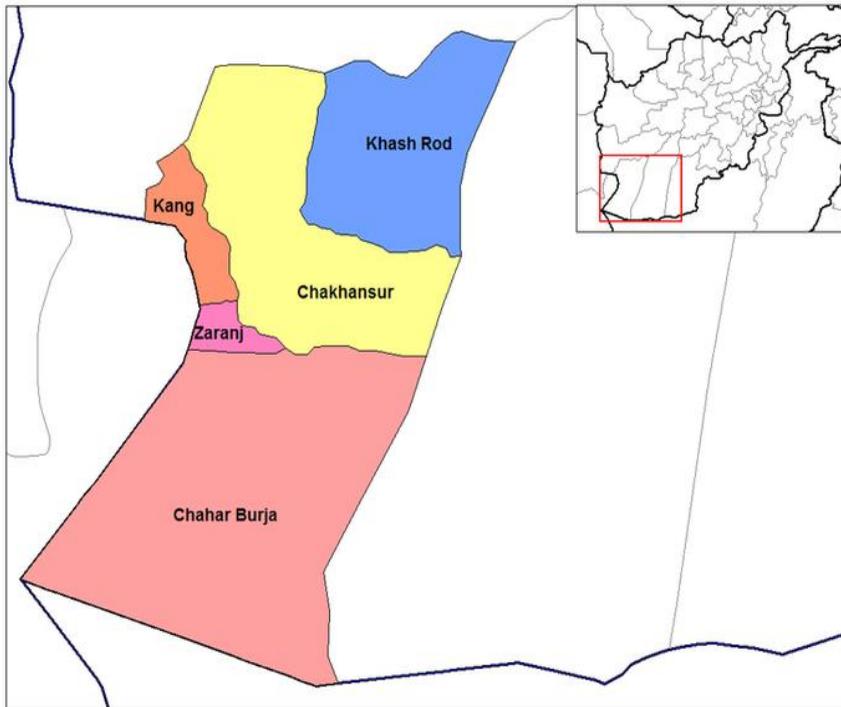
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 80%  
Tajik - 14%  
Other - 6%

**Languages:**  
Dari - 50%  
Pashtu - 48%

# Farah Province - Capital: Farah

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Desert plains south of Farah Rud; mountainous north and east of Farah City</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>6<sup>th</sup> largest opium producing province; 9% of arable land under opium poppy cultivation</b>  |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Opium poppy is mainly cultivated in the Bala Buluk and Bakwa districts</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Taliban pressure combined with government sponsored poppy eradication programs have pushed residents into arms of insurgency</b>                        |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Tomb of Syed Muhammad Jaunpuri (who claimed to be the Mahdi) visited every year by many; home to many ruined castles, including “Castle of Infidel”</b> |

# Southern Afghanistan – Nimruz



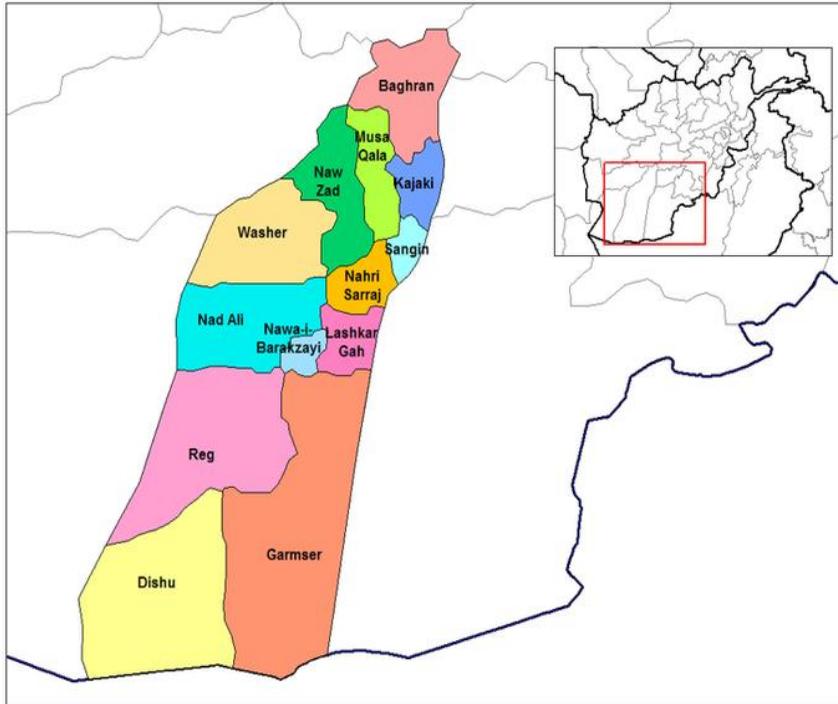
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Baluch - 61%  
Pashtun - 27%  
Tajik  
Uzbek

**Languages:**  
Baluchi - 61%  
Pashtu - 27%  
Dari - 10%  
Uzbek - 10%

# Nimruz Province - Capital: Zaranj

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Desert; arid; nearly all of the province (95.3%) is made up of flat land</b>   |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>According to USAID, less than a quarter of Nimruz's trade with Iran is legal and more than 70 % of the local population participates in smuggling activities</b> |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Important transit point to Pakistan and Iran; fertile Khash Rod District prime opium growing area</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Narco-trafficker violence to support economic interests; corruption with Afghan Border Security personnel</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>The ancient city of Zaranj was the capital of the Saffarid Empire</b>  |

# Southern Afghanistan – Helmand



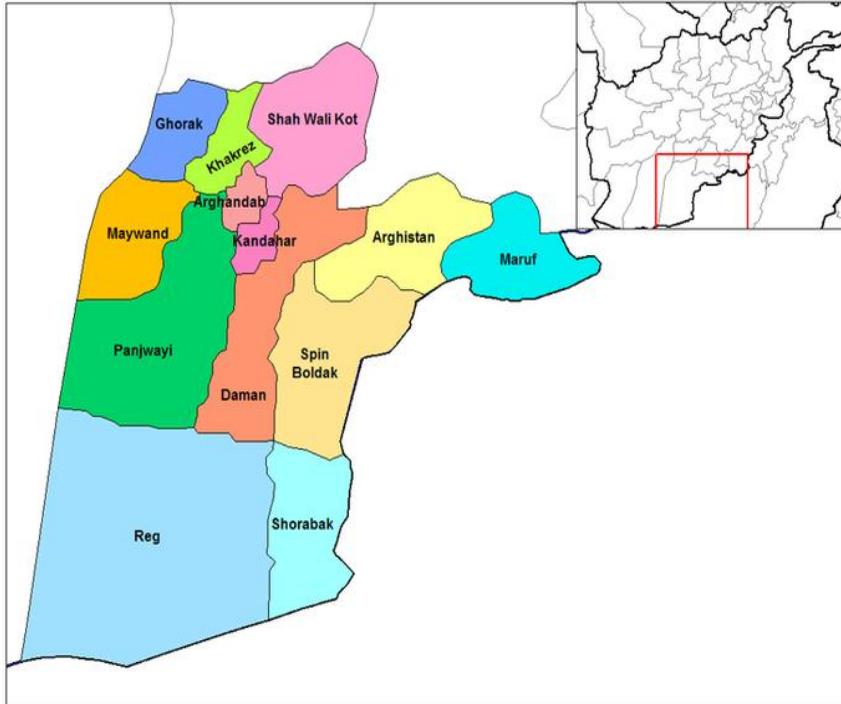
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 92%  
Baluch

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 92%  
Baluchi  
Dari

# Helmand Province - Capital: Lashkar Gah

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Deserts in the south, hills in the north, and the fertile Helmand River Valley along the length of the province</b>                 |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Opium cultivation and production; almost every family is involved in the drug trade; 94% of population lives in rural districts</b> |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Produces 50% of World's opium</b>   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security is extremely poor; serious infiltration of anti-government forces</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>One of the early centers of Zoroastrianism; was also known as "White India" due to its populations of Brahmans and Buddhists</b>    |

# Southern Afghanistan – Kandahar



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 98%

# Kandahar Province - Capital: Kandahar City

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>More than four-fifths flat land; arid</b>   |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture; recently growing dependence on poppy cultivation</b>                                       |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Statistically the second largest poppy producing province in the country</b>                            |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation remains volatile; insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts</b> |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Considered the birthplace of modern Afghanistan; home province of President Hamid Karzai</b>            |

**NORTHERN REGION**  
**FARYAB, JOWZJAN, SAR-E-PUL, BALKH, SAMANGAN,**  
**BAGHLAN, KUNDUZ, BADGHIS**



# Northern Region

The northern climate area pertains to the provinces of Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, and Kunduz. Winters here can be very cold with accumulating snowfall especially in the areas around the city of Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province. Also on this plain, the summers can reach temperatures of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Uzbeks are the ethnic majority in this region, followed by Tajiks and Hazaras; there are also pockets of Pashtuns and Turkmen. In recent years threat activity has been low, but some poppy cultivation and trafficking is ongoing (esp. in Sar-e-Pul). Mazar-e-Sharif is famous for its Blue Mosque, which receives hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year at Nowruz (Persian New Year).

# Northwest Afghanistan – Badghis



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik - 62%

Pashtun - 28%

Uzbek - 5%

Turkmen - 3%

## Languages:

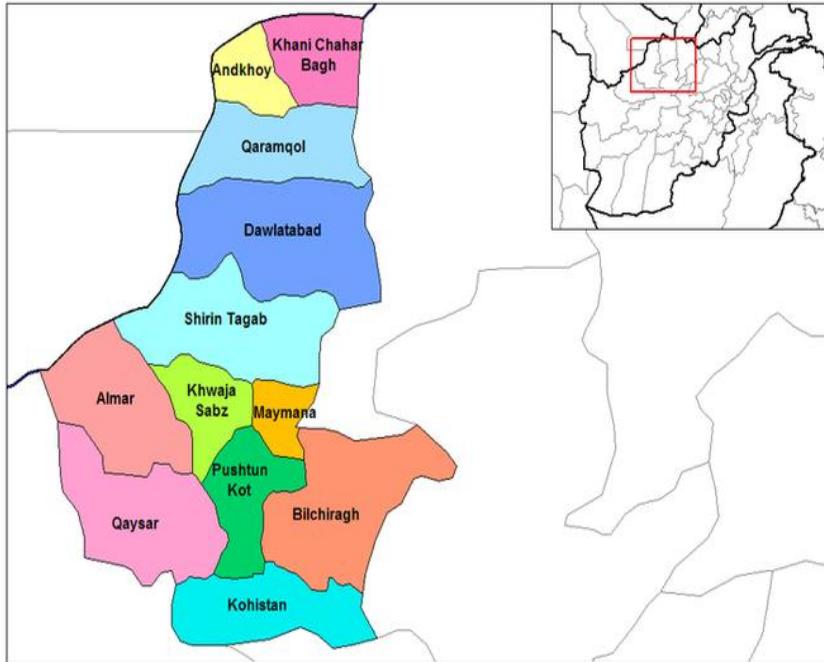
Dari - 56%

Pashtu - 40%

# Badghis Province - Capital: Qala-I-Naw

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Murghab River in the north and the Hari-Rud River in the south; bordered on the north by the Desert of the Sarakhs; extremely mountainous and remote</b> |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture and animal husbandry</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Opium poppy cultivated mainly in the Ghormach, Murghab and Qadis districts; opium is not a major source of income for the province</b>                   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation has deteriorated in the northern districts of Ghormach and Murghab; Pashtun population generally sympathetic to the local Taliban</b> |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Badghis = “Lap of Wind”; Emir relocated Pashtun tribes to province in late 19<sup>th</sup> century</b>   |

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Faryab



## Ethnic Groups:

Uzbek - 54%

Tajik - 27%

Pashtun - 13%

Turkmen

## Language:

Uzbeki

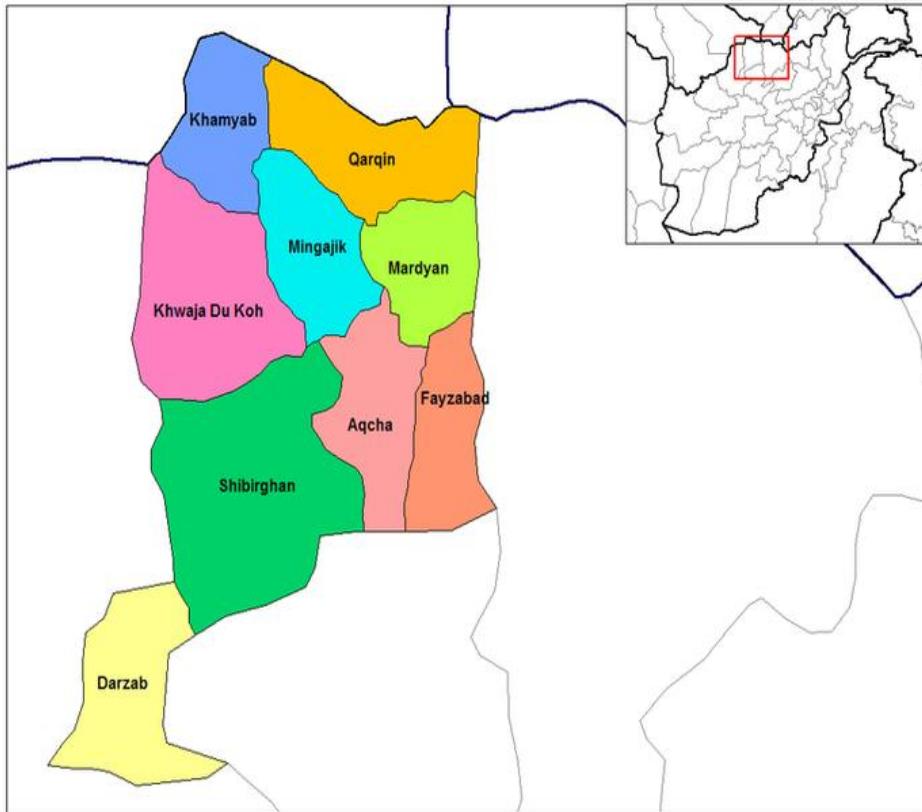
Dari

Pashtun

# Faryab Province - Capital: Maymana

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Two thirds mountainous or semi mountainous</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture; industrial commodities; handicrafts - rugs and carpets</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Little poppy cultivation but one of the most important transit areas for drug trafficking, especially Bilchiragh, Gorziwan and Kohistan</b>                                 |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Improvised explosive device attacks against International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Maimana City; violent demonstrations with some involvement of the locals</b> |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Named after a town founded by Sassanids and later destroyed by invading Mongols in 1220</b>   |

