

Chapter 1 : The Afghanistan Air War | Weapons and Warfare

Contents ILLUSTRATIONS FOREWORD xvii PREFACE rxi THE GREAT GAME: 3 Origins of Soviet interest in Afghanistan 3 The "Socialist King," Amanullah Khan ()

The minutes of four Soviet meetings from the Soviet archives reveal the mindset and confusion that brought the Soviets to their catastrophe. Daoud wanted to modernize his army and requested to purchase military equipment from the U. In March , Dr. Mohammad Yusuf became Prime Minister. King Zahir initiated the liberal constitution that permitted multi-party elections. At the first nationwide elections under the new constitution, Karmal was elected to the Parliament. In the second national elections of , Karmal and another PDPA member, Hafizullah Amin, both of whom would play important roles in the future Soviet intervention, were elected to the parliament. Daoud returned to power in a military coup on July 17, , and displaced the vacationing King Zahir. Daoud dissolved the monarchy, and established a Republic with himself as President and Prime Minister. How and where we employ the foreign experts will remain the exclusive prerogative of the Afghan state. Afghanistan shall remain poor, if necessary, but free in its acts and decisions. His attempts to oust suspected opponents from his government aroused resentment. When he tried to eliminate the PDPA in Spring by arresting its leaders, a bloody coup occurred and Daoud was killed. Hafizullah Amin also had a major role in the new government. The reforms threatened Afghan cultural traditions, and widespread resistance to them began in the summer of . Anarchy spread through the country and Amin asked for, and received, additional Soviet aid. A May top secret meeting of the Soviet Politburo describes the initial recommendation for this assistance see below, Communication 1. Amin was killed three days later. A June plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party see below, Communication 3 expressed its attitude on the war and was partially echoed by an Afghan resistance leader. Prominent Afghan Commander, who fought against the Russians in Herat. Assign Gosplan USSR and the Ministry of Foreign Trade to review within weeks the request for the delivery to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan of automobiles and to submit a proposal on this issue. Say that in Moscow they share the concern of the Afghan leadership in relation to the activation of counter-revolutionary activity by the reactionary forces in Afghanistan. The Soviet leadership, guided by a strong desire to provide further internationalist assistance in order to stabilize the situation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has taken a decision to deliver to Afghanistan in the period , free-of-charge, special property in the sum of 53 million rubles, including guns and mortars, 90 armored personnel carriers of which 50 will represent an expedited delivery , 48 thousand machine guns, around grenade throwers, aviation bombs, and also to send in the form of an expedited delivery in June-July medicines and medical equipment in the sum of 50 thousand rubles. In terms of immediate assistance in May of this year, incendiary tanks and single-use bomb cassettes. The delivery of gas bombs with a non-toxic poison gas is not considered possible. As far as the request of the Afghan side for the dispatch to the DRA of helicopters and transport planes with Soviet crews and a possible landing of our parachute troops in Kabul is concerned, the question of using Soviet military units was considered in much detail and from all points of view during Comrade M. Such actions, we are deeply convinced, are fraught with great complexities not only in the domestic political, but also in the foreign policy sphere, which no doubt would be used by hostile forces first of all to the detriment of the interests of the DRA and the consolidation of the victory of the April revolution. Kramer; translation by Carter-Brezhnev Project. Taraki, committed by Amin in September of this year, the situation in Afghanistan has been sharply exacerbated and taken on crisis proportions. Amin has established a regime of personal dictatorship in the country, effectively reducing the CC PDPA and the Revolutionary Council to the status of entirely nominal organs. The top leadership positions within the party and the state were filled with appointees bearing family ties or maintaining personal loyalties to H. Repression and physical annihilation were for the most part directed towards active participants in the April revolution, persons openly sympathetic to the USSR, those defending the Leninist norms of intra-party life. By direct order of H. Amin, fabricated rumors were deliberately spread throughout the DRA, smearing the Soviet Union and casting a shadow on the activities of Soviet personnel in Afghanistan, who had been restricted in their

