

Timeline

Anglo-Afghan Wars

During a seventy-year span there were three major Anglo-Afghan wars (between the British-Indian territory and Afghan tribes): 1839–42, 1878–80 and 1919. Although the British won control of Afghan foreign affairs, they were never successful at making Afghanistan a colony. The British lost control of Afghan foreign affairs on 19 August 1919.

Afghanistan Modern-day Timeline: 1919–2010

A chronology of key events.

1919: Amanullah becomes King.

1919: After the third war with Great Britain, Afghanistan regains full independence.

1926: King Amanullah introduces social reforms.

1929: King Amanullah is forced to flee due to strong opposition from conservative forces.

1929: Nadir is declared King by an assembly of tribal chiefs.

1933: King Nadir is assassinated at a school-prize competition.

1933: Nadir's son, nineteen-year-old Zahir, is declared King.

1953: General Mohammed Daoud, a member of the royal family, is appointed Prime Minister by King Zahir.

1963: Daoud is forced to resign his post after seeking economic and military assistance from the Soviet Union.

1973: Daoud seizes power during a successful coup against King Zahir, who is forced into exile.

1973: President Daoud declares that the time of kings has ended, proclaiming a republic.

1978: The Soviet Union aligns closer to Afghanistan, making increasing demands for a fuller participation in the Afghanistan government.

1978: President Daoud is killed in a coup led by the People's Democratic Party, who are supported by the Soviet regime. Leaders of the party are Hafizullah Amin and Nur Muhammad Taraki.

1979: Amin and Taraki enter into a power struggle, with Amin the victor. Afghan tribes revolt and the Afghan army faces collapse. The Soviet Union sends in troops to remove Amin. Amin is executed.

1980: Babrak Karmal is installed as ruler, backed by the Soviet Union. Various Mujahedin groups fighting the Soviet forces intensify their resistance as the United States, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China and Iran supply funds and arms.

1985: War against the Soviet troops and the Soviet-appointed government further intensifies. An estimated 50 per cent of the Afghan population is displaced by war and flees to neighbouring Pakistan or Iran.

1986: The United States supplies Afghan and foreign Mujahedin fighters with stinger missiles, enabling the fighters to destroy Soviet helicopters.

1986: Babrak Karmal is replaced by Mohammed Najibullah as head of the Afghan Soviet-backed regime.

1988: The Soviet Union begins pulling out their troops after Afghanistan, the United States and Pakistan sign peace accords with the Soviet Union, although Najibullah remains in power, ensuring continuing strife between Afghan factions.

1991: The United States and the Soviet Union agree to end their associations with all fighting factions in Afghanistan. This leaves the pro-Soviet President Mohammed Najibullah exposed to various Afghan factions opposing any association with communism.

1992: President Najibullah falls from power when Kabul is captured by the Mujahedin fighters. Rival militias fight each other for control.

1993: Burhanuddin Rabbani is proclaimed President after fighting factions agree on formation of a government.

1994: Factional fighting continues with the Pashtun-dominated Taliban emerging as the main challenge to the government of President Rabbani.

1996: The Taliban, lead by Mullah Omar, seizes control of Kabul. Soon after gaining power the new government introduces the most conservative version of Islam. They enforce the strongest Islamic punishments, including stoning and amputations. Women are banned from public life, including work. Many widows and children suffer enormous hardship without a man to work or to protect them.

1997: Saudi Arabia and Pakistan recognize the Taliban while the rest of the world recognizes President Rabbani as the head of state.

1998: Much of the western world first learns about Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda when he is accused of organizing the bombings of US embassies in Africa.

1998: President Bill Clinton orders the launching of air strikes on suspected Al-Qaeda bases in Afghanistan.

1999: The UN imposes financial sanctions and air embargoes against the Afghan government and people in an attempt to force Mullah Omar and the Taliban to deliver Osama Bin Laden for trial for the African embassy bombings. Mullah Omar refuses.

2001: The Taliban blow up the famous Buddha statues despite international efforts to save them.

2001: The Taliban tighten restrictions when they order religious minorities to wear tags indentifying themselves as non-Muslims. There is an outcry from humanitarian organizations world-wide, but protests are ignored.

2001: The legendary Afghan fighter Ahmed Massoud, who is the main opposition against the Taliban, is assassinated by men posing as journalists. Many blame Al-Qaeda or the Taliban.

2001: 11 September, four US airliners are hijacked. Two of the planes are flown into the World Trade Center. One is flown into the Pentagon. The fourth crashes in Pennsylvania. 2,986 innocent people are killed in the attacks on civilian life. Al-Qaeda is named as the organizer of the attacks. The United States government requests that Mullah Omar turns over Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi organizer held responsible for the attacks on America. Mullah Omar stubbornly refuses.

2001: During the month of October, the United States and Great Britain launch air attacks against Afghanistan.

2001: During the month of November, opposition forces march into Kabul and other key Afghan cities.

2001: During the month of December, Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda followers are forced to flee Afghanistan. During this same month, Mullah Omar and the Taliban flee Kandahar, although Mullah Omar's whereabouts remain unknown.

2001: On 22 December, Pashtun royalist Hamid Karzai becomes head of a thirty-member interim power-sharing government.

2002: The first contingent of foreign peacekeepers move into Afghanistan.

2003: Allied forces continue their operations to clear Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces from the south-east region of Afghanistan.

2004: Afghanistan's grand assembly adopts a new constitution.

2004: President Karzai wins re-election with 55 per cent of the popular vote.

2005: Parliamentary and provincial elections take place for the first time in thirty years, with a few women elected to office.

2005–2006: Suicide bombings thought to be the work of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda kill nearly 200 people.

2006: NATO assumes control of Afghan security. (NOTE: During these years of international support of Afghan security, many nations have contributed by sending troops. These nations include: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Poland, as well as other members of the European Union and of NATO, and Australia, New Zealand, Azerbaijan and Singapore.)

2007: With resistance attacks from the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, surging NATO and Afghan forces jointly launch Operation Achilles, a huge offensive against the Taliban in the south.

2008: The Taliban rejects an offer of peace talks from President Karzai.

2008: Afghanistan and Pakistan governments agree jointly to fight militants in their border regions.

2009: Newly elected US President Barack Obama announces that the United States will increase its presence in Afghanistan by sending in an additional 17,000 troops. Twenty NATO countries pledge to increase their military commitments to Afghanistan.

2009: President Barack Obama announces a new US strategy for US personnel to train Afghan army and police.

2009: The United States military launches a new offensive against the Taliban in the Helmand province.

2009: Afghan presidential and provincial elections are held amid accusations of voter fraud.

2009: Hamid Karzai is declared the winner of the presidential election against opponent Abdullah Abdullah. Due to accusations of voter fraud, a run-off is called, but Abdullah Abdullah pulls out of the race before the election can be held.

2009: President Hamid Karzai is sworn in for a second term.

2009: US President Barack Obama boosts US troop numbers by another 30,000, bringing the total to 100,000, although the President announces at the same time that the United States will begin to withdraw their troops during the year 2011.

2009: Seven CIA agents are killed on a US military base in Khost when an Al-Qaeda double agent succeeds in a suicide bombing.

2010: Taliban suicide bombers and gunmen launch a bold attack in Kabul, leaving twelve people dead, including seven militants.