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Jowzjan



## Ethnic Groups:

Uzbek - 40%

Turkmen - 29%

Tajik - 12%

Pashtun - 17%

## Languages:

Dari

Uzbek

Turkmen

# Jowzjan Province - Capital: Sheberghan

**Geography and Climate:** More than one quarter mountainous; two thirds of the area flat

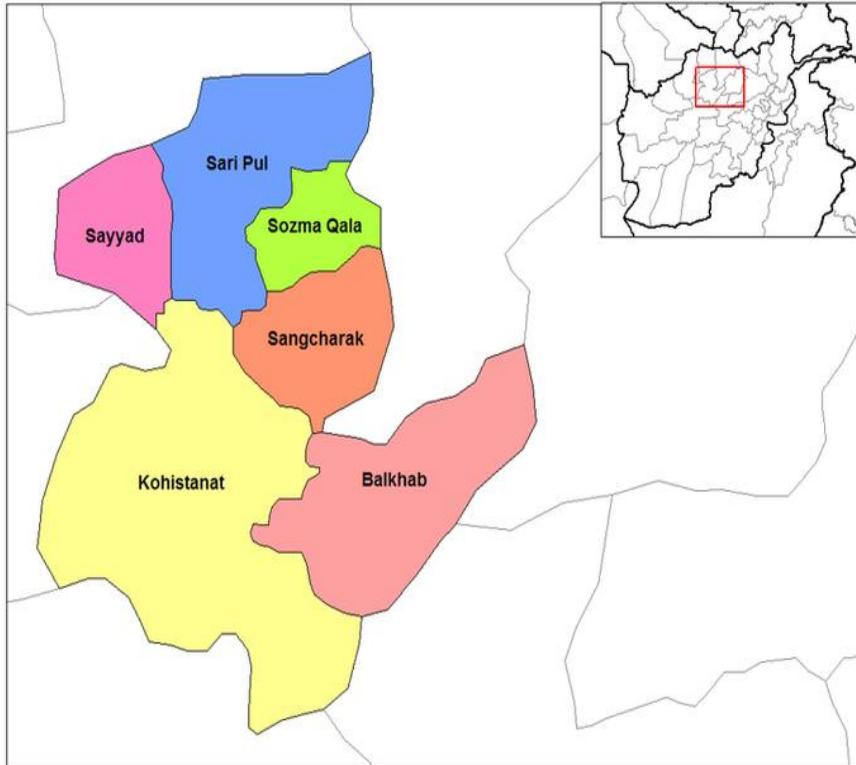
**Economy:** Agriculture

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Most local commanders involved in the narcotics business

**Dangers/Concerns:** Some unrest; factional clashes continue to cause instability; there are indications that Darzab district may serve as a base for Anti Government Elements (AGE)

**Significance:** Traditional powerbase of Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Sar-e Pol



## Ethnic Groups:

Uzbek  
Hazara  
Pashtun  
Tajik

## Languages:

Dari - 56%  
Uzbek - 19%

# Sar-e-Pul Province - Capital: Sar-e Pol

**Geography and  
Climate:**

**75% mountainous terrain, 14% flat**

**Economy:**

**Agriculture; area largely undeveloped**

**Drug  
Production/Trafficking:**

**Poppy cultivation is ongoing; transit  
area for drug trafficking**

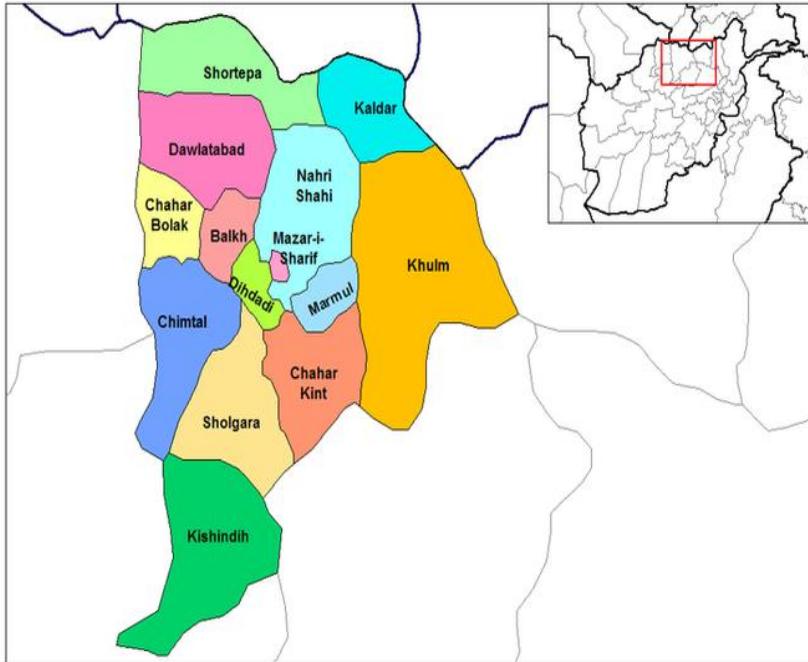
**Dangers/Concerns:**

**Relatively calm and stable; some  
unresolved land disputes**

**Significance:**

**Named after Buddhist disciple  
Sariputta, who originated from the  
area**

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Balkh



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik  
Pashtun  
Turkmen  
Uzbek

## Languages:

Dari - 50%  
Pashtu - 27%  
Turkmen - 12%  
Uzbek - 11%

# **Balkh Province - Capital: Mazar-e-Sharif**

**Geography and Climate:** 50% mountainous, 50% flat

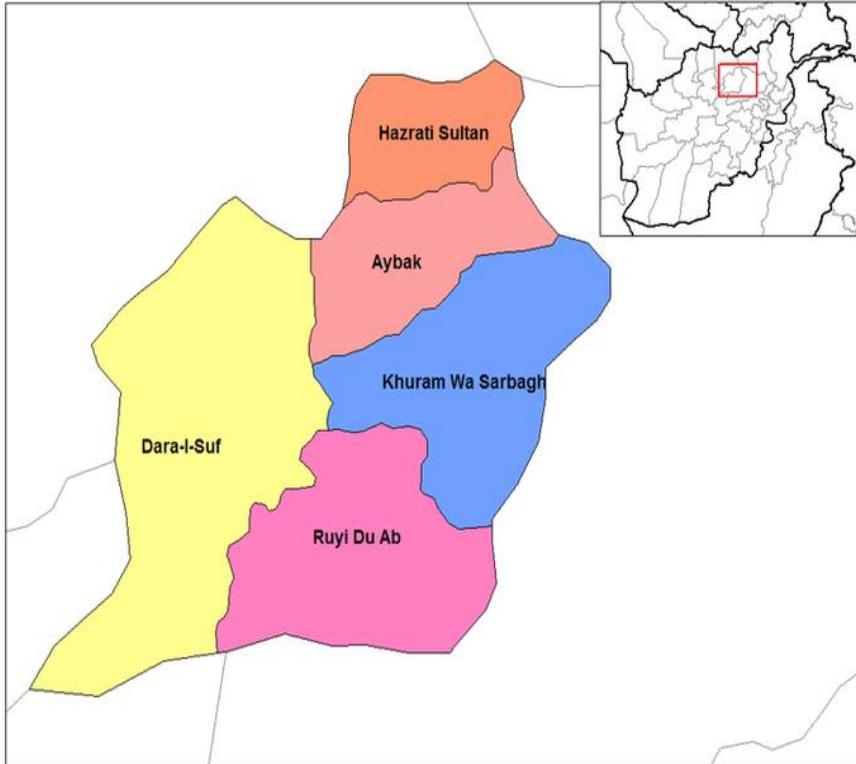
**Economy:** Mazar-e-Sharif is a commercial and financial center; poppy production still a significant source of income

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Poppy and hashish cultivation in Balkh still significant; reportedly 40% of poppy cultivated land destroyed by government; remaining 60% is under control of local commanders and individuals

**Dangers/Concerns:** Criminality mostly tied to opium and hashish trafficking

**Significance:** Located along the historic Silk Route, was the ancient center of Zoroastrianism and the Bactrian Empire

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Samangan



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Majority Uzbek  
and Tajik  
Pashtun  
Hazara

**Languages:**  
Dari - 75%  
Uzbek - 22%

# Samangan Province - Capital: Aybak

**Geography and  
Climate:**

**Four fifths mountainous; 12% of the  
area flat**

**Economy:**

**Agriculture**

**Drug  
Production/Trafficking:**

**Poppy eradication successful; few  
remote areas do continue poppy  
growing Rui Do Ab and Dara-i-Suf  
districts still the two major drug  
transit areas**

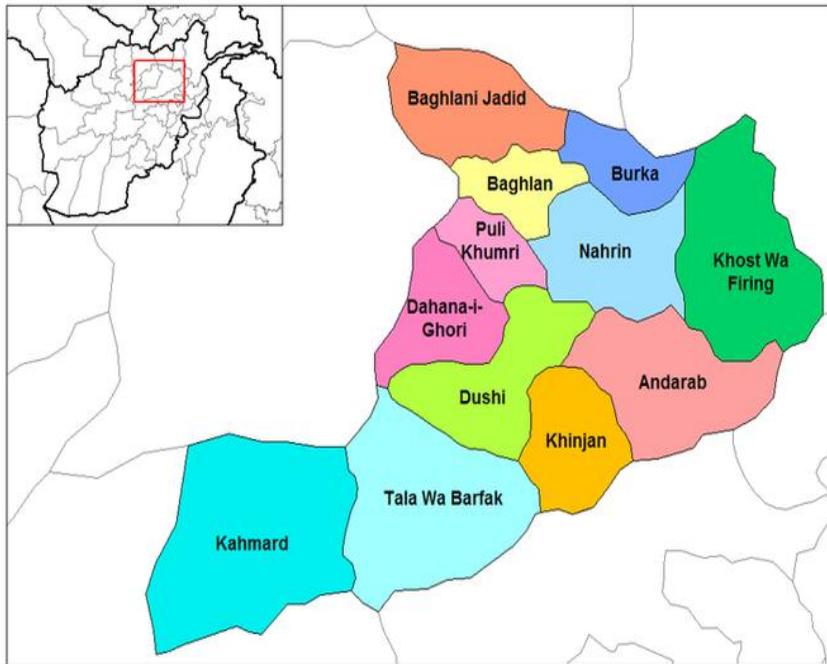
**Dangers/Concerns:**

**Relatively calm and stable**

**Significance:**

**Was once the ancient Buddhist center  
of Takht-e Rostam**

# Northern Afghanistan – Baghlan



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik - 50%

Pashtun - 20%

Hazara - 15%

Uzbek - 12%

Tatar - 3%

## Languages:

Dari

Uzbek

# Baghlan Province - Capital: Puli Khumri

**Geography and  
Climate:**

**Over half mountainous  
Lies on main route to Northern  
provinces**

**Economy:**

**Agriculture**

**Drug  
Production/Trafficking:**

**Significant amounts of cultivation and  
trafficking**

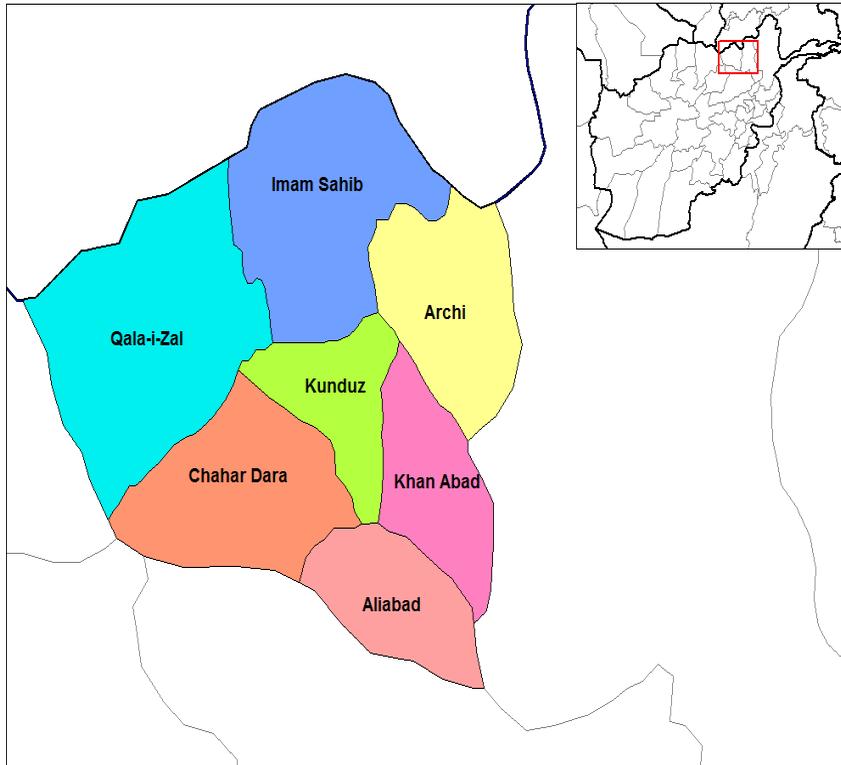
**Dangers/Concerns:**

**Opium cultivation remains major  
concern**

**Significance:**

**In 1<sup>st</sup> century CE was the site of a  
famous Zoroastrian fire temple;  
currently has the only functioning  
cement factory in Afghanistan**

# Northern Afghanistan – Kunduz



## Ethnic Groups:

Pashtun

Tajik

Uzbek

Hazara

Turkmen

## Languages:

Pashtu

Dari

# Kunduz Province - Capital: Kunduz

**Geography and Climate:** ¾ flat; 12% mountainous; fertile land; route to access Tajikistan

**Economy:** Agriculture

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Very little production; part of Kabul-Pulikhumri-Kunduz-Tajikistan drug route

**Dangers/Concerns:** Illegally armed groups and warlords; community support for Anti-government elements; Chahar Dar considered a high threat district

**Significance:** On 4 September 2009 German ISAF elements called an air strike against two NATO fuel trucks that had been captured by insurgents; as a result of the US aircraft attack, more than 90 people, among them at least 40 civilians, who had gathered to collect fuel.

