

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

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AFGHANISTAN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT

AIMS: Building Information Capacity in Afghanistan

Emily Winterbotham, Editor, Communications and Advocacy, AREU

Building government capacity in Afghanistan is widely acknowledged as key to the future stability of the country. The Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) is often best known among the international community for its map services. A recent trip to the central office in Kabul revealed this forms just one part of the organisation's intent to build information management capacity in the Government of Afghanistan. Building on a previous newsletter article about AIMS' thematic map capabilities (Number 13, April 2007), this short article provides an overview of their activities.

AIMS began in 1997 with the creation of the Project Management Information System (ProMIS) in Pakistan under the direct supervision of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The ProMIS data centre in Islamabad produced and distributed data and information relating to Afghanistan to enhance the capacity of UN Agencies, NGOs and the donor community in their Afghan rehabilitation efforts and development activities. After 9/11 and the subsequent fall of the Taliban government, ProMIS was transformed into AIMS by its sponsoring agencies: the United Nations Development Programme, FAO and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Its main aim was to provide basic mapping and information management services to the humanitarian community. By July 2002, AIMS was operating in Afghanistan in the Prime Minister's compound in Kabul. Regional offices were established in Herat, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar. AIMS continued to provide a variety of Geographical Information Systems and database and Information Management Services to the Government and humanitarian community. Since then, AIMS has established partnerships with a range of government ministries and with international organisations: the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based in Kathmandu, United Nations Development Programme, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Asia Foundation, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), European Commission, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and many others. In November 2008, AIMS became an independent NGO.

A 2004 evaluation of Humanitarian Information Centres found that many members of the international community were primarily interested in AIMS' geographical maps



Mr Ghulam Jelani of AIMS

for orientation. However, AIMS' vision is to "firstly build 'Information Management Capacity' in the Government of Afghanistan, and secondly to provide 'Information Management Services' to the government and the broader humanitarian community." To fulfil this broad vision AIMS has launched a wide variety of projects designed at delivering a range of critical information management services to the Government and broader community in collaboration with other information service organisations. According to the new Executive Director, Nick Martyn:

Afghanistan possesses remarkable, world-class ICT talent. By nurturing it at AIMS, we believe Afghans can provide valuable information and knowledge management services not only to their own government but to other governments in the developing world. World-class ICT professionals and the systems they design could well become a significant source of revenue for Afghanistan in the very near future. Our intent at AIMS is to ensure this happens.

The following overview of AIMS' ongoing activities has been compiled as a resource for assistance workers, researchers and others working on Afghanistan.

Government Services

AIMS' key focus lies on government services. It aims to speed up the development process by providing essential advice to the Government on

information management and encouraging the use of new technology. AIMS has so far served 23 out of 25 ministries and departments of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), including the office of the President, with advisory services, training sessions and workshops.

AIMS runs Technology Awareness Workshops (TAW) for senior Government officials about Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) and databases. To date, AIMS has conducted 20 TAW for higher and technical level government officials and is planning to take this to the provinces. In February, AIMS organised a workshop for the employees of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

Information Services and Geographical Information Systems

AIMS claims to be the industry leader in developing national capacity within the fields of Information Technology and Geographical Information Systems. The central office can produce lists and details of staff from government and private organisations throughout Afghanistan who have completed training courses, such as the AIMS Certified Database Assistant Training (ACDA).

AIMS has established information systems designed to speed up the delivery of information. For the Ministry of Education, AIMS established a system to produce certificates for 12th grade graduates, eliminating the previous two to three months' wait to receive a certificate. The records of 50,000 to 60,000 students have subsequently been digitised, allowing closer monitoring of education in Afghanistan.

Regional Network

AIMS has a network of five regional offices in Herat, Kandahar, Mazar, Kunduz and Jalalabad city covering the west, east, north, south and northeast parts of the country. From 2003, the regional network started to move towards government capacity building and began working with different line ministries such as the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), Central Statistics Office (CSO), Urban Development (MUD) and Municipality.

Maps:

Thematic maps have continuously been the main product of AIMS. Between 2001 and 2008, AIMS had distributed over 62,000 maps. The publication of topographical maps is still a sensitive matter in Afghanistan. Before publication the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office should be consulted (AGCHO). The most recent national set of topographical maps are Russian maps from the 1970s. AIMS does not do any surveying or raw data compilation and instead relies on maps from the United States Defence Mapping Agency (USDMA, now part of the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)), the FAO 1993 land cover series and data provided by individual agencies. Since 2002, AIMS has printed and sold a series of thematic maps of Afghanistan, including provincial maps, district maps, district vulnerability maps, physical maps, regional maps, land cover maps, health maps, road reconstruction maps, river maps, city maps, and maps showing the location of ministries, UN offices and embassies.

AIMS also produces custom maps for specific purposes. One key area is the production of district vulnerability maps. The Interim Administration and the UN expressed increasing concern about the targeting of assistance to Afghanistan. UNAMA decided to identify the most vulnerable districts in Afghanistan, tasking AIMS to support this exercise: collecting data and providing map products as a basis for further analysis and planning. AIMS' satellite-based maps can be used to show environmental changes, such as deforestation and soil erosion trends, thus playing a role in shaping policy and action plans. A number of standard maps are produced in the Kabul office, which are readily available or pre-ordered for collection from field offices across Afghanistan.

In 2004, an evaluation funded by USAID and EC concluded that the capacity building value of AIMS had not yet been proven. However, it is the belief of the 119 Afghan staff, headed by one international, Nick Martyn, that their services are instrumental to the development of the country. For more information about AIMS see their website www.aims.org.af or drop into their central office in Kabul.



Afghanistan administrative divisions map from AIMS (2007).

Research News

“Clay, Concrete, and Mirrorglass: Politics and the Planning of Kabul”

(Draft dissertation title).

Pietro Calogero (Berkeley, California) is writing a dissertation on how Kabul is being planned. His research ranges from an analysis of the three successive Master Plans: 1964 (1333), 1970 (1349), 1978 (1357) to the efforts by the Ministry of Urban Development to implement neighborhood upgrading, to the conflict between the Ministry and the Municipality over who should plan Kabul and how it should be planned. He is also interested in how Kabul is being planned in many ways by non-Afghans—for example, by the security policies of various embassies, multilaterals and NGOs.

Pietro regards informal development as a form of planning. He is trying to work out the relationship between government officials and rules, speculators, private builders, and the families living in informal housing. As a way of extending understanding of how collective decision-making creates cities, Pietro is also interested in the phenomenon of wedding-halls in Kabul. This might not be public planning, but the collective choices of whole *qawms* [clans] to commit large sums of money to weddings verges on a public-scale process that has transformed the urban landscape of Kabul since 2002.

Pietro is still eager to conduct interviews about this topic and can be contacted via email, SMS, or Skype. For ethical reasons and in compliance with the research policies of his university, Pietro is strictly sworn to confidentiality regarding sources and identities. The “Do No Harm” policy includes protecting the employment status of interviewees. Pietro can be contacted at: pietro@calogero.us +1 415 994-1810 (receives SMS), Skype: [pietrocalogero](#)

New studies on Kabul

Esser, Daniel. “Who Governs Kabul? Explaining Urban Politics in a Post-war Capital City.” London: Crisis States Programme, Crisis States Research Centre, February 2009. 28 p. <http://www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/WP43.2.htm> (PDF 1.58 MB) Comparing recent politics and policies with historical data, this paper shows that in post-war Kabul the connections between national and international actors have the greatest influence over the formulation of

policies about existing urban institutions, excluding local interests and priorities. This is a stark change to politics in Kabul prior to the Russian occupation, when the main fault lines of urban conflict were between rival tribal and ethnic interests. Policymaking after 2001 has been even more concentrated “above the heads” of the city’s residents. This neglect of equitable urban development can renew pre-existing trigger factors for violent conflict in the urban area: restricted public access to local policymaking and the urban land market, high rates of youth unemployment and poor urban services.

Husain, Jafar Adeli. *The Municipality of Kabul in the Hands of the “mafia” [in Dari only]*. Kabul: Publication Department of the Municipality of Kabul, 2008. 212 p.

The author of this new book works in the Publications Department of the Municipality. In the book, he provides a brief history of the Municipality and Kabul and claims to be exposing weaknesses and malpractice that have occurred in the Municipality of Kabul since 2002. The Municipality was established in 1919 as “Baladia-e-Kabul,” it was then a small department with limited staff and facilities. Currently, the Municipality of Kabul has 15 central departments, 22 district departments and 1,439 official staff members. If we add site workers and other employees, the total number of staff rises to 5,429. According to the former master plan, the total area of Kabul city was 32,840 hectares for two million residents, now Kabul covers 103,051 hectares and the total number of its residents is approximately 5 million (according to this author). Since it was founded, 31 mayors have worked for the Municipality of Kabul. Since the fall of the Taliban there have been four mayors: Mohammad Anwar Jigdalak, Ghulam Sakhi, Roohullah Aman and currently Engineer Mir Abdul Ahad Sahebi.

New Research

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU) provincial studies of conflict

CPAU plans five of these studies, three have been released recently (Badakhshan, Kunduz, Kabul) while those for Wardak and Ghazni are in preparation.

Hansen, Cole, Christian Dennys and Idrees Zaman.

“Conflict Analysis: Baharak District, Badakhshan Province.” Kabul?: Cooperative for Peace and Unity (CPAU), February 2009. 24 p. http://www.cpau.org.af/Research/Docs_our_publications/Baharak%20Conflict%20Analysis%20Feb%202009.pdf (876 KB) The study found that the drug economy appears to create linkages between existing land and water conflicts, factional conflicts, anti-government conflicts, and to colour the general political, economic and social dynamics in the province. Importantly, the conflicts addressed in the local peace councils do not seem to deal with higher-level conflicts that involve numerous communities or have political implications.

Devlin, Lawrence, Jacob Rinck, Christian Dennys and Idrees Zaman. “Conflict Analysis: Kunduz City, Kunduz Province.” Kabul?: Cooperative for Peace and Unity (CPAU), February 2009. 24 p. http://www.cpau.org.af/Research/Docs_our_publications/Kunduz%20Conflict%20Analysis%20Mar%202009%20Final.pdf (1.63 MB) This report suggests that promoting solutions to land conflicts should be central to attempts to reduce violent conflict in

the region. The historical background of conflict in the province, the fragmentation of authority through small local commanders, a proliferation of parties, ethnic diversity and a thriving licit (and illicit) economy poses a series of challenges to ensuring stability and security for the majority of the population. Resolving land conflict must therefore be central to promoting stability.

