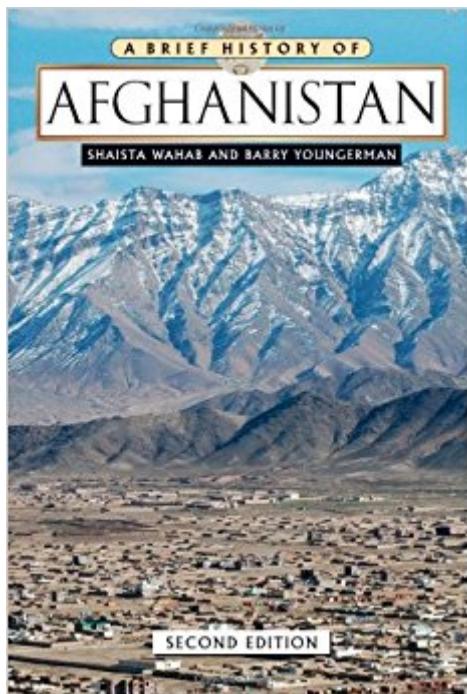


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# A Brief History Of Afghanistan



## Synopsis

Afghanistan has long been considered a remote and uninviting country to all but its closest neighbors. This lightly populated agricultural and pastoral nation has guarded its independence in the age of European imperialism thanks in large part to its limited perceived value. Political isolation reinforced by a conservative tribal culture kept most of the cultural and economic changes of the modern world at bay. Slowly, however, modern ways and values began to penetrate into the capital city of Kabul. *A Brief History of Afghanistan, Second Edition* examines this country's isolation and how it found itself involved in 30 years of war and anarchy. This updated resource provides extensive background information so readers can understand the issues and make informed judgments of their own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School—A good choice for teens interested in a synoptic view of Afghanistan from prehistory to 2006. Located along the trade routes that connected the continents of Europe and Asia, the country was exposed to a plethora of ideas and ethnicities over the centuries. Arab forays (ca. 650) introduced what would become the most unifying influence—Islam. The majority of the book, however, focuses on the period from 1747, when modern Afghanistan was founded under Ahmad Shah, to the present. Wahab covers the Great Game between the Russian and British empires, the unrest of the 20th century, the Soviet occupation of the 1980s, the rise of the mujahideen, and the Taliban era and the civil war that followed, and concludes with a chapter

summarizing the current status of her native country. (Wahab immigrated to the U.S. in 1981, but returned briefly in late 2002-early 2003 to film the PBS documentary, *Afghanistan Unveiled*.) The book contains dozens of black-and-white photographs as well as numerous sidebars on a variety of subjects from important personages to national flags. ©Dori DeSpain, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

... "scholarly in its depth of research, with an abundance of details and an attractive format... well documented, interesting to read and understand, and visually appealing." --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

I, as native Afghan knowing my history and writing about it in Dari, I found this book to be excellent. It is a great asset for the young Afghans who are not able to read our voluminous resources in Dari or English. It is precise. it is short, it is nicely written with really nice photos. I congratulate the Authors. I have already recommended this book to our young Afghans borne in USA. On September during my talk on the "History of Medicine in Afghanistan", at Afghan Medical Professional Association annual meeting in Virginia, I am planning to talk briefly about this super book .Ghulam M Dastgeer MD, FRCS (retired)

Afghanistan is often viewed through the lens of "the war on terror." But area specialists, however, see Afghanistan as the gateway to the energy-rich Central Asian and Caspian fossil-fuel deposits. Endemic violence and dwindling supply from traditional sources serves as a midwife among world powers to control sources now thought to surpass the Middle East. Afghanistan is key to their strategies. While the war on terror is the official justification proffered for resultant and permanent military bases, in reality, competition between Iran, Russia, China, and the United States for untapped reserves along with pipeline access is the unstated, motive force. Shaista Wahab's "A Brief History of Afghanistan" is a remarkable view of what makes Afghanistan tick. A thorough analysis of religion, the people, the land, and the political dynamism that is the mosaic of Afghanistan. In view of superpower activities in this remote and austere land, those with a serious interest in the fabric of the country along with its tumultuous history will find this historical work educational as well as compelling. Richly illustrated, and invaluable as a research tool, this book is a must for serious students of Afghanistan. Bruce G. Richardson Author: "Afghanistan, Ending the Reign of Soviet Terror."

This book is just long enough to inform about history but not so long that it turns boring.

This is a very basic and brief history of Afghanistan. It appears to be most suitable as a high school or freshman college introductory text. There are brief chapters on ancient history and culture, with more detailed chapters for more modern times. While the book covers social and cultural history, it mostly focuses on the political history of the country, leaning even more toward the political realm as it gets into more recent history. Overall, for me, this text was much too basic. While the early chapters on ancient history and culture were informative, the later chapters, for someone who has studied the history of the country, were not as useful. I would say this is a good starting point for someone who knows nothing about the history of Afghanistan. The drawback is the writing style is very tedious and boring. I feel sorry for any students who are forced to read this. The writing is clear enough, but it is just plain drab.

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