**FORUM:** Security Council

**ISSUE:** Situation in Afghanistan

**STUDENT OFFICER:** Emily Ho

**POSITION:** Head President of Security Council

#### Introduction

Since the dissolution of the monarchy in 1973, Afghanistan has suffered wave after wave of coups, foreign invasion, and civil war. The protracted "war on terror" that the United States waged in the country in 2001 came to an end in 2021. But what seemed to be a transition into a more peaceful era proved to be a new extreme as the Taliban became the de facto government. Under the Taliban's radical interpretation of Sharia law,

women, girls, and minorities experience



Figure #1: Taliban fighters

unprecedented discrimination. The Afghan people as a whole grapple with famine and hunger, the everpresent threat of landmines, and rampant economic instability.

# **Background**

Mohammad Zahir Shah, Afghanistan's last king, came to power in 1933. From 1953 to 1963, his prime minister was Mohammad Daud Khan, whose political differences with the king resulted in him staging a successful coup in 1973. The coup was backed by the Banner Party, one of two major factions of the Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. During his five year stint as president of Afghanistan, Daud Khan hand-selected family members and friends as members of his new cabinet, blatantly contradicting his messages of socioeconomic reforms and a more democratic society. Provoked, his former allies the Banner Party reunited with the People's Party, the other Marxist Party faction. What followed was a period of political tensions and anti-government feeling, culminating in a People's Party-affiliated coup in 1978. The coup failed to unite the two factions permanently; afterwards, the People's

Party seized complete power and implemented widespread purges of Banner Party members. Instead of bringing peace to the nation, however, the People's Party only succeeded in sparking more antigovernment sentiment among much of the population, to whom their Marxist-Leninist rhetoric was



Figure #2: Leonid Brezhnev (left), leader of the Soviet Union at the time of the Soviet invasion

synonymous with communism and sought to undermine traditional Afghan culture (Allchin and Petrov).

Amidst the violent anti-government flare-ups and general unrest, the Soviet Union invaded the country under the pretense of "provid[ing] assistance in repulsing the acts of external aggression" ("Hotline Message"). It is likely, however, that Leonid Brezhnev, leader of the Soviet Union at the time, was more interested in preserving a socialist and pro-Soviet government in the nation. The Soviets installed a puppet

government headed by Banner Party member Babrak Karmal, which succeeded in fanning the alreadyraging flame of anti-government violence and contributed directly to the rise of the *mujahideen*, militant
groups whose sole purpose was to resist the Soviet and Soviet-affiliated Afghan forces. In the ten years
afterwards, the mujahideen were engaged in a bitter war against the Soviets and their allies; as the
fighting progressed, they received aid from the United States, the United Kingdom, and China. This
enabled them to strike significant blows to the central government and Soviets. In 1989, after UNfacilitated peace talks, the Soviets finally withdrew from the country. Soon after, a coalition of
mujahideen parties formed a precarious transitional government, which did little to cure the persistent
rivalries between different armed groups and militias; even with the new administration in place, much of
the nation was still controlled by warlords and bandits (Allchin and Petrov).

As chaos ensued under the ineffective and unpopular government, a group formed from the unlikely source of religious school students in the southern regions. Dubbed the Taliban, the group espoused a policy to "restore peace, disarm the population, enforce Sharia law and defend the integrity and Islamic character of Afghanistan" (Rashid). Many of its members were refugees educated in Pakistan at religious schools, or *madrasas*, that derived their teachings from Deobandi and Wahhabi ideology. Deobandism and Wahhabism, both Islamist movements that emphasize strict moral conduct and rejection of non-Islamic thought, have been a prominent influence in the Taliban's policies (Khan). With little opposition from a populace dissatisfied with the quarreling warlords who regularly kidnapped their children and plundered their property, the Taliban began to stage raids against those in power. Pakistan, desperate for a trade route through Afghanistan to the Central Asian Republics, began to channel funds to

the Taliban in exchange for safe, bandit-free roads. With relative popular support and Pakistani financial aid at its back, the Taliban made significant gains against the local political leaders and succeeded in restoring relative peace and order to the southern province of Kandahar (Rashid). Throughout the late 90s, the Taliban rapidly rose to national prominence and in 2001, the vast majority of the country was under its control. Despite this, the Taliban government was not internationally recognized, consistently coming under fire for its exclusion of women from societal participation, archaic practices of public executions and whipping, and severe impositions on religious freedom (Allchin and Petrov).

