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# Afghanistan A Short History Of Its People And Politics Martin Ewans

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**The History of  
Afghanistan** Bloomsbury  
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*A Brief History of  
Afghanistan*  
Forgotten Books  
A Washington Post  
Best Book of 2021  
?The #1 New York  
Times bestselling  
investigative story  
of how three  
successive  
presidents and  
their military

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commanders deceived the Taliban from the public year after year about America's longest war, foreshadowing the Taliban's recapture of Afghanistan, by Washington Post reporter and three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist Craig Whitlock. Unlike the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 had near-unanimous public support. At first, the goals were straightforward and clear: defeat al-Qaeda and prevent a repeat of 9/11. Yet soon after the United States and its allies removed the Taliban from power, the mission veered off course and US officials lost sight of their original objectives. Distracted by the war in Iraq, the US military become mired in an unwinnable guerrilla conflict in a country it did not understand. But no president wanted to admit failure, especially in a war that began as a just cause. Instead, the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations sent more and more troops to Afghanistan and repeatedly said they were making

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progress, even though they knew there was no realistic prospect for an outright victory. Just as the Pentagon Papers changed the public's understanding of Vietnam, The Afghanistan Papers contains "fast-paced and vivid" (The New York Times Book Review) revelation after revelation from people who played a direct role in the war from leaders in the White House and the Pentagon to soldiers and aid workers on the front lines. In unvarnished language, they	admit that the US government's strategies were a mess, that the nation-building project was a colossal failure, and that drugs and corruption gained a stranglehold over their allies in the Afghan government. All told, the account is based on interviews with more than 1,000 people who knew that the US government was presenting a distorted, and sometimes entirely fabricated, version of the facts on the ground. Documents unearthed by The Washington Post reveal that
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President Bush didn't know the name of his Afghanistan war commander—and didn't want to meet with him. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld admitted that he had "no visibility into who the bad guys are." His successor, Robert Gates, said: "We didn't know jack shit about al-Qaeda." The Afghanistan Papers is a "searing indictment of the deceit, blunders, and hubris of senior military and civilian officials" (Tom Bowman, NRP Pentagon Correspondent) that will supercharge a

long-overdue reckoning over what went wrong and forever change the way the conflict is remembered.

*A Short Account of Afghanistan*  
Princeton University Press  
Debunking conventional narratives, Faiz Ahmed presents a vibrant account of the first Muslim-majority country to gain independence, codify its own laws, and ratify a constitution after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Afghanistan, he shows, attracted thinkers eager to craft a modern state within the interpretive traditions of Islamic law and ethics.

*Afghanistan - A New History*  
Harvard University Press  
Excerpt from *A Short History of India and of the Frontier States of Afghanistan, Nipal, and Burma* IT is a common complaint that whilst the annals of India. Are of paramount immrtance to the people of England, there is no history which they seem less inclined to study. Greece and Rome, Egypt and Palestine,

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Assyria and Babylon - countries which have long ceased to play a part in the drama. Of humanity - are the subjects of text-books in our schools and universities; whilst India, which is literally a modern reflex of the ancient world, and has moreover become a part and parcel of the British empire, is to this day a sealed book to the masses. The essays of Lord Macaulay on Robert Clive and Warren Hastings are perhaps known to every English household; but they refer to mere episodes in the history, and are wanting in that familiarity with native character and forms of thought, which is essential to a right appreciation of the great collision between Europe and Asia that has been going on in India for the last two centuries. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing

imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

**A Short History of India and of the Frontier States of Afghanistan, Nipal, and Burma** Routledge

A colossal history of Afghanistan from its earliest organization into a coherent state up to its turbulent present. Located at the intersection of Asia and the Middle East, Afghanistan has been strategically important for thousands of years. Its ancient routes and strategic position between India, Inner Asia, China, Persia, and beyond has meant the region has been subject to frequent invasions, both peaceful and military. As a result, modern Afghanistan is a

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culturally and ethnically diverse country, but one divided by conflict, political instability, and by mass displacements of its people. In this magisterial illustrated history, Jonathan L. Lee tells the story of how a small tribal confederacy in a politically and culturally significant but volatile region became a modern nation-state. Drawing on more than forty years of study, Lee places the current conflict in Afghanistan in its historical context and challenges many of the West's preconceived ideas about the country. Focusing particularly on the powerful Durrani monarchy, which united the country in 1747 and ruled for nearly two and a half centuries, Lee chronicles the origins of the dynasty as clients of Safavid Persia and Mughal India: the reign of each ruler and their efforts to balance tribal, ethnic, regional, and religious factions; the struggle for social and constitutional reform; and the rise of Islamic and Communist factions. Along the way, he offers new cultural and political insights from Persian histories, the memoirs of Afghan government officials, British government and India Office archives, and recently released CIA reports and Wikileaks documents. He also sheds new light on the country's foreign relations, its internal power struggles, and the impact of foreign military interventions such as the "War on Terror."