# NORTHEASTERN REGION

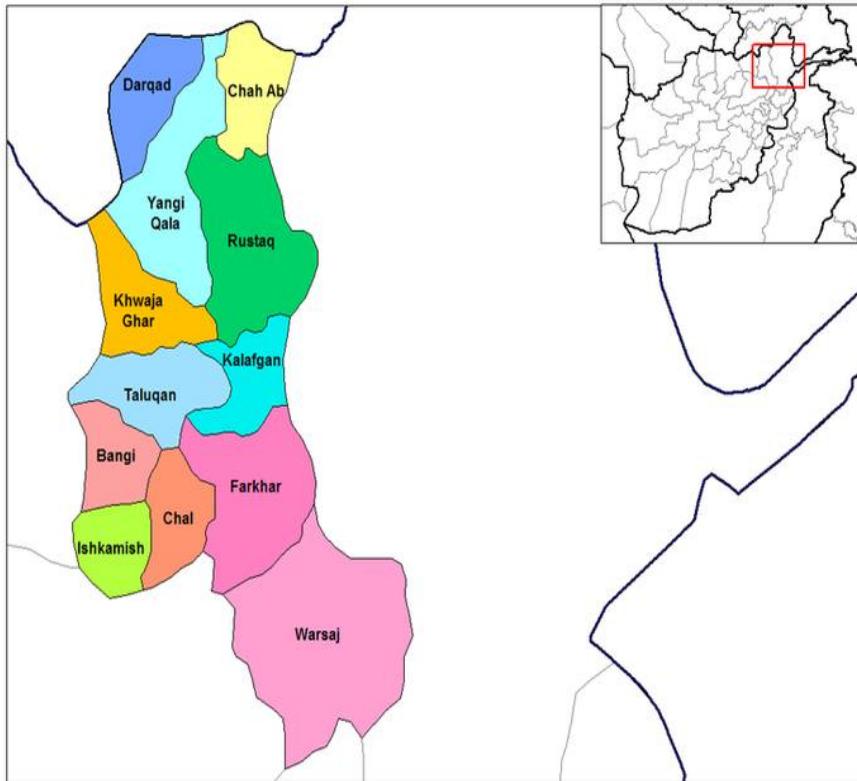
## TAKHAR, PANJSHIR, NURESTAN, BADAKHSHAN



# Northeastern Region:

The northeastern border climate is made up of the highest elevations in the Hindu Kush mountain range which leads up to the Himalayan Mountains. During the winter months, these mountains are impassable and during the summer, heavy poppy trafficking is pervasive. The provinces covered in this region are Takhar, Panjshir, Nurestan, and Badakhshan. With the exception of Nurestan, which is almost 100% Nurestani, the region has an ethnic majority of Tajiks; Uzbeks are the next largest group, and there are a few Hazara and Pashtun populations. Although the Panjshir and Badakhshan provinces never came under Taliban control, there is some Taliban activity in the region. Nurestan is an area of concern as Taliban have been able to operate openly in the region.

# Northeast Afghanistan – Takhar



**Ethnic Groups:**

**Majority:**  
Uzbeks and  
Tajiks

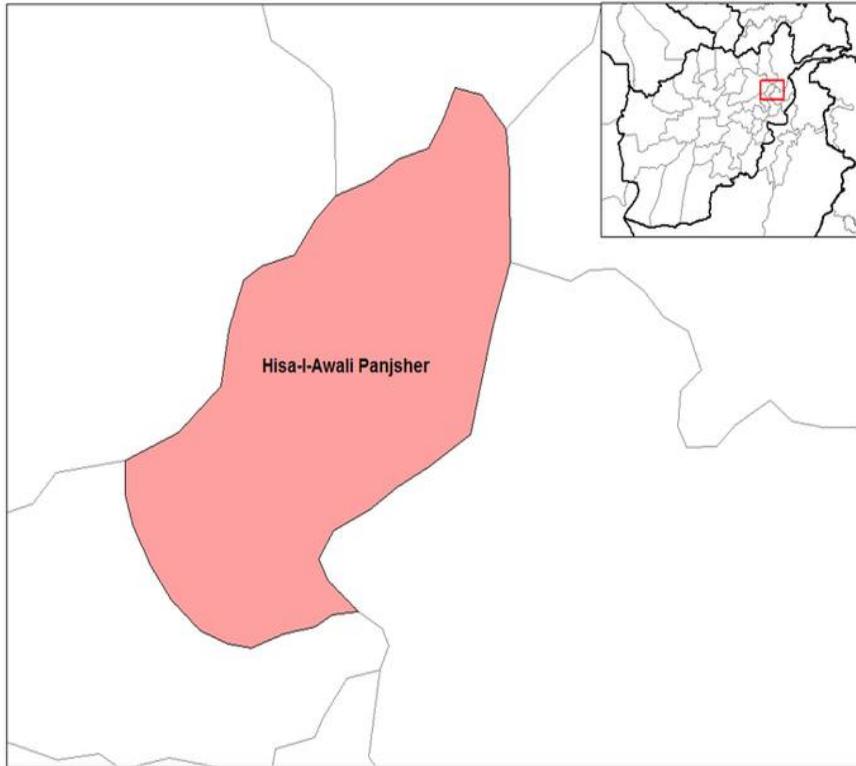
**Minorities:**  
Pashtuns and  
Hazara

**Languages:**  
Dari  
Uzbek  
Pashtun

# Takhar Province - Capital: Taloqan

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Border with Tajikistan; more than half mountainous; one third flat terrain</b>                |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Salt mines one of country's major mineral resources; agriculture, trade and services</b>      |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Used by drug traffickers as a secure passage to Tajikistan</b>                                |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Internal disputes between local commanders, tribal leaders, and drug traffickers</b>          |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Location where Ahmad Shah Masood, the Tajik Northern Alliance commander, was assassinated</b> |

# Northeastern Afghanistan – Panjshir



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Mostly Tajik  
Some Hazara  
(Small number of  
Pashtun,  
Nurestani,  
Pashai)

**Languages:**  
Dari  
(Small pockets of  
Pashtu speakers)

# **Panjshir Province - Capital: Bazarak (formerly part of Kapisa Province)**

**Geography and Climate:** Panjshir valley; mountainous, high peaks; streams, greenery

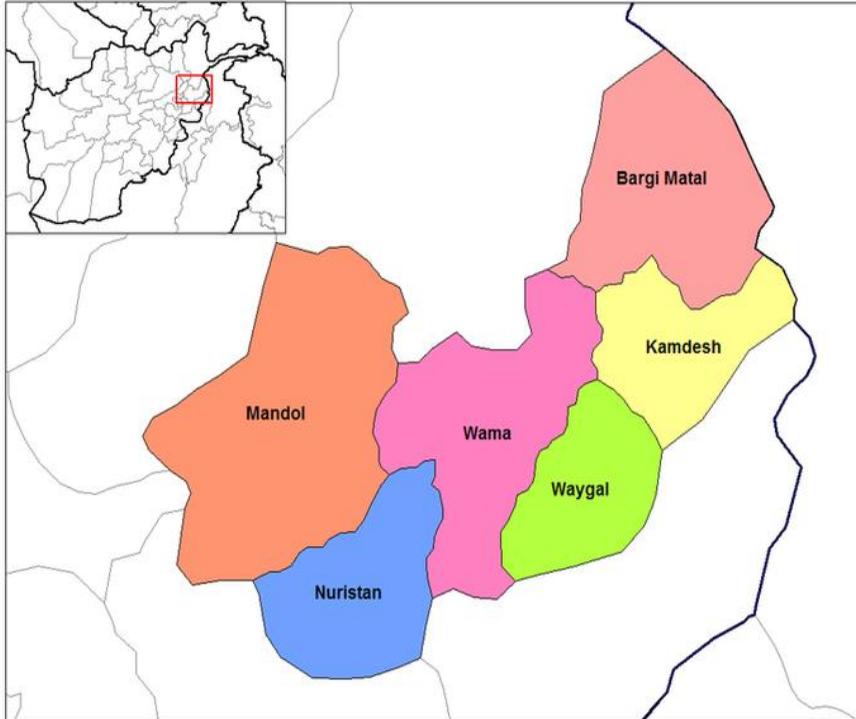
**Economy:** Non farm-related labor, agriculture, trade and services

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Virtually poppy-free

**Dangers/Concerns:** Relatively secure; some unexploded ordinances

**Significance:** Panjshir = Five Lions; Tomb of Shaheed (martyr) Ahmad Shah Masood, commander of Northern Alliance; anti-Taliban area

# Northwestern Afghanistan – Nurestan



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Nurestani - 99%

**Languages:**  
Nurestani - 78%  
Peshayee - 15%

# Nurestan Province - Capital: Parun

**Geography and Climate:** 99% mountainous; most impassable regions

**Economy:** Agriculture, livestock, day labor; trade across border with Pakistan; one of poorest regions

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Land unsuitable for poppy cultivation; some drug trafficking across border

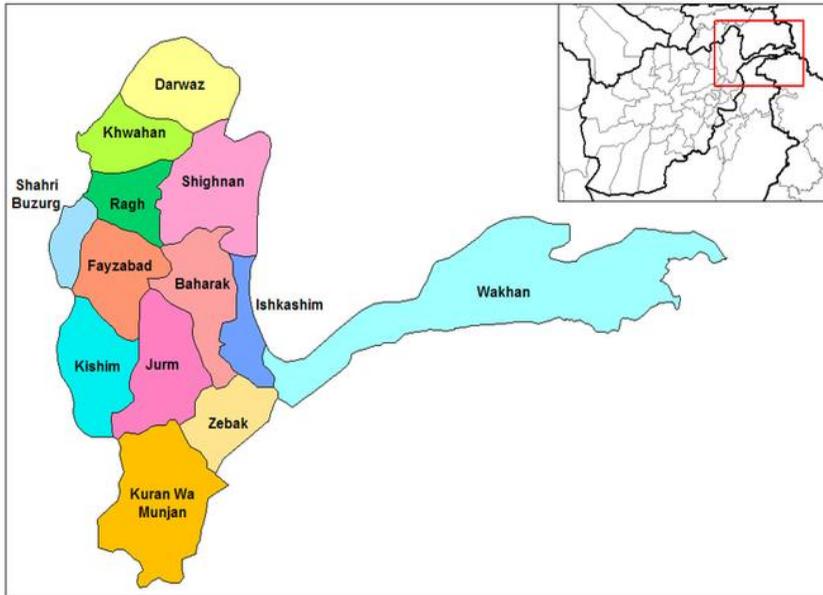
**Dangers/Concerns:** Poor security/some parts under “enemy” control  
lack of infrastructure; local militias stronger than government

**Significance:** Until the 1890s, the region was known as Kafiristan (Persian for "Land of the non-believers") because its inhabitants were non-Muslims

# Northeastern Afghanistan – Badakshan

**Ethnic Groups:**  
Majority Tajik

**Languages:**  
Dari



# **Badakhshan Province - Capital: Fayzabad**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Between Hindu Kush and Amu Darya; only province to border China via Wakhan Corridor; prone to earthquakes and seasonal flooding</b> |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture; rich in natural minerals</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Believed to be a major drug smuggling route</b>   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Insufficient protection of the Tajik - Afghan border</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Rich in minerals; has attracted China who has helped with reconstruction of roads and infrastructure</b>                            |

# **EASTERN REGION**

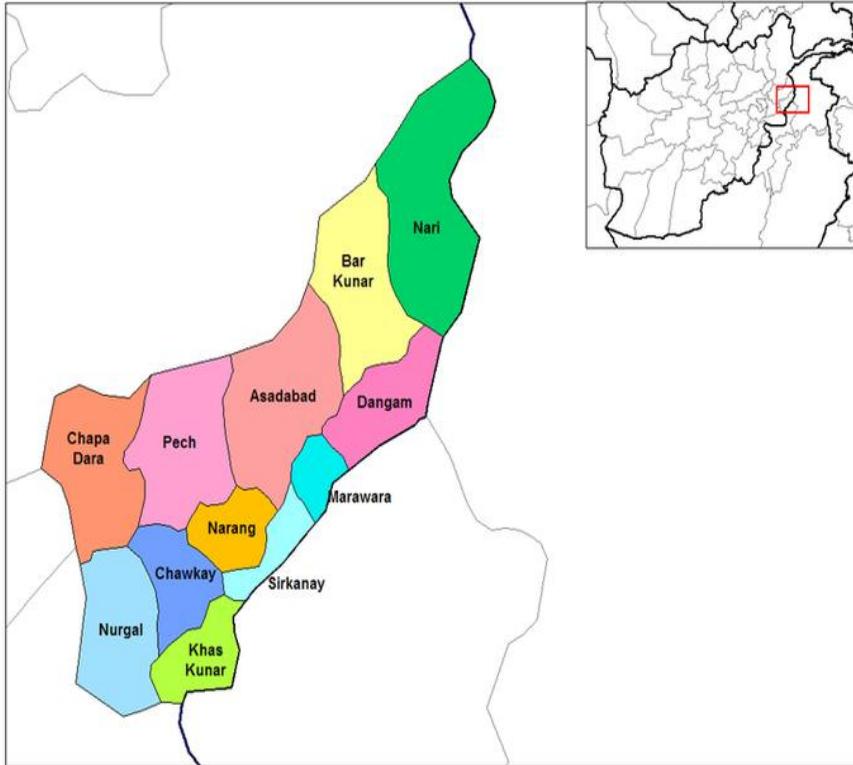
**KONAR, NANGARHAR, LOWGAR, PAKTIA, KHOST,  
PAKTIKA, GHAZNI, ZABUL, LAGHMAN**



# Eastern Region

The eastern border region is extremely mountainous. During the summer, the temperatures can reach in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and during the winter, the mountains are impassable due to heavy snowfall. With many narrow canyons, valleys, and mountain passes, this region provides treacherous terrain that is perfect for guerilla warfare operations. The Pashtun are the ethnic majority in this region, with much smaller numbers of Tajiks and Hazaras. The security of the region is threatened by its insecure border with Pakistan, which allows for free migration in both directions and smuggling of the region's natural resources. The region is also known as an insurgent hideout, especially in the province of Konar. The provinces covered in section include Konar, Nangarhar, Lowgar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Laghman, and Zabul.