Snow, Chris, Christian Dennys and Idrees Zaman. “Conflict Analysis: Farza and Kalakan Districts, Kabul Province.” Kabul: Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU), March 2009. 22 p. http://www.cpau.org.af/Research/Docs_our_publications/Kabul%20Conflict%20Analysis%20Mar%202009%20Final.pdf (636 KB) This is a conflict analysis of two districts in rural Kabul, Farza and Kalakan, in the Shomali plains. At the district level, conflicts over land and water are by far the most frequently addressed by the peace councils set up by CPAU between 2005 and 2008. Local conflicts seen in the Councils are almost always low-intensity and non-fatal and also include disputes over marriages, debt and very infrequently, cases concerning blood feuds.

New Publications From AREU

January 2009 *The A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance 2009 (Seventh Edition)*. A unique resource for a unique context, *The A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* aims to enhance understanding of the dizzying array of actors, structures and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in the country. The guide provides an extensive glossary of assistance terms, an overview of Afghanistan’s system of government, a series of country and city maps, key primary documents, and an extensive contact directory that includes government agencies, NGOs, donors and international actors. *The A to Z Guide*, which is the flagship publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), is also published in Dari and Pashto.

Governance

April 2009 *Mutual Accountability in Afghanistan: Promoting Partnerships in Development Aid?* This paper focuses on how mutual accountability in development aid is understood and how it works in practice in Afghanistan, while also examining the challenges involved in achieving mutual accountability in aid relationships. It concludes that mutual accountability can make development aid more effective by, for instance, increasing public support for development policies, increasing a government’s

legitimacy, increasing donor accountability, and contributing to anti-corruption measures.

February 2009 *Afghanistan’s New Political Parties: A Means to Organise Democratisation?* A new paper from AREU explores the role of new democratic political parties (NDPs) in Afghanistan’s democratisation process. The author argues that the Government of Afghanistan and the international community have effectively sidelined political parties and calls for a reassessment of the contributions they can make to organising democracy. It claims that NDPs are not currently functioning effectively and sets forth key recommendations on how they can play an improved role in this process.

Policymaking

February 2009 *Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Formulation Process: Influencing Factors and Challenges*, by Sayed Mohammed Shah. AREU examines the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which resulted from a complex series of policy interactions. The ANDS is tied to other important documents and processes related to the country’s development, including the Millennium Development Goals, the Afghanistan Compact and the Joint Coordination Management Board. It has implications for the Government of Afghanistan,

donors and, most important of all, Afghan citizens. After exploring the journey taken to create the ANDS, the paper explores the strengths and weaknesses of the consultation processes involved in the formation of the Strategy.

January 2009 Delivering on Poverty Reduction: Focusing ANDS Implementation on Pro-Poor Outcomes, by Paula Kantor, Adam Pain and other contributors. AREU's newly released discussion paper responds to the recently finalized Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Focusing on the poverty reduction aims of the ANDS, the paper notes that, in many cases, the strategy fails to deliver on them. The paper points to implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes as keys for improving pro-poor outcomes. Despite its flaws, the author suggests that the ANDS – with improved implementation – can be crucial in uniting and channelling efforts toward reducing poverty in Afghanistan.

Natural Resources Management

February 2009 A Historical Perspective on the Mirab System: A Case Study of the Jangarok Canal, Baghlan, by Vincent Thomas and Mujeeb Ahmad. The Afghan government and others working in the water and irrigation sector have highlighted the importance of

the so-called traditional *mirab* (water master) system to collective water management in the country. In the relevant policy documents, however, the definitions of “traditional rules,” “*mirab* system” and “*mirab* culture” remain unclear. This in-depth case study provides a historical perspective on how collective water management practices, and the environment in which they occur, have evolved. It argues that the *mirab* system is far from being an institution that is solely community based nor is it divorced from the events and forces swirling around it.

Gender

February 2009 Decisions, Desires and Diversity: Marriage Practices in Afghanistan, by Deborah J. Smith. The institution of marriage is central to Afghan social life and to understanding gender dynamics within Afghan families. This issues paper explores the decision-making processes related to marriage and marriage practices. It draws links between violence in the family and particular marriage practices. Following research in rural and urban areas of four provinces (Bamiyan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar) the paper contends that marriage decisions and practices are affected by many diverse factors—and not merely by demographic factors, such as education and poverty.

The Afghanistan Research Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). The purpose of the Newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate research findings and analysis. Some of the resources cited are available on the internet; most books and other publications are available at the AREU library, located in the AREU office (corner of Flower Street and Street 2) and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9am-12:30pm and 1pm-4pm. The Newsletter is compiled by Royce Wiles and Dr. Abdul Jamil Alkozai, and translated by Atel Aman and Yahya Zaki. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the Newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af.

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is an independent research organisation based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to conduct high-quality research that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU also actively promotes a culture of research and learning by strengthening analytical capacity in Afghanistan and facilitating reflection and debate. Fundamental to AREU's vision is that its work should improve Afghan lives. AREU has recently received funding from: the European Commission; the governments of Denmark (DANIDA), the United Kingdom (DFID), Switzerland (SDC), Norway and Sweden (SIDA); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the Government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; the World Bank; UNICEF; the Aga Khan Foundation; and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). More information and PDF files of all AREU publications are available at www.areu.org.af.

AREU Research

Islam and Democracy In Afghanistan

Recently the AREU governance team organised two focus group discussions (FGD) about Islam and democracy. Participants included representatives from Kabul University, leaders of political parties and members of parliament (MPs). The aim of the discussions was to collect input from the participants for AREU's project on political parties and democratisation. This project looks at democratisation and the role of political parties in Afghanistan and analyses the potential advantages and disadvantages of parties and a party system in the contemporary Afghan context.

The main theme discussed in the FGD was Islam and democracy. The team wanted to find out what Afghan democracy meant to the participants, in particular: people's definition of democracy; whether democracy is a suitable political system for Afghanistan; and what principles of Islam support or contradict democracy.

All of the participants agreed on the definition of democracy, which was quoted by one participant from Abraham Lincoln, to be "the government of the people, by the people, for the people." They presented the current situation of Afghanistan and Afghan democracy. The general consensus was that now, and in the past, prescriptions for the solutions of the problems of Afghanistan have usually been imported from outside: during the past thirty years, Afghans have been given very little chance to find their own solutions for their problems. Not one imported prescription has been able to solve the problems of this country. Democracy, however, was considered by the FGD participants to be the latest and best-imported solution for Afghanistan. Its core principles were considered to be compatible with Islam.

In the discussion around these issues, the participants talked about the following four areas: democracy in general; the compatibility of Islam and democracy; cultural issues; and time or conditions.

Democracy in general

Democracy was defined by the participants as a system of government in which the people have the opportunity for living and development. They said that the main characteristics of democracy are elections, freedom of speech and that the people are happy with their government and the government receives support from the people. One participant talked about Afghans

being familiar with democracy, and another described the success of democracy in other countries:

I think Afghan people really know what democracy is. Throughout history we have decided our issues through Jirgas (assemblies) and Loya Jirgas (general assemblies) these are the best examples of democracy.

Democracy has been tested all over the world in countries and they got the best result for the development of their countries.

However, all the participants agreed that the present situation in Afghanistan is not democratic because the government has lost the trust of the people. They said that democracy in western countries is different from in Afghanistan. Democracy is an ideology in which the rights of every individual are safe, but this is not the case in Afghanistan.

Another good example mentioned concerned the previous elections in Afghanistan. Participants talked about the huge numbers of the population that participated in the presidential polls, but highlighted that the people's expectations of their chosen government have not been met. They said that people have become disappointed with the actions of government. The participants agreed that now the situation is more like anarchy than democracy. One participant emphasised this point:

There is corruption, nepotism, land mafia, and compromising of all the property of the nation. The people of Afghanistan can't call this democracy anymore.

The participants said that the people of Afghanistan had raised their voices through the media about the ways in which the present government functions, but that no one had listened to them. There is a lack of security and female students and children are unable to go to school, especially in the rural part of the country.

The compatibility of Islam and democracy

The participants agreed that in Islam there is one authority, which is the Holy Quran. They said that it is quite clear from an Islamic point of view that what you want or prefer for yourself you should want for others too. This means that good opportunities should

be available for everyone and that there should be equality. Two respondents added to this point, saying:

There is a verse from the Holy Quran, which says that God has given utmost respect and value to all human beings, so from an Islamic point of view there is a support for democracy. We don't see contradictions between Islam and democratic principles, but this also depends on the motivations of people who implement Islam and democracy.

Islam recognises democracy as a value and way of life, not as a philosophy to change the beliefs of the people. In Islam there is a common understanding and respect for all human beings. Colour and race are not an issue. In Islam even 1400 years ago discrimination between black and white races was prohibited. Another verse from the Holy Quran says "no one is superior to anyone else except on the basis of piety and virtue."

It is evident from their statements that the respondents saw democracy as one way to implement this kind of equality that is prescribed in Islam. Finally, the participants agreed that there is more compatibility than incompatibility between Islam and democracy, and that the basic principles of each were compatible with each other.

Cultural issues

In spite of participants saying that Islam is compatible with democratic principles they identified some cultural and social issues concerning western culture that may not be adaptable to Afghan cultures and customs. The following respondents emphasised this point:

I think there are many similarities between Islam and democracy. These similarities include individual freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of belief and religion, election, voting and many more. But there are some cultural or social issues which differentiate between western liberal democracy and Islam, such as the levels of individual freedom for women. Also, in western democracies same-sex marriages are legal but in Islam and Afghan culture these freedoms seem to be immoral. However, I don't think these social values are key principles of democracy.

The international community should help and support Afghans to implement democracy according to Afghan culture and custom.

Afghan women neither want to be beaten with whips nor do they want to see naked pictures of women on the TV or movies. We want democracy according to the culture of Afghanistan, and preferably Islamic democracy.

In summary, the participants felt the need to separate basic democratic principles from some aspects of western culture that were considered unacceptable to Islam. It was suggested that in this way, Afghan democracy could be developed. There were some issues that were not explored in depth, such as the extent of women's individual freedoms in Islamic and democratic societies.

