

The logo of the United Nations Security Council, featuring a globe with latitude and longitude lines, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The text is centered over the logo.

Academy Model United Nations  
2010 Conference  
Bergen County Academies

United Nations Security Council

Juliet Levine

Ideen Rahvar

## TOPIC 3: Stabilization of Afghanistan

### Historical Background



In the nineteenth century Afghanistan was exposed to European influence. “The Great Game” arose out of competition for power and influence in Central Asia between Great Britain and Russia. There were two Anglo-Afghan wars that were hastened by British concern of Russia’s influence in the region. Wars took place in 1839 and 1878. After the second war, Amir Abdur Rahman came to power in Afghanistan and ruled from 1880 to 1901. During this period the Demarcation of the Durand Line, which formed the boundaries of today’s Afghanistan, was designated by British and Russian officials.

#### Afghanistan



During the third Anglo-Afghan war, in attempts to resist further war Britain signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi in August 1919. At that point, the United Kingdom recognized Afghanistan’s independence, declared that the British-Indian empire would not extend past the Khyber Pass, and stopped British subsidies to Afghanistan. August 19 now marks the celebration of Afghanistan’s Independence Day.

#### Durand Line

armed resistance arose and took Amanullah out of power (1929).

Amanullah (1919-1929) wanted to break away from Afghanistan’s isolation and form diplomatic relations with major countries. He tried modernizing the country by putting an end to the Muslim veil that women had to wear and launching co-ed schools. The modernizations clashed with the traditional principles. It did not take long before

Mohammad Zahir Shah (1933-1973) set forth to implement democracy in 1964 but extremist factions developed. Factions included the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), which had ideological ties with the Soviet Union. In 1967, the PDPA divided into two main rival factions: the Khalq (Masses) faction lead by Nur Muhammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin and backed by fundamentals within the military,

and the Parcham (Banner) faction commanded by Babrak Karmal. The separation represented ethnic, class, and ideological divisions within Afghan society.

On April 27, 1978, the PDPA commenced a bloody coup. Nur Muhammad Taraki, Secretary General of the PDPA, stepped up to President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the newly established Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Opposition to the government emerged almost immediately. During its first 18 months of rule, the PDPA brutally imposed a Marxist-style "reform" program, which ran counter to deep-rooted Afghan traditions. In addition, thousands of members of the traditional elite, the religious establishments, and the intelligentsia were imprisoned, tortured, or murdered. Conflicts within the PDPA also surfaced, resulting in exiles, purges, imprisonments, and executions.

By the summer of 1978, an uprising started in the Nuristan region of eastern Afghanistan, leading to a countrywide rebellion. In September 1979, Hafizullah Amin, who had previously been Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, took control from Taraki. During the following two months, Amin's regime faced instability as he moved in opposition to the PDPA. By December, faith in the party was falling apart as insurgency grew.

The Soviet Union became more prominent following the 1978 coup. It signed a bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan and provided military support. The relationship backed away from being friendly as Hafizullah Amin rejected Soviet advice on stabilization and consolidation of the government in 1979. December 24, 1979 Soviets invaded Kabul killing Hafizullah Amin and putting Babrak Karmal into the role of Prime Minister. Karmal's power did not reach outside of Kabul. Afghan freedom fighters (mujahideen) suppressed his power in other regions with the help of the US and various powers. In May 1986 the Soviet rule fell apart and Muhammad Najibullah replaced Karmal. He too sided with the Soviets for support.

During the mid-1980s, the US along with Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan supported the Afghan resistance movement. Beginning in 1982, Soviet withdrawal was established. In 1988 the Geneva accords were signed for the complete Soviet withdrawal by February 15, 1989. From 1979 and 1989 around 14,500 Soviets and about one million Afghans died. The mujahideen did not accept the terms of accords and civil war broke out. Najibullah's regime lasted until 1992 but fell apart when Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostam and his Uzbek militia fell in March. The mujahideen did not win and take over the government; instead, fighting continued between militias. Ethnic, clan, religious, and personality differences arose, and the civil war carried on.