# Eastern Afghanistan – Konar



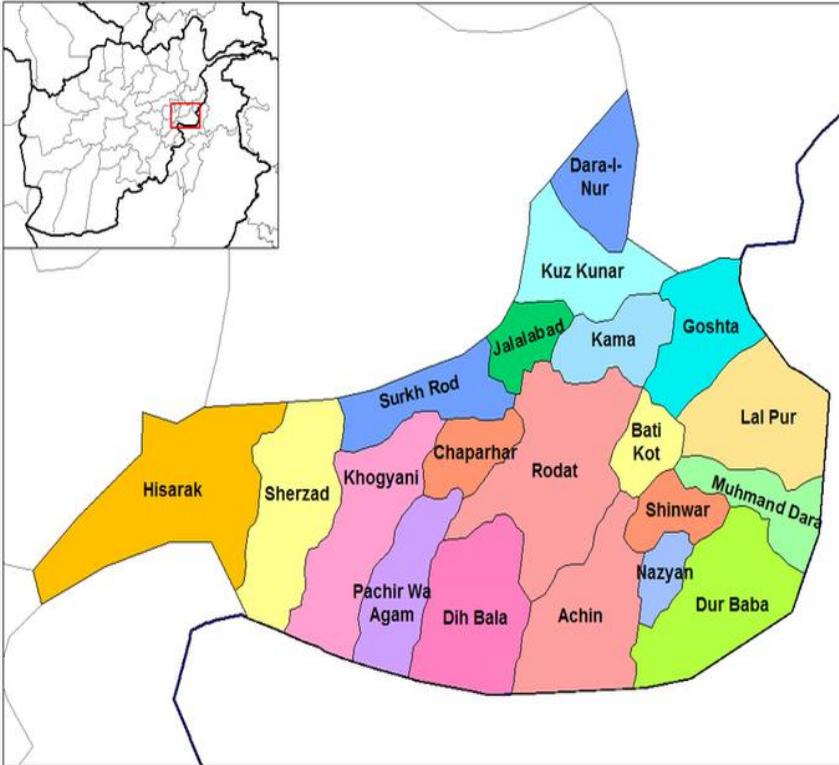
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 95%  
Nurestani - 5%  
Kuchi (seasonal)

**Languages:**  
Pashtu

# Konar Province - Capital: Asadabad

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Embedded in Hindu Kush; heavily mountainous and forested</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture, livestock, day labor; some timber (smuggling to Pakistan)</b>  |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Trafficking of heroin and opium into the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Established base of insurgent groups; possible Al Qaeda sanctuary</b>   |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Looting of national assets (timber and gems) is a destabilizing factor for province; with some of the largest forests in Afghanistan, trees are now rapidly being cut down illegally and smuggled to Pakistan</b> |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Nangarhar



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 90%  
Pashayee - 7%  
Tajiks  
Gujar

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 92%  
Dari - 8%

# Nangahar Province - Capital: Jalalabad

**Geography and Climate:** More than ½ mountainous; 2/5 flat land

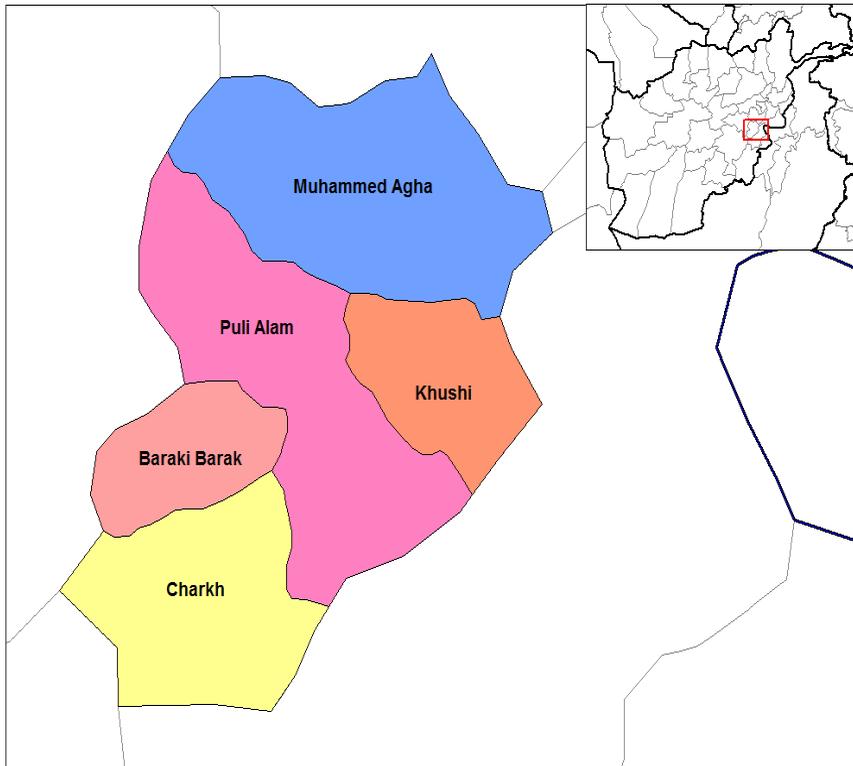
**Economy:** ½ agriculture; trade and services

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Opium and cannabis production prevalent; once center of poppy production (95% decrease in 2005)

**Dangers/Concerns:** Illegally armed groups, anti-government elements active and heavily armed; migration from and to Pakistan

**Significance:** Jalalabad is considered one of the most important cities of the Pashtun culture; the mausoleum of both Amir Habibullah and King Amanullah is located in Jalalabad, and the great Pashtun leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan) is also buried there

# Eastern Afghanistan – Lowgar



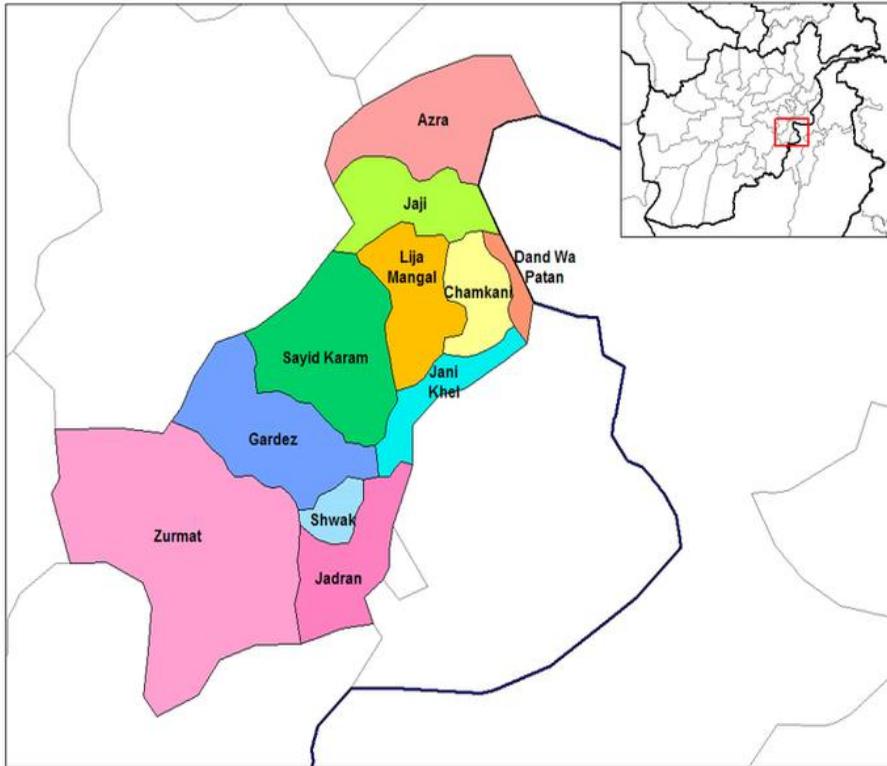
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 60%  
Tajik/Hazara - 40%

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 60%  
Dari - 40%

# Lowgar Province - Capital: Pol-e-'Alam

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Flat river valley (Lowgar River); rugged mountains in East, South, and Southwest; Tera Pass a critical chokepoint</b> |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture, livestock; Ainak copper mine, Mohammad Agha mine; rich with minerals</b>                                 |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Consistently poppy-free between 2002 - 2009</b>   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Assessed as medium threat; some anti-personnel mines; Taliban assassinated governor in 2008</b>                       |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>During Soviet-Afghan War, ~ 350 Soviet tanks destroyed in the Tera Pass by the Mujahideen</b>                         |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Paktia



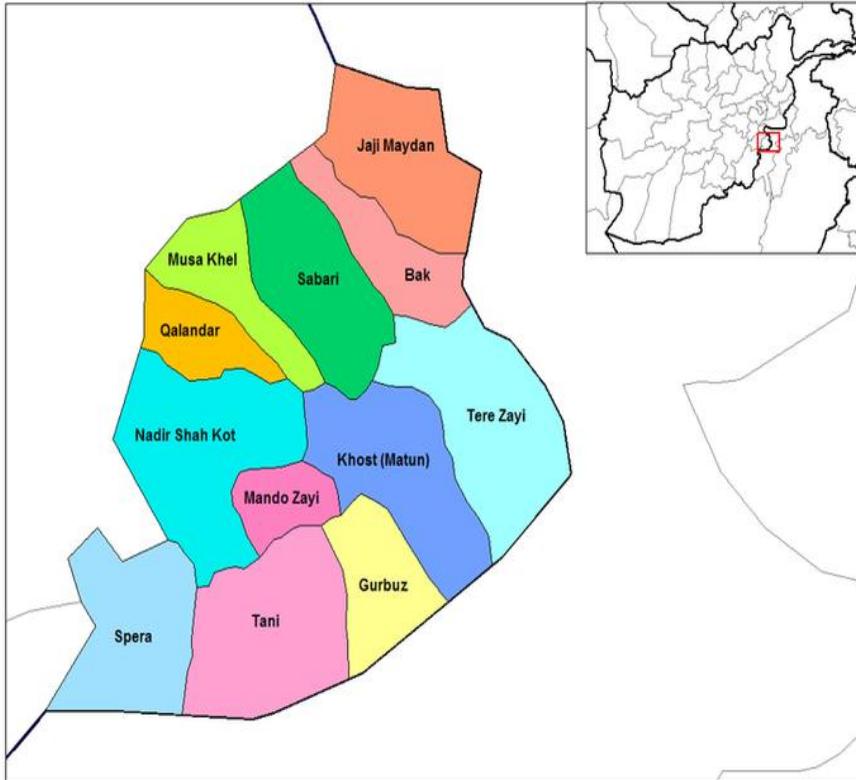
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 91%  
Tajik - 9%

**Languages:**  
Pashtu

# Paktia Province - Capital: Gardez

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Seta – Kandow (KG) Pass in Zadran Arc is the premier mountain range in Paktia</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Forestry and the mining of chromites and natural gas; grains, crops and apple, walnut, and apricot orchards</b>  |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Significant precursor trafficking occurs along the eastern belt of Paktia</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation remains volatile; insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>KG Pass is the historical home to anti-government elements and Haqqani Network; Shah-i Kot Valley in Zormat District, a mountainous region historically used as a base for renegades</b> |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Khost



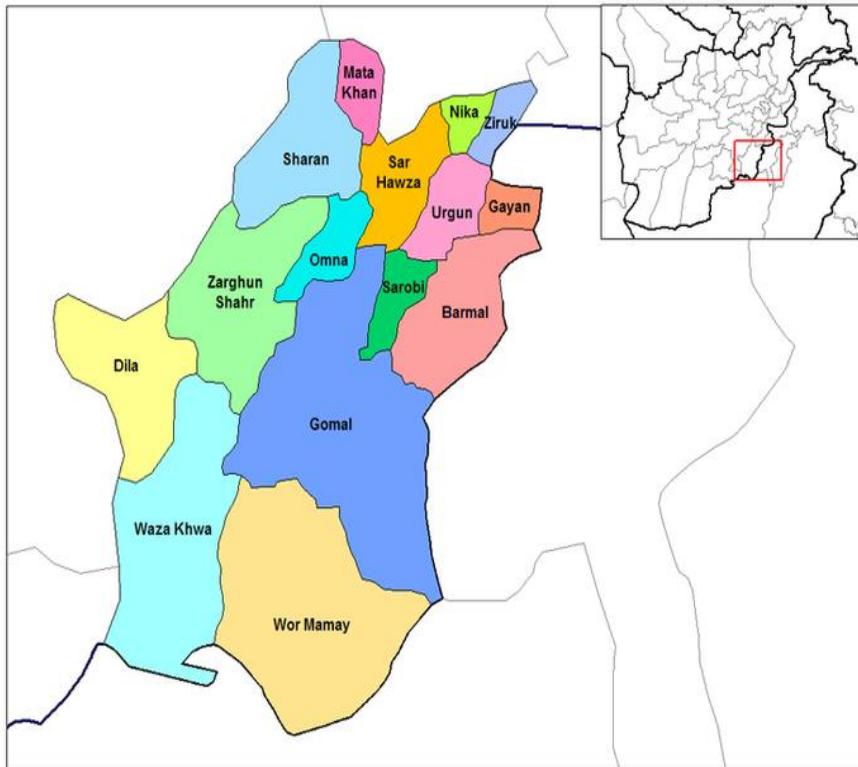
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 99%

**Languages:**  
Pashtu

# **Khost Province - Capital: Khost**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Dominated by the Khost Valley and the mountains that surround it; natural forests run along the border</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture and animal husbandry</b>  |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Heroin and opium are trafficked into the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region of Pakistan where insurgent groups linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda dominate</b> |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Once part of Paktia province; Khost City the first to be liberated from communist rule during Soviet occupation</b>   |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Paktika



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun

**Languages:**  
Pashtu

# Paktika Province - Capital: Sharan

**Geography and Climate:** Arid; high desert; 32% mountainous

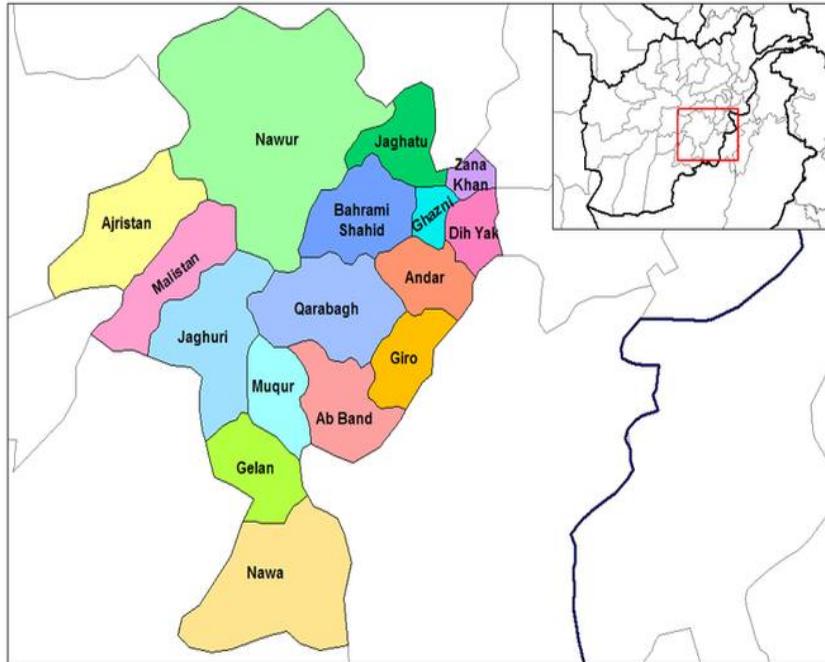
**Economy:** Agriculture and animal husbandry; overall literacy rate in province is extremely low at just 2%

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Heroin and opium are trafficked into the FATA region of Pakistan