Time and conditions for democracy

All the participants agreed that time was vital for the development of democracy; and they thought that democracy needs a particular situation and environment in which to grow. They said that democracy was developed over hundreds of years in the western world, and that if we copy or try to imitate this process, this would be a mistake. They emphasised that certain conditions are needed for democracy to be implemented, and that these conditions do not currently exist. They asked, "If we don't have food and security than what does democracy means for us?" They mentioned that a lack of education was a huge problem: according to the participants the literacy rate in Afghanistan is "five to seven percent" and the remaining population is illiterate. This being the case, how is it possible to make the people understand democratic values and principles? Participants discussed the division of power in the government among a few warlords and talked of these warlords influencing the appointment of key government positions. They said that in Afghanistan only slogans of democracy are heard, and that the people do not have real freedom. The people do not believe that democracy will be implemented as in other places in the world, because here in Afghanistan there is still a widespread poverty and the force of guns. During the last elections, for example, people sold their votes for a morsel of food and some were threatened into voting for particular people.

Conclusions

From these focus group discussions, certain clear conclusions were reached. The consensus of the group was that real democracy does not currently exist in Afghanistan. Certain conditions are needed before it can be properly implemented including economic development, widespread education and increased security. Democratic principles are compatible with Islam, but there should be an Afghan democracy in Afghanistan that takes into account culture and context. Some aspects of Western culture—that can sometimes be associated with democracy—are not acceptable. Finally, participants suggested that there should be awareness programmes in universities, schools, civil society organisations to clearly define the principles of democracy. Educational opportunities should be strengthened and democratic institutions should be supported. It was concluded that if these factors are taken into account, given time, it would be possible to establish democracy in Afghanistan.

Participatory workshops as a methodology for data collection in Afghanistan: positive factors and challenges

Mohammad Hassan Wafaey and Farid Ahmad Bayat,
Governance team, AREU

Introduction

This article covers some of the positive factors and challenges in using participatory workshops, which we experienced during research on the mutual accountability study in Kabul. The experience of using workshops was mostly positive, although a few challenges were identified as well.

The AREU Governance team used participatory workshops to collect information for research on mutual accountability in Afghanistan. Participatory workshops encourage participants to think about the subject, actively participate in discussion and learn from each other. The number of participants in each workshop was eight to twelve people. The workshops were aimed at NGOs working in development programmes at the national level in Afghanistan.¹

Positive aspects

Three positive aspects of using workshops as a methodology for data collection were found. These included: a good means of raising awareness; a good means of developing networks; and a good means to hear many different perspectives in a short time.

1. A good means of raising awareness: Participatory workshops provided a good opportunity for AREU to raise awareness about mutual accountability and for the participants to exchange views and ideas. The aim is that when participants return to their organisations and communities they can apply what they have learned in the workshop. The nature of the workshops and questions asked in them were designed in a way to make the participants think and actively participate in the discussion. One of AREU's aims is to encourage the development of a culture of research in Afghanistan. This approach can contribute to this goal by including participants in qualitative research.

In Afghanistan, there has been considerable discussion on aid effectiveness; and it is common to hear people complain that aid is not effective. Participatory workshops are a good way for people to voice such concerns and collectively work out ways forward in the Afghan context. In addition, workshops are a good way to raise people's awareness about their roles and responsibilities in the government of the country and how they can call different actors to account.

2. A good means to hear many different perspectives in a short time: Another advantage of participatory workshops is that they create the opportunity to hear a number of different perspectives in a short time due to the number of participants. Using individual interviews to collect data can take much longer to do this. As well, in Afghanistan social groups e.g. ethnic, gender and age groups are sometimes very separate. Workshops can be a good way to mix different perspectives.

3. A good means of developing networks: One of the advantages of this approach is the development of a network of contacts through the workshops. Participatory workshops can provide the opportunity to introduce NGOs both to AREU and to each other, and encourage cooperation. This is especially important in Afghanistan where a lack of coordination exists between NGOs.

Challenges

There were four major challenges in adopting this approach for the study, but most of them were practical issues.

1. Organising a workshop: AREU usually organised

¹ AREU is very grateful to the organisations that helped to organize and host the workshops.

workshops by email or telephone. Often the contact person was either busy or did not want to respond. Once he or she responded, AREU, the study and objectives were explained in detail. This can be difficult to explain in a phone call. Sometimes the process took days or even weeks before it was possible to organise a workshop. Sometimes people were suspicious of the word “research” because in Dari it has a negative connotation, carrying a meaning more like “investigation.” It is often difficult to convince people that research is essential for Afghanistan’s future.

2. Selection of participants: The selection of participants was another major challenge the study faced. AREU had limited control over the selection and invitation of the participants because other organisations were facilitating the workshops. Sometimes the host organisations selected the participants they thought were most senior: although AREU tried to encourage the host organisation to invite a mixture of eligible people, this was not always successful.

3. Place and number of the participants: The discussion environment had a very important role in determining the quality of data. One of the challenges was often the physical space allocated for workshops. Often it was not big enough for the participants to sit comfortably. Sometimes there was a big table in the middle of the room, which meant that the facilitator

did not have a good view of the participants and could not move around the room or talk directly to individual participants. At other times the sheer number of participants made the workshop difficult to control. It was also difficult when there was no electricity or it was very weak because we could not switch on the lights to see what we were doing or see the faces of participants.

4. Facilitating workshops when people are shy or very talkative: Another big challenge was that in workshops, some of participants did not wish to talk. This was possibly because they did not wish to express their opinions in public or they were too shy. In this situation, we had to encourage them to participate in the discussion to ensure a broad representation of opinions. This challenge increased when other participants were very talkative and dominated the discussion.

Conclusion

As we have shown, there are positive factors and challenges involved in using workshops as a data collection methodology in Afghanistan. In general, the governance team found them useful, particularly in the Afghan context. The challenges identified are mainly practical issues that can often be overcome with some planning. When workshops are combined with other research methodologies, such as semi-structured interviews, they can improve the quality and variety of the data collected.

New Publications and Resources

Cross-cutting and General

“The Afghanistan Analyst Bibliography.” 4th ed. (March 2009). <http://afghanistan-analyst.org/Documents/AfghanistanBibliography2009.pdf> (692 KB) As with earlier versions, the latest edition of this bibliography (150 p.) aims to be “an up-to-date resource for studying and researching contemporary Afghanistan.” It is a useful entry point into recent academic publications on Afghanistan and since it has been recently brought up-to-date, a way to review recent publications. For those seeking more immediate updates, there is also now a Facebook page for this group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=72373045999&ref=nf>

BBC World Service Public Opinion Poll of Afghanistan, 30 December 2008-12 January 2009. London: BBC World Service, 2009. 24 p. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/05_02_09afghan_poll_2009.pdf

(628 KB) “The Afghan Centre for Social and Opinion Research in Kabul carried out fieldwork, via face-to-face interviews with 1,534 Afghans in all of the country’s 34 provinces between 30 December 2008 and 12 January 2009. The poll was commissioned by the BBC, ABC News of America and ARD of Germany.” The US ABC media agency released its version of the analysis as “Support for US Efforts Plummets Amid Afghanistan’s Ongoing Strife: ABC news/BBC/ARD Poll, Afghanistan, Where Things Stand.” 40 p. <http://abcnews.go.com/images/PollingUnit/1083a1Afghanistan2009.pdf>

Challenges and Dilemmas of State-building in Afghanistan: Report of a Study Trip to Kabul, edited by Arpita Basu Roy. Delhi: Shipra, 2008. 132 p. ISBN 9788175414648. This volume is the outcome of a study trip to Kabul by a team of researchers from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata undertaken in October 2007. Articles include: “Peace-

building in Contemporary Afghanistan” by Arpita Basu Roy; “Scourge of Landmines in Afghanistan” by Binod Kr. Mishra; “Perspectives on Society and Culture in Contemporary Afghanistan” by Kausik Bandyopadhyay;—“The Great State-building Game: Post-Taliban Afghanistan by Zubair Popalzai; “The Aid and Power Nexus in Rebuilding Afghanistan” by Zubair Popalzai; “The Importance of Tribal Structures and Pakhtunwali in Afghanistan: Their Role in Security and Governance” by Shahm Mahmood Miakhel.



2009. 7 p. http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/briefing_papers/ten-point-plan-to-change-course-in-afghanistan/Ten-Point-Plan-to-Change-Course-in-Afghanistan.pdf (56 KB) Ten points for the largest and most influential donor in Afghanistan, the United States, to directly address the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. The comments are based on Oxfam’s research, experience and perspectives from the field.

DFID. *Understanding Afghanistan* London: Department for International Development (DFID). November 2008. <http://www.cowiprojects.com/fsdc/projects.html> This multi-part report is the result of a major review of Afghanistan’s state in late 2008 by an expert team funded by the UK government’s Department for International Development. It includes literature reviews and synthesis reports covering political economy, conflict assessment, economic growth, poverty, gender and social exclusion.

Entezar, Ehsan M. *Afghanistan 101: Understanding Afghan Culture*. Modesto, California: E.M. Entezar, 2007. 169 p. ISBN 9781425792824. This book by an Afghan-born scholar details how parts of Afghan culture work and provides explanations from a sociological perspective. The contrasts between the “western” way of doing things and the Afghan way are particularly stark. This represents a genuine attempt to analyse the gaps between Afghan culture and “western” cultures.



A PROVINCIAL SURVEY
OF
BALKH, JOWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARIPUL
By
Katarina Larsson
Consultant
November 2008

Larsson, Katarina. “A Provincial Survey of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul.” Kabul: Katarina Larsson, November 2008. 79 p. (PDF 2 MB) A very useful survey of the economy, governance situation, development assistance, education and health, rule of law, position of women etc. in four neighbouring provinces

where the Swedish Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) is active.

“Memo to President Obama: Ten Point Plan to Change Course in Afghanistan.” Kabul?: Oxfam, January

“Provincial Needs Assessments.” Kabul: European Union, European Commission, International Organization for Migration, 2008-2009?. PDFs (1.38 MB). Each assessment is marked “Annex D, Support to Provincial Governance” and seems to be part of larger documentation about work in each province. The assessments describe the provinces briefly and then evaluate strengths and weaknesses and list proposed initiatives to improve things. Released so far: Baghlan, prepared by Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) (19 p.); Faryab (19 p.); Ghor, prepared by the Lithuanian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) (30 p.); Herat province, Italian PRT of Herat (22 p.); Kabul province, prepared by the French Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) (16 p.).