Tensions peaked after 9/11, when the events at the World Trade Center sparked outrage in the US government and its NATO allies, specifically the UK. Intensive US investigations revealed that al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization headed by Saudi Arabian Osama bin-Laden, was behind the attacks. Osama bin-Laden first became involved militarily in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation by providing aid to the mujahideen forces there; in 1996, he moved there after being exiled first from his home country and then from Sudan due to his anti-US agenda. In Afghanistan, bin-Laden continued to dedicate himself to the activities of al-Qaeda, a terrorist network that sought to resist foreign interference it perceived as anti-Islam (PBS). On September 20, US President George W. Bush demanded that the Taliban hand over Osama bin-Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders directly to the US. "These demands are not open to

negotiation or discussion," Bush declared (CBS News). Yet the Taliban was reluctant to concede to their demands. In their eyes, bin-Laden was a guest, and to add to that, a fellow Muslim. To give him up to a foreign nation would be a violation of their social and moral code. So the Taliban proposed a compromise, agreeing to extradite him on the condition that he be tried in a Muslim country such as Egypt that would not cave to US pressure (ABC News). Refusing to accept any offers, the United



Figure #3: The US launches an extensive bombing campaign against Afghanistan

States along with its ally Britain initiated a bombing campaign on Afghanistan the next month. Unable to withstand the superior military technology of the Western forces and their Afghan allies on the ground, the Taliban surrendered completely in December (Burrows 574).

Over the next decade, the US and its NATO allies set up a transitional government under Hamid Karzai (Allchin and Petrov). Karzai, who was born in Kandahar but educated in India, began his political career by serving in the post-Soviet transitional government. During his presidency, he enjoyed widespread support from Western nations, who no doubt saw him as a bulwark against the Taliban and

other anti-Western forces. But despite this, his administration failed to provide basic services to their citizens and prevent new fluctuations in the drug trafficking trade (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica). Both US and NATO troops continued to occupy the country, charged with maintaining national security and transitioning security responsibilities to the central government troops. NATO ended its military operation in the country in 2014, but US troops remained for the sake of counterterrorism efforts and training of the Afghan troops (Allchin and Petrov). Having declared a "war on terror" after

9/11, the US had committed themselves to not only destroying al-Qaeda, but also defeating "every terrorist group of global reach" (CBS News). This entailed launching massive combat operations in Afghanistan and later Iraq, freezing the assets of suspected terrorists, and detaining suspected terrorists in facilities outside the US, often under inhumane treatment and without due legal process (National Archives).

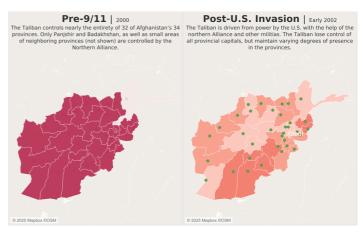


Figure #4: Taliban control before and after US invasion

At the same time, the central government, then headed by Ashraf Ghani, pursued peace talks with the Taliban insurgents, who still posed a serious problem to national security. Despite losing control over the major capitals after the US invasion, the Taliban still exercised influence in some areas, particularly in



Figure #5: US Secretary of State and Taliban Deputy Leader sign an agreement for US troops to withdraw, February 2020

the south. Their resilience can largely be attributed to their steady source of funds from the opium industry and the safe havens available in neighboring Pakistan. In 2020, the talks finally resulted in an agreement that included the withdrawal of US troops over a 14-month period. Just as the US finished their withdrawal, the Afghan government crumbled to a new wave of Taliban resurgence. On August 15, 2021, the Taliban seized Kabul, experiencing little resistance from the

uncoordinated government troops (Allchin and Petrov). Under Taliban control, Afghanistan has experienced improvement in some areas and drastic deterioration in others. Specifically, corruption at the government level has decreased and the narcotics industry has taken severe blows. The national security situation has also stabilized—however, there are still significant threats to political stability as the Taliban fend off various insurgencies. Meanwhile, the nation struggles to rebuild what for the past few decades

has been a war economy. And despite the relative safety the Taliban has succeeded in installing, the human rights situation continues to suffer, with the reintroduction of archaic corporal punishment tactics including public executions and floggings. Finally, the most well-known and controversial change of the new administration has been the gradual but persistent persecution of women. Adhering to a strict interpretation of Islamic law that is often criticized for being overtly literal and not widely acknowledged, the Taliban has introduced oppression of women into every level of society and government (Smith).