efforts to maintain contact with Afghan representatives. At the same time, efforts were made to mend relations with America as a part of the "more balanced foreign policy strategy" adopted by H. The DRA government began to create favorable conditions for the operation of the American cultural center; under H. Amin attempted to buttress his position by reaching a compromise with leaders of internal counter-revolution. Through trusted persons he engaged in contact with leaders of the Moslem fundamentalist opposition. The scale of political repression was taking on increasingly mass proportions. Just during the period following the events of September, more than members of the PDPA, military personnel and other persons suspected of anti-Amin sentiments were executed without trial or investigation. In effect, the objective was to liquidate the party. Dictatorial methods of running the country, repressions, mass executions, and disregard for legal norms have produced widespread discontent in the country. In the capital numerous leaflets began to appear, exposing the anti-people nature of the current regime and containing calls for unity in the struggle with "H. A significant number of officers have expressed dismay at the domination of H. In essence, a broad anti-Amin front was formed in the country. Expressing alarm over the fate of the revolution and the independence of the country, and reacting keenly to the rise of anti-Amin sentiments in Afghanistan, Karmal Babrak and Asadulla Sarwari, both living abroad as emigres, have undertaken to unite all anti-Amin groups in the country and abroad, in order to save the motherland and the revolution. In addition, the currently underground group "Parcham," under the leadership of an illegal CC, has carried out significant work to rally all progressive forces, including Taraki supporters from the former "Khalq" group. All earlier disagreements were eliminated and the previously existing schism in the PDPA has been liquidated. Khalqists represented by Sarwari and Parchamists represented by Babrak have announced the final unification of the party. Babrak was elected leader of the new party center, and Sarwari - his deputy. In this extremely difficult situation, which has threatened the gains of the April revolution and the interests of maintaining our national security, it has become necessary to render additional military assistance to Afghanistan, especially since such requests had been made by the previous administration in DRA. In accordance with the provisions of the Soviet-Afghan treaty of , a decision has been made to send the necessary contingent of the Soviet Army to Afghanistan. Riding the wave of patriotic sentiments that have engaged fairly large numbers of the Afghan population in connection with the deployment of Soviet forces which was carried out in strict accordance with the provisions of the Soviet-Afghan treaty of , the forces opposing H. Amin organized an armed operation which resulted in the overthrow of H. This operation has received broad support from the working masses, the intelligentsia, significant sections of the Afghan army, and the state apparatus, all of which welcomed the formation of a new administration of the DRA and the PDPA. The new government and Revolutionary Council have been formed on a broad and representative basis, with the inclusion of representatives from former "Parcham" and "Khalq" factions, military representatives, and non-party members. In its program agenda announcements, the new leadership vowed to fight for the complete victory of the national-democratic, anti-feudalistic, anti-imperialistic revolution, and to defend Afghan independence and sovereignty. In matters of foreign policy, they pledged to strengthen in every possible way the friendship and cooperation with the USSR. Taking into account the mistakes of the previous regime, the new leadership, in the practical application of its policies, is intent on giving serious consideration to broad democratization of social life and ensuring a law-abiding society, widening the social base and strengthening the state throughout the country, and maintaining a flexible policy with regards to religion, tribes and ethnic minorities. One of the first steps that has captured the attention of Afghan society was the release of a large number of political prisoners, which include prominent political and military activists. Many of them Kadyr, Keshtmand, Rafi, and others have actively and enthusiastically joined in the work of the new Revolutionary Council and the government. Broad masses of people met the announcement of the overthrow of H. The commanders of all key formations and units of the Afghan army have already announced their support of the new leadership of the party and the government. Relations with Soviet soldiers and specialists continue to remain friendly overall. The situation in the country is normalizing. Babrak can be described as one of the more theoretically equipped leaders of PDPA, who soberly and objectively evaluates the situation in Afghanistan; he was always distinguished by his sincere sympathies for the Soviet Union, and commanded respect within party masses and the country at large.

Ponomarev 31 December [Source: Not a day goes by when Washington has not tried to revive the spirit of the "Cold War," to heat up militarist passions. Any grounds are used for this, real or imagined. One example of this is Afghanistan. The ruling circles of the USA, and of China as well, stop at nothing, including armed aggression, in trying to keep the Afghans from building a new life in accord with the ideals of the revolution of liberation of April. And when we helped our neighbor Afghanistan, at the request of its government, to give a rebuff to aggression, to beat back the attacks of bandit formations which operate primarily from the territory of Pakistan, then Washington and Beijing raised an unprecedented racket. Of what did they accuse the Soviet Union? And the whole thing was that their plans to draw Afghanistan into the orbit of imperialist policy and to create a threat to our country from the south crashed to the ground. In the Soviet act of assistance to Afghanistan there is not a grain of avarice. We had no choice other than the sending of troops. And the events confirmed that it was the only correct choice. The opponents of detente do not trouble themselves even with a minimal dose of objectivity in explaining the reasons for such a situation. They are building their policy on deception of the peoples. Imperialist policy and deception of the peoples are indivisible. From all corners they announce that the Soviet Union has supposedly changed its policy and by its own actions threatens the West and its interests. In every way they exaggerate in this regard the Afghan events, they cast it in a false light. In pursuit of these goals they break all their former records of trickery, lies, and evil puffery. Acting on the true course of events, the Soviet Union directly casts back in the face of the officials of the imperialist states facts like the acceptance by the USA and NATO, in demonstrative form, of the decision to increase sharply their military budgets, to abruptly whip up the arms race, to deploy new American intermediate range weapons in Western Europe, to make ready the strike ["rapid development"-ed. To all this, to all of our well-founded accusations against the NATO bloc, they can raise no objection. And how can they object, if all this happened when the so-called Afghan issue was not even mentioned. Comrades, for our actions in Afghanistan, for the fact that we fulfilled our obligation to international solidarity in relations to revolutionary Afghanistan, for the fact that the aggressor already has received a solid rebuff, the Soviet Union does not intend to make any excuses to anyone, and the inspirers of aggression against the Afghan state are beginning to feel that. Those should ask for pardon who organized and stand behind the aggression against Afghanistan, who concocted the criminal plans in relation to that country, the independent existence and security of which have a direct relation to the security of the Soviet Union. We accuse the organizers of the aggression against Afghanistan and demand that that aggression be stopped. Of course, it would be premature to believe that the complexity in relation to Afghanistan is already behind us. The external enemies of Afghanistan and the domestic reactionary forces will still make themselves known. But the matter is now on the correct path. Afghanistan will not return to the past. Our Party and our people can be sure of that. But if the situation demands it, we at any time will be able to strengthen our contingent, so as to reliably work together to provide for the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. The possibility of reaching at an appropriate time a Treaty of mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which would clearly demonstrate the resolve of both countries not to allow any encroachment from without on the independence and integrity of the Afghan state, deserves serious attention. In a single word, we have built and are ready in the future to build our relations with the USA on the principles of peaceful coexistence. Declaring our readiness to maintain normal relations with the USA, we proceed from the fact that hostility between the two powers is not only unwise, but also dangerous. At the same time we more than once have warned the Americans, that they should take into account the lawful interests of the Soviet Union and that the Soviet Union will not permit anyone to trample on those interests.