Afghanistan Cambridge University Press  
A fresh and comprehensive analysis of Afghanistan's political history emphasizing the impact of US interventions  
A Short History of

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give, the author trusts, "Kingdom of Cabul, "  
an accurate account of the "Account of the  
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from the importance of Afghanistan, " and  
its position in relation other books, together  
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The author having in various magazines  
been present in and newspapers. "  
Afghanistan during part Afghanistan London :  
of the Afghan war, is Macmillan  
able in these pages to  
supply some details  
from his personal  
experience as well as

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published in London in 1881 as *Parliament and the British public* were debating policy toward Afghanistan in the aftermath of the Second Anglo-Afghan War, which was fought between 1878 and 1880. The author, Philip Francis Walker, was a London barrister who had recently served with the British army in Afghanistan, and the book contains vivid accounts of fierce fighting with the Afghans. In a typical passage, Walker describes the Afghan tribesmen as "being in great strength, fighting very courageously, and being well led." The most interesting aspect of the book is the summary, in the concluding pages, of the debate underway in Britain about future policy toward Afghanistan. According to Walker, three main plans were under discussion: "1st. That we should annex the whole country, including Herat. 2nd. That we should settle some chief, or chiefs, in the country, as securely as possible, and ourselves retire behind the scientific frontier, with, or without Candahar. 3rd. That we should evacuate most of the country, and continue to hold almost the same frontier [between British India and Afghanistan] as hitherto." Walker generally favored the second option, but the third was in fact followed by the Liberal government of Prime Minister William Gladstone. Afghanistan Harper Collins "Afghanistan" is a



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condensed version of Habibi's "A Short History of Afghanistan." Updated to include the latest events, it provides a narrative of the country's history from pre-historic times to the present.

A Short History of Afghanistan Reaktion Books

Humanitarian Invasion provides a history of international development and humanitarianism in Cold War Afghanistan.

A Short History of India and of the Frontier States of Afghanistan, Nipal and Burma. With Maps and Tables

Fenestra Books

Sir Martin Ewans, former Head of the British Chancery in Kabul, puts into an historical and

contemporary context the series of tragic events that have impinged on Afghanistan in the past fifty years. The book examines the roots of these developments in Afghanistan's earlier history and external relationships, as well as their contemporary relevance, internally, regionally, and globally. The book also reviews in details the emergence of the Taliban, their ideology and their place within Islam, and examines Afghanistan's relevance in global issues, notably the nature of Islamic extremism, the international drugs trade and international terrorism. It ends with an analysis of the country post-Taliban.

A Short History of India and of the Frontier States of Afghanistan, Nipal, and

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Burma HarperCollins UK  
By the author of *Destiny Disrupted*: an enlightening, accessible history of modern Afghanistan from the Afghan point of view, showing how Great Power conflicts have interrupted its ongoing, internal struggle to take form as a nation

A Short History of Afghanistan Harper

There have been few books which put the conflicts into the broadest perspective, and even fewer that also include in their narrative descriptions of the numerous wars and conflicts on the Northwest Frontier as well as Afghanistan. This book includes information on all such wars in Afghanistan, not just those involving British armies, and also

describes their background. For the past four years Kevin Baker has been Lecturer and now Visiting Fellow at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW at ADFA).

Television and the Afghan Culture Wars  
Simon and Schuster  
"Describes the people and events of the U.S. war in Afghanistan. The reader's choices reveal the historical details"--  
Afghanistan Book Oxford University Press

A short history of India - and of the frontier states of Afghanistan, Nepal, and Burma is an unchanged, high-quality reprint of the original edition of 1899.

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such as research and science, travel and expeditions, cooking and nutrition, medicine, and other genres. As a publisher we focus on the preservation of historical literature. Many works of historical writers and scientists are available today as antiques only. Hansebooks newly publishes these books and contributes to the preservation of literature which has become rare and historical knowledge for the future.

Afghanistan Princeton

University Press

Located along the busy trade routes between

Asia and Europe,

Afghanistan was for centuries a place where a diverse set of cultures met and exchanged goods and ideas.