## **Problems Raised**

Security Situation and Explosive Ordnance

Since the 2021 Taliban takeover, the security situation has stabilized, with only 2% of Afghan households affected by conflict in 2022 (UNOCHA). Nonetheless, violent elements remain, particularly

and rebel groups. Sporadic terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K), a branch of the notorious terrorist group the Islamic State, are also common. Although the group does not control any territory, their frequent attacks on civilians may dismantle security at the community level. Additionally, explosive ordnance (EO), including improvised explosive



Figure #6: Landmines in Afghanistan

devices targeted at civilians and unexploded ordnance remaining from previous conflicts, poses a constant threat to civilians. Between 2021 and 2023, EO-related deaths comprised the vast majority of civilian casualties. And in the past year, over 50 children per month were injured or killed due to EO contamination. The frequent occurrences of EO-related injuries is a major contributing factor to the country's large disabled population. Particularly at risk are children, farmers and herders, displaced people, and returnees who are unaware of the risks in their former neighborhoods. Today, over 4 million Afghans require protection or aid related to EO threats or incidents (UNOCHA).

Economic Crisis



For the past several decades, Afghanistan has been highly dependent on foreign assistance and aid. This is evidenced in the 145 billion USD of "development aid" from the US, only 55 billion of which entered the civilian sector; the rest was diverted to the military and political sector, where corruption was rampant (Ruttig). In many ways, then, US and other foreign involvement spurred on corruption and eroded the agricultural and industrial sectors, which were unable to develop under the disruption of warfare. Since the Taliban took control unemployment rates have doubled and half the population lives in poverty. Most impacted are returnees and displaced people, the majority of which are dependent on unsustainable income sources, such as foreign assistance or illicit practices including opium harvesting and illegal mining. Also impacted are female-led households, whose average income has plummeted by 40% per household member since last year, compared to 16% in male-led households. With a third of the population reliant on aid, Afghanistan's economy remains highly vulnerable and fragile, particularly with the rise of climate-related disasters and other such shocks (UNOCHA).

# Oppression of Women

The Taliban is most notorious, and perhaps rightly so, for its treatment of women. The regime's interpretation of Sharia law, the legal system derived from Islamic texts such as the Quran, includes



Figure #7: Afghan women are undergoing unprecedented and appalling discrimination

severe and disproportionate discrimination of women. Its list of infractions is long, but notable inclusions are the laws that women must be covered from head to toe in public and cannot travel without a male relative (Hadid). Women also face insurmountable obstacles to societal and governmental participation. Education is also a problem; the ongoing ban on female participation in secondary school has led to 1.5 million girls being out of school (Smith). Women are also

prohibited from holding government jobs; those who did so before the takeover continue to receive pay but cannot work. Additionally, female-led and -advocating organizations face legal and logistical difficulties, meaning that many women are unable to access aid from other women, which is particularly important in areas such as recovery from sexual, domestic, and other abuse as well as reproductive healthcare (Al Jazeera English). With half the population kept from the workforce and political decision-making, it is unsurprising that Afghanistan is riddled with economic and humanitarian difficulties.

### **International Actions**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Established in March of 2002, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is a UN Special Political Mission that aims to uphold "humanitarian principles, human rights, equality for women and girls, inclusive governance, resilience, and economic stability" (United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan). The two sectors the Mission works in are political and developmental issues. At the political level, UNAMA works to investigate and monitor the political and human rights situation, maintain communication with Afghan leaders, and provide recommendations for resolutions to conflict and human rights violations. However, due to the lack of authority for UNAMA to take concrete action regarding the political situation, its effectiveness is largely limited to the developmental sector. UNAMA coordinates all UN humanitarian aid activity in the nation, providing assistance and essential services through other UN-adjacent organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). An example of their work is the activation of mobile health teams, which are units that provide healthcare services to rural areas and reached 1.5 million Afghans in 2023. UNAMA also works to provide drug addiction treatment, educational assistance, improve access to clean water, and much more (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

#### International Criminal Court Warrants

In July of this year, the International
Criminal Court (ICC) issued official arrest
warrants for the Taliban Supreme Leader
Haibatullah Akhundzada and Taliban Chief
Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani. The two leaders
are being persecuted for crimes against
humanity under the political and gender
grounds provided in the Rome Statute (ICC



Figure #8: Karim Khan, the ICC prosecutor who sought the arrest warrants

Press). Although the milestone action doesn't immediately bring any positive change to the actual situation, it marks the first time the ICC has taken action regarding Afghanistan. It is important to note, however, that given the need to avoid breaching national sovereignty, the ICC is unlikely to successfully detain the accused, especially since the ICC has no enforcement bodies of its own and relies on the help and cooperation of countries (International Criminal Court).



