

# Afghanistan

- **1950s-1970s:** The United States was actively involved in Afghanistan until the 1979 assassination of the U.S. ambassador in Kabul.
- **1973:** Afghanistan king is overthrown by former Prime Minister Daoud.
- **1978:** Daoud is overthrown by Afghan army under leadership of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) is created. Local Islamic mujahedeen groups form in opposition to brutal imposition of land reforms and changes to marriage laws
- **1979:** President Carter authorized funding for anti-communist guerrillas in Afghanistan six months before the Soviet invasion. The CIA provided extensive weapons and training to the mujahedeen. Carter national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski wanted to entrap the Soviet Union into its own Viet Nam War.
- **1979:** The Soviet Union deployed its military in Afghanistan on the side of one Marxist faction within the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Soviet occupation continues to support DRA.
- **1979-1989:** The **Soviet-Afghan War** was a ten-year conflict between the Marxist government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan supported by the Soviet Union, and the Islamist Mujahedeen Resistance assisted by the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt. During this time the CIA organized, trained and armed Islamic militants, including Osama bin Laden, to fight the Soviets.
- **1989:** Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan in defeat.
- **2001:** September 11, US attacked. On October 7, President George W. Bush orders bombing of Afghan military bases thought to be where al-Qaeda was training.
- **2001-present:** US engaged in war against the Taliban movement for harboring Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11 attacks. In attempting to capture or kill al Qaeda or Taliban forces, the U.S. military has caused thousands of civilian deaths and dropped bombs on the wrong targets, including a Red Cross warehouse and a UN mine-removal office.
- **2009:** NY times reports Afghan civilian deaths increase by 40% in 2008
- **2009:** President Barack Obama escalates war in Afghanistan
- **War caused deaths in Afghanistan as of 3-9-2010:**
  - 1,016 US troops and 583 coalition forces
  - 8,587 Afghan troops; 8,309 Afghan civilians