**Dangers/Concerns:** Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts

**Significance:** Once part of Paktia province, was the site of many battles during Soviet occupation

# Eastern Afghanistan – Ghazni



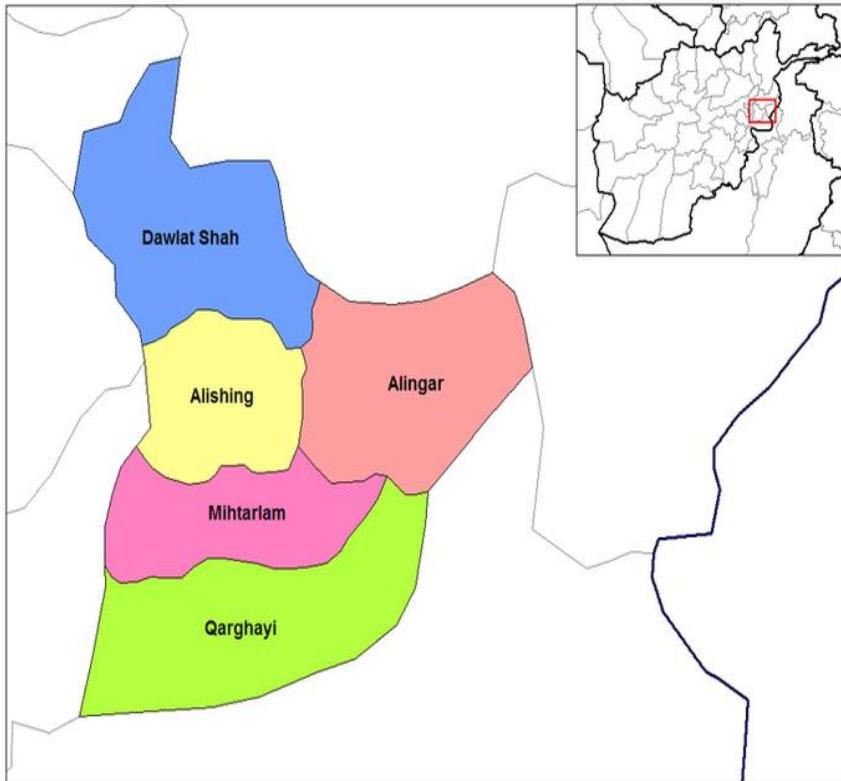
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 48.9%  
Hazara - 45.9%  
Tajik - 4.7%  
Kuchis (summer)

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 51%  
Dari - 47%

# Ghazni Province - Capital: Ghazni

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Arid; level towards the Southeast, more mountainous and wet toward the Northwest</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture, animal husbandry and day labor</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Poppy-free</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Pashtun districts; Hazara areas low threat</b> |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Was once the center of the Ghaznavid Empire, which ruled much of India, Central Asia, and Persia</b>  |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Laghman



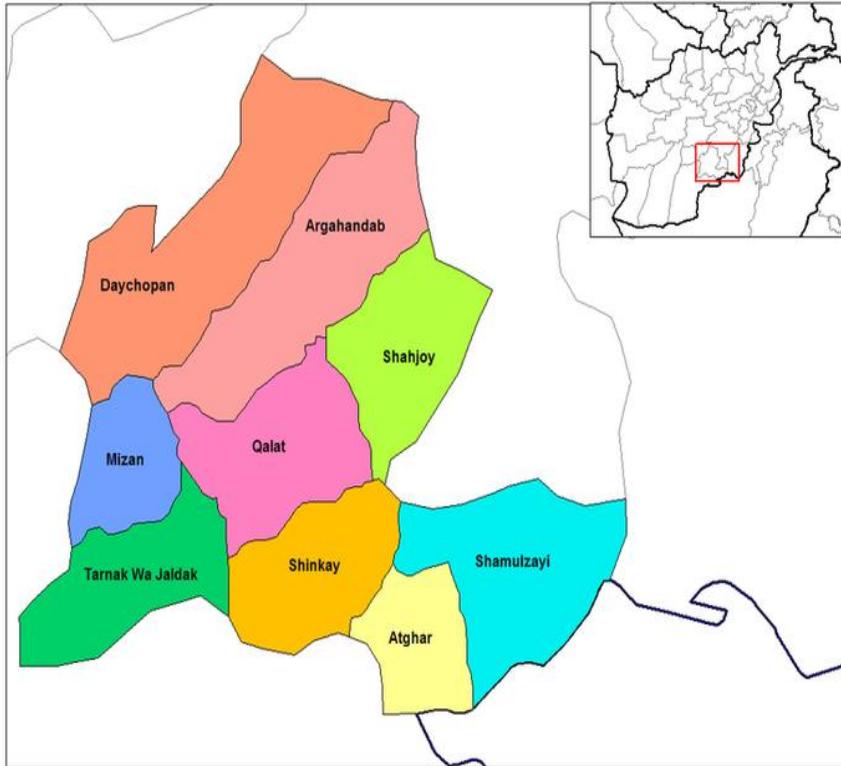
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtuns - 58%  
Pashai  
Nurestani

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 58%  
Peshayee - 33%  
Dari - 9%

# Laghman Province - Capital: Mihtarlam

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>55.4% mountainous; 40.9% flat</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Trade and services, non-farm labor, agriculture and livestock; rich with stones and minerals</b> |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Some poppy growing; smuggling center for heroin</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Large number of illegally armed groups; active anti-government elements</b>                      |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Once the center of Mahayanist Buddhism with several monasteries</b>                              |

# Eastern Afghanistan – Zabul



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun  
Kuchi (seasonal)

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 80%  
Dari - 20%

# Zabul Province - Capital:Qalat

**Geography and Climate:** Remote and sparsely populated; 41% mountainous; arid; severe drought has reduced fertility of the land

**Economy:** Agricultural communities established along Arghandab and Tarnak rivers; animal husbandry

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Some relatively small scale opium cultivation; widespread trafficking along Ring Road and easy overland access to Pakistan

**Dangers/Concerns:** Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts

**Significance:** Pashtun residents deeply conservative; infrastructure is largely undeveloped; only Qalat City has electricity and only Ring Road paved

# CENTRAL REGION

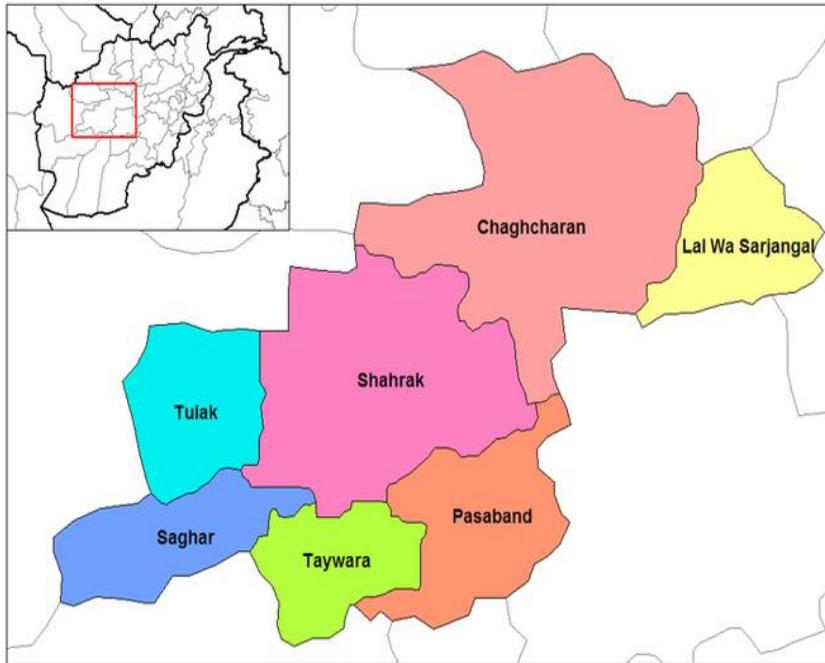
**GHOR, DAYKUNDI, ORUZGAN, WARDAK, KABUL,  
KAPISA, PARVAN, BAMYAN**



# Central Region

The central climate area is generally covered by the Hindu Kush Mountains. Summers can reach temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and winters will be bitterly cold with very heavy snowfall. The provinces in this area are Ghor, Daykundi, Oruzgan, Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Parvan and Bamyan. This area is considered to be a high desert with terrain similar to southern Arizona and the mountains of central Nevada and eastern California. The area hosts a mix of Pashtun, Tajik, and Hazara, with several other groups in smaller numbers. As the physical center of the country, the region has been influenced by several cultural movements and the Silk Road. The Buddhists statues of Bamyan, destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, are a well-known artifact of the region's rich cultural past. The security of the region has deteriorated, especially in Oruzgan and Wardak.

# Central Afghanistan – Ghor



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik - 58%

Hazara - 39%

Pashtun - 3%

## Languages:

Dari - 97%

Pashtu - 3%

# Ghor Province - Capital: Chaghcharan

**Geography and Climate:** Extremely mountainous and characterized by small, isolated villages, which are generally inaccessible during the winter months

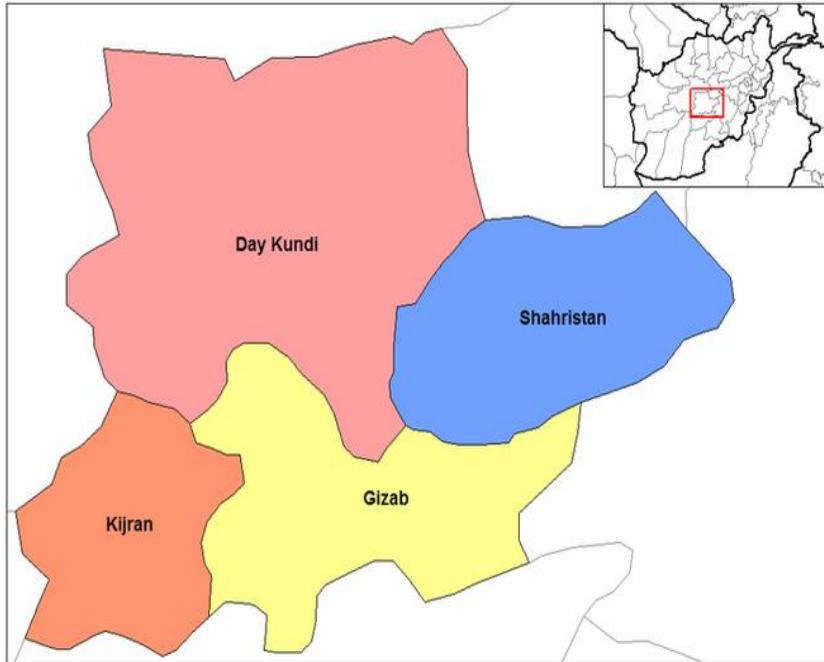
**Economy:** Agriculture and animal husbandry

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Was cultivating opium poppy but between 2007 and 2009 had become poppy-free

**Dangers/Concerns:** Lowest threat province in region

**Significance:** The Minaret of Jam, the second tallest minaret in the world and a national treasure, is located in a remote valley on the banks of the Hari Rud River

# Central Afghanistan – Daykundi



## **Ethnic Groups:**

**Hazara - 86%**

**Pashtun - 8.5%**

**Baluch - 3.5%**

## **Languages:**

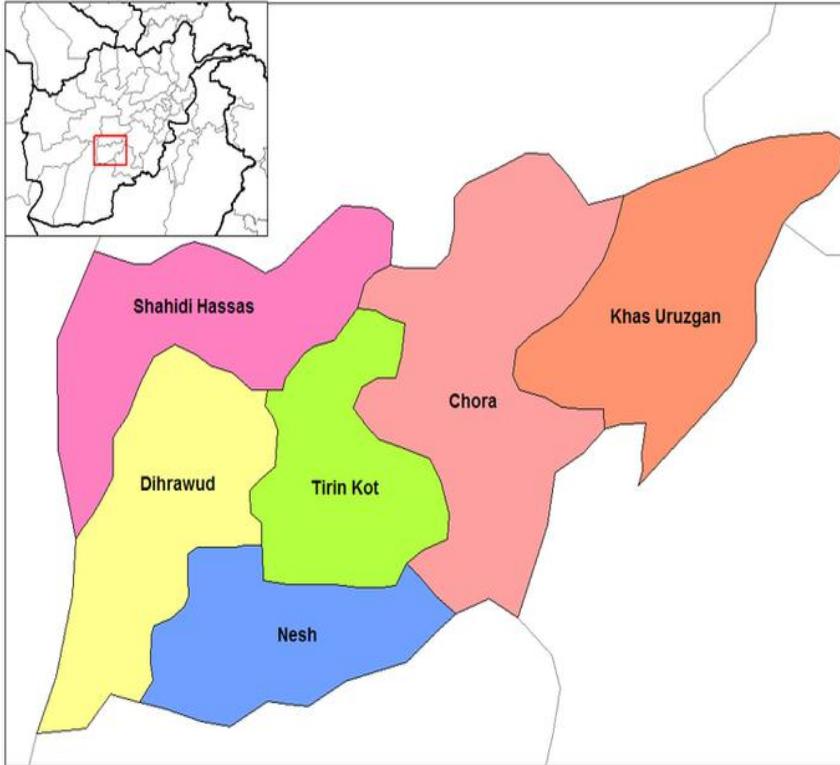
**Dari - 91%**

**Pashtu - 13%**

# Daykundi Province - Capital: Nili

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>90% of terrain mountainous</b>  |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture; 99% of the population of Daykundi lives in rural districts while 1% lives in urban areas</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Primary transit route for traffickers who transport drugs from the north of Bamyan to the south of Daykundi to provinces like Helmand and Oruzgan</b> |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Gizab District recently under AGE control (Pashtun-populated Gizab annexed to Oruzgan province in 2006, but change not shown on maps)</b>             |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Part of ethnic region of Hazarajat; Nili first city to have female mayor (Ms. Azra Jafari)</b>  |

# Central Afghanistan – Oruzgan



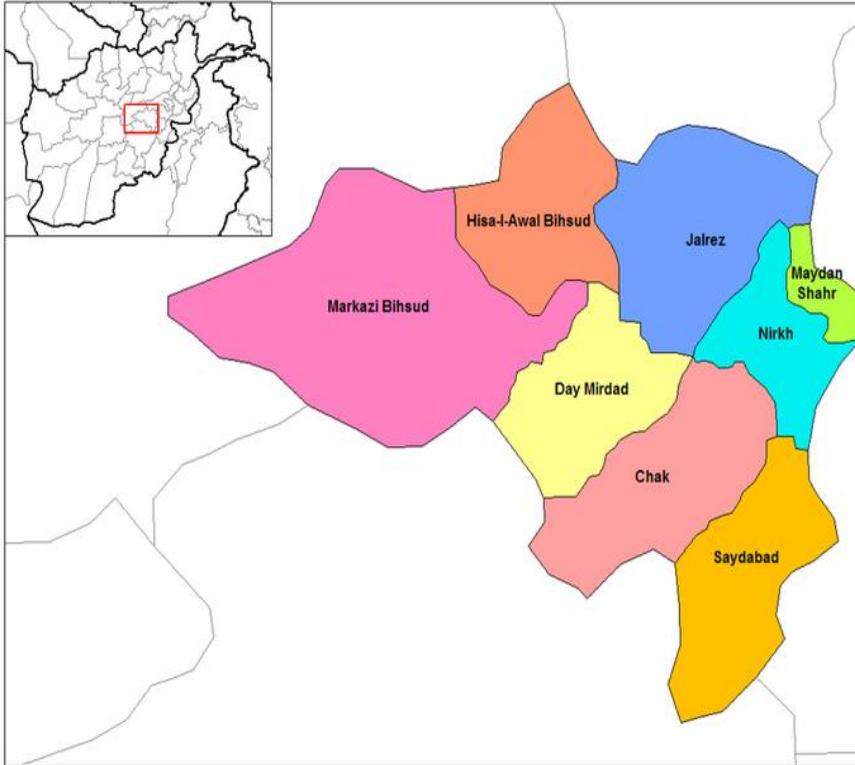
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun  
Hazara  
Kuchi (seasonal)