Chapter 2 : The Origins of Conflict in Afghanistan by Jeffery J. Roberts - Praeger - ABC-CLIO

The Russian interest in the region continued on through the Soviet era, with billions in economic and military aid sent to Afghanistan between and [63] After the Saur Revolution in , the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was formed on April 27,

Both states, since their emergence from the break-up of the British colonial empire in South Asia in , have had ties with a range of Afghan governments. Indeed, during the long rule of King Zahir Shah , India actually had better relations with Afghanistan than did Pakistan, barring a brief rupture during the Indo-Pakistani conflict. Contrary to popular belief, India was less than pleased with the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. It chose instead to work with successive Soviet puppet regimes in Afghanistan because it cared little for the Islamist ideological orientation shared by a bulk of the Afghan mujahideen groups that Pakistan was supporting on behalf of the United States. Moreover, a long-standing rivalry over the Afghanistan-Pakistan border had exacerbated the tensions between the two countries since the end of British rule in India. The ethnically Pashtun and Baluch belts straddling the Durand Line made that demarcation illegitimate in the eyes of many in the tribal areas. India was soon able to exploit this rivalry following partition. The jirga believed that Pakistan, being a new state at the time, was not an historic extension of British India, and therefore all treaties signed prior to independence were nullified. India, on the other hand, was forced to abandon its embassy and withdraw its diplomatic personnel from Afghanistan. It was during this period that Pakistan managed to bolster its ties with the Taliban regime until after the tragic events of 11 September Indian medical personnel also apparently treated wounded Northern Alliance members at a hospital in Farkhor in Tajikistan near the Afghan-Tajik border. It is also believed that India supported anti-Taliban attacks from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It also quietly supported the American-led effort to dismantle the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. India managed to secure a place during the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan in December It found it quite advantageous that the United States chose to throw in its lot with Hamid Karzai and his supporters at Bonn. Consequently, India had much reason to be pleased with his emergence as both the consensus and the U. In addition to Karzai, India has excellent relations with the Tajik former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who as of writing is locked in a second-round run-off debate for the presidency. It also has long-standing links with Mohammed Fahim, who ran for the vice presidency. The current minister of education, Mohammed Haneef, is believed to be well-disposed toward India; a substantial number of Indian education officials are providing technical assistance to his ministry. Disturbingly, a division of sympathies between a Tajik-dominated northern Afghanistan and a Pashtun-controlled central government could prove to be a new battleground considering the heated responses to vote tampering in the August presidential election. Accusations have been rampant, especially in the North where support for Abdullah was expected to be high. In the first round of elections, however, Hamid Karzai received what many claim to be a higher than reasonably expected vote total in these predominantly Tajik areas. A recent report has noticed the demand for arms rapidly increase in northern Afghanistan during past months, presumably as a build-up should the election results stoke the ire of a northern population that perceives themselves as disenfranchised. This is in contrast to the paltry development aid that Pakistan is able to provide to Kabul. In April , however, on the condition of anonymity, one former high-ranking Afghan official revealed that Afghanistan is wary of Pakistani aid due to past indiscretions and meddling with its affairs. In other words, Kabul turns a suspicious eye toward aid from Islamabad due to its past support for the Taliban. India has a history of unilaterally granting central Asian neighbors favorability in trade and economic agreements. The rise of China and of Islamist militancy in the region led it to aggressively pursue its economic and strategic interests in the area. The demise of the Soviet Union had earlier stoked Indian fears about a power vacuum developing in Central Asia. In addition to reopening its embassy in Kabul, it established two new consulates in Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif and reopened the ones in Kandahar and Jalalabad. For example, it offered to help rebuild the Afghan national airline, Ariana. To that end, it donated to Ariana three Airbus aircraft in , despite a shortage in its own fleet, and also offered to train Afghan commercial pilots. Furthermore, it has enabled some 2, Afghan

