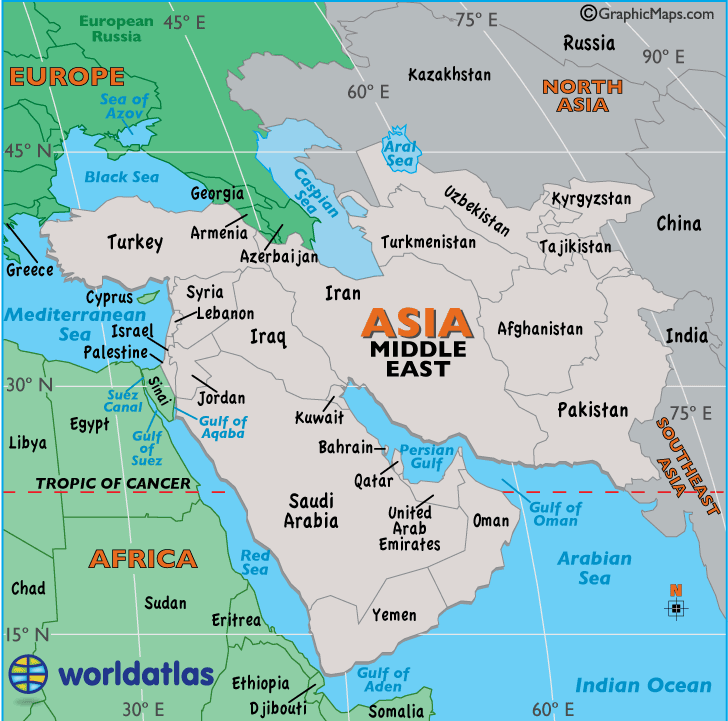
**US War in Afghanistan Background**

* Intervention in Afghan civil war after 9/11 attacks

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* Goals were to dismantle *Al-Qaeda:* an Islamic terrorist organization, and to remove the *Taliban:* an Islamic fundamentalist regime,from power

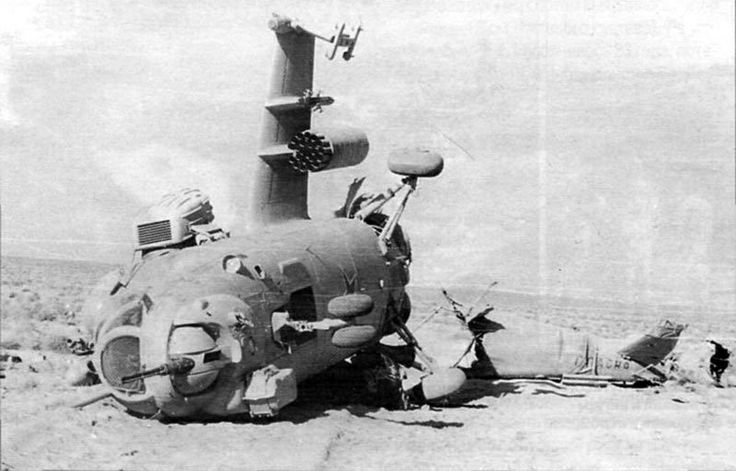
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Soviet/Afghan War

* Soviet version of the Vietnam War
* Soviets had superior weaponry, but no home field advantage
* War fought from 1978-1992 between the *Mujahidin:* anti-Communist Muslims and Afghan/Soviet forces

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj22beJv5bMAhWLNSYKHSBWD9oQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.trustineducation.org%2Fwhy-afghanistan%2Fafghanistan-why-should-anyone-care%2F&bvm=bv.119745492,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNGXX58Bry3ahIvaKlZ3EQCeIsBJFw&ust=1461010682675289)

* Soviets wanted a Communist gov’t in Afghanistan
* US responded by supporting Muslim rebels
* Soviets widely controlled the cities, while the rebels controlled the mountainous countryside
* Soviet presence angered many Afghans and led them to support the Mujahidin

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiYm6C1v5bMAhUDQSYKHUVpDqUQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F542261611356825688%2F&bvm=bv.119745492,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNEEJ4gWdsbj8q6OJLI36vZse3bdeQ&ust=1461010748420174)

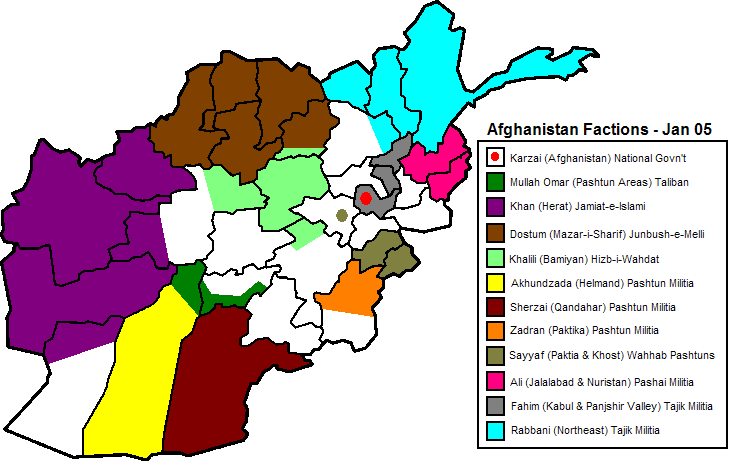
* The war was a stalemate, thus Soviet forces withdrew
* This led to a divided nation, setting the stage for the Taliban to seize power

Impact on Afghanistan

* 5 million became refugees in other nations
* Much of the land was destroyed

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi27Krbv5bMAhWFLSYKHRMQDN4QjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Flibcom.org%2Flibrary%2Fdays-these-red-black-notes&bvm=bv.119745492,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNEQ6nxPKFkhZDOBKqfmrsQjz-lAoA&ust=1461010854565624)

* Soviets left hundreds of thousands landmines behind
* Al-Qaeda was able to operate in Afghanistan
* Mujahidin leaders were unable to unite the various groups within Afghanistan
* Different areas were controlled by various warlords

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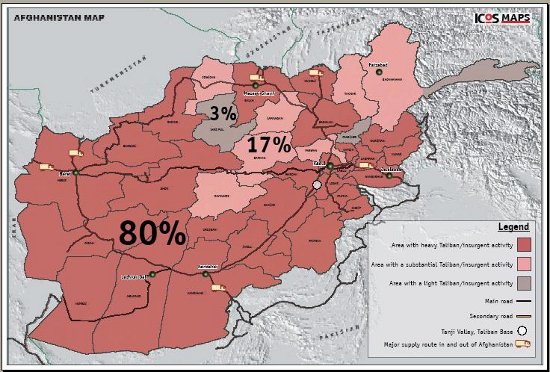
* This led to a divided nation, setting the stage for the Taliban to seize power

The Taliban

* Taliban means “students”

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjVx5CswJbMAhWGOiYKHSUSCakQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Funcyclopedia.wikia.com%2Fwiki%2FTaliban&bvm=bv.119745492,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNGfYdrtEdh0TZhJuuzZKIN9E52JqA&ust=1461011006106173)

* Ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 with support from Pakistan
* Believed in strict interpretation of Islamic law
* Known for being incredibly brutal to women
* Women were forced out of school and faced death if educated
* Responsible for countless deaths due to ethnic cleansing

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjOg-qxwpbMAhWI6yYKHXfVAhAQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.longwarjournal.org%2Farchives%2F2009%2F09%2Ficos_rating_on_taliban_control.php&bvm=bv.119745492,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNHtH6xNHaG_X2x2znwVXaIPuJLeAw&ust=1461011559841247)

* US supported the Taliban prior to 1996, as they were anti-Iranian