

STARS AND STRIPES

AFGHANISTAN

Cultural/Language and Historic Timeline

2010

FULL NAME: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Afghanistan literally means Land of the Afghan)

CAPITAL: Kabul

LOCATION: Central Asia

BORDERING COUNTRIES: Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, Pakistan

TERRAIN: Landlocked with mostly rugged mountains and some plains in the north and southwest

AREA SIZE: 647,500 square miles, slightly smaller than the state of Texas

POPULATION: 29 million (2010 estimate)

CLIMATE: Arid to semi-arid; cold winters and hot summers

RELIGION: Sunni Muslim and Shiite Muslim

LIFE EXPECTANCY: Male: 44.45 years Female: 44.87 years (2010 estimate)

INDEPENDENCE: Aug. 19, 1919, from the United Kingdom

NATIONAL HOLIDAY: Independence Day, Aug. 19

BACKGROUND: U.S.-led air strikes were launched Oct. 7, 2001, against Afghanistan for harboring Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, the top suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. A loose collection of warlords called the Northern Alliance took control and captured Kabul from the Taliban in November with the help of U.S. bombs and special forces. Troops from the U.S. and other nations have attempted to stabilize the country ever since amid violence and intimidation by the Taliban.

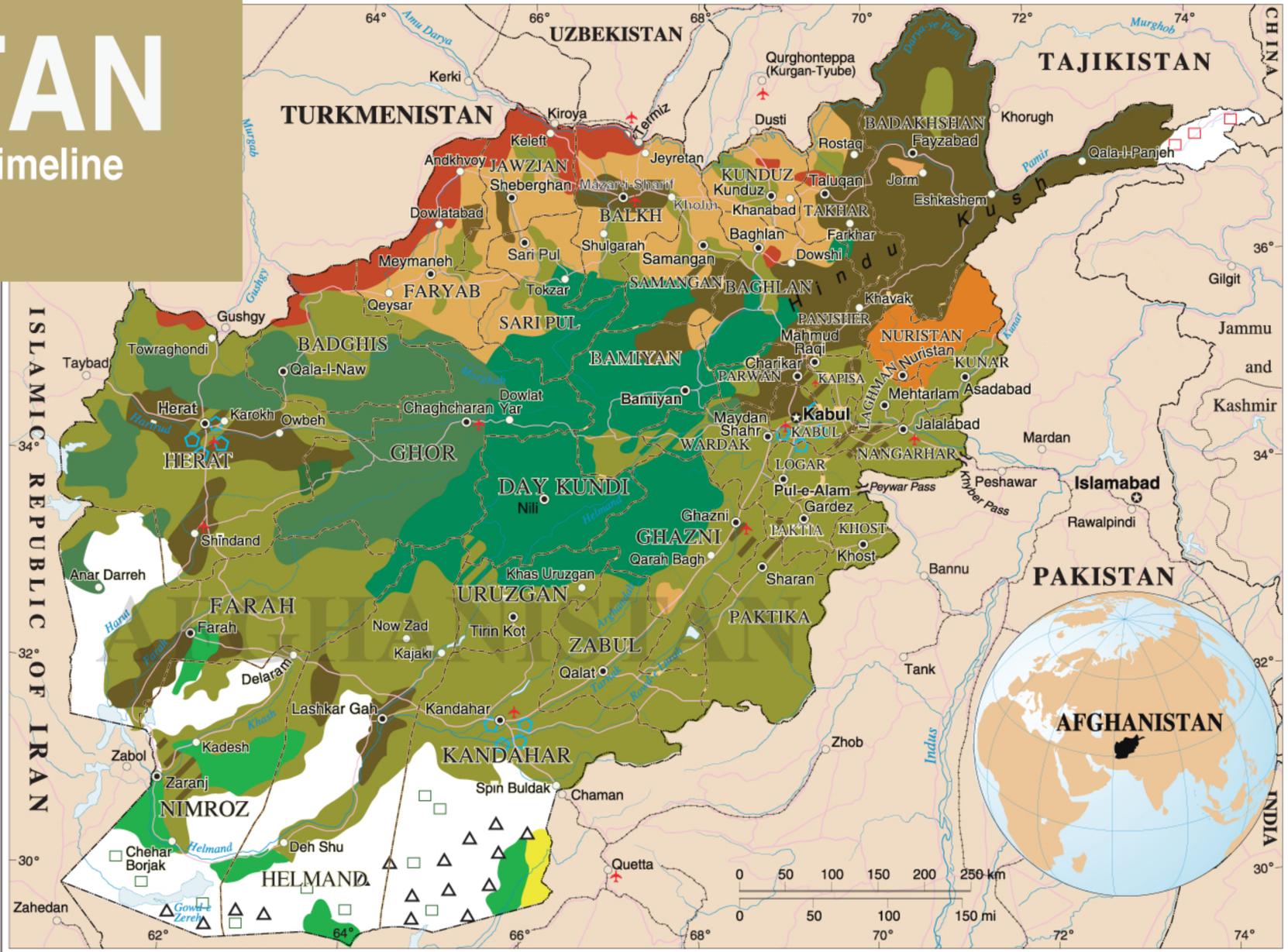
POLITICAL SITUATION: An interim administration, headed by Hamid Karzai, took power on Dec. 22, 2001, after various delegates in Bonn, Germany, signed an accord. The administration ruled for six months, and an emergency loya jirga, or meeting, was convened to decide on a transitional authority to lead Afghanistan until the people could elect a permanent government. Karzai was elected president by the loya jirga in June 2002 and appointed a cabinet. In 2004, Karzai was elected to a five-year term in the country's first nationwide post-Taliban vote. He won another term after Abdullah Abdullah, his top rival in 2009 elections, dropped out of a run-off election, saying the process was tainted.