nationals to undergo professional training in a variety of fields in India. Whether or not they also enable India to pursue intelligence-gathering operations or espionage against Pakistan remains a matter of speculation and debate. India has also been involved in other projects that have considerable symbolic value. Antony, to discuss possible military cooperation. First, India seeks to prevent a restoration of any form of a resurgent Taliban regime in the state. As has been seen in many studies of the Afghan Taliban and the militant groups that have thrived within Pakistan, one major imperative of Indian policy in Afghanistan is to prevent the rise of the brand of Islamist militancy that has been prevalent over the past six decades. This is not simply to influence the Afghan ability to prevent a re-emergence of an anti-India militant milieu. The rise of Islamist militancy on both sides of the Durand Line also correlates strongly with the rise in militant capabilities in Kashmir and across the Line of Control. The Islamist militant groups supported by Pakistan, at least its clients such as, inter alia, the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, are well known to coordinate training, resource allocation and logistical support with groups operating out of northwest Pakistan. Thus, as long as central control and legitimacy continues to elude Kabul, the conflagration in Kashmir will have a ready supply of tinder. Second, India is seeking to develop long-term diplomatic ties and economic arrangements with a stable, popular and pro-Indian regime in Afghanistan, which then enables India to leapfrog Pakistan and build robust strategic and economic ties with the energy rich states of Central Asia. This is primarily due to the fact that for the first time in recent history the interests of India and the United States in Afghanistan dovetail. Both states seek a peaceful, secure and non-Talibanized Afghanistan. What makes the issue of Indian and Pakistanis actions in Afghanistan so thorny is that, to some observers, all three parties have overriding national interests in the situation. New Delhi sees its efforts going hand-in-hand with the needs in Kabul. Presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah sees current Indian support as essential to Afghan peace and development, something over which Pakistan categorically has no veto power. Consequently, it will relentlessly work, and go to considerable lengths, to undermine a cordial Indo-Afghan relationship and threaten Indian officials and personnel within Afghanistan. It is hardly surprising that the United States identified Pakistani involvement in the suicide bombing of the Indian embassy in July Pakistan assumes that any Indian involvement in Afghanistan is pernicious. This is especially true amid the calls for secession in some circles of Baluch nationalists and the alliance of northern Baluchis with tribes in FATA in an effort to form an ethnically Pashtun province in Pakistan. According to Barnett Rubin and Abubakar Siddique, the Afghan government extended aid to some 30, Baluchi tribesmen in the s. Many Baluchis are unhappy with the disproportionate employment of non-Baluchis in local development projects. India has a vested interest in Baluchistan as a likely overland route for a future natural gas pipeline but it is unclear how fomenting instability in Baluchistan could possibly benefit India on this account. Conflict in that province would incur the same obstacles for Indian resource control that would be present in a fractious Afghanistan. Additionally, Pakistan fears that India will exploit its expanding diplomatic presence to exploit extant indigenous tensions within Pakistan, particularly in the long-troubled province of Baluchistan, which abuts Afghanistan. Several Baluch MPs walked out of the hearings in protest, and others believed that the timing was very unfortunate because interjecting direct foreign involvement on the Baluch issue would mar the investigation and create further enmity. A discussion of the convergence of Indian-U. First and foremost, neither India nor the United States is in favor of the resurgence of a reconstituted Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Such a regime would be downright inimical to both Indian and American interests. In this context it needs to be underscored that Al Qaeda and the Taliban have common interests and goals and remain unremittingly hostile toward the Western world, the United States and India. Second, both states would like to see the emergence of a stable, secure and broadly representative government in Afghanistan that does not become a safe haven for any radical Islamist groups. He believes that when General David Petraeus told a U. Another large-scale conflict between India and Pakistan would have dire ripple effects on the well-being of Afghanistan. Mir Ahmad Joyenda, deputy head of the Parliamentary Committee on International Affairs, believes that the consequences of a regional war would be two-fold for Afghanistan. First, Joyenda believes the effects would be primarily economic for Afghanistan, referring to a potential drop in foodstuff imports from Pakistan that could result in famine. A second consequence of a conflict would be a massive exodus of Pakistani refugees across the Durand Line,

something that Afghanistan would not be able to accommodate. Given these shared interests, the Indian role and activities in Afghanistan are far from incompatible with American goals and interests. The Pakistan Policy Working Group recommended that Afghanistan must back a neutral relationship with India and Pakistan, in which it does not choose sides and rather calls for amicable relations with both. Institute of Peace Special Report October , 7. Yale University Press, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 3 April News, 29 July Post-Taliban Governance, Security, and U. Congressional Research Service, 4 March Stephen Cohen, et al. Shifts by Region and Province, The United States and Pakistan: Council on Foreign Relations, September

Chapter 3 : The Origins of the Soviet-Afghan War

Soviet Intervention and Withdrawal - The total withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed in February Soviet soldiers were killed during the withdrawal. In total 14, Soviet soldiers died during the Afghan war.