## **Key Players**

#### Taliban

The Taliban began as a rogue band of guerrilla fighters who were disillusioned with what they saw as a nation that had corrupted and degraded traditional Islamic values. Many of its members were young Afghan refugees who were educated in the madrasas of Pakistan, many of which championed fundamentalist Islamic ideology. From their youth, Taliban fighters were taught that true peace could only be achieved by attaining a pure, utopian Islamic society purged of all



Figure #9: Pakistani madrasa

immorality and sin. With constant reminders about the students' "obligation to all Muslims, about paradise, and about [their] homeland," the madrasas produced a generation of young men who were wholly convinced of the necessity of warfare, of rescuing their people from a society corrupted by Western influence, and of constructing a new and pure society. The definition of "pure" taught in these madrasas was generally very narrow, founded on virulent, patriarchal terms that dismissed any dissenters as apostates who deserved death. Much of what the Taliban holds to be "good" and "Muslim" is in fact rejected by the broader Muslim world (Khan).

#### Pakistan

Since the very genesis of Afghanistan's long history of turmoil, Pakistan has been at the forefront of the fray. When the Taliban first came to prominence, Pakistan was one of its most ardent backers, funneling economic and military assistance to the group and also providing a safe haven for militants at the border (Allchin and Petrov). This was partly due to Pakistan's desire for a secure trade route through Afghanistan, but can also be attributed to the ideological ties between the two Islamic nations and their overlapping communities of Pashtuns, an ethnic tribe (Miller). They were also instrumental in ensuring successful resistance to the Soviets during the Soviet-Afghan War. Pakistan is also where millions of Afghan refugees have fled over decades of conflict. Despite historical and political ties, however, the Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship has soured in the past year. Among many other factors, this is a result of the rampant border instability and the Taliban's inaction regarding Tehrik-j-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a



Figure #10: Pakistan deports Afghan refugees

militant group that seeks to overthrow the current Pakistani government and operates from Afghan regions. In April, citing reasons of national security and increased pressure on essential services, Pakistan initiated mass deportations of the over 3 million Afghan refugees, around 700,000 of which sought shelter in the country after the 2021 Taliban takeover. This number includes second- and third-generation refugees who have lived all their lives in Pakistan (Sambul).

#### **United States**

The United States is one of the primary actors involved in the issues in Afghanistan; indeed, the war it fought there from 2001 to 2021 has set the tone for the current political, economic, and humanitarian climate in Afghanistan today. Since the Taliban takeover, the United States has taken the position of limited engagement, choosing to sever diplomatic relationships with the new regime but continuing to provide aid and assistance to the people of Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan will most likely see a drop in US aid as President Donald Trump implements large-scale cutting of a multitude of awards and programs. Between 2021 and 2024, the US was the largest international donor to Afghanistan, distributing over 3 billion USD in aid (Thomas). This sudden halt in assistance will, needless to say, be devastating if not catastrophic for the nation.

## **Possible Solutions**

## Heightened Diplomacy

As of now, the international community's interactions with the Taliban have been hostile at worst and strained at best. However, continuing to treat the current administration as a pariah state is not sustainable: if countries want to introduce actual change in the country, there must be involved discussion and engagement with those in power. To avoid normalizing or tolerating the de facto government's discriminatory practices, countries should also continue to apply pressure on the regime regarding the human rights situation. This may take the form of conditional assistance. Conditional assistance entails withholding development and other forms of aid until certain demands, particularly regarding the rights

of women, are met (Bateman). Since it has been shown that the Taliban is quite satisfied to ignore



Figure #11: Russia is the only country to date that has recognized the Taliban

sanctions and similar measures, it may be that countries should resort to negotiations instead. In Russia's case, its recognition of the Taliban is motivated by a belief that the de facto government will likely remain in power for the foreseeable future. Russia has already expressed interest in joint investment ventures relating to the construction of new tunnels and railways, indicating that Russia has a strong interest in staking a claim in the development of the nation

(Smagin). It is integral to keep in mind, however, that whether delegates choose to legitimize the Taliban's rule depends on which country they represent.