An interim Islamic Jihad Council in mid-April 1992 to control Kabul was set up but fighting broke out between forces. Prime Ministers were not lasting long. The presence of anarchy grew. The country was being ruled by different leaders in each region. In the mid-1990s the Taliban responded to the anarchy. Beginning with the defeat of the city of Kandahar in 1994, the Taliban expanded their power in Afghanistan. By 1996 they had

overcome Kabul. By the end of 1998, the Taliban were in control of approximately 90% of the country with little opposition











































During the mid-1990s, Osama bin Ladin, along with other terrorist organizations that offered financial and political assistance to the Taliban, took base in Afghanistan. Bin Laden and his Al-Qaida group were held responsible for the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam in 1998. August 1998 the United States deployed a cruise missile attack against bin Laden's terrorist camp in southeastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden and Al-Qaida have accepted the blame for the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the US.

By October 7, 2001 the anti-terrorist coalition was going after terrorist facilities and Taliban military and political assets in Afghanistan. The Taliban lost control of Kabul on November 13, 2001. The "Bonn Agreement," enforced by the United Nations allowed for an Afghan Interim Authority. Hamid Karzai was Chairman. The "Loya Jirga" (Grand Council) in mid-June 2002 determined the structure of a Transitional Authority. The government became known as the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA). A constitution was ratified by January 4, 2004. On December 7, 2004, the country became known as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

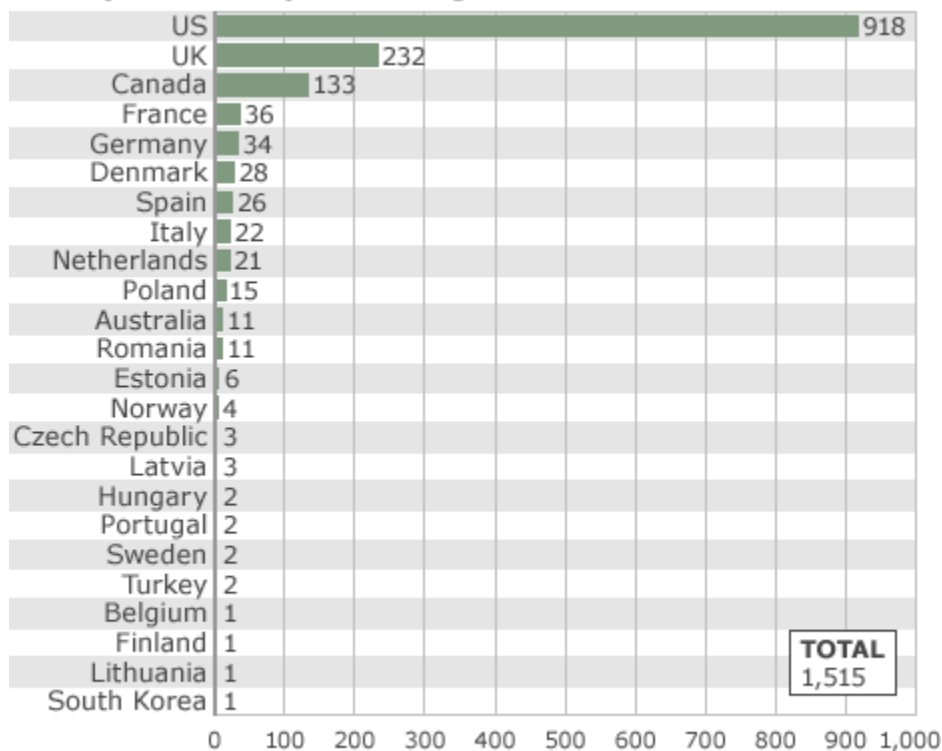
## Current Situation

The pledged total number of troops in Afghanistan includes 100,000 US troops and 10,000 UK troops. Over 40 countries contribute forces to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