Prelude[edit] Public transport in a peaceful Afghan capital Kabul in the s From to Afghanistan witnessed a lengthy period of peace and relative stability. Khan transformed the monarchy into a republic with him becoming the first President of Afghanistan. The new PDPA government, led by a revolutionary council, did not enjoy the support of the masses. He has been accused of killing tens of thousands of Afghan civilians at Pul-e-Charkhi and other national prisons. Amin was deposed from power almost immediately, as he and of his guards were killed on December 27 by Soviet Army Spetsnaz , replaced by Babrak Karmal. After deployment into Afghanistan, Soviet forces along with government forces would begin to engage in a protracted counter-insurgency war with mujahideen fighters. Some of those Islamic fighters would later transform into the Taliban according to Professor Carole Hillenbrand who stated: Because of this they discussed troop withdrawals and searched for a political and peaceful solution as early as , but they never took any serious steps in that direction until Early Soviet military reports confirm the difficulties the Soviet army had while fighting on the mountainous terrain, for which the Soviet army had no training whatsoever. Parallels with the Vietnam War were frequently referred to by Soviet army officers. Throughout the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, troop convoys came under attack by Afghan rebel fighters. In all, Soviet soldiers were killed during the withdrawal. The total withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed in February The Soviet war had a damaging impact on Afghanistan. Soviet forces and their proxies committed a genocide against the Afghan people and killed up to 2 million Afghans. Najibullah received funding and arms from the Soviet Union until when the Soviet Union collapsed. But the government was dealt a major blow when Abdul Rashid Dostum , a leading general, created an alliance with the Shura-e Nazar of Ahmad Shah Massoud. Large parts of the Afghan communist government capitulated to the forces of Massoud in early Ahmad Zia Massoud , the brother of Ahmad Shah Massoud, said that his faction strongly opposed the plan and like other factions would take measures if any "Pakistani troops reinforced Hekmatyar". Abdul Haq was reportedly so angry about the ISI plan that he was "red in the face". Hezb-e Islami supported by Pakistan started a massive bombardment campaign against the Islamic State. The Peshawar Accord created the Islamic State of Afghanistan and appointed an interim government for a transitional period to be followed by general democratic elections. According to Human Rights Watch: The sovereignty of Afghanistan was vested formally in the Islamic State of Afghanistan , an entity created in April , after the fall of the Soviet -backed Najibullah government. A History of Struggle and Survival: Pakistan was keen to gear up for a breakthrough in Central Asia. A publication by the George Washington University describes the situation: Atrocities were committed by individuals of the different armed factions while Kabul descended into lawlessness and chaos as described in reports by Human Rights Watch and the Afghanistan Justice Project. In , the Taliban a movement originating from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam -run religious schools for Afghan refugees in Pakistan also developed in Afghanistan as a politico-religious force, reportedly in opposition to the tyranny of the local governor. A totally destroyed section of Kabul in Bombardment of the capital came to a halt. Massoud, like most people in Afghanistan, saw this conference as a small hope for democracy and for free elections. His favourite for candidacy to the presidency was Dr. Mohammad Yusuf , the first democratic prime minister under Zahir Shah , the former king. In the first meeting representatives from 15 different Afghan provinces met, in the second meeting there were already 25 provinces participating. Massoud went unarmed to talk to several Taliban leaders in Maidan Shar, but the Taliban declined to join this political process. This is the first time in several months that Kabul civilians have become the targets of rocket attacks and shelling aimed at residential areas in the city. Taliban border guard According to a page report by the United Nations , the Taliban, while trying to consolidate control over northern and western Afghanistan, committed systematic massacres against civilians. Kamal Hossein, a special reporter for the UN , reported on these and other war crimes. Upon taking Mazar-i-Sharif in , about 4, civilians were executed by the Taliban and many more reported tortured. Others

were kidnapped by the Taliban, touching off a hostage crisis that nearly escalated to a full-scale war, with Iranian soldiers massed on the Afghan border at one time. The director-general of the ISI, Hamid Gul, was interested in an Islamic revolution which would transcend national borders, not just in Afghanistan and Pakistan but also in Central Asia. To set up the proposed Mujahideen government, Hamid Gul ordered an assault on Jalalabad -with the intent on using it as the capital for the new government. Pakistan was interested in establishing a government in Afghanistan. State Department confirms that "20â€”40 percent of [regular] Taliban soldiers are Pakistani. State Department report and reports by Human Rights Watch, the other Pakistani nationals fighting in Afghanistan were regular Pakistani soldiers especially from the Frontier Corps but also from the Pakistani Army providing direct combat support. Dostum has said the reason the attack was successful was that Pakistani commandos took part and that the Pakistani Air Force also gave support. The UN secretary-general implicitly criticized Pakistan for its military support and the Security Council stated it was "deeply distress[ed] over reports of involvement in the fighting, on the Taliban side, of thousands of non-Afghan nationals. Dostum subsequently went into exile. The only leader to remain in Afghanistan, and who was able to defend vast parts of his area against the Taliban, was Ahmad Shah Massoud. They were allowed to work and to go to school. In at least two known instances, Massoud personally intervened against cases of forced marriage. It is our conviction and we believe that both men and women are created by the Almighty. Both have equal rights. From Warrior to Statesman: Massoud is adamant that in Afghanistan women have suffered oppression for generations. But the Taliban exacerbate this with oppression.

Chapter 4 : Soviet tanks roll into Afghanistan - HISTORY

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan brought catastrophes to the Soviet Union and the Afghan nation. Less obvious were the ultimate directions of Afghanistan's catastrophe--the emergence of the Taliban, links to America's most horrifying catastrophe and a United States war against Afghanistan.