### Coordinating Response to Terrorism

One of the first steps in making progress to improve diplomacy is finding a common goal towards which different parties can work. One such goal is addressing the terrorism in the nation. By forming and streamlining joint task forces to mitigate this issue, the international community can aid in reducing the danger of conflict to the Afghan people while also gaining more leverage with the de facto government. The terrorist groups, particularly Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, which has over 6000 fighters, pose a threat to the entire region. Concerns have also been raised regarding the presence of the Islamic State of Khorasan's activity in Afghanistan. Even countries outside the region, such as Panama and Greece, have called upon the international community to coordinate a regional response to the terrorist threats in the region (UN Press).

# Glossary

Al-Qaeda

Islamist terrorist organization headed by Sunni Muslims with the goal of uniting all Muslim countries into a single Islamic caliphate.

De facto

Acting as though with legal authority.



## Explosive ordnance

Any explosive-containing device, including homemade bombs, grenades, and landmines.

## Hijab

A head covering worn by Muslim women.

#### Islamic State in Khorasan

A regional branch of terrorist group Islamic State that operates in regions in Iran and Afghanistan.

#### Jihad

To struggle or war against non-Muslims.

## Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan

The most prominent leftist organization in Afghanistan; it split into two factions, the Banner Party and People's party.

## Mujahideen

Broad term including guerrilla fighters who engage in jihad.

#### Rome Statute

The official statute of the International Criminal Court.

#### Sharia law

The legal and justice system derived from core Islamic texts including the Quran and the doings of prophet Muhammad.



### Sources

- ABC News. "U.S. Rejects New Taliban Offer." *ABC News*, 15 Oct. 2001, abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=80482&page=1.
- ACLU. "Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp." *American Civil Liberties Union*, 2019, www.aclu.org/issues/national-security/detention/guantanamo-bay-detention-camp.
- Al Jazeera English. "What Women in Afghanistan Want You to Know | Start Here." *YouTube*, 30 Aug. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=o95Mt48xVgM.
- Allchin, Frank Raymond, and Victor P. Petrov. "Afghanistan." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2 Feb. 2019, www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan.
- Bateman, Kate. "A Shift toward More Engagement with the Taliban?" *United States Institute of Peace*, 25 Oct. 2023, www.usip.org/publications/2023/10/shift-toward-more-engagement-taliban.
- Britannica. "Osama Bin Laden | Biography, Al-Qaeda, Terrorist Attacks, & Facts." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Osama-bin-Laden.
- Burrows, Terry. The History of the Modern World: From 1900 to the Present Day. London, Carlton, 2012.
- CBS News. "From the Archives: George W. Bush Addresses Congress after 9/11 Attacks in 2001." *YouTube*, 20 Sept. 2023, www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1tnRhIpzqQ.
- Council on Foreign Relations. "A Timeline of the U.S. War in Afghanistan." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 2021, www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan.
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. "Solutions for Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan." *Georgetown Institute of Women Peace and Security*, 20 Jan. 2022, giwps.georgetown.edu/event/solutions-for-addressing-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-afghanistan/.
- Hadid, Diaa. "The Taliban Orders Women to Wear Head-To-Toe Clothing in Public." *NPR*, 7 May 2022, www.npr.org/2022/05/07/1097382550/taliban-women-burqa-decree.
- Haqqani, Sirajuddin. "Opinion | What We, the Taliban, Want." *The New York Times*, 20 Feb. 2020, www.nytimes.com/2020/02/20/opinion/taliban-afghanistan-war-haqqani.html? unlocked\_article\_code=1.eE8.X6sX.cO1LHvrRKlo6&smid=url-share.
- Hegseth, Phil. "Mapping Taliban Control in Afghanistan." *Long War Journal*, FDD's Long War Journal, 29 Aug. 2017, www.longwarjournal.org/mapping-taliban-control-in-afghanistan.
- "Hotline Message from General Secretary Brezhnev to President Carter." *Office of the Historian*, 29 Dec. 1979, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v12/d114.
- ICC Press. "Situation in Afghanistan: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II Issues Arrest Warrants for Haibatullah Akhundzada and Abdul Hakim Haqqani." *International Criminal Court*, 2025, www.icc-cpi.int/

