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# Afghanistan Revealed



## Beyond the Headlines

**"*Afghanistan Revealed* offers fresh perspectives on an ancient territory obscured by tales of tragic conflict. The compendium not only sheds new light, but offers fresh hope. It is essential reading."**

**Tim Butcher**

Best-selling author of '*Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart*'

*Afghanistan Revealed* offers the reader an incisive view into a country that has held the world's attention for more than a decade. Hardly a day goes by without Afghanistan making news in the media – but behind the headlines, what do we really know about this complex and enigmatic country, its people, its culture and most importantly, its future? This ebook takes us beyond the media focus on politics and war into the lives of the Afghan people, and the forces that have shaped their individual and collective history.

A range of distinguished specialists shed light on Afghanistan, from the earliest Aryan migrations and the emergence of Islam, through the country's role as a key Central Asian trade centre, the Anglo-Afghan wars and the Soviet invasion, to the emergence of a post-Taliban state. We are reminded of how the Afghans have suffered in centuries of violent conflict and have stubbornly resisted all efforts to invade and dominate their land. We are presented with the tasks Afghanistan faces after the 2014 withdrawal of NATO-led combat troops, specifically the need to rebuild the country, create jobs, provide education, tap into its huge economic potential, and provide political and social harmony.

Readable and accessible, *Afghanistan Revealed* is essential background for anyone wishing to understand why peace and stability in the region have been so elusive. It is also an indispensable tool for foreign and Afghan policymakers who play a role in determining Afghanistan's future.

The iPad-only edition of this ebook has been supplemented with 90 stunning images by a number of award-winning photographers.

All contributors have very kindly agreed to donate their royalties to:  
The Afghan Appeal Fund ([www.afghanappealfund.org.uk](http://www.afghanappealfund.org.uk))

## About the Authors

**Anthony Arnott** joined the British Army in 2001 and deployed to Afghanistan on a number of occasions: as the Operations Officer for the UK helicopter force in 2008 and working in the Prism strategic analysis group based in Kandahar in 2010.

**Dr Whitney Azoy** first came to Afghanistan as a US diplomat in 1972. He has remained involved as author/lecturer, Pulitzer nominee journalist, National Geographic filmmaker and Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies in Kabul.

**Yossef Bodansky** is the author of 11 books – including *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America* (New York Times No.1 Bestseller & Washington Post No.1 Bestseller), *The Secret History of the Iraq War* (New York Times Bestseller), and *Chechen Jihad: Al Qaeda's Training Ground and the Next Wave of Terror*.

**Dr Magsie Hamilton Little** is an academic, writer and publisher. She is author of *Dancing with Darkness: Life, Death and Hope in Afghanistan* and *The Thing About Islam*, and has written for a number of newspapers and magazines, including *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Newsweek*.

**Dr Robert Johnson** is the Director of the “Changing Character of War Research Programme” at the University of Oxford. He is the author of *The Afghan Way of War* (2011).

**Dr Humayun Khan** was appointed Pakistan's ambassador to Bangladesh in 1979. He subsequently became ambassador to India and High Commissioner in London. He was Foreign Secretary in 1988-89.

**Clare Lockhart** is the co-founder and CEO of the Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE), founded in 2005 to find and promote approaches to security, and economic institutions. Clare Lockhart was an adviser to the Afghan Government 2001 to 2005. She is co-author of *Fixing Failed States* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

**David Loyn** is a foreign correspondent for the BBC, and the author of *Butcher and Bolt – Two Hundred Years of Foreign Engagement in Afghanistan*. He was the only foreign journalist with the Taliban when they took Kabul in 1996, a country he has visited every year since then.

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**Ahmed Rashid** is a Pakistani journalist based in Lahore, who has covered Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia for a variety of publications since 1979. He is the author of the best-selling *Taliban*. His other books include *Descent into Chaos: The US and the Disaster in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia* (1998), *Jihad* (2002) and *The Resurgence of Central Asia* (1994). His fifth and latest book is *Pakistan on the Brink, The Future of America, Pakistan and Afghanistan*.

**Helen Saberi** is a food writer/historian. She was posted to the British Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1971 and lived in Afghanistan for nine years. She is the author of *Noshe Djan: Afghan Food and Cookery*.

**Victoria Schofield** is an historian and commentator on international affairs, with specialist knowledge of South Asia. Her books include *Kashmir in Conflict: India, Pakistan and the Unending War* and *Afghan Frontier: at the Crossroads of Conflict*.

**Jules Stewart** has spent most of his professional life in journalism, reporting from more than 30 countries. He is author of *Crimson Snow*, *Britain's First Disaster in Afghanistan*, and *The Khyber Rifles*.

## About the Photographers

**Tim Hetherington** studied literature at Oxford University, and Photojournalism at Cardiff University. In 2007 Tim published a book of photography documenting the civil war in Liberia: *Liberia Bit by Bit: Long Story Retold*. On April 20, 2011 while covering the conflict in Libya, Tim Hetherington and fellow photographer Chris Hondros were tragically killed by Libyan forces in a mortar attack on the besieged city of Misrata.

**Jeremy Kelly** is an Australian journalist who has lived in Kabul since 2005 and has been the Afghanistan correspondent for *The Times* since 2012. He has travelled to all but one of the country's 34 provinces.

**Giannis Koskinas** is the Executive Vice President for Asia Africa Projects Group LLC, a risk analysis and management consulting firm. Additionally, Mr. Koskinas is the Vice President for Operations for CAPG Ltd, a multinational company focused on responsible extraction of mineral resources in Afghanistan.

**Laura Lean** is a documentary photographer specialising in communities and families. Lean has lived in eight countries around the world. Lean's work has been published worldwide.

**Andrea Niada** is a recent graduate from the University of Warwick and hopes to work in film as a director and screenwriter.

**Jonathan Saruk** is a freelance photographer based between Kabul, Afghanistan and Malmö, Sweden. His work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Neon Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *IO Donna*, *The New York Times*, *The Times of London*. Jonathan is a featured photographer with reportage by Getty Images.

**Susan Schulman** is an award-winning video/photojournalist. She has captured soldiers and citizens caught up in some of the decade's major conflicts, most notably from the frontlines of Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Architectural Digest (France)*, *PBS*, *BBC* and *Channel Four*.

**Jerome Starkey** is *The Times*' Africa Correspondent, based in Nairobi. Previously, he lived and worked in Afghanistan from 2006-2012, and before that he was a news reporter for *The Sun*. He was born in London, in 1981.

**Alex Treadway** is a London-based photographer who has been to every country in the Himalayan region. His work has been published in *National Geographic Adventure*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *GEO Special*, *Outside*, *Action Asia* and other publications and he was named as a finalist in the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Travel Photographer of the Year competitions.

**Bill Woodburn** served for 35 years in the Royal Engineers, retiring as a Brigadier. He first travelled in Afghanistan in 1972 and has been back three times since 2005, always as a tourist. His early photography was made using slide-film and many of his photographs from those travels have been published.