Soviet interest in Afghanistan dates back many years, and Russian involvement even longer. Afghanistan and neighbouring Iran both have long, common borders with the USSR and she would become paranoid if either became one again, in the case of Iran a military satellite of the USA. In , the Afghan monarchy was overthrown, but the new republican government under General Mohammad Daud remained on friendly terms with Moscow. Aid continued, and the armed forces acquired large amounts of new Soviet equipment. The air force in particular was strengthened: This division was reflected in the armed forces, particularly the army. Historically, when central power has been weak, the tribes have gone their own way and in , inflamed by a hastily enacted Marxist land reform programme, their way was rebellion. There must have been pressure within the Soviet Politburo to make an intervention at that moment. After all, there were over 1, Soviet advisers in Afghanistan, and they and their families were at risk. The immediate action taken did not go so far: Intervention by Agreement Further guerrilla attacks during that summer, including an attack on Bagram during which Pathan rebels claimed three MiGs shot down, seemed to be the start of an inexorable slide into anarchy. The prospect of a second Khomeini-style theocracy on the borders of the Soviet Central Asian republics with their large Moslem populations could be seen as a threat to the cohesion of the USSR itself. This, in the Soviet view, gave them the legal right to intervene and restore stability, Soviet style, on its southern border. When the West returned to normal after Christmas, it found itself facing a fait accompli. Sledgehammer Ineffective Not so the fiercely independent Afghans who, aided by deserters from the local army, put up strong resistance in the country areas. In order to relieve government forces under siege at Ishkashin, a paratroop force of 5, men was deployed. The Afghan air force has remained loyal to the pro-Moscow puppet government in Kabul, so that there are no tales to be told of air-to-air combat against Soviet Frontal Aviation. Without the helicopter gunship, the Soviets may have withdrawn years earlier. Its firepower and mobility and initial invulnerability put the guerrillas on the defensive. The Soviets used helicopters extensively and ruthlessly against the unprotected guerrillas. But like all innovations in war, this advantage also did not last long. They fought at night when the helicopter was least effective. Guerrilla intelligence discovered the time and location of planned Soviet attacks and set up air defense ambushes and dug protective bunkers. The guerrillas received newer and more powerful weapons which they used against the helicopters. At first the prime anti-aircraft weapon had been the twin-barrel mm cannon, but further armaments were quickly made available through Pakistan from sources as diverse as Saudi Arabia, China, Iran and Egypt. Gunships were also important for clearing side valleys of resistance as Soviet ground forces pushed up main valleys. A trial deployment is said to have been made as far back as , but the type was most certainly used in the spring offensive. During the siege of Khost, late in , An transports were forced to make some sorties per week to supply the garrison. Other Ans have had to make paradrops of supplies. The remedy was seen to be more Mi-8s, MiGs and Sus, which had arrived by early , and new tactics of suppression. Air assault tactics and helicopter gunship tactics changed and improved steadily throughout the war. However, the Soviet never brought in enough helicopters and air assault forces to perform all the necessary missions and often squandered these resources on unnecessary missions. Helicopter support should have been part of every convoy escort, but this was not always the case. Dominant terrain along convoy routes should have been routinely seized and held by air assault forces, yet this seldom occurred. Soviet airborne and air assault forces were often the most successful Soviet forces in closing with the resistance, yet airborne and air assault forces were usually under strength. Air assault forces were often quite effective when used in support of a mechanized ground attack. Heliborne detachments would land deep in the rear and flanks of Mujahideen strongholds to isolate them, destroy bases, cut LOCs and block routes of withdrawal. The ground force would advance to link up with the heliborne forces. Usually, the heliborne force would not go deeper than supporting

artillery range or would take its own artillery with it. However, the Soviets sometimes inserted heliborne troops beyond the range of supporting artillery and harvested the consequences. And, although the combination of heliborne and mechanized forces worked well at the battalion and brigade level, the Soviet preference for large scale operations often got in the way of tactical efficiency. Ten, large, conventional offensives involving heliborne and mechanized forces swept the Pandshir Valley with no lasting result. A month later, on 20 April, they launched the spring offensive in the guerrilla-controlled Panjshir valley with a series of mass bombing attacks, whilst helicopters flew some sorties per day in follow-up operations. Rotary-wing strength had by now reached about , and these were operating at higher altitudes following several successes by Mujahideen using small arms. The introduction of level bombers for counter-insurgency is reminiscent of Malaya and Vietnam. For example, kg 1,lb incendiary bombs proved particularly successful at destroying rebel villages, which burned for days following an air strike. Soviet equipment losses for the entire war included jets, helicopters. Initially the rebels were successful, moving close to Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad. Finally, the guerrillas received the Stinger shoulder-launched air defense missile-a very effective weapon against low flying aircraft. The masterful employment of Stinger by the Afghan freedom fighters heavily tilted the balance in favor of the Mujahideen. Aeroflot and Soviet air force transports continued to supply Kabul, and the crippling shortages of early in the year have been eased considerably.