- news/situation-afghanistan-icc-pre-trial-chamber-ii-issues-arrest-warrants-haibatullah-akhundzada.
- International Criminal Court. "How the Court Works." *International Criminal Court*, www.icc-cpi.int/about/how-the-court-works.
- Khan, Naveen. "Sifting Facts from Fiction: The Underpinnings of the Taliban's "Islamic Emirate" the SAIS Review of International Affairs." *The SAIS Review of International Affairs*, 15 Feb. 2024, saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/sifting-facts-from-fiction-the-underpinnings-of-the-talibans-islamic-emirate/# ftn2. Accessed 12 Aug. 2025.
- Miller, Manjari Chatterjee. "Pakistan's Support for the Taliban: What to Know." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 25 Aug. 2021, www.cfr.org/article/pakistans-support-taliban-what-know.
- National Archives. "Global War on Terror." *George W. Bush Presidential Library*, National Archives, 3 Jan. 2003, www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/global-war-terror.
- PBS. "Who Is Bin Laden? Chronology Hunting for Bin Laden." *FRONTLINE*, 2014, www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/binladen/etc/cron.html.
- Rashid, Ahmed. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. New Haven, CT, Yale University Press, 2010.
- ReliefWeb. "Natural Disasters Dashboard | ReliefWeb Response." *ReliefWeb Response*, 2025, response.reliefweb.int/afghanistan/natural-disasters-dashboard? gl=1.
- Ruttig, Thomas. "Afghanistan's War Economy." *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung*, 23 Sept. 2022, www.rosalux.de/en/news/id/47021/afghanistans-war-economy.
- Sambul, Najma. "Once Firm Friends, Afghanistan and Pakistan Are Now at Each Other's Throats. Here's Why." *ABC News Australia*, ABC News, 2 Jan. 2025, www.abc.net.au/news/2025-01-02/pakistan-afghanistan-relations-at-low/104777310.
- Sayed, Abdul. "Analysis: How Are the Taliban Organized?" *VOA*, 2021, www.voanews.com/a/us-afghanistan-troop-withdrawal\_analysis-how-are-taliban-organized/6219266.html.
- Smagin, Nikita. "Russia Is the First Country to Recognize Afghanistan's Taliban Government. Why?" *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 10 July 2025, carnegieendowment.org/russia-eurasia/politika/2025/07/russia-afghanistan-new-government?lang=en.
- Smith, Graeme. "Afghanistan Three Years after the Taliban Takeover | Crisis Group." *Crisis Group*, International Crisis Group, 14 Aug. 2024, www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/afghanistan-three-years-after-taliban-takeover.
- The Economist. "Why Nations That Fail Women Fail." *YouTube*, 23 Jan. 2025, www.youtube.com/watch? v=alXI1kDhmT0.

- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Hamid Karzai." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 20 Dec. 2018, www.britannica.com/biography/Hamid-Karzai.
- Thomas, Clayton. "Afghanistan: Background and U.S. Policy in Brief." *US Congress*, 7 Mar. 2025, www.congress.gov/crs-product/R45122.
- UN Press. "United Nations Engagement with Afghanistan's de Facto Authorities Seeks to Address, Not Normalize, Restrictive, Discriminatory Policies, Top Officials Tell Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, 23 June 2025, press.un.org/en/2025/sc16096.doc.htm. Accessed 1 Aug. 2025.
- United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan. "About | UNAMA." *UNAMA*, 7 May 2014, unama.unmissions.org/about.
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "Afghanistan: Humanitarian Update, March 2025." *UNOCHA*, 11 June 2025, www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-update-march-2025.
- United Nations Security Council. "Resolution S/RES/2777." *United Nations*, 17 Mar. 2025, docs.un.org/en/s/res/2777(2025).
- ---. The Situation in Afghanistan and Its Implications for International Peace and Security Report of the Secretary-General. United Nations, 2002.
- UNOCHA. "Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan." Dec. 2024.
- WION. "The Sharia Law." YouTube, 28 Aug. 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fzk7H6y65LE.
- Yama Bariz. "Pakistan Expels Tens of Thousands of Afghans." *BBC*, 19 Apr. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/c74z19pl7wgo.