Return of a King

Capstone

For over 2,500 years, the forbidding territory of Afghanistan has served as a vital crossroads for armies and has witnessed history-shaping clashes between civilizations: Greek, Arab, Mongol, and Tartar, and, in more recent times, British, Russian, and American. When U.S. troops entered Afghanistan in the weeks following September 11, 2001, they overthrew the Afghan Taliban regime and sent the terrorists it harbored on the run. But America's initial easy victory is in sharp contrast to the difficulties it faces today in confronting the Taliban resurgence. Originally published in

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2002, Stephen Tanner's *Russia and Afghanistan* has now been completely updated to include the crucial turn of events since America first entered the country. A Short History of Afghanistan Da Capo Press

From William Dalrymple—award-winning historian, journalist and travel writer—a masterly retelling of what was perhaps the West 's greatest imperial disaster in the East, and an important parable of neocolonial ambition, folly and hubris that has striking relevance to our own time. With access to newly discovered primary sources from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India—including a series of previously untranslated Afghan epic poems and biographies—the author gives us the most immediate and comprehensive account yet of the spectacular first battle for Afghanistan: the British invasion of the remote kingdom in 1839. Led by lancers in scarlet cloaks and plumed helmets, and facing little resistance, nearly 20,000 British and East India Company troops poured through the mountain passes from India into Afghanistan in order to reestablish Shah Shuja ul-Mulk on the throne, and as their puppet. But after little more than two years,

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the Afghans rose in answer to the call for jihad and the country exploded into rebellion. This First Anglo-Afghan War ended with an entire army of what was then the most powerful military nation in the world ambushed and destroyed in snowbound mountain passes by simply equipped Afghan tribesmen. Only one British man made it through. But Dalrymple takes us beyond the bare outline of this infamous battle, and with penetrating, balanced insight illuminates the uncanny similarities between the West ' s first disastrous entanglement with Afghanistan and the situation today. He delineates the straightforward facts: Shah Shuja and President Hamid Karzai share the same tribal heritage; the Shah ' s principal opponents were the Ghilzai tribe, who today make up the bulk of the Taliban ' s foot soldiers; the same cities garrisoned by the British are today garrisoned by foreign troops, attacked from the same rings of hills and high passes from which the British faced attack. Dalrymple also makes clear the byzantine complexity of Afghanistan ' s age-old tribal rivalries, the stranglehold they have on the politics of the nation and the ways in which they ensnared both the British in the

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nineteenth century and NATO forces in the twenty-first. Informed by the author's decades-long firsthand knowledge of Afghanistan, and superbly shaped by his hallmark gifts as a narrative historian and his singular eye for the evocation of place and culture, *The Return of a King* is both the definitive analysis of the First Anglo-Afghan War and a work of stunning topicality. *A Short History of India and of the Frontier States of Afghanistan, Nipal, and Burma (Classic Reprint)* University of Illinois Press  
University Press returns with another short and captivating

book - a brief history of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is an enchanting country of vivid extremes - stunning beauty, grinding poverty, alpine glaciers, violent cruelty, copious tea, barren deserts, and warm hospitality. Living as they do along the ancient Silk Road, the Afghan people and their rich cultures have been indelibly shaped by centuries of trade, invasion, and conflict. Afghanistan has been called "the graveyard of empires" for its uncanny ability to resist foreign occupation. Afghans have successfully seen off the invading armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, the

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British empire, the Soviet Union, and the United States. Yet Afghanistan remains one of the poorest and most violent countries in the world - and that was before the Taliban regained control of the country in 2021. But there are glimmers of progress. And there are reasons for hope. This short book peels back the veil and provides a brief glimpse into the heart-warming, gut-wrenching, awe-inspiring history of Afghanistan - a glimpse that you can read in about an hour.

The War for Afghanistan: A Very Brief History Vintage Fascinating, comprehensive, and timely, Afghanistan examines the troubled history of a nation whose global relevance continues to hold the international spotlight. Reaching as far back as the seventh century A.D., when Arab armies imported the new religion of Islam into a predominantly Buddhist country, Martin Ewans shows how centuries of invasions, fierce tribal rivalries, and powerful dynasties led to the creation of an Afghan empire during the eighteenth century. From there he moves on to examine the various milestones on the country's road to the twenty-first century. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Afghanistan was caught

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up in the "Great Game," the struggle between Britain and Russia for supremacy in Central Asia, until it was finally able to declare independence in 1919. The ruling Afghan dynasty was overthrown by a communist coup in the 1970s, which was answered in turn by a Soviet invasion in 1979. Roughly a decade later, the Soviet Union was forced to withdraw and left Afghanistan with a civil war that was to tear apart the nation's last remnants of religious and ethnic unity. It was into this climate that the Taliban was born. What emerges in Ewans's lucid and dispassionate prose is the story of a once powerful empire whose traditions and political stability have in recent years been reduced to ruins. Today Afghanistan is war-torn and economically destitute, struggling under a brutal and extremist regime. Martin Ewans, a former senior diplomat in the British embassy in Afghanistan, carefully and concisely weighs the lessons of history to provide a frank look at Afghanistan's fragile relationship with its neighboring countries and the national and international resonances of the Taliban's concept of Islamic society.