Chapter 5 : Soviet-Afghan War Origins | .

3 Thinking South: Soviet Strategic Interests in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan Morris McCain Emerging from its Stalinist introversion in , the USSR found.

This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Daoud Khan had served as prime minister since and promoted economic modernization, emancipation of women, and Pashtun nationalism. This was threatening to neighboring Pakistan, faced with its own restive Pashtun population. PDPA pushed for a socialist transformation by abolishing arranged marriages, promoting mass literacy and reforming land ownership. In contrast to the secular and socialist government, which controlled the cities, religiously motivated mujahideen held sway in much of the countryside. After the withdrawal of the Soviet military from Afghanistan in May , the PDPA regime under Najibullah held on until , when the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived the regime of aid, and the defection of Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostum cleared the approach to Kabul. With the political stage cleared of Afghan socialists, the remaining Islamic warlords vied for power. By then, Bin Laden had left the country. Warlord rule [edit] Main article: Civil war in Afghanistan [edit] In , Rabbani officially became president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan , but had to battle other warlords for control of Kabul. Other warlords, including Ismail Khan in the west and Dostum in the north maintained their fiefdoms. In , Mullah Omar, a Pashtun , a mujahideen who taught at a Pakistani madrassa , returned to Kandahar and founded the Taliban. His followers were religious students, known as the Talib and they sought to end warlordism through strict adherence to Islamic law. By November , the Taliban had captured all of Kandahar Province. Northern Alliance[edit] Main article: Abdul Haq also gathered a limited number of defecting Pashtun Taliban. The Taliban captured Mazar-i-Sharif in and drove Dostum into exile. The conflict was brutal. According to the United Nations UN , the Taliban, while trying to consolidate control over northern and western Afghanistan, committed systematic massacres against civilians. UN officials stated that there had been "15 massacres" between and The Taliban especially targeted the Shiite Hazaras. Fighting alongside Taliban forces were some 28, [edit] Main article: 2, [edit] Main article: Al Qaeda militants. State Department confirmed that "20 [edit] 40 percent of [regular] Taliban soldiers are Pakistani. According to the U. State Department report and reports by Human Rights Watch, other Pakistani nationals fighting in Afghanistan were regular soldiers, especially from the Frontier Corps , but also from the army providing direct combat support. There were rumours in the weeks before the September 11 attacks that Juma Namangani , had been appointed as one of the top commanders in the brigade. A smaller number were inducted into al-Qaeda. Embassy bombings were linked to bin Laden, President Bill Clinton ordered missile strikes on militant training camps in Afghanistan. In , the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on the Taliban, calling for bin Laden to be surrendered. These teams planned several operations, but did not receive the order to proceed from President Clinton. Their efforts built relationships with Afghan leaders that proved essential in the invasion. In , for example, the U. Massoud responded that, as long as he controlled an area the size of his hat, he would continue to defend it from the Taliban. They insisted it was the time for a cease-fire and an arms embargo. At the time, Pakistan began a " Berlin-like airlift to resupply and re-equip the Taliban", financed with Saudi money. Subsequently, Osama bin Laden was indicted for his involvement in the embassy bombings. In both the U. By the change of policy sought by CIA officers who knew Massoud was underway. It would be the first in a decade to seek to influence the course of the Afghan war in favor of Massoud. Clarke , chair of the Counter-Terrorism Security Group under the Clinton administration, and later an official in the Bush administration, allegedly presented a plan to incoming Bush National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in January A change in US policy was effected in August

Chapter 6 : Droughts and famines in Russia and the Soviet Union - Wikipedia

At that time, the Soviet Union and the United States were engaged in the Cold War, a global competition for the fealty of other nations. The United States was, thus, deeply interested in whether the Soviet Union would succeed in establishing a communist government loyal to Moscow in Afghanistan.