“Peace Building in Afghanistan [text of papers presented at a two day conference],” edited by Markus Håkansson. Stockholm: Svenska Afghanistankommittén, 2009. <http://www.sak.se/arkiv/artiklar/artiklar/2009/peace/> (PDFs 3.0 MB in total) Contents: “Peace Building And Its Components: The State Of The Art” by Kristian Berg Harpviken; “Descent into Chaos: An Overview of the Last Six Years” by Ahmed Rashid; “The Government’s Peace Building Attempts 2001-2008” by Jawed Ludin; “The State, Conflict and International Assistance” by Anders Fange; “The Need for Justice in Peace Building” by Sima Samar; “How to Bury the Hatchet: Efforts to Reconcile” by Mary Akrami; “Liberal Peace Building and the Challenges to Enhance State Legitimacy” by Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh; “Government Strategies for National and Sub-National Institution Building” by Jelani Popal; “Regaining People’s Confidence: Strategies to Enhance State Legitimacy and Civil Society” by Mirwais Wardak; “What is Needed to Enhance National Security?” by Farishta Sakhi; “Strategies for Enhancing Regional Security by Carlotta Gall; “Sweden’s Contribution to Peace Building in Afghanistan” by Gunilla Carlsson.

“The Situation in Afghanistan and its Implications for

International Peace and Security.” New York: United Nations, General Assembly, 10 March 2009. <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=s/2009/135> (188 KB) Regular UN overview of key political developments, security sector and rule of law, governance, ANDS, human rights and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. As usual, this is a useful starting point and summary.

Abdullatif, Javid and Patxi Elichiry. “Socio-economic and Habitat Survey in Behsud I & II Districts, Wardak Province.” Kabul: Mission d’Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales (MADERA), May 2008. 44 p. This survey provides a brief overview of the “habitat” (i.e. settlement patterns, land cover, climate, etc.) and socioeconomic situation in districts one and two of Behsud (Hissa-i Awal Behsud and Markaz-I Behsud) in Wardak Province and an assessment of relative vulnerability within those districts. The objectives of this survey were to describe the districts, to collect and analyse socioeconomic data and to assess the investment priorities and housing situation. The researchers used “the list of villages by area that was prepared for a snow clearing project in 2005 (that remains the most reliable source of information about villages and population presenting both districts, Central Statistics Office data are incomplete and hundreds of villages haven’t been listed)” (p.4). For the survey they selected 80 villages randomly, and in November 2007 they conducted three weeks of structured interviews and, in addition, meetings with key informants were used to gain qualitative data.

Agriculture

Sharif, M. and M.Y. Safar. “Land Administration and Management in Afghanistan.” Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin: Terra Institute, June 2008. 5 p. http://www.terrainstitute.org/pdf/Land%20Admin_Afghan_Sharif.pdf (40 KB) This paper addresses land policy objectives for Afghanistan and identifies strategic areas for policy improvement.

Stanfield, David, Yasin Safar, Akram Salam. “Community Rangeland Administration: Focus on Afghanistan.” Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin: Terra Institute, April 2008. 31 p. <http://www.terrainstitute.org/pdf/Community%20Rangeland%20Admin.pdf> (668 KB) In Afghanistan, the institutional recording of the rights to real property has been severely damaged by the 25 years of turmoil. Less than 10 percent of rural properties and fewer than 30 percent of urban properties are covered by legal deeds that are legally recorded in the Provincial Court Archives. One type of rural property is more complicated than others, community pastures, which are not involved in transactions, and therefore are not theoretically

covered by legal deeds. Nearly all of the pastures of the country are officially owned by the State, but used by families, clans, or tribes, including nomadic groups that herd sheep, goats, cattle and camels across semi-arid lands. Under the informal arrangements, which have existed for the use of these lands, differences of opinion can emerge. Also with security of tenure not assured, the users are not motivated to invest in the improvement of these lands. To address these issues, procedures have been developed to draft agreements among the village leaders and elders as well as leaders of nomadic groups as to who are the legitimate users of pasture parcels.

Drug Control

“Afghanistan: Opium Winter Assessment 2009.” Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), January 2009. http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/ORA_report_2009.pdf (2.23 MB). This short survey is based on a small sample of villages and the results are meant to be indicative only. Following the 19 percent reduction in opium cultivation in 2008 (157,000 ha), this report anticipates a further decrease in opium cultivation.

“Thematic evaluation of the Technical Assistance Provided to Afghanistan by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2008. 6 v. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/thematic-evaluation-reports.html> PDFs (4.79 MB) Contents: Vol. 1 Consolidated Evaluation Report (xii, 44 p.); 2. Alternative Livelihoods Programme (v, 29 p.); 3. Law Enforcement Programme (viii, 48 p.); 4. Rule of Law Programme (x, 62 p.); 5. Drug Demand Reduction Programme (viii, 62 p.); 6. Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ix, 59 p.). This evaluation assesses the work of UNODC in building the capacity of Afghanistan government agencies. The evaluation concludes that United Nations organizations are competing with each other for resources rather than working together. It recommends that the UN and the international community coordinate their efforts to build the capacities of the Afghan government to address the challenges of counter-narcotics, reconstruction and state-building (Foreword, v. 1, p. v).

Townsend, Jacob. “Upcoming Changes to the Drug-Insurgency Nexus in Afghanistan.” Terrorism Monitor 7, no. 3 (January 23, 2009) [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=34405&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&cHash=7534075a44](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34405&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&cHash=7534075a44) HTML files (36 KB) According to this author, reductions in opium cultivation will occur without any action by external forces. The plateau of cultivation in 2007 and 2008 has driven down the price of opium

and built up stocks with farmers, traders, traffickers and insurgents. Just as manufacturers in the global recession are doing, participants in the 2009 opium economy will respond to over-supply by reducing production. This will mean a number of changes in the interconnections between the drug trade and insurgents.

Economic Development

Economic and Social Rights in Afghanistan III. Kabul: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), December 2008. 53 p. http://www.aihrc.org.af/2008_Dec/Ecn_soc/Eng_Eco_Soc_rep.pdf (5.7 MB) This report measures progress of the government of Afghanistan towards securing social and economic rights in Afghanistan between January 2007 and March 2008. The Commission released two previous reports on Economic and Social Rights in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007. Areas treated here are vulnerable segments of the population, labour rights, social security, the situation of women, adequate standards of living, health, education and finally, forced and under-age marriage.

“Evaluation participative du NSP: analyse des entretiens menés avec les professionnels (hommes et femmes) du NSP.” Kabul: MADERA, 2008. 138p. http://www.madera-asso.org/IMG/pdf/Evaluation_participative_NSP_-_entretiens_avec_les_professionnels.pdf (1 MB) MADERA is working with more than 650 communities in Ghor, Laghman, Nuristan and Kunar. This evaluation aimed to improve the training of MADERA teams, to provide ways to promote community development, to make clear the impact of NSP projects on communities and on local power structures as well as the ownership of the programmes by villagers, finally it was to examine the participation of women and men in public community debate.

Michailof, Serge. “The Seven Capital Sins of the Donor Community in Afghanistan.” Washington D.C.: The German Marshall Fund of the United States, [2009]. 8p. http://www.gmfus.org/template/download.cfm?document=/doc/Serge_AfghanistanBrief_Final2.pdf (236 KB) The objective of this policy brief is to help trigger a reassessment by the new U.S. administration of what has gone wrong in the way the aid effort has been conducted in Afghanistan. It does not focus on the specific U.S. aid effort, but on the international community’s development efforts in Afghanistan. It also aims to ensure that the U.S. administration’s reflection occurs in the context of efforts to strengthen transatlantic development and security cooperation. In short, it explains that in a context of “inadequate” leadership, the lack of serious coordination and strategic planning among key donors in Afghanistan

has seriously undermined aid effectiveness.

“Afghanistan: Japan’s Experiences Revisited.” Tokyo: Afghanistan Study Group, 2009. 51 p. http://www2.jiia.or.jp/pdf/resarch/2008_afghanistan/2008_afghanistan.pdf (588 KB) Supported by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), an Afghanistan Study Group Japan was formed from members with experience in assisting various sectors in Afghanistan. They have conducted a series of discussions on the international intervention in Afghanistan since 9/11 and summary recommendations based on the group’s discussions have been released.

“UN Development Assistance Framework in Support of the ANDS: First draft, 10 February 2009.” Kabul: UNAMA, 2008. 17 p. (Dari version 29 p.) (PDF 1.25 MB) The UN framework of support for the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, developed for comment after a series of consultations and planning sessions between June 2008 and January 2009.

Elections

Ayub, Fatima ... [et al.]. “Vetting Lessons for the 2009-10 Elections.” New York: International Center for Transitional Justice, January, 2009. 46 p. http://ictj.org/static/Asia/Afghanistan/ICTJ_AFG_VettingLessons_pa2009.pdf (338 KB) In 2005, the Afghan government sought to exclude candidates with links to illegally armed groups (IAGs) or who were known to have committed human rights violations. The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) identified 1,100 candidates with ties to illegally armed groups; however, the majority of them were not excluded due to insufficient evidence or security concerns. The ECC failed in 2005 for three reasons: lack of international and Afghan impetus to exclude candidates; unclear or ambiguous laws regarding IAGs; and a lack of operational capacity. These obstacles remain in 2009. This paper recommends one of three options to help ensure the integrity of the coming electoral process:

- Rectify the mistakes of 2005 by rewriting unclear laws governing the process, organising political support for the process in the Afghan government and the international community, and running the ECC in a fair and impartial way, with the full capacities and resources it requires to complete the vetting process.
- Conduct a “soft vetting” process that provides voters with comprehensive data on all candidates, including any affiliation with IAGs. Candidates would be allowed to withdraw their candidacy before the information was

made public, and they would be required to take an oath that they are not and will not be involved in IAGs. National and international security forces would have to be prepared to protect voters who choose to reject warlords.

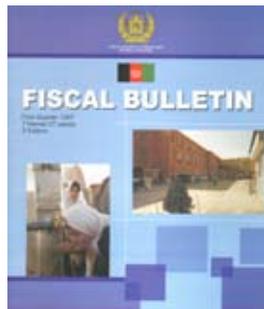
- Downplay the vetting process and focus on limiting voter fraud, guaranteeing the freedom of the Afghan press, monitoring the election closely and making the best possible security arrangements. This would require changes to the existing electoral law and the political will to ensure that these mechanisms succeed.

“Priorities for Gender Ownership in Electoral Support.” [Kabul?]: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), 2008. 8 p. This report was written after a survey and discussion with Afghan and international practitioners and experts on electoral assistance and gender issues in Afghanistan, as well as a comprehensive literature review encompassing themes of gender, elections and Afghanistan. One of the most significant findings is the potential in Afghanistan for male gatekeepers to prevent women’s participation in elections. The paper suggests promoting male ownership of gender issues through civic education and outreach programming.