**Languages:**  
Pashtu - 90%  
Dari

# Oruzgan Province - Capital:Tirin Kot

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>Around three quarters of the province (72%) is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain</b>   |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Agriculture (grains, apricots, and almonds) was the primary source of livelihood, but many farmers have switched to poppy production</b> |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>Opium is now the province's main source of revenue</b>   |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts</b>                           |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>Well-known as the birthplace of Taliban leader Mullah Omar</b>   |

# Central Afghanistan – Wardak



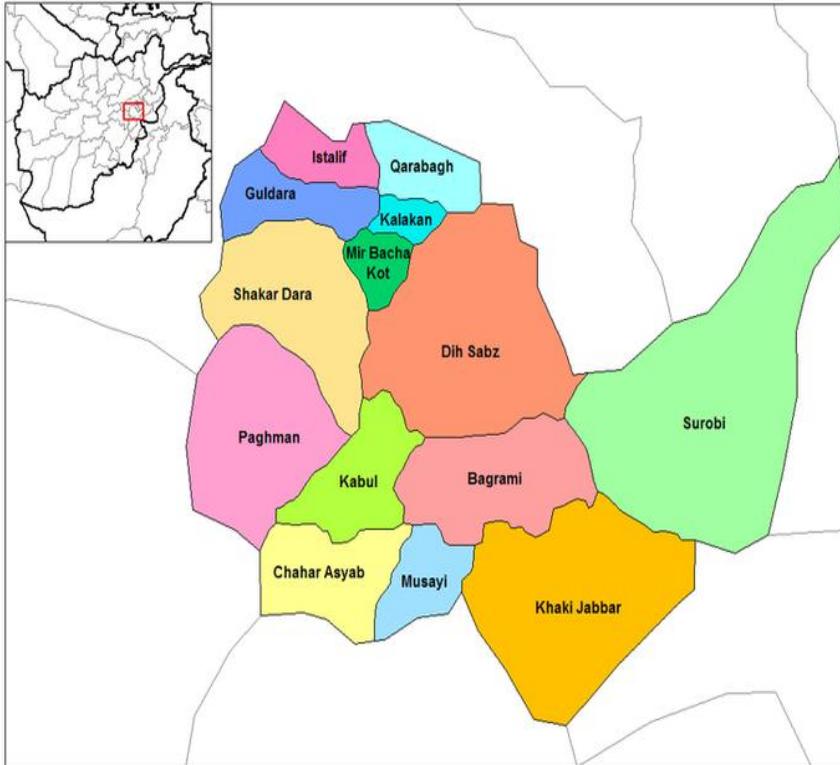
**Ethnic Groups:**  
Pashtun - 70%  
Hazara/Tajik - 27%

**Languages:**  
Majority Pashtu  
Some Dari

# Wardak Province - Capital: Maidan Shar

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Geography and Climate:</b>       | <b>4/5 mountainous; Southern outcrops of Hindu Kush</b>   |
| <b>Economy:</b>                     | <b>Trade, agriculture and livestock; stone quarrying; marble factory; marble mines inactive</b>   |
| <b>Drug Production/Trafficking:</b> | <b>After five years of continuous cultivation, the province has regained its original poppy-free status as of 2008</b>  |
| <b>Dangers/Concerns:</b>            | <b>Increasing physical presence of Taliban; lack of confidence in government; land disputes between Hazara and Kuchi</b>  |
| <b>Significance:</b>                | <b>During the Soviet-Aghan war, much of the population emigrated from the province to Iran (Hazara) and Pakistan (Pashtun), and many have returned since the fall of the Taliban, putting a strain on the already damaged infrastructure.</b> |

# Central Afghanistan – Kabul



## Ethnic Groups:

Pashtun - 60%

Tajik

Hazara

Uzbek

Turkmen

Baluch

Sikh

Hindu

## Languages:

Pashtu

Dari

# Kabul Province - Capital: Kabul City (Capital of Afghanistan)

**Geography and Climate:** Valley at crossroad; Kabul River; Arid, semi-arid steppe; low precipitation, dry and dusty

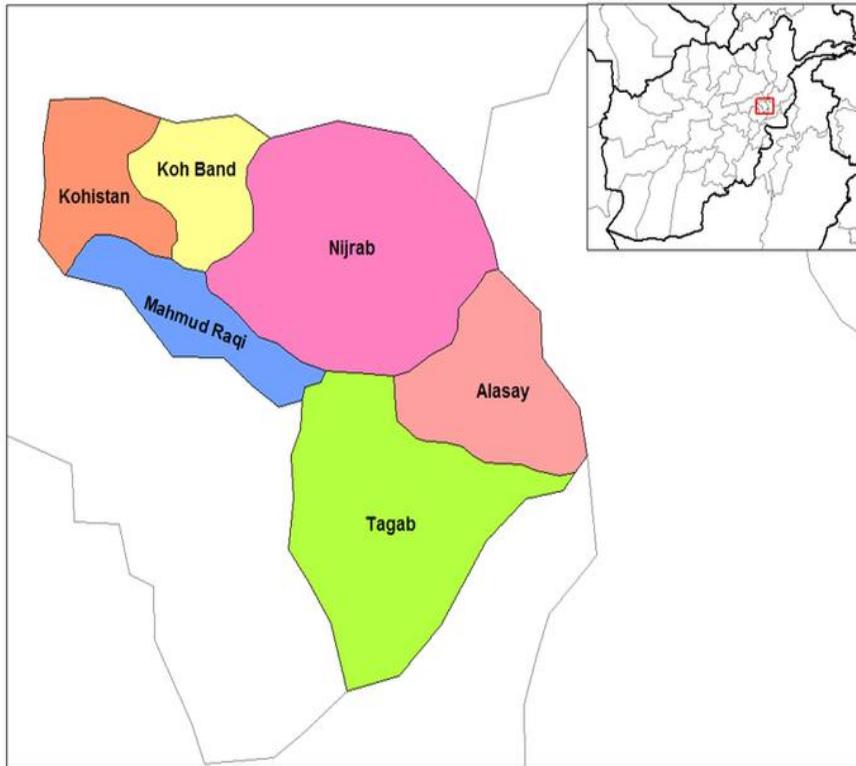
**Economy:** Industrial; international trade partners

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Drug route connecting South to North; Route to Pakistan; Small cultivation in Surobi

**Dangers/Concerns:** As capital, security imperative; target of high profile and complex suicide attacks

**Significance:** Was center of Zoroastrianism; Occupied by many forces to include: British, Soviets, Taliban; Destroyed by civil war after Soviet departure

# Central Afghanistan – Kapisa



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik - 30%

Pashtun - 27%

Pashai - 17%

Nurestani

## Languages:

Dari

Some Pashtu

# Kapisa Province - Capital: Mahmud Raqi

**Geography and  
Climate:**

**Partially surrounded by mountains;  
two  
rivers**

**Economy:**

**Agriculture; talc mine; “Mela” – trade  
day once/week**

**Drug  
Production/Trafficking:**

**At one time a huge location of poppy  
cultivation, but has become poppy-  
free**

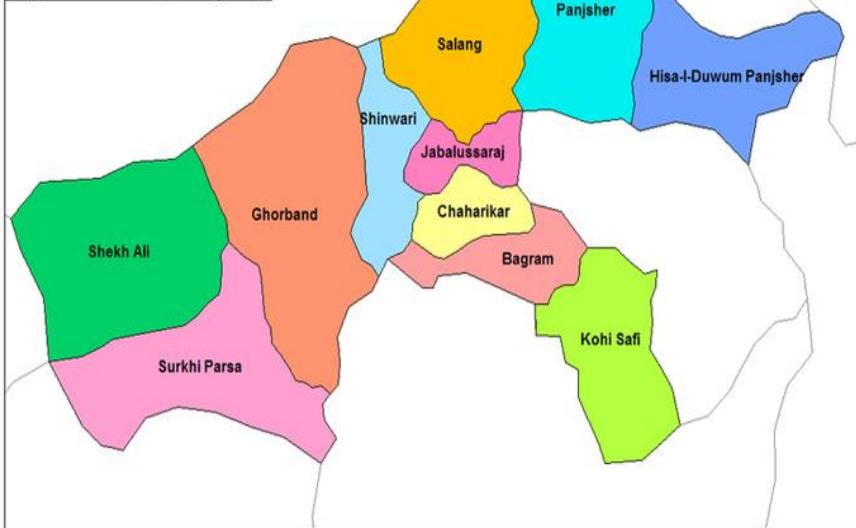
**Dangers/Concerns:**

**Satisfactory security**

**Significance:**

**Destroyed by Cyrus the Great; part of  
Buddhist kingdom; known for wine**

# Central Afghanistan – Parvan



## Ethnic Groups:

Tajik/Hazara -

71%

Pashtun - 29%

## Languages:

Dari - 70%

Pashtu - 30%

# Parvan Province - Capital: Charikar

**Geography and Climate:** 2/3 mountainous; 1/4 flat land; Parvan River; main route from Kabul to North; Salang Road

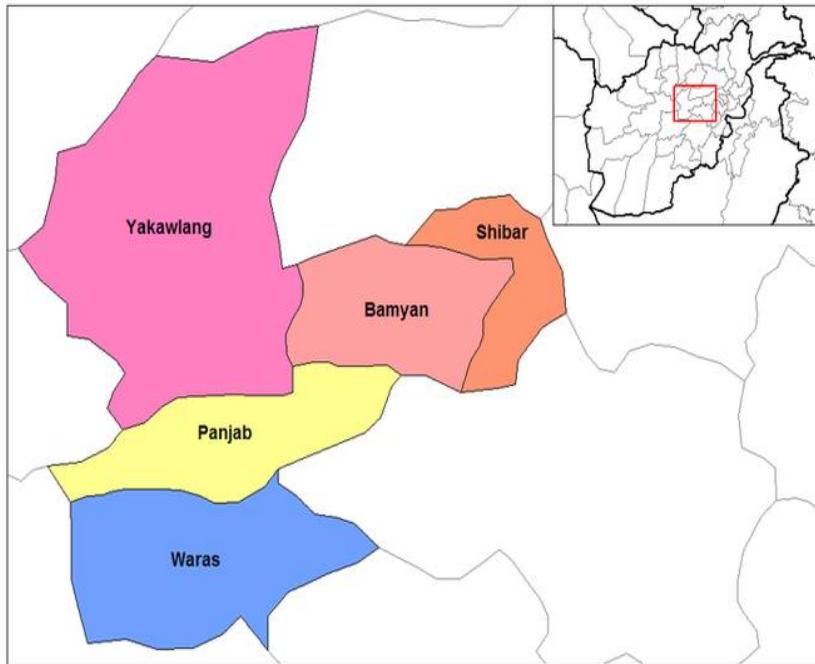
**Economy:** Industrial crops; herbs

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Regained its original opium poppy free status in 2008 (and continued to be poppy free in 2009) after five years of continuous cultivation between 2003 and 2007

**Dangers/Concerns:** Relatively secure

**Significance:** Long history of battles; 1840 – defeat British; resisted Soviets and Taliban

# Central Afghanistan – Bamyan



**Ethnic Groups:**  
Majority Hazara  
Tajik - 15%  
Tatars

**Languages:**  
Dari - 96%  
Some Pashtu

# Bamyan Province - Capital: Bamyan

**Geography and Climate:** Dry mountainous terrain; several rivers, including Punjab; Band-e-Amir lakes

**Economy:** Agriculture, livestock; day labor secondary

**Drug Production/Trafficking:** Some reports of trafficking; small scale poppy cultivation

**Dangers/Concerns:** Many landmines

**Significance:** Cultural capital of Hazaras; generally opposed to Taliban; strategically placed to thrive from Silk Road; Buddhists of Bamyan statues destroyed by Taliban; first female governor

# LANGUAGE GUIDE



# LANGUAGE GUIDE

- **Dari (Afghan Persian/Farsi) and Pashtu are the official languages of Afghanistan**
- **Pashtu was declared the National Language of the country during the beginning of King Zahir in 1933; however, Dari has always been used for business and government transactions**
- **Pashtu is primarily spoken in Southern areas and the Eastern areas bordering Pakistan; Dari is used in much of the rest of the country**
- **Dari only differs slightly from Persian Farsi; both use the same alphabet**
- **Pashtu has an alphabet distinct from Farsi/Dari; there are two main dialects (Southern and Northern) that slightly vary from one another (all dialects are mutually understood by all Pashtu speakers)**
- **A significant percentage of the vocabulary of both languages is borrowed from Arabic**

# Directions

\*rooba roowi  
makhamakh



straight

\*shamaal  
shamaal

N

\*maabayn  
po manz ke



between

\*gharb  
gharb

W

\*sharq  
sharq

E

\*chap  
chop



left

S

\*junoob  
junoob

\*raas  
khe



right

**Hello**  
salaam

**Reply**  
salaam

**Hello(formal)**  
salaam alaykum

**Good Evening**  
soub bakhair

**Reply**  
waalaykum asalaam

**Reply**  
soub bakhair

**Goodbye**  
khudaa aafayz

**Reply**  
khudaa aafayz

**How are you?**  
chetoor astayn?

**I am fine**  
khoob astum

**Please**  
lutfan

**Thank you**  
tashakur

**Reply**  
khoyesh maykonum

**Yes**  
balay

**No**  
nay

**This/that**  
ee/oo

**Here/there**  
eenja/oonja

**Do you understand?**  
faameedayn?

**I don't understand**  
na faameedum

**Sorry**  
bobakhshayn

**Can you repeat that**  
takraar kounayn?

**Speak slowly**  
aastaa-staa gap  
bayzanayn

**Show me**  
neshaan betayn

**I**  
ma

**you**  
shumaa (pl/polite)  
too (sg/familiar)

**they**  
oonaa

**he/she/it**  
oo

**yours**  
az ahumaa

**theirs**  
az oonaa

**Hello**  
Salaamu alaikum

**Reply**  
Walaikum salaam

**Good morning**  
Sahaar pa khair

**Good Evening**  
Mashaam pa khair

**Goodbye**  
De khuday pa amaan

**Reply**  
Pa makha de sha

**How are you?**  
Tsunga ye?

**I am fine**  
Za sha yam

**Please**  
Lutfan

**Thank you**  
Manana

**Reply**  
Hila kawam

**Yes**  
Ho

**No**  
Na

**This/that**  
Dagha/Hagha

**Here/there**  
Dalta/Halta

**Do you understand?**  
Taase puhezhai?

**I don't understand**  
Za na puhezham

**Can you repeat that**  
Taase byaa wayalai sai?

**Speak slowly**  
Qaraar wawaayaast

**Show me**  
Maa te washayaast

**I**  
Za

**you**  
taase

**they**  
haghoi

**he**  
hagha

**she**  
hagha

**yours**  
staasi

**theirs**  
De haghoi

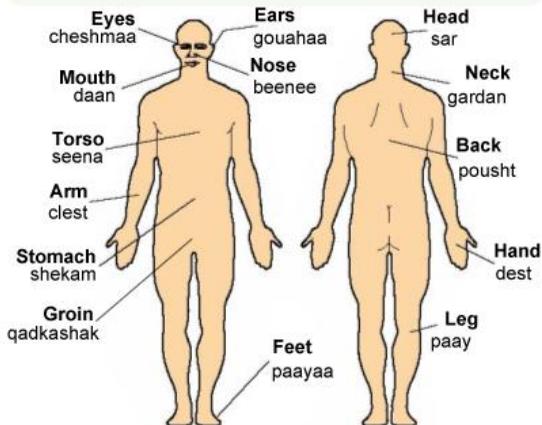
# Medical Terminology

Dari

Pashtu

Where is the pain?  
Where are you injured?

kujaa-ayt dard maykona?  
kujaa-ayt zakhmee shuda?