Soviet-Afghan War Origins March 3, by Ando On the morning of February 15th, , after a war of unexpected length and surprising brutality, the last soldier of the Soviet Red Army, its commanding general Boris Gromov, crossed the bridge at Termez out of Afghanistan and back home to the U. When Soviet troops first crossed the treacherous frontier a decade before they hardly could have predictedâ€™nor could have anyone in the world for that matterâ€™the difficulty they would face in pacifying a seemingly backward and primitive people and that they would ultimately fail. But perhaps they should have suspected the problems they would encounter. Throughout much of the 19th century, Russia and Great Britain sparred in the region and produced a number of dustups and intrigues, during a period commonly known as The Great Game. While Russia did gain some territory from these episodes, they managed to escape the era without any major blights on their military record, unlike the British who suffered major reversals in two Anglo-Afghan wars. Perhaps, though they saw the failures of the British excursions, having not experienced them firsthand lead them to a false confidence. Or perhaps by the late 20th century they became empowered by their vast technological advantage and in that put their ultimate trust to give them victory. It would not have been the first time a superpower made that mistake. But all of this begs the question, why invade in the first place, regardless of the supposed advantages? What was there to gain from the conquest of essentially a primitive central Asian backwater? The answer can be found, like many answers when discussing the Cold War era, in the preservation and expansion of an ideology. In an attempt to further proselytize the world masses to the doctrine of Communism and compete in the world influence market with the United States and the West by propping up a failing communist regime, the Soviet Union launched a war that would become one of the leading factors in its ultimate demise. Afghanistan had, for most of its existence as a nation, been in constant turmoil. However, for a forty year period, beginning in , a period of relative stability was achieved under the reign of King Zahir Shah. Twenty years into these peaceful days, a relationship with the Soviet government was forged. To that end he requested military aid from the United States. Hereafter, the Soviet Union would continue attempts to expand its influence over Afghanistan. A country study published by the U. In April troops loyal to Afghan communistsâ€™as well as non-communist elements that disliked Daoudâ€™staged a coup. The coup did little to increase stability in the country. Within the PDPA there were divisions, not to mention the obvious conflict between a government with an atheistic communist ideology and a fervently Muslim population. Within the fractioned PDPA the Soviets had favored the continued rule of Taraki, however his deputy Prime Minister and rival Hafizullah Amin conspired against him, had him murdered, and seized power in September of Upon doing so, Amin tried, as the U. In December of that year Soviet troops stormed the frontier and parachuted into Kabul. Initially it was believed that U. According to the official version of history, CIA aid to the Mujahadeen began during , that is to say, after the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan, 24 Dec But the reality, secretly guarded until now, is completely otherwise: Indeed, it was July 3, that President Carter signed the first directive for secret aid to the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. And that very day, I wrote a note to the president in which I explained to him that in my opinion this aid was going to induce a Soviet military intervention Also, it has been noted by Steven Coll that Amin had met with U. It has also been seen in declassified top secret Soviet documents that the Politburo was concerned about American intervention in the country. In its attempt to avoid the loss of a pliable client state, even one with little strategic significance, apparently for no other reason than to keep it from becoming too friendly with its rival ideologically, the U. Over the course of the war, the Afghan mujahadeen would receive support from the United States as well as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and even the communist Chinese. Works Cited Blood, Peter, ed. Government Printing Office for the Library of Congress. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Chapter 7 : India-Pakistan Rivalry in Afghanistan | JIA SIPA

Afghanistan is a historically blended country, at the crossroads of multiple peoples and cultures, from the Silk Road to the Soviet invasion. Diverse due to its history, this landlocked country has some beautiful cities, full of historic monuments of cultural importance.

Printer Friendly Version by Michael H. Creswell on Oct 6, In response to the Sept. The top suspect in the attacks, Osama bin Laden, is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. Although it is a poor country wracked by civil war, Afghanistan has experience fighting a military superpower. During the s, the Soviet Union failed in its attempt to subdue that nation militarily. Nonetheless, the Bush administration should continue its plans to destroy terrorist networks in Afghanistan, meanwhile avoiding the kind of mistakes the Soviet Union committed “ or it will risk a similar defeat. In , Soviet armed forces invaded Afghanistan to prop up a communist regime. Although the Soviet army enjoyed a numerical advantage in men and weapons over Afghan forces, the Afghani fighters mauled the Soviet forces. The Red Army was driven from Afghanistan in , its pride bruised, its reputation bloodied and its spirit broken. The successor Russian army continues to suffer from the repercussions of that disastrous war. Three factors contributed heavily to the defeat of the Soviet army: First, the Soviet government chose the dubious political objective of militarily supporting an unpopular regime. This policy turned international opinion against the Soviet Union. Second, the Soviet Union overlooked the importance of fielding motivated troops. The soldiers who fought in Afghanistan were mostly conscripts, hardly inspired to fight a war whose value to the Soviet national interest was questionable. As a result, the Soviet army was outfought by determined Afghans. A third factor in the Soviet defeat was the poor training of Soviet troops, which rendered them ineffective against skilled Afghan fighters. Only Soviet special operation forces, elite fighting units trained to wage guerrilla war, performed well in the conflict. The United States must bear these factors in mind as it plans for war in Afghanistan. The Bush administration must first set political objectives that will sustain broad support at home and abroad should the fighting drag on. Such support will be crucial should the fighting produce heavy casualties. Like the Soviets, the United States must rely heavily on American special operations forces should it fight in Afghanistan. They are the best equipped and best trained fighting units in the world. They are also highly motivated. Waging war in such a mountainous, war-torn and isolated land as Afghanistan presents formidable obstacles. But the wisdom and clarity of political and military objectives, the training and motivation of the troops and the quality of their leadership will play a key role in determining the outcome of any U. The Bush administration must narrowly define its political and military objectives, justify these objectives to the American public and the international community, and ensure that the military forces and equipment it assigns to fight in Afghanistan are appropriate to the mission. Creswell is in associate professor of history at Florida State University. The author of "A Question of Balance:

Chapter 8 : Soviet“ Afghan War - Wikipedia

Representatives of the USSR, Afghanistan, the United States, and Pakistan sign an agreement calling for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. In exchange for an end to the disputed.

Chapter 9 : United States invasion of Afghanistan - Wikipedia

The entry of Soviet forces in Afghanistan in December prompted its Cold War rivals, the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and China to support rebels fighting against the Soviet-backed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.