LEGEND

- Airport
- River
- Lake
- National capital
- Provincial capital
- Town, village
- International boundary
- Provincial boundary
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Railroad
- Iranian: Baloch, Pashtun, Durrani, Ghilzai, Aimak, Qizilbash, Haxara, Tajik
- Turkic: Kirghiz, Turkmen, Uzbek
- Other: Brahui, Nuristani
- Sparsely populated or uninhabited

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by ISAF or NATO. This map is for informational purposes only and is not meant to be definitive. Ethnolinguistic group locations are approximate and are based upon open source data.



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AFGANI EVENTS	PREHISTORY	ANCIENT HISTORY	MIDDLE AGES	MODERN HISTORY
2000-1700 City of Bactra founded	3900 Great Pyramid of Giza completed	728-550 Median Confederation	1709 Peshawar Army defeated Kandahar on site	1914-1918 World War I
728-550 Median Confederation	600 Construction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon	551-529 Persian Empire	1751 British East India Company conquers present day Afghanistan	1945-1945 World War II
551-529 Persian Empire	323 Alexander the Great dies	331-323 Under the control of Alexander the Great	1818 British occupation ends	1945-1945 World War II
323-305 Under the control of Alexander the Great	221 Construction of the Great Wall starts	305 Seleucid Empire	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
305-305 Seleucid Empire	221 Construction of the Great Wall starts	305 Seleucid Empire	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
320-485 Achaemenid Empire	476 Roman Empire collapses	476 Roman Empire collapses	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
476-642 Roman Empire collapses	610 Islam begins	610 Islam begins	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
642-803 Islamic Golden Age	853 Muslims conquer Constantinople	853 Muslims conquer Constantinople	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
803-1709 Islamic Golden Age	1028 First printed book	1028 First printed book	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1709-1751 Peshawar Army defeated Kandahar on site	1295 Marco Polo returns from China	1295 Marco Polo returns from China	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1751-1776 British East India Company conquers present day Afghanistan	1492 Columbus discovers America	1492 Columbus discovers America	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1776-1842 British East India Company conquers present day Afghanistan	1503 Lodovico Da Vinci paints Mona Lisa	1503 Lodovico Da Vinci paints Mona Lisa	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1842-1861 British occupation begins	1744 Madame Tenebrum founded the first Sunday School	1744 Madame Tenebrum founded the first Sunday School	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1861-1842 British occupation begins	1776 American Declaration of Independence	1776 American Declaration of Independence	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1842-1861 British occupation begins	1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo	1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1861-1842 British occupation begins	1861-1865 US Civil War	1861-1865 US Civil War	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1842-1861 British occupation begins	1914-1918 World War I	1914-1918 World War I	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
1861-1842 British occupation begins	1918-1945 World War II	1918-1945 World War II	1842 British occupation begins	1945-1945 World War II
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