

“Where empires go to die” - Mike Malloy

# Afghanistan

A Brief History...

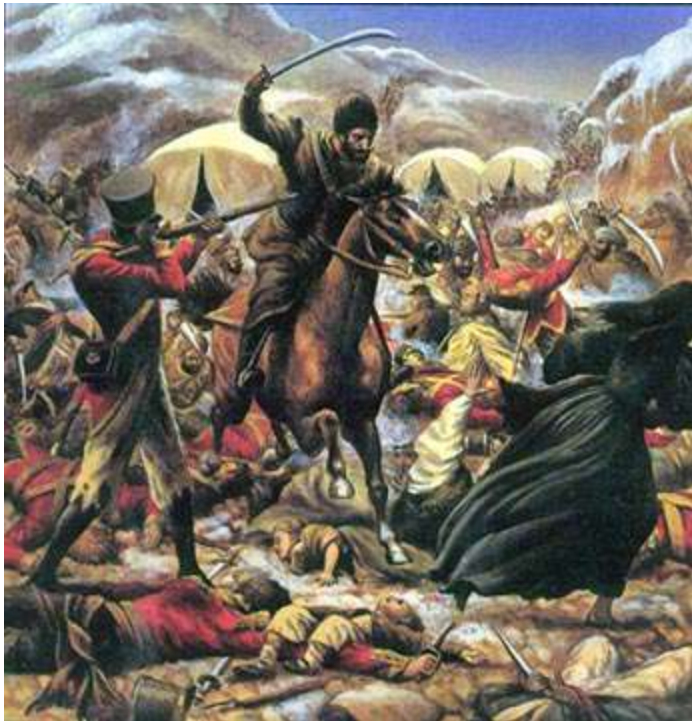
# The "Great Game"

- During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Imperial Russia and the British Empire in India competed for control of Afghanistan



# British Fight for Control

- **1838-42** - British forces invade, install King Shah Shujah. He is assassinated in 1842. British and Indian troops are massacred during retreat from Kabul.



# Afghans Fight for Independence

**1933** - Zahir Shah becomes king and Afghanistan remains a monarchy for next four decades.



# The Soviets Try to Control

- **1979** December - Soviet Red Army invades and props up communist government.
- **1980** - Babrak Karmal installed as ruler. He is a friend of the Soviet Union. Many Afghans want to be free from foreign control and fight back. This resistance is called Mujahideen or “struggle”.



# Mujahideen

- The mujahideen were significantly financed, armed and trained by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the administrations of [Jimmy Carter](#) and [Ronald Reagan](#)
- Remember, this is the during the Cold War. The US wanted to contain the spread of Communism



# Mujahideen continued...

- A wealthy Saudi Arabian was also heavily involved in organizing and funding Muslims fighting against the Soviets. His name was **Osama bin Laden**



# Mujahideen continued...

- **1989** - Last Soviet troops leave, but civil war continues as mujahideen push to control the new government





# Taliban Come to Power

- **1996** - Taliban seize control of Kabul and introduce hard-line version of Islam, banning women from work, and introducing Islamic punishments, which include stoning to death and amputations.



# The United States Gets Involved

- **2001** October - US-led bombing of Afghanistan begins following the September 11 attacks on the United States. Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces enter Kabul shortly afterwards.



# US Involvement continued...

- **2002** June - Loya Jirga, or grand council, elects Hamid Karzai as interim head of state. Karzai picks members of his administration which is to serve until 2004.
- **2004** October-November - Presidential elections. Hamid Karzai is declared winner and is still currently president.



# US Involvement continued...



# US Involvement continued...

- **2007** August - Opium production in Afghanistan has soared to a record high, the UN reports.
- Many Afghans see Karzai and his US-backed government as corrupt.



# Longest Running War in US History

- US goals in Afghanistan include:
  - Remove the Taliban from power
  - Disrupt Al-Qaeda terrorist network that was responsible for 9-11
  - Capture/Kill Osama bin Laden
  - Establish a democratic state that can be responsible for it's own security

# The US Eventually Found Him...

- May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by a group of 25 Navy SEALs in a mansion located just miles away from Pakistan's most prestigious military academy.



# Costs of US War in Afghanistan

- <http://costofwar.com/en/>
- <http://icasualties.org/oef/>
- Source-BBC, ABC News



- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/opium-brides/>
- Ch.18 sec.5 and Ch.20 sec.4 deal with Central Asia and Terrorism respectively.