“Report on the First and Second Phases of the Voter Registration Process.” Kabul: Free & Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), 2009. (PDFs 180 KB total) Two separate short reports outline some problems observed with voter registration in the first and second phases (14 and 10 provinces respectively) of voter registration, all findings were shared with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Finance

Afghanistan. Ministry of Finance. Fiscal Bulletin. Kabul: Ministry of Finance. 1387 First quarter ((1st Hamal-31st Jawza) “3rd edition). This (new?) quarterly report prepared by the Fiscal Policy Unit of the Ministry of Finance covers key fiscal developments in revenue collections and government expenditures and shows how government operations were financed. It provides a record of public finances for citizens, donors and other stakeholders



to review and assess Afghanistan’s public finances. After a summary of the quarter’s developments core budget revenues are presented, then core budget expenditures and details of the financing of the budget. Gross expenditures by Ministry and operating expenditures by Ministry are given in table form. The contact person is Ahmad Khalid Jalalzai ah_khalid01@hotmail.com. The document should also be available on the ministry website: www.mof.gov.af

Foreign Relations

Allison, Roy. “Security Cooperation between Western States and Russia over Central Asia/Afghanistan: The Changing Role of Uzbekistan: Programme Paper.” London: Chatham House, 24 November, 2008. 9 p. http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/12767_241108_rep_allison.pdf (88 KB) The prospects for US-Russian and NATO-Russian collaboration over security and stabilization in Central Asia/Afghanistan have declined sharply since the highpoint of the May 2002 Bush-Putin summit and the agenda of mutual activity that they offered. The potential for such cooperation is determined not only by the quality of Russian-Western relations, but also by the forms of engagement of key Central Asia states. Uzbekistan, in particular, has held a pivotal role in efforts to meet new security challenges in Central Asia.

Blank, Stephan. “Beyond Manas: Russia’s Game in Afghanistan.” Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Analyst, 2 November 2008. <http://www.cacianalyst.org/?q=node/5036/print> (HTML file, 24 KB). An attempt to explain the seemingly contradictory policies of Russia towards Afghanistan: allowing transit of non-military goods through its territory, but at the same time pressuring Krgyzstan to not allow the US to use the Manas airbase there.

Bruno, Greg, and Lionel. Beehner. “Iran and the Future of Afghanistan.” [New York]: Council on Foreign Relations, 2009. 3 p. http://www.cfr.org/publication/13578/iran_and_the_future_of_afghanistan.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder HTML file (548 KB) Commentary on the shift to regard Iran as an important stakeholder in Afghanistan’s future stability.

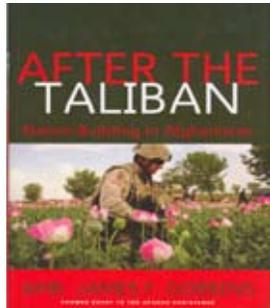
Kjærnet, Heidi and Stina Torjesen, “Afghanistan and Regional Instability: A Risk Assessment.” Oslo: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs = Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt, 2008. 35 p. <http://www.nupi.no/content/download/3781/57112/version/2/file/Report-Kj%C3%A6rnet-Torjesen.pdf> (1.38 MB) A stocktaking of Afghanistan’s regional challenges. It

found that domestic instability in Pakistan, strains in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and insecurities associated with the US-Iran stand-off on Iran's nuclear programme continue to pose the most significant regional risks to the stability of Afghanistan. There are, however, a number of additional challenges: the failure of the USA and its allies to enable a substantial dialogue on Afghanistan with Russia and China, in addition to India and Pakistan's continued rivalry, create a suboptimal regional environment for Afghanistan's stabilization process. There are also serious regional challenges related to drugs trafficking and water sharing.

Health

"Afghanistan: Health Sector Support Aide-memoire, September 29, 2008." 10 p. PDF (141 KB) Summary notes from a World Bank team visit, which came to discuss preparation of the proposed Strengthening Health Activities for the Rural Poor (SHARP) project, review implementation progress of the ongoing World Bank health project and discuss progress on a health sector review.

History

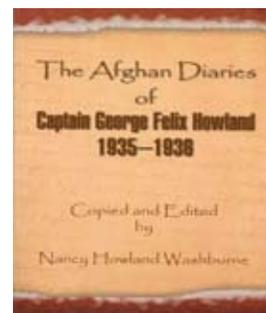


Dobbins, James. *After the Taliban: Nation-building in Afghanistan.* Washington, D.C.: Potomac Books, 2008. 179 p. ISBN 9781597970839. An account of the diplomacy surrounding the foundation of the first Afghan government after the fall of the Taliban. This is an insider's account of post-September 11 US diplomacy.

Gutman, Roy. *How we Missed the Story: Osama bin Laden, the Taliban, and the Hijacking of Afghanistan.* Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2008. 321 p. ISBN 9781601270245. This book focuses on events in Afghanistan during the 1990s. The analysis highlights key strategic mistakes in the West: allowing the Taliban to fill the power vacuum left in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal, and then, with the emergence of Osama bin Laden, in leaving strategic policies in the hands of counterterrorism experts rather than political and diplomatic officials.

Howland, George Felix. *The Afghan Diaries of Captain George Felix Howland, 1935-1936, copied and edited by Nancy Howland Washburne.* Philadelphia, Pa.: Xlibris Corp., c2008. 204 p. An English teacher in Kabul for two years at the beginning of Zahir Shah's

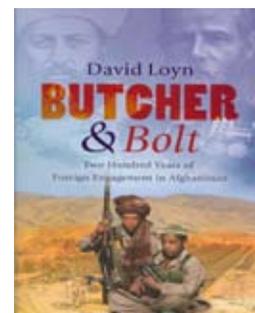
reign kept notes on his life and that of other foreigners in the city, he records his visitors, walks around the city and other incidents, with somewhat bitter judgements and comments. His daughter has published a few excerpts from his diaries.



Ibrahimi, Niamatullah. "At the Sources of Factionalism and Civil War in Hazarajat." London: Crisis States Programme, Crisis States Research Centre, January 2009. [26] p. <http://www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/WP40.2.htm> PDF (1.31 MB) A review of the turbulent history of civil war and factionalism in Hazarajat from 1979 to 1989, evaluating the role of Shiite clerical networks and external actors, and outlining the various struggles for power.

Ibrahimi, Niamatullah. "Divide and Rule: State Penetration in Hazarajat (Afghanistan) from the Monarchy to the Taliban." London: Crisis States Programme, Crisis States Research Centre, 2009. 21 p. <http://www.crisisstates.com/Publications/phase2papers.htm> (PDF 1.55 MB) This paper addresses the way the Afghan monarchy, in its attempts to consolidate and expand the state presence across the country, established control over Hazarajat. It examines the strategy and tactics used to conquer the region and maintain control once the rebellions were defeated. It then presents a comparative analysis of Afghan state strategy to conquer the region in the 1890s and the Taliban campaign against Hazaras in the 1990s. It is an exploration of the historical patterns and issues that remained at the centre of Afghan politics throughout the century.

Loyn, David. *Butcher & Bolt: Two Hundred Years of Foreign Engagement in Afghanistan.* London: Hutchinson, 2008. 351 p. ISBN 9780091921408. A journalist's recounting of two hundred years of military and political history in Afghanistan from 1808 to 2008, outlining a continuing series of short-term involvements and failures. "The aspirations of invaders and nation builders alike have never matched the challenges of this magnificent, sometimes harsh country and its complex and courteous, warlike but always gracious people." (p.305).



Human Rights

“From Hope to Fear: An Afghan Perspective on Operations of Pro-government Forces in Afghanistan.” Kabul: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), December 2008. 54 p. http://www.aihrc.org.af/2008_Dec/PDF_Pro_G/Eng_Pro_G.pdf (4.46 MB) This report focuses on airstrikes and night raids because they represent two of the main sources of resentment and anger among the local population. The incidents documented in this report have resulted primarily from operations by International Military Forces (IMF), Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), or joint operations involving airstrikes and nighttime searches of civilian houses (“night raids”). Separate and concurrent to this report, AIHRC has published a report documenting insurgent abuses. Insurgent tactics demonstrate a deliberate pattern of abuse and intimidation of the population. AIHRC found no systematic attempts by Pro Government Forces (PGF) to violate their international obligation of care to civilians. Nonetheless, some PGF practices raise serious concerns. Regardless of whether PGF committed violations per se, a more important question is whether PGF could have done more to prevent harm to civilians.

“Insurgent Abuses against Civilians.” Kabul: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), December, 2008. 43 p. http://www.aihrc.org.af/2008_Dec/PDF_Anti_G/Eng_anti_G.pdf (1.76 MB) This report focuses on serious violations of Islamic principles, domestic and international law caused by the Taliban from 2006 to mid-2008. The actions documented are in direct contravention to Islamic Sharia, Afghan domestic and international law. All three sources provide clear strictures about the protection of civilians during armed conflict, which are set out in the report. A panel of respected Islamic scholars has provided a religious interpretation of these breaches, using the principles of Islamic Sharia. Alerted by reports from around the country, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) conducted a detailed investigation into the allegations of a campaign of terror carried out by insurgents. The team interviewed over 100 victims and witnesses, tribal elders, community representatives and local government officials on the ground, in order to gain an authentic and exact image of abuses against civilians perpetrated by AGEs. Beyond its specifically informative content, AIHRC makes clear recommendations to all parties in the armed conflict in Afghanistan at the end of this report.

“Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council Fifth Session, May

4-5, 2009.” New York: International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), 2008. 5 p. <http://www.ictj.org/static/UPR/UPR%20Afghanistan%20-%20ICTJ%20Submission%20-%20November%202008%20-%20Final.pdf> (64 KB) Summary: “The current challenge in Afghanistan is to focus on core human rights and justice as part of a state-building and stabilisation process, boosting the commitment of all stakeholders to the well-being of the Afghan nation and people. This effort demands due acknowledgment of how the culture of impunity for war crimes and gross human rights violations contributes to empowering Afghan warlords and drug lords (within or outside the government) and to shrinking the space for freedom of expression.” (Introduction).

Humanitarian

Donini, Antonio. “Humanitarian Agenda 2015: principles, power and perceptions: Afghanistan: humanitarianism under threat.” Medford, Ma.: Tufts University, March 2009. 11 p. <http://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/FIC/Afghanistan++Humanitarianism+under+Threat> (PDF 572 KB) Based on extensive field interviews in Afghanistan, this briefing paper is an update of a 2006 study on perceptions of humanitarian action in Afghanistan, which was part of the Humanitarian Agenda 2015 research program. The paper highlights critical issues affecting the provision of humanitarian action and suggests how they could, partially at least, be redressed.