### Breakdown of ISAF troop contributing nations

 Albania	250	 FYROM*	165	 Norway	480
 Australia	1,350	 Georgia	1	 Poland	1,910
 Austria	4	 Germany	4,365	 Portugal	145
 Azerbaijan	90	 Greece	145	 Romania	990
 Belgium	530	 Hungary	360	 Singapore	2
 Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	 Iceland	2	 Slovakia	245
 Bulgaria	460	 Ireland	7	 Slovenia	130
 Canada	2,830	 Italy	2,795	 Spain	1,000
 Croatia	290	 Jordan	7	 Sweden	430
 Czech Rep	480	 Latvia	175	 Turkey	720
 Denmark	690	 Lithuania	250	 Ukraine	10
 Estonia	150	 Luxembourg	8	 UAE	25
 Finland	165	 Netherlands	2,160	 UK	9,000
 France	3,095	 NZ	300	 US	34,800
Total (approx.): 71,030					

\* Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Military fatalities by nation: Afghanistan 2001-2009\***

\*to 11 November 2009

Source: icasualties.org

The US presence in Afghanistan since 2001 has been showing signs of positive outcomes. Afghanistan had its first democratic presidential election in October 2004. There were roughly eight million voters and of these eight million 41% were women. The winner of this election was Hamid Karzai. Karzai is a Pashtun leader. He was Afghanistan's first democratically elected president.

Karzai was reelected in August 2009 as President. Mr Karzai has defended the presence of international troops in Afghanistan but has been critical of coalition air strikes that have caused heavy civilian casualties. This summer (2010) the National Assembly elections will take place. This includes the Wolesi Jirga (lower house) and Meshrano Jirga (upper house). The Afghanistan Independent Election Commission (IEC) will run the elections with the assistance of the United Nations.

The US's monetary contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction from fiscal year 2001 to the present was over \$32 billion. During and Afghanistan support conference in Paris in June 2008 donors pledged assistance for the rebuilding of Afghanistan. The international community as a whole, not just the US, has made multi-year reconstruction and security assistance pledges to Afghanistan totaling over \$42 billion.

Gradually the Afghani government is gaining more control and security over its borders. This is due to the support Afghanistan receives from the international community through Operation Enduring Freedom and NATO-led international Security Assistance Force (ISAF). ISAF has been responsible for security in Afghanistan since

2006. ISAF, in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, conducts operations in Afghanistan to reduce the capability and will of the insurgency, support the growth in capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and facilitate improvements in governance and socio-economic development, in order to provide a secure environment for sustainable stability that is observable to the population. Afghani forces are steadily growing in number. Since November 2008 almost seventy thousand Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and approximately seventy-six thousand police, including border and civil order police, received training. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board approved the request to increase the size of ANA from 86,000 to 134,000.

### *Key Players*

**America** - Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is the US's plan. Their goal in Afghanistan is to create a peaceful and democratic society free of the harms that come with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

**Britain** - Operation Herrick is the British plan. The British basically have the same goals as the Americans, and they are both part of the same coalition (the Northern Alliance).

**Afghanistan**- Afghanistan's new government also wants to end the constant insurgencies and more importantly the influence that the Taliban and Al-Qaeda have in Afghanistan.

## Questions to Consider

- 1) Will Afghanistan be able to support itself financially without the help of the US and the international community?
- 2) Will these democratic elections in Afghanistan continue to function properly?
- 3) How long will it take for Afghanistan's National Security Forces to be able to keep Afghanistan secure without the help of the US or NATO? Will this hinder the US's timetable for leaving Afghanistan?
- 4) Should the US try to speed up the withdrawal of their troops in Afghanistan?
- 5) Is Barack Obama's idea of more troops necessary right now?
- 6) Should the US and Afghanistan worry about influence from Afghanistan's neighbors such as Iran or Pakistan?

## Sources and Research Links

US Dept of State - Afghanistan: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5380.htm>

BBC – Afghanistan country profile

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/country\\_profiles/1162668.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles/1162668.stm)

CIA World Factbook: Afghanistan <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

BBC- Afghan Troop Maps: US and NATO deployments  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8389351.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8389351.stm)

BBC- Afghanistan: Key facts and figures  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/8143196.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8143196.stm)