I am going to dress the wound

ma zakhama paansmaan maykonum

I am going to give you an injection

ma sumaa-ra petchkoree maykonum

I am going to give you this medicine

ma be shumaa ee dawaa-ra maytum

**Hospital**  
shafaakhaana

**Doctor**  
daaktar

**Sick**  
mareez

**Wounded**  
zakhmee

**Shot**  
marmee khoorda

**Burnt**  
soukhta

**Injury**

zakhem

**Infection**

zakhem meekroubee

**Blood**

khoon

**Bandage**

baandaazh

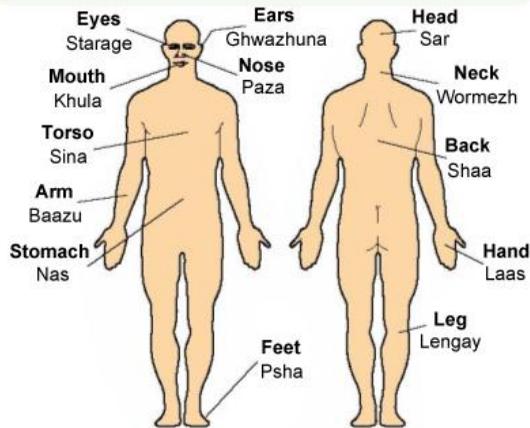
**Dead**  
mourda

**Medicine**  
dawaa

**Injection**  
petchkoree

Where is the pain?  
Where are you injured?

Dard cheri day?  
Zakhm cheri day?



I am going to dress the wound

Za pa zakhm patai lagawam

I am going to give you an injection

Za taase te pechkaari lagawam

I am going to give you this medicine

Za taase te dagha darmal darkawam

**Hospital**  
Roghtun

**Doctor**  
Daaktar

**Sick**  
Naarogh

**Wounded**  
Zakhmi

**Shot**  
Wishtalay

**Burnt**  
Swadzedalay

**Injury**  
Zakhm

**Blood**  
Wina

**Bandage**  
Patai

**Dead**  
Maray

**Medicine**  
Darmal

**Injection**  
Pechkaari

# Dari

# Directions/Orders

# Pashtu

|                                |                                   |  |                                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Stop (person)</b><br>draysh | <b>Stop (a vehicle)</b><br>draysh | <b>Stop or I'll shoot</b><br>draysh aga nay<br>faeer maykounum | <b>Do not move</b><br>shour nakhou |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|

|                                    |   |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Do not shoot</b><br>faeer nakou | <b>Do not raise your weapon</b><br>salaaeeta baalaa nakou | <b>Surrender</b><br>taseem shou |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|

|   |                                  |                              |                            |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Put your weapon down</b><br>salaaeeta pertou | <b>Hands up</b><br>destaa baalaa | <b>Lie down</b><br>prout kou | <b>Sit down</b><br>beeshee |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|

|                              |                                   |  |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Get up</b><br>estaad shou | <b>Turn around</b><br>daor bukhou | <b>Walk forward (to me)</b><br>paysh byo | <b>Walk forward (away from me)</b><br>door burou |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|

|                                |                                 |                                  |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Come here</b><br>eenia bjaa | <b>Come out</b><br>beeroon byaa | <b>Stay there</b><br>oonja beash | <b>Stay here</b><br>eenja beash |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

|                           |                           |                                    |                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Move</b><br>arakat kou | <b>Hurry</b><br>ajala kou | <b>Be quiet</b><br>khaamoosh baash | <b>Hands down</b><br>destaa paayeen |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Please open the door</b><br>lutfan darwaazara waaz konayn | <b>Open the door</b><br>darwaazara waaz kou |
|--|---|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Can we come in and ask you some questions?</b><br>maytaanayn daroun byaayaym ou az shumaa chand sawaal kounayn? | <b>Can I see your papers?</b><br>maytaanum asnaadaitouna bebeenum? |
|--|--|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>We must search you</b><br>maa beayad shumaara talashee konaym | <b>We must search your house</b><br>maa beayad khaana-ay shumaara talashee konaym |
|--|---|

|   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>You are free to go</b><br>maytonayn burayn | <b>You are under arrest</b><br>bendeet maykonum | <b>Disperse</b><br>door shawayn |
|---|---|---------------------------------|

|                                 |                         |                                    |                                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Go home</b><br>khaana burayn | <b>Go away</b><br>bunou | <b>Form a line</b><br>lain shawayn | <b>One at a time</b><br>yak yak nafer |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

|                               |                                     |   |                                |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Stop (person)</b><br>Drezh | <b>Stop (a vehicle)</b><br>Wadrezha | <b>Stop or I'll shoot</b><br>Drezh yaa za daz kawam | <b>Do not move</b><br>Ma shora |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|

|                                    |  |                            |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Do not shoot</b><br>Daz ma kawa | <b>Do not raise your weapon</b><br>Khpala wasla ma akhla | <b>Surrender</b><br>Taslim |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|

|  |                                  |                         |                            |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Put your weapon down</b><br>Khpala wasla kshezh dai | <b>Hands up</b><br>Laasuna porta | <b>Lie down</b><br>Prot | <b>Sit down</b><br>Kshenai |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|

|                            |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Get up</b><br>Porta sai | <b>Turn around</b><br>Shaa garzd | <b>Walk forward</b><br>Makh te dzai |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|                                  |                                |                                      |                                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Come here</b><br>Dalta raasai | <b>Come out</b><br>Raa wawdzai | <b>Stay there</b><br>Halta paata sai | <b>Stay here</b><br>Dalta paata sai |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|                     |                      |                             |                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Move</b><br>Dzai | <b>Hurry</b><br>Zhar | <b>Be quiet</b><br>Chup sai | <b>Hands down</b><br>Lasuna kshata |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Please open the door</b><br>Lutfan darwaaza khlaasa kra | <b>Open the door</b><br>Darwaaza khlaasa kra |
|--|--|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Can we come in and ask you some questions?</b><br>Muzh danana tai su, ao tso pushtane kawalai su? | <b>Can I see your papers?</b><br>Za staase asnaad katalai sam? |
|--|--|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>We must search you</b><br>Muzh taase talaashi kawu | <b>We must search your house</b><br>Muzh staase kor talaashi kawu |
|---|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>You are free to go</b><br>Taase tay sai | <b>You are under arrest</b><br>Taase bandyaan yaast |
|--|---|

|                                |                              |                              |                                  |                                     |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Disperse</b><br>Khwaara sai | <b>Go home</b><br>Korta dzai | <b>Go away</b><br>Hista dzai | <b>Form a line</b><br>Qataar sai | <b>One at a time</b><br>Pa waar yao |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

# People

Dari

Pashtu

Afghani dress  
kaalaa-ay afghaaneee



Man  
mard

Woman  
zan

Western dress  
kaalaa-ay khaarejee



Child  
tefi

Man  
mard

Woman  
zan



Old  
peer



Young  
jawaan



Western  
khaarejee



Afghani  
afghaan



American  
Soldier  
askaray  
amreekee



Afghani  
soldier  
askar-ay  
afghaan



Policeman  
poulees



Bomber  
bangozaar



Thief  
duz



Fighter  
maleesha

Where are they?  
What do they look like?

oonaa kujaastayn?  
oonaa cheqesem  
maaloom mayshan?

|      |       |      |     |       |
|------|-------|------|-----|-------|
| 0 ·  | 9 9   | 8 ʌ  | 7 ʏ | 6 ʝ   |
| sefr | nou   | asht | aft | shash |
| 5 ʂ  | 4 ʝ   | 3 ʝ  | 2 ʝ | 1 ʝ   |
| panj | chaar | say  | doo | yak   |

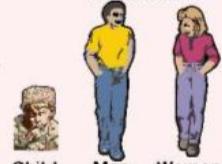
Afghani dress  
Afghaani kaali



Man  
Saray

Woman  
Shadza

Western dress  
Gharbi kaali



Child  
Halak

Man  
Saray

Woman  
Shadza



Old  
Zor



Young  
Dzwaan



Western  
Gharbi



Afghani  
Afghaan



American  
Soldier  
Amrikaayi  
askar



Afghani  
soldier  
Afghan askar



Policeman  
Polis



Bomber  
Bam  
achawunkay



Thief  
Ghal



Fighter  
Jangaalay

Where are they?  
What do they look like?

Haghoi cheri di?  
Haghoi tsa dawal di?

|        |        |     |     |        |
|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------|
| 0 ·    | 9 9    | 8 ʌ | 7 ʏ | 6 ʝ    |
| Sefer  | Naha   | Ata | Uwa | Shpazh |
| 5 ʂ    | 4 ʝ    | 3 ʝ | 2 ʝ | 1 ʝ    |
| Pindza | Tsalor | Dre | Dwa | Yao    |

# Places

Dari

Pashtu



House  
khaana



Village  
qaryaa



Town  
Shaar



Camp  
kamp



Police Station  
maamooriyat-ay poulees



Hospital  
shefaakhaana



Mosque  
masjet



Road  
sarak



Junction  
chaaraayee



Crossing/traffic signals  
eshaar-ay tarafeekke



Bridge  
pul



Market  
baazaar



Fence  
daywaal-ay khaardaar



Wall  
daywaal



Poppy Field  
zameenaa-ay kouknaar



Wood  
jungal



Mountain  
kou



River  
daryaa



Desert  
dasht



Field  
zameena



Obstacle  
mawaanay



Minefield  
mainzaar



House  
Kor



Village  
Kalay



Town  
Shaar



Camp  
Kamp



Police Station  
Maamuryat



Hospital  
Roghtun



Mosque  
Jumaat



Road  
Sarak



Junction  
Duraahi



Crossing/traffic signals  
Traafik chiraagh



Bridge  
Pul



Market  
Bazaar



Fence  
Kataara



Wall  
Dewaal



Poppy Field  
Koknaaro karwanda



Wood  
Dzangal



Mountain  
Ghar



River  
Rod



Desert  
Dasht



Field  
Saaha



Obstacle  
Khand



Minefield  
Main Saaha

**WHEN** che wakht?  
**When did this happen?** ee chee wakht shud?

**WHERE** kujaa?  
**Where are you from?** az kujaa astayn?  
**Where are you going?** kujaa mayrayn?  
**Where did this happen?** da kujaa waaqee shud?  
**Where is?** ... kujaas?  
**Where are?** ... kujaastan?

**WHAT** chee?  
**What do you want?** chee maykhoyayn?  
**What is your name?** naam-ay shumma chees?  
**What time?** chand bajas?

**WHO** kee?  
**Who are you?** keestayn  
**Who were they?** oonaakee boodan?

**WHICH** direction? koodaam taraf?

**HOW** many? (for object) chad daana?  
 many? (for person) chand nafar?  
 How far? cheqa door?

**DO YOU** have? ... daarayn?  
**Do you have ID (or ID card)?** tazkira (kaard-ay hooyat) daarayn?  
**Do you have weapons?** salaa daarayn?

**DO YOU** need?  
**Do you need help?** ... kaar daarayn?  
 koumak kaar daarayn?  
**Do you need water?** ao kaar daarayn?

**WHEN** Kala?  
**When did this happen?** Hagha kala waswal?

**WHERE** Cheri?  
**Where are you from?** Taase de kum dzay yaast?  
**Where are you going?** Taase cheri dzai?  
**Where did this happen?** Hagha cheri wasu?  
**Where is?** Cheri day?  
**Where are?** Cheri di?

**WHAT** Tse?  
**What do you want?** Taase tse ghwaarai?  
**What is your name?** Staase num tse day?  
**What time?** Tse wakht?

**WHO** Tsok?  
**Who are you?** Taase tsok yaast?  
**Who were they?** Haghoi tsok wu?

**WHICH** direction? Kume khwaa?

**HOW** many? Tsumra?  
 How far? Tsumra lare?

**DO YOU** have? Taase larai?  
**Do you have ID?** Taase pezhand paana larai?  
**Do you have weapons?** Taase wasla larai?

**DO YOU** need? Taase artya larai?  
**Do you need help?** Taase mraste te artyaa larai?  
**Do you need water?** Taase wabo te artyaa larai?