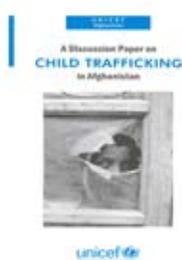
Law and Justice

Atabay, Tomris. “Afghanistan: Capacity Building of Female Prison Staff Needs Assessment.” Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, March 2008. 26 p. This study is part of UNODC’s criminal justice reform programme (begun in Afghanistan in 2003). This paper outlines the results of a needs assessment carried out in May and June 2007 of women staff in prisons. A handbook for women staff will be developed on the basis of this study and the previous report “Afghanistan: Female Prisoners and their Social Reintegration”.

Benish, Abdul Jalil, Bhanu Bhakta Acharya and Niamatullah Ibrahim. “Between Impunity and Accountability: A Comparative Overview of Transitional Justice Processes in Two Post-conflict South Asian Countries: Nepal and Afghanistan.” Kabul: Afghanistan Watch, 2008. 27 p. <http://www.watchafghanistan.org/files/B-I-and-A.pdf> (1.16 MB) <http://www.watchafghanistan.org/files/B-I-and-A-Persian.pdf> (5 MB) Using identified “similarities in ... political processes, ideological struggles, socio-economic

structures, sources of conflicts and patterns of power struggles” in Afghanistan and Nepal this paper examines the transitional justice processes in each.

Carbonari, Federico and Antonella Deledda “Afghanistan: A Change of Course?” *Transition Studies Review* 15 (2008): 466-479. The situation in Afghanistan today is not what the international community was planning seven years ago when the Bonn Agreement was signed. Deterioration of security, weak governance, corruption, high narcotic production and trade, slow reconstruction process and consequent public disappointment are some of the features today. Kabul and its international partners have had very little success in restoring peace and security, and a new phase of strategic rethinking is in process. This article analyses the different aspects of Afghan reconstruction and military intervention, their strengths and weaknesses, and outlines some urgent actions to be taken by all concerned actors (Abstract).



“A Discussion Paper on Child Trafficking in Afghanistan.” Kabul: UNICEF Afghanistan, 2008. 22 p. Available by phoning UNICEF’s Afghanistan Country Office in Kabul (+93 (0)7002 2295). The primary purpose of this paper is to clarify key misconceptions that exist in Afghanistan about trafficking. The secondary

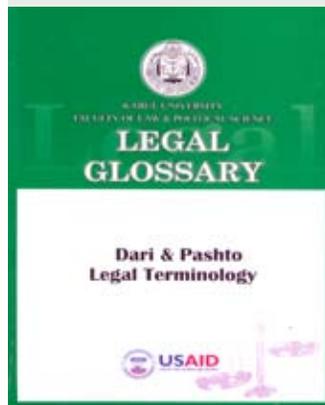
Afghan laws

Original texts Soft copies of laws are available for download from the website of the Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan. <http://www.moj.gov.af/OGs/Pages/summary1.htm> (only in Dari and Pashtu). However, you need to know the *Official gazette* number you require. A draft finding aid listing many of the laws (prepared by the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project) is available from library@areu.org.af (PDF 1 MB)

Translations It is important to realize that not every Afghan law has been translated. The easiest to use and most comprehensive site is www.afghanistantranslation.com. A search box allows easy searching of the different categories of laws, laws are not arranged chronologically.

Another source (entries cease around 2002-2003) is <http://www.idlo.int/english/External/IPAfghanLaws.asp>. Specialized sites may also have lists, etc. for commercial laws: <http://www.aisa.org.af/laws/Econ%20LIF%20E.html#link4>

“Legal Glossary: Dari & Pashto Legal Terminology.” Kabul: Faculty of Law & Political Science, Kabul University, 2009. ISBN 9789936210387. 270, 298 p. Full text on-line (though not searchable yet) <http://www.afghanistantranslation.com> and follow the link to “Legal glossary”. The lack of a dictionary of



legal terminology in Afghanistan has made legal terms difficult to translate and interpret for legal professionals. This pioneering new glossary includes 4,000 legal/judicial terms in separate Dari and Pashto lists, with short explanations (there is unfortunately no attempt to give English equivalents or explanations). More

than twenty legal professionals, educators and scholars have contributed to the book and this will undoubtedly be the foundation for the continued standardizing and clarification of legal terms in Afghanistan. The project was facilitated by the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), as have a number of other significant and useful initiatives, like the scanning of all existing issues of the *Official Gazette*, the full text Afghan law database in Dari and Pashto, the Independent National Legal Training Centre (INTLC) Library, etc.

purpose is to give an overview of sources of information about trafficking in Afghanistan and arrive at an assessment of what is really known about trafficking in the country today. The final part of the paper takes a critical look at key counter-trafficking interventions in Afghanistan and discusses how they can be improved.

Safar, Mohammad Yasin. “Property Rights Administration.” Kabul: USAID/OTI-Bearing Point, 2003. 38 p. PDF (1.5 MB) This useful study from 2003 (only received recently) outlines the system of land registration in Kabul, including administrative charts for the Kabul Appeal Court, Kabul Land Office (Amlak) and Cadastro Survey Organization (1382).

Tondini, Matteo. “Justice Sector Reform in Afghanistan: From a ‘Lead Nation’ Approach to a ‘Mixed Ownership’ Regime?” *Transition studies review* 15 (2009): 660-673. The article describes the policymaking structure that governs the reform of justice in Afghanistan. It is characterized by an evolution from a bilateral to a multilateral approach,

aimed at increasing Afghan ownership. However, observing the system “from within”, it seems currently ruled by a mixed regime, being still deeply influenced by external inputs. As a consequence, the final outcome of the process remains uncertain (Abstract).

United Nations. “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners” (adopted 30 August 1955) = قواعد حد اقل معیاری ملل متحد برای رفتار با زندانیان / United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, [2008]. a-b, 32, 33, a-b p. This is an unofficial translation of UN guidelines for the treatment of people held in prisons and any other forms of custody. The text of the 1955 standards is given in English, Dari and Pashto.

Politics and Government

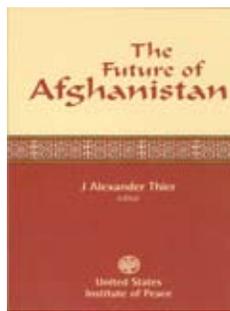
“Afghanistan: New US Administration, New Directions.” Kabul: International Crisis Group, 2009. 19 p. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6007&l=1> PDF (1.31 MB) Seven years after the U.S.-led intervention in Afghanistan the country is still at war against extremists and has developed few resilient institutions. A policy review by the Obama administration has reopened debate about how to defeat the forces of violent global jihadism—al-Qaida and its Taliban protectors—in Afghanistan and in neighbouring Pakistan. In most cases, the ideas on offer—from declaring victory and pulling out, to negotiating with the insurgents, to organising regional conferences, to prioritising relationships with favoured individuals and allies over the development of strong democratic institutions—have been tried at least once in the past two decades, with no success: we know now what not to do. Knowing what to do, and how to do it, is harder. What is needed in Afghanistan is the creation of a resilient state, which will only emerge if moderate forces and democratic norms are strengthened and robust institutions are built that can uphold and are accountable to the rule of law. Only when citizens perceive the state as legitimate and capable of delivering security, good governance and rule of law will Afghans be able to resist jihadi pressures and overtures. The Afghanistan crisis is the outcome of decades of internal conflict. No short-term solution will resolve the crisis overnight. Time and patience are needed to build the infrastructure and institutions to stabilise the Afghan state and root out the jihadi networks.

Chan, Samuel. “Breaking the Impasse in Afghanistan: Problems with Neighbors, Brothers and Guests.” [103]-128.;30 cm. http://www.isdp.eu/files/publications/cefq/08/November_December_2008.pdf (1.0 MB). *China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly* 6 no. 4 (2008): 103-128. Seven years after the ousting of the

Taliban regime, Afghanistan has reached a stalemate whereby “Kabul will not fall and the insurgency will not end.” To break this impasse, three essential areas must be addressed—the security of Afghanistan’s key neighbors Iran and Pakistan; the dismal performance of Afghan democracy and threats of warlordism; and, the lack of a coherent strategy that has plagued the international community’s efforts in Afghanistan.

Dempsey, John and J. Alexander Thier. “Resolving the Crisis over Constitutional Interpretation in Afghanistan”, Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), March 2009. <http://library.usip.org/articles/1012134.1066/1.PDF> (224 KB) “The current political crisis over elections in Afghanistan stems, in part, form a fundamental gap in Afghanistan’s legal and political system: lack of agreement on what entity(s) has the power to resolve constitutional disputes, and how that power is accessed. Without a clear path to settling constitutional disagreements, the system becomes deadlocked as disputes arise, exacerbating tensions between Afghanistan’s fragile institutions and factionalized political elite. Filling this gap in Afghanistan’s constitutional system is of paramount importance to stabilising the political system. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches should begin intensive discussions to hammer out a compromise.” (Introduction).

Fick, Nathaniel. “Tell Me Why we’re There?: Enduring Interests in Afghanistan (and Pakistan): Policy Brief” Nathaniel C. Fick ... [et al.]. Washington, D.C.: Centre for a New American Security, January 2009. 3 p. <http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS%20Policy%20Brief%20-%20Enduring%20Interests%20in%20Afghanistan%20and%20Pakistan.pdf> (640 KB) This paper states that three things are necessary to understand the fighting in Afghanistan, to maintain US domestic and international support for it and continuing the war: a clear articulation of US interests in Afghanistan, a concise definition of what the coalition seeks to achieve there and a detailed strategy to guide the effort.



The Future of Afghanistan, edited by J. Alexander Thier. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2009. 109 p. PDF (7.8 MB) This collection of recent essays covers a range of state building and development issues: “Transformation of the Afghan State” by Barnett R. Rubin; “The Future of Security Institutions” by Ali A. Jalali; “The Long Democratic Transition” by Grant Kippen; “The Politics of Mass Media” by Amin Tarzi; “A Human

Rights Awakening?” by Nader Naderi; “The Arrested Development of Afghan Women” by Sippi Azarbaijani-Moghaddam; “Culture and Contest” by Jolyon Leslie; “Afghanistan and its Region” by William Maley; “The Intertwined Destinies of Afghanistan and Pakistan” by Marvin C. Weinbaum and Haseeb Humayoon. <http://www.usip.org/peaceops/afghanistan/book.html>

Giustozzi, Antonio. “Afghanistan: Transition Without End, an Analytical Narrative on State-making.” London: Crisis States Programme, Crisis States Research Centre, November 2008. 54 p. <http://www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/WP40.2.htm> (PDF 1.31 MB) Here the origins of the Afghan state are usefully surveyed and commented upon (from the nineteenth-century up to the present day). There are also considerations of Afghan military organisation, the legal system within the state-making context and the political economy of Afghanistan’s “crises” 1978-2006. A conspectus for anyone seeking an outline of the formation of the Afghan state.

