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Authors' forward

Afghanistan known to be the graveyard of empires has a long history of palatial conspiracies, wars, and proxies between the superpowers and their regional allies as well.

Moscow's attack on Afghanistan, the support of the West and their allies to the Afghan fighters, then called Mujahideen, proved to be the last nail in the Soviet Union's coffin.

After 9/11, the US attack and capturing and then withdrawing its forces after 20 years' war due Doha Peace

Agreement left the then Afghan government at the mercy of Taliban fighters standing at the Kabul doorstep.

I have tried in this short e-book to briefly tackle the major reasons and factors for the Kabul fall and Taliban success in August, 2021.

With sure hope that this e-book will provide a very basic understanding to the readers about this country and on the region as a whole.

In the end, I am indebted to all media, both digital and non-digital, for their

valuable information about the country
and the different topics in discussion
that me helped in writing this e-book.

With hope to hear positive back from
your side!

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Chapter 1

An Introduction

The land-locked country of Afghanistan is on the junction of South Asia and Central Asia.

Being the 40th largest country in the world on the territory base, Afghanistan has a chequered history of invasions and invaders since sixth BCE. This mountainous country of the

Hindu Kush range has a very dry and arid climate with the exception of some pleasant scenic natural beauty to on lookers.

In case of heavy rainfall, the major rivers of Hari, Amu Darya, Kabul and Helmand burst out in floods.

The neighboring countries of Afghanistan are;

1. Pakistan lies to its south and east.
The Durand Line, the border line between Afghanistan and British

India was then drawn by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand in 1895.

That's why this border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is still referred by his name in discussion.

The length of this Durand Line is 2430 kilometers.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran shares 597 kilometers long border with Afghanistan.
3. The former Soviet republics and present-day Central Asian countries of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan collectively share 2305

kilometers long border with
Afghanistan on the north.

4. While on the eastern side China-
Afghanistan border length is just 92
kilometers.

With 652,846 square kilometers Afghanistan is
the habitat of Pushtoos, Tajiks, Uzbeks, and
Hazaras ethnicities.

Pushtoon being the major ethnic group
constitutes the 42 percent of Afghanistan
population.

Chapter 2

Historical Synopsis of the Afghan land

Afghanistan was given the proper shape of statehood in 1747 by the then Pushtoon King. Ahmad Shah Abdali (also known by the name of Ahmad Shah Durrani, Abdali baba or Durrani baba) after the assassination of Nadir Shah Afshar in Iran (1767).

Ahmad Shah was a commander in Nadir Shah's Army. After his assassination Ahmad Shah was chosen as the King of Afghanistan by the Council of Elders (Loya Jirga).

.Some 32 years before the coronation of Ahmad Shah Abdali, a Pushtoon Chieftain Mir Wais Khan Hotak overthrew the yoke of Safavid Empire by revolting and defeating the Safavid governor Gurgin Khan or Georgian Khan at Kandahar in 1710.

Mir Wais Khan Hotak declared himself the Prince of Kandahar and this independent state of Kandahar was the first prototype of Afghan state.

Mir Wais Khan Hotak died in Kandahar in November 1715.

From Mir Wais Khan Hotak (d, 1715) to the incumbent Mullah Habitullah Akhonzada (August 2021), Afghanistan

had 54 monarchs, kings or head of state or government.

Whatever title or system they liked and chosen for their country!

These dynasties, administrative, ruling or governing set-ups were total 14 in number (see the list of Afghans' dynasties/monarchs and heads of state or government).

Thus, they all in their ruling-turn developed 14 ruling, governing or administrative set-ups for Afghanistan. Changing, amending or repealing the previous one.

The 312 years history of Afghanistan starting from Mir Wais Khan Hotak (reigned 1709-1715) to the Kabul fall to Taliban in 2021 has so many roller coaster in its life as a nation-state that it baffles any history student were there any period of peace and tranquility in this mountainous landlocked country or not.

Chapter 3

Fast Forward: Afghanistan in the 20th Century

1. The second Anglo- afghan war gave Emir Sher Ali's nephew, Abdur Rahman, to capture the Afghan throne (1880-1901). Russian and British officials demarcated the boundaries of the present-day Afghanistan. He tried to give a new look to the Afghan society through his attempted reforms.

2. During Second World War, his son Emir Habibullah Khan, successfully kept the neutrality of Afghanistan despite the allurements of Central Powers and their Mission to Kabul (1915-1916) against the Allies.
3. In the Third Anglo-Afghan War, the victorious Amanullah Khan got control over Afghan foreign affairs from the Briton in the Treaty of Rawalpindi, 1919.
4. The reaction against King Amanullah Khan's reforms in the conservative Afghan society came in the form of Afghan Civil War (1928-1929) and his deposition from the Throne by Habibullah Kalkalani, also known by the nickname of '*the son of a water carrier (bacha saqqa)*'.
5. Habibullah Kalkalani was defeated and deposed by Nadir Khan. He declared himself the King of Afghanistan in 1929.

Favoring a gradual and a progressive reform of Afghan society, he stopped the rapid reformatations and developments in the Afghan society.

He was assassinated by a student from Kabul as a revenge for the alleged ordering of this student's father murder.

6. After his father murder his son Zahir Shah, aged 19, became the King of Afghanistan, for four and half decade (1937-1973). Zahir Shah political reforms and venting gave birth to political parties.

The most famous among them was the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) which had its ideological political ties with Soviet Union.

PDPA was factionalized into two main factions later on. Khalq

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