Dari

# Time

Pashtu

**How long ago?** cheqa wakht paysh?  
**How long until?** taa chee wakht?  
**O'clock** Baja

**How long ago?** Tsumra pa khwaa?  
**How long until?** Tar kala?  
**O'clock** Bajе

**Before** paysh az  
**After** baad az

**Before** Makhke  
**After** Wrusta



**5 minutes** panj daqa  
**10 minutes** da daqa  
**15 minutes** paanzda daqa  
**20 minutes** beest daqa  
**30 minutes** see daqa  
**1 hour** yak saat  
**Hour** saat

**5 minutes** Pindza daqice  
**10 minutes** Las daqice  
**15 minutes** Pindzalas daqice  
**20 minutes** Shal daqice  
**30 minutes** Dersh daqice  
**1 hour** Yaw saat  
**Hour** Saat

**Today** emrouz  
**Yesterday** deerouz  
**Tomorrow** fardaa  
**This week** ee afta  
**This month** ee maa

**Today** Nan  
**Yesterday** Parun  
**Tomorrow** Sabaa  
**This week** Dagha wunai  
**This month** Dagha myaast

**Next week** afta-ay aayenda  
**Last week** afta-ay paysh

**Next month** maa-ay aayenda  
**Last month** maa-ay paysh

**Next week** Raarawaana wunai  
**Last week** Ter wunai

**Next month** Raarawaana myaast  
**Last month** Tera myaast

**Morning** soub  
**Afternoon** bad az chaast  
**Evening** shaam  
**Day** rouz  
**At Night** da shaow  
**Now** aalay  
**Later** pasaan

**Saturday** shambay  
**Sunday** yakshambay  
**Monday** dushambay  
**Tuesday** sayshambay  
**Wednesday** chaarshambay  
**Thursday** penjshambay  
**Friday** jooma

**Morning** Sahaar  
**Afternoon** Gharma  
**Evening** Mashaam  
**Day** Wradz  
**At Night** Deshpe  
**Now** Wus  
**Later** Wrusta

**Saturday** Shamba  
**Sunday** Yakshamba  
**Monday** Dushamba  
**Tuesday** Seshamba  
**Wednesday** Chaarshamba  
**Thursday** Panjshamba  
**Friday** Juma

# Check Point Terminology

Dari

Pashtu



moutar

bei four

laree

shatur



Switch off the engine  
moutar gul kou



moutarsekel



baisekel



karachee



Get out of the car  
az moutar  
paayaan shou

Turn off the lights  
cheraaghaa-ayta  
gul kou

**SHOW ME**

Your vehicle registration

asnod moutareta neshaan betayn

Show me your driving licence

layeanseta neshaan betayn

Show me your weapon authorisation card

kart-ay salaaeeta neshaan betayn

We must search your car

maa baayad moutareta talashee konaym



Open the hood  
baanateta woz kou



Open the trunk  
toolbakseta woz kou

Close the hood  
beanateta besta kou

Close the trunk  
toolbakseta besta kou

You may go  
maytaanee buree



surkh



naarenjee



zard



sabz



aabee



naswaaree



safayd



syaa



Motar

For bai for

Laarai

Wush



Switch off the engine  
Motar band krai



Motarsikal



Baaisikal



Karaachai



Get out of the car  
La motar raawao dzai

Turn off the lights  
Chiraghuna gwai krai

**SHOW ME**

Your vehicle registration

De motar asnaad shkaara krai

Show me your driving licence

Staase jawaaz shkaara krai

Show me your weapon authorisation card

De wasle jawaaz shkaara krai

We must search your car

Muzh staase motar talaashi kawu



Open the hood  
Baanat khlaas krai



Open the trunk  
Shaa khlaasa krai

Close the hood  
Baanat band krai

Close the trunk  
Shaa banda krai

You may go  
Taase t'ai sai



Sur



Naaranji



Zhar



Zarghun



Shin



Naswaari



Spin



Tor

# Weapons

Dari

Pashtu

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Pistol</b><br>tufangcha   | <b>Rifle</b><br>tufang  | <b>Machine gun</b><br>maasheendaar  | <b>Grenade</b><br>bam-ay destee   | <b>Explosives</b><br>mawaad-ay monfajera  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Mortar</b><br>aawaan  | <b>Rocket</b><br>raaket   | <b>RPG</b><br>raaket-ay sar shaanayee   | <b>Bomb</b><br>bam  | <b>Mine</b><br>main   |

**What type of weapons?**  
chee qesem salaa?

**Where are they hidden/stored?**  
kujaa put shudan?



**Weapons Cache**  
zakheer-ay salaa

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Human bomb</b><br>bamgozaar-ay entehaaree                                      | <b>Car bomb</b><br>bam-ay moutaree  | <b>Explosion</b><br>enfejaar  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Boobytrap</b><br>daam  | <b>Roadside bomb</b><br>bam da kenaar-ay sarak                                    | <b>Convoy</b><br>qataar   |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Armoured</b><br>zayraypoush  | <b>Tank</b><br>taank  | <b>Artillery</b><br>toup  | <b>Plane</b><br>tayaara   |

|   |
|---|
|  |
| <b>Helicopter</b><br>aleekoptar   |

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Ambush</b>     | kameen        |
| <b>Shoot down</b> | soqoot daadan |
| <b>Attack</b>     | hamla         |

|   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Pistol</b><br>Tupaancha  | <b>Rifle</b><br>Topak   | <b>Machine gun</b><br>Maashingana  | <b>Grenade</b><br>Laasi bam   | <b>Explosives</b><br>chaodedunki toki   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Mortar</b><br>Haawaan  | <b>Rocket</b><br>Toghday  | <b>RPG</b><br>Raaket   | <b>Bomb</b><br>Bam  | <b>Mine</b><br>Main   |

**What type of weapons?**  
Tea dawal wasla?

**Where are they hidden/stored?**  
Cheri prate di?



**Weapons Cache**  
Wasla newal

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Human bomb</b><br>Insaani bam  | <b>Car bomb</b><br>Motar bam   | <b>Explosion</b><br>Chaodana  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Boobytrap</b><br>Luma  | <b>Roadside bomb</b><br>Sarak sara bam   | <b>Convoy</b><br>Kaarwaan   |

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Armoured</b><br>Zgharawaal motar   | <b>Tank</b><br>Taank   | <b>Artillery</b><br>Topkhaana   | <b>Plane</b><br>Alwataka  |

|   |
|---|
|  |
| <b>Helicopter</b><br>Churlaka   |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| <b>Ambush</b>     | Kamin   |
| <b>Shoot down</b> | Wishtal |
| <b>Attack</b>     | Brid    |

# Vocabulary

## Basic Words

| English   | Dari            | Pashtu              |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| hello     | salaam          | as-salaamu 'alaykum |
| welcome   | khoosh aamadeyn | kha raaghlaast      |
| no        | ney             | na                  |
| yes       | baley           | ho                  |
| please    | lutfan          | mehrabaanee         |
| excuse me | mey bakhshee    | bakhana ghwaarom    |
| right     | durust          | sahee               |
| wrong     | ghalat          | ghalat              |

# Vocabulary

## Basic Phrases

| English            | Dari                   | Pashtu              |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| good morning       | bubn ba khayr          | as-salaamu 'alaykum |
| good evening       | shab ba khayr          | shpa dee pa khayr   |
| goodbye            | baamaane khudaa        | da khoday pa amaan  |
| How are you?       | chutoor haste?         |                     |
| you are safe       | bare shumaa khtar neys | khater nashta       |
| my name is _____   | naam maa _____ as      | zama num _____ deh  |
| What is your name? | name shumaa cheest ?   | staa num tsa deh ?  |
| I am fine, thanks  | khoob astum, tashakur  | zeh khe yum manana  |

# Vocabulary

## Survival

English

Dari

Pashtu

Do you speak English?

englisi yawd dawri?

ta pe inglisee khabaree  
kawaley shee?

What is your name?

name shumaa cheest?

staa num tsa deh?

calm down

awrawm bawsh

aaraam sha

you are safe

bare shumaa khatar  
neys

taaso ta kom khatar neshta

Where is \_\_\_\_\_?

\_\_\_\_\_ da kujass?

\_\_\_\_\_ cheeree deh?

How many?

chand taw?

tso?

# Vocabulary

## Survival

| English           | Dari                                 | Pashtu                   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| shelter           | panaw gaw                            | panaw gaw                |
| medicine          | dawaw                                | dawaw                    |
| Do you need help? | shumaa ba kumak<br>zarooraa daareen? | kamak ta zaroorat laray? |
| weapons           | asleya                               | wasley                   |
| minefield         | mayn daar                            | da maayn saha            |
| danger area       | saayey khatar                        | khatar naaka seema       |
| What direction?   | kudaam taraff?                       | kamee khwaata?           |

# Vocabulary

## Survival

| English           | Dari               | Pashtu             |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Do you have_____? | shumaa_____daarin? | tasey_____larey?   |
| Where?            | kujaa?             | cheeree?           |
| What?             | chee?              | tso shey?          |
| Who?              | kee?               | tsok?              |
| Why?              | chiraa?            | walee?             |
| help me           | mara komak ko      | zamaa sara marasta |
| water             | aoo                | ooba               |
| food              | nawn               | dwodey             |

# Vocabulary

## Command and Control

| English           | Dari              | Pashtu                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| form a line       | lavin shawim      | pa gataar ke wadaregay |
| surrender         | taslim sho        | taslim sha             |
| speak slowly      | awhesta gap bezan | karaar khabaree kawa   |
| calm down         | awrawm bawsh      | aaraam sha             |
| Who is in charge? | awmer kis?        | tsok salaahiyat larey? |

# Numerals

| US | Dari  | Pashtun | US | Dari      | Pashtun   |
|----|-------|---------|----|-----------|-----------|
| 0  | sefer | sifar   | 9  | no        | naha      |
| 1  | yak   | yo      | 10 | da        | las       |
| 2  | doo   | dwa     | 11 | yaazdaa   | yolas     |
| 3  | sey   | drey    | 12 | duwaazdaa | dowlas    |
| 4  | chaar | salor   | 13 | seyzdaa   | diyaarlas |
| 5  | panj  | pinza   | 14 | chaardaa  | swaarlas  |
| 6  | shash | shpag   | 15 | panzdaa   | peenzalas |
| 7  | haft  | oowa    | 16 | shaanzdaa | shparlas  |
| 8  | hasht | ata     | 17 | havdaa    | wol-las   |

# Numerals Cont.

| US | Dari     | Pashtu    | US      | Dari          | Pashtu   |
|----|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------|
| 18 | hazh-daa | ata-las   | 90      | nawad         | navee    |
| 19 | nuzdaa   | non-las   | 100     | sad           | sel      |
| 20 | beest    | shal      | 1,000   | yag hazaar    | zer      |
| 30 | see      | dersh     | 10,000  | daa-azaar     | las zer  |
| 40 | chel     | tsalveKht | 100,000 | yak sad-azaar | sel zera |
| 50 | penjaa   | panzohs   | Million | yak melyoon   | milyon   |
| 60 | shast    | shpeeta   | first   | awal          | lomray   |
| 70 | haftaad  | awayah    | second  | du-wam        | dohom    |
| 80 | hashtaad | ateyah    | third   | sey-wum       | dreyam   |

# Cultural Proverbs, Expressions, and Idioms

- Tajik proverb says “A person's navel is on his belly while the world's navel is on the Pamirs.”
- “There is a path to the top of the highest mountain.”
- “The first day you meet, you are friends. The next day you meet, you are brothers.”
- “Don't stop a donkey that is not yours.” Meaning to mind your own business.
- “Blood cannot be washed out with blood.”
- “No rose is without thorns.”
- “Without investigating the water, don't take off your shoes to walk through it.”
- “A liar is forgetful.”
- “You can't clap with one hand.” There is strength in Union.
- “A river is made drop by drop.” Step by step, precept by precept.
- “The right answer to a fool is silence.” Silence is golden.
- “Don't show me the palm tree show me the dates.”
- “What you see in yourself is what you see in the world.”
- “Vinegar that is free, is sweeter than honey.” People love getting something for nothing.
- “A wise enemy is better than a foolish friend.” Seek good advice.
- “Fear the person who doesn't fear God.”
- “Glory is fitting to God alone.” A person should not be proud.

# Afghan Superstitions

- If your foot touches or hits another person's foot, you will get into a fight with that person, unless you shake hands right away.
- If a baby has jaundice, let it lick on cleaned gold and the jaundice will go away.
- During an eclipse if pregnant woman scratches herself, a black mark will appear on her baby.
- It's not good to let someone compliment your child too much, because they may become jinxed and bad luck may fall on them. ( This is called "Nazar"-ing a child.)
- If your cross under a rainbow, a sex change will occur. A boy will turn to a girl and a girl will turn into a boy.
- Don't click the scissors, it brings about a fight.
- Cover your bald head or else it may start raining.
- If you draw lines on the ground you will be in debt.
- Jingling your keys will cause a fight to occur.
- If a boy chews gum, his beard will grow uneven.
- After praying, you should fold a side of the prayer matt or the devil will come and pray on it.
- After reading the Quran, you should close it immediately, or the devil will come and read from it.
- You will be falsely accused of something if your feet touch a broom.
- If a male child is circumcised, fasten a piece of feroza (pure turquoise) jewelry to it's bedding above the head and his cut will heal faster and nicely.
- When a new born is brought into the house and placed into his or her bed, hanging something (jewelry etc..) with the name of Allah on it will help keep the baby safe from harm when they sleep.
- Marriage between the two holidays Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha is prohibited.
- Shaving a baby's hair will make their hair grow thicker.



## TRADOC CULTURE CENTER

### Purpose

- **Provide mission-focused culture education and training**
- **Build and enhance cross-cultural competency and regional expertise**
- **Increase effectiveness of US Soldiers in coalition and joint environment; stability, security, and humanitarian operation**

**In its effort to support US Soldiers, the TRADOC Culture Center offers the following training and products for initial military training through the Captain Career Course:**

**Region-Specific Training Support Packages Covering Countries in:**

**CENTCOM**

**AFRICOM**

**SOUTHCOM**

**PACOM**

**Core Culture Competency Training Support Packages**

**What is Culture/Who Am I**

**Influences on Culture**

**Cross-Culture Communications**

**Rapport Building**

**Cross-Culture Negotiations**

**The TRADOC Culture Center is committed to fulfilling the needs of US Soldiers and is able to provide culture training tailored to specific requests.**

**TRADOC Culture Center (TCC)**  
**Sierra Vista, AZ**

*For more information on available  
products and classes please contact:*

**Phone: 520 459 6600 / 520 459 5732**

**Fax: 520 459 8537**

**<https://icon.army.mil/apps/tcc/index.cfm>**

*To schedule Culture Training:*

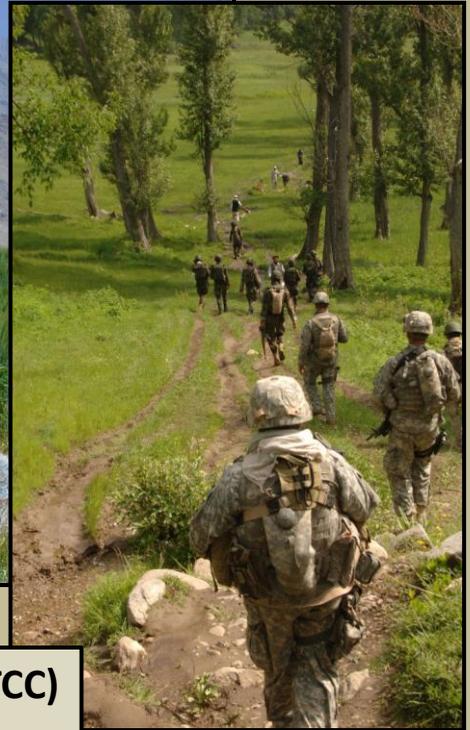
**<https://icon.army.mil/index.cfm>**

**Notes:**

**Notes:**

**Notes:**

**Notes:**



**TRADOC Culture Center (TCC)**  
**Sierra Vista, Arizona**