Howell, Jude and Jeremy Lind. “‘Civil Society with Guns is not Civil Society’: Aid, Security and Civil Society in Afghanistan.” London: Non-Governmental Public Action Programme, The Centre for Civil Society, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, 31 July, 2008. 40 p. ISBN 9780853283096. http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/GWOT/pdf/WP24_Afghanistan_HowellLind_Web.pdf (228 KB) This paper examines the intensified convergence of aid, security and foreign policy goals since 9/11 and its effects on civil society in the context of Afghanistan. As a theatre for both the pursuance of the War on Terror and processes of reconstruction, development and political stabilisation, the Afghan case is of particular interest. Afghanistan’s economy is heavily dependent on foreign aid; its government in turn relies crucially on external military and political support for its survival. The complex intertwining of external (primarily American) military and foreign policy objectives with development goals are played out vividly in the case of Afghanistan, with significant ramifications for the organisational landscape and ideological and political purpose of civil society.

Mainstreaming FATA: Summary Report. Peshawar: Benazir Democracy Institute, Shaheed Bhutto Foundation, 2009. 18 p. http://www.accessdemocracy.org/files/MainstreamingFATA_Report.pdf (2.65 MB) Report on workshops in the tribal areas about how to promote stability and development in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along the Pakistan border with Afghanistan.

A New Vision for Afghanistan: Summary Report. Princeton, New Jersey: Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2008. [8] p. http://www.princeton.edu/lisd/publications/AfghSummary_2008.pdf (3.1 MB) This report summarises proceedings at a seminar that assessed progress made and addressed critical issues currently facing Afghanistan, included are recommendations in the areas of security, regional relations, elections, governance and rule of law, and the economy and human development.

Rogers, Paul. “Afghanistan’s Critical Moment”, 2009. 5 p. Published in **Open Democracy News Analysis, February 2009.** <http://www.opendemocracy.net/article/afghanistan-s-critical-moment> (HTML file 104 KB) Review of the situation in Afghanistan, with a focus on US policy.

Rubin, Barnett R. and Sara Batmanglich. “The US and Iran in Afghanistan: Policy Gone Awry.” Cambridge, Massachusetts: Center for International Studies, October 2008. 5 p. http://web.mit.edu/CIS/editorspick_rubin08_audit.html Afghanistan is one of several contexts in which the long-term common interests of the U.S. and Iran have been overshadowed by the animus originating in the 1953 CIA-led coup in Iran and the Iranian revolution of 1979, to the detriment of the interests of the U.S., Iran, and Afghanistan. This confrontation has served the interests of the Pakistan military, Taliban, and al-Qaida. Re-establishing the basis for U.S.-Iranian cooperation in Afghanistan would provide significant additional leverage over Pakistan, on whose territory the leadership of both the Taliban and al-Qaida are now found (Abstract).

State, Security and Economy in Afghanistan: Current Challenges, Possible Solutions. Princeton, New Jersey: Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2008. 65 p. http://www.princeton.edu/lisd/publications/afgh2008_lcm3.pdf (620 KB) This recently released book cumulates presentations given during the colloquium on November 16-18, 2007, in Brussels, Belgium. Colloquium presentations: Opening Address by Mohammad Karim Khalili; Keynote Address by Fransesc Vendrell; “Afghanistan Domestic Perspectives and Challenges: An Afghan Perspective” by M. Masoom Stanekzai; “Addressing Challenges Facing Afghanistan” by Zahir Tanin; “Building an Afghan Police Force as Part of Nation-building” by Peter Feith; “Cops or Robbers?: The Struggle to Reform the Afghan National Police” by Andrew Wilder; “Security and PRTs” by Barbara Stapleton; “Framework of Election Administration in Afghanistan” by Richard Atwood; “Governance and

the Rule of Law” by J. Alexander Thier; “Corruption, Nepotism and Trust: Problems of Governance in Afghanistan” by William Maley; “Pakistan: The Eastern Neighbour of Afghanistan” by Marvin G. Weinbaum; “Afghanistan, Iran and Security Issues” by Amin Saikal; “Afghanistan and Central Asia” by Robert Finn—Appendix 1. Colloquium participants---2. “Reconstruction and Development Project Analysis” compiled by Carol S. Wang—3. “Notes From Kabul” / Wolfgang Danspeckgruber.

Press

Brossel, Vincent Jean-François Julliard and Reza Moini. “Afghanistan: What Gains for Press Freedom from Hamid Karzai’s Seven Years as President?” Paris, France: Reporters Without Borders, March, 2009. 19 p. http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/Report_Afgha_Eng.pdf (164 MB) A Reporters Without Borders delegation made a visit to Afghanistan in January 2009, meeting the justice minister, the culture and information minister, the head of the president’s press office, a member of the Council of Ulemas, civil society representatives, foreign correspondents, members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and diplomats, as well as many local journalists and representatives of media and journalists’ organisations from Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat.

Public Opinion

“State Building, Security, and Social Change in Afghanistan: Reflections on a Survey of the Afghan people.” Kabul, Afghanistan: The Asia Foundation, 2008. 203 p. <http://www.asiafoundation.org/publications/force-download.php?f=%2Fresources%2Fpdfs%2F2008surveycompanionvolumefinal.pdf> (2.32 MB) An initial Asia Foundation survey of public opinion in mid-2004 has been followed by surveys in 2006 and 2007. In a country with such massive gaps in information, public opinion surveys for Afghanistan are difficult to conduct and to interpret, this volume is a companion analytic volume to the earlier publication “Afghanistan in 2008: A Survey of the Afghan People” and offers interpretations of those findings by specialist authors. The book lacks any table of contents, but contains the following essays: “Legitimacy in Post-Taliban Afghanistan” by William Maley; “Afghanistan’s Growing Security Challenge” by Seth G. Jones; “Institutionalization of the Justice System” by Sudhindra Sharma and Pawan Kumar Sen; “The Road to Democracy in Afghanistan” by Russell J. Dalton; “Status of Women in Afghanistan” by Harjot Kaur and Najla Ayubi; “Governance and Development in Afghanistan” by Sanjay Ruparelia and Ruth Rennie.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Younès, Kristele. “Afghanistan & Pakistan: Raise Voices for Civilian Protection.” Washington, D.C.: Refugees International, January 26, 2009. 4 p. http://www.refintl.org/sites/default/files/afghpak_012609.pdf (136 KB) An attempt to focus attention on the situation of the five million Afghans who have returned to the country since 2001 and the need to allocate humanitarian aid with them in mind, not political objectives.

Security

Barton, Frederick, Karin von Hippel. “Afghanistan & Pakistan on the Brink: Framing US Policy Options” Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2009. 28 p. http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,5299/ PDF (2.08 MB) This report, based on a conference held in Washington in November, 2008, outlines eighteen major questions, including: What US and international force levels are required to achieve the stated objectives? Will more equipment and training address Pakistan’s insufficient counterterrorism and counterinsurgency capacity? What discussions should take place with the Taliban?

“Can People Secure Themselves?: Tribal Security System (*arbakai*) in Southeast Afghanistan.” [2007?]. 55 p. (PDF 460 KB) An older paper without attribution, but increasingly relevant. This paper argues possible engagement of successful *arbakai* institutions active in southeast Afghanistan.

Cilluffo, Frank J. and Joseph R. Clark. “Micro-diplomacy and Afghanistan: Disaggregating and Engaging the Taliban”. Washington, D.C.: George Washington University, Homeland Security Policy Institute, 17 February 2009. 4 p. <http://www.prlog.org/10184482-hspi-commentary-01-microdiplomacy-in-afghanistan-disaggregating-and-engaging-the-taliban.html> PDF (100 KB) Policy advice suggesting (1) separating the Taliban into those with al-Qaeda sympathies and those of a traditional Pashtun orientation and (2) engaging politically with those Pashtun oriented Taliban leaders who have legitimacy and authority on the ground.

“Conciliatory Approaches to the Insurgency in Afghanistan: an Overview” by Astri Suhrke ... [et al.]. Bergen [Norway]: Chr. Michelsen Institute, [2009]. 46 p. <http://www.cmi.no/publications/file/?3266=conciliatory-approaches-to-the-insurgency-in> (PDF 320 KB) This report is a preliminary mapping of initiatives designed to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. It is a snapshot in time,

focusing on practices or arrangements that were still ongoing during the second half of 2008, or had recently been undertaken and stored, as it were, in the public inventory of conflict mitigating and peacebuilding measures.

Cordesman, Anthony H. "The Afghan-Pakistan Conflict: US Strategic Options in Afghanistan. Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic & International Studies, Burke Chair in Strategy, March 2009. 36 p. http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,5339/type,1/ (PDF 274 KB) "At this point in time, the Afghan and Pakistan governments, NATO/ISAF, and the US do not face a stalemate; they are losing the war. However, the situation may well be reversible. The Taliban, other Jihadist movements, and Al Qaida in Pakistan ... are winning because the US and NATO/ISAF failed to react, to deploy the forces that were needed, to give proper priority and resources to building up Afghan forces, and allowed the administration of foreign aid to become a corrupt and horribly misadministered mess." (Executive summary).

Dobbins, James. "Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan: Testimony." Santa Monica, California: RAND Corporation, 2009. 9 p. "Testimony presented before the Senate Armed Services Committee on 26 February 2009." http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT318.pdf (524 KB) Dobbins deduces the broad outlines of the Obama administration towards Afghanistan: increase in troop strength, pressure on the President to control corruption, Richard Holbrooke appointed as special envoy for both Afghanistan and Pakistan and a recognition the stability in Afghanistan requires changes in Pakistan as well. He identifies an additional seven areas for action: unifying the NATO and US military command chain; unifying civilian effort; bolstering military and civilian staff present in Afghanistan; including a grass roots component to the counterinsurgency strategy; paying more attention to insurgent activities in Baluchistan (Pakistan); supporting the coming elections while remaining scrupulously neutral amongst possible candidates; and finally, intensifying engagement with Afghanistan's neighbours.

Dorransoro, Gilles. "Focus and Exit: An Alternative Strategy for the Afghan War". Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2009. 16 p. <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=22619&prog=zgp&proj=zsa> PDF (274 KB) According to this paper, after seven years of war, the international community has failed to create the conditions for a sustainable Afghan state. The reality is that the international coalition now has limited resources and a narrow political time frame

to create lasting Afghan institutions. Yet, building such institutions is the only realistic exit strategy.

Fair, C. Christine, Seth G. Jones, Beth Ellen Cole. "Securing Afghanistan: Getting on Track" Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), January 23 2009. 39 p. <http://library.usip.org/articles/1012068.1022/1.PDF> (1.31 MB) This paper examines the security environment in Afghanistan, assess the programs put in place to address these threats, identifies existing gaps and offers possible solutions.

Gaston, E.L., and Rebecca Wright. "Losing the People: The Costs and Consequences of Civilian Suffering in Afghanistan. Washington, D.C.: Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC), 2009. 80 p. http://www.civicworldwide.org/afghan_report (PDF 1.1 MB) "The international coalition in Afghanistan is losing public support, one fallen civilian at a time. Twenty billion US dollars in military expenditures each month and billions more in support operations and humanitarian aid still leaves the many civilians harmed by international troops with nothing. Since the initial US invasion in 2001, the lack of a clear, coordinated strategy to address civilian losses has been a leading source of anger and resentment toward military forces. A new BBC/ABC poll shows a 12 percentage point drop in Afghan support for the international presence since 2007 and a drop of 15 points from 2006. A once welcoming picture of the population has turned into scenes of frequent, widespread and sometimes violent protests over civilian deaths and a perceived lack of concern by international forces. Avoiding harm to civilians altogether is the goal. When harm nonetheless occurs, the imperative must be easing civilian suffering and making amends for losses" (Executive Summary). This report assesses how existing compensation and victim assistance mechanisms developed by warring parties in Afghanistan address, or fail to address, civilian losses in the conflict.

Gayer, Laurent. "Pakistan: du désordre à la guerre civile." Paris, France: [Institut français des relations internationales] IFRI, février 2009. 41 p. ISBN 9782865924523. (Focus stratégique; no. 14). http://www.ifri.org/files/Securite_defense/Focus_Gayer_23_02_09.pdf (420 KB) This article aims to make clearer the origins of the civil disorder in Pakistan that both increases the influence of the "Pakistani Taliban" and aids the return of sectarianism, separatism and urban violence.

Giustozzi, Antonio. "Bureaucratic Façade and Political Realities of Disarmament and Demobilization in Afghanistan: Analysis." Published in *Conflict, Security and Development* 8, no. 2 (June 2008): 169-192. "Internationally sponsored

disarmament and demobilisation in Afghanistan was characterised by a marked divergence between the bureaucratic process designed by the UN and the political reality of disarmament. The bureaucratic process had several flaws of its own, which were particularly obvious in the case of DIAG, but the main reason for the substantial failure of disarmament was the absence of political will among key Afghan partners. International players in the process choose to compromise on rather unfavourable terms, saving the façade of demobilisation thanks to the formal disbandment of the militias incorporated under the Ministry of Defence, but in fact allowing thousands of militias to continue operating throughout the country. The article shows how the very limited impact of DDR and even more so DIAG [Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups] was already obvious in the early stages of the process and was deliberately ignored. The article concludes that the compromise could at least have achieved some limited aims, such as de-legitimising the militias, had not many of their leaders been allowed to compete successfully for parliamentary seats shortly afterwards.” (Abstract).

Giustozzi, Antonio. “Shadow Ownership and SSR [Security Sector Reform] in Afghanistan.” In, *Local Ownership and Security Sector Reform*, edited by Timothy Donais. Zürich: LIT Verlag, 2008, chapter 11 (p. [215]-231). (PDF 68 KB) Giustozzi identifies a lack of common interest between local actors and international sponsors and donors in security sector reform for Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, “more local ownership” does not equal “more successful security” because a stable political system and monopoly of violence have not yet been established. In the absence of solid power-sharing arrangements it is more appropriate to talk of local ownerships as different local players compete for the control of reform processes. He looks at the disarmament processes, issues with the Afghan National Army and the National Directorate of Security (NDS).

Hussain, Raja G. “Badal: A Culture of Revenge, the Impact of Collateral Damage on Taliban Insurgency.” March, 2008. 81 p. <http://stinet.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA479934&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf> (1.0 MB) This MA thesis from the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, California) examines the nature of the tribal concept of badal (revenge) and considers it beside civilian casualties (i.e. “collateral damage”) caused by Coalition tactics in Afghanistan.

Lafraine, Najibullah. “Resurgence of the Taliban

Insurgency in Afghanistan: How and Why?” *International politics* 46 no. 1 (2009): 102-113. http://www.allacademic.com/one/prol/prol01/index.php?cmd=Download+Document&key=unpublished_manuscript&file_index=2&pop_up=true&no_click_key=true&attachment_style=attachment&PHPSESSID=1c734e51547227b953acac8b49ea36f1 (PDF 104 KB) This paper, by the former Afghanistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (1992-1996), provides an outline of important factors in the rise of the insurgency, from initial mistakes, involvement by Pakistan, shortcomings in tackling the problem and questions of legitimacy and offences towards traditional and religious values and beliefs and finally the forces sent to fix the problem becoming instead part of it.

Miakhel, Shahmahmood. “The Importance of Tribal Structures and Pakhtunwali in Afghanistan: their Role in Security and Governance.” 2008. p. 97-110 p. In, *Challenges and Dilemmas of State-building in Afghanistan: Report of a Study Trip to Kabul*, edited by Arpita Basu Roy, 97-110. Delhi: Shipra, 2008. In this paper an Afghan from Eastern Afghanistan explains a dozen key *pakhtunwali* terms and elaborates on the relationships between villages and government structures in Kunar and Faryab.

“Policing in Afghanistan: Still Searching for a Strategy.” Kabul/Brussels: International Crisis Group, 18 December 2008. 19 p. <http://se1.isn.ch/serviceengine/FileContent?serviceID=ISN&fileid=AA139901-7572-EF79-EE13-9566E9246FDB&lng=en> (PDF 1.0 MB) According to this paper there have not yet been significant improvements in police effectiveness or public confidence, despite increased attention to and resources for police reform. Predictably, coordination difficulties with separate programmes remain and the US military (the dominant actor) still mainly sees the police as an auxiliary security force rather than an enforcer of law. This approach ignores that organised crime and the lack of rule of law is at the centre of much popular disillusionment and instability. Better law enforcement, including a functional judicial system, would help.

“Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan” Washington, D.C.: [US Dept. of Defense], January, 2009. 102 p. http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/OCTOBER_1230_FINAL.pdf (3.0 MB) This report summarises the Department of Defense views on progress and challenges in Afghanistan under the headings of Security, Governance, Economic and Social Development and Counter Narcotics. It was prepared in August 2008 but only released recently.

Updated reports from the US Congressional research service

“Afghanistan: Post-war Governance, Security and US Policy,” Kenneth Katzman January 16, 2009 72 p. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf> (2.2 MB) This study repeats the assessments of US official and outside observers, that the reason for the security deterioration in Afghanistan is the failure to prevent Taliban and other militant infiltration into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

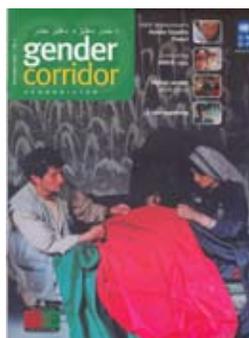
“Afghanistan: Government Formation and Performance,” Kenneth Katzman January 6, 2009 9 p. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21922.pdf> (208 KB) **Afghanistan: Government Formation and Performance,”** The central government’s limited writ and perceived corruption are helping sustain a Taliban insurgency and feeding pessimism about the Afghanistan stabilization effort. However, ethnic disputes remain confined largely to political debate and competition, enabling President Karzai to try to focus on improving governance, reversing security deterioration and on his re-election bid in the fall of 2009. At the same time, U.S. and Afghan officials are shifting toward promoting local governing bodies and security initiatives as a complement to efforts to build central government capabilities.

“Islamist Militancy in the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border Region and US Policy,” K. Alan Kronstadt, Kenneth Katzman. November 21, 2008. 17 p. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34763.pdf> (404 KB) This new analysis identifies three key national security threats for the US from the increasing militant activity in western Pakistan: increased potential for major attacks against the U.S., a growing threat to Pakistani stability, and a hindering of efforts to stabilize Afghanistan.

“War in Afghanistan: Strategy, Military Operations, and Issues for Congress” Catherine Dale. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, [Library of Congress], 23 January, 2009. 75 p. CRS Report for Congress: R40156” <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R40156.pdf> (2.87 MB) The new U.S. government faces key strategic challenges and operational decisions about its further engagement in the war in Afghanistan. These include clarifying US national interests in Afghanistan and the region; defining clear strategic objectives based on those interests; determining which diplomatic, economic, and military approaches to adopt, and what resources to commit to support those approaches; prioritising “Afghanistan” versus other national security imperatives; and helping marshal a coordinated application of international efforts. This document provides input to the US Congress in considering these and other topics.

Women

Ayub, Fatima, Sari Kouvo and Yasmin Sooka. **“Addressing Gender-specific Violations in Afghanistan.”** New York: International Center for Transitional Justice, February 2009. 22 p. <http://www.ictj.org/en/news/features/2315.html> PDF (164 MB) “This four-part paper analyses the relationship between transitional justice and gender in Afghanistan. First, it discusses transitional justice and gender in general, drawing on experiences from other post-conflict contexts. Second, it provides a brief overview of the three decades of conflict and the complex gender relations in Afghan society. Third, it discusses transitional justice and gender in the post-2001, state-building process in Afghanistan. Lastly, it concludes with recommendations. Research for this paper began in January 2007 and lasted through to March 2008” (Introduction).



GenderCorridor, Afghanistan. Kabul: UNDP. With a title inspired by Afghanistan’s Wakhan Corridor, this new quarterly from UNDP’s Gender Equality Project as a platform to share ideas, initiatives and dialogues about the various challenges faced in this kind of work. Issue one appeared in November 2008.

List of New Laws Published in the Official Gazette

No new issues of the *Official Gazette* have been released since the previous newsletter.

If you know of a resource not listed here, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af