

# Afghanistan

A Comprehensive Look at its History, Politics, and Culture

Prepared By: Asadullah Safi



Email: [asafu@it@gmail.com](mailto:asafu@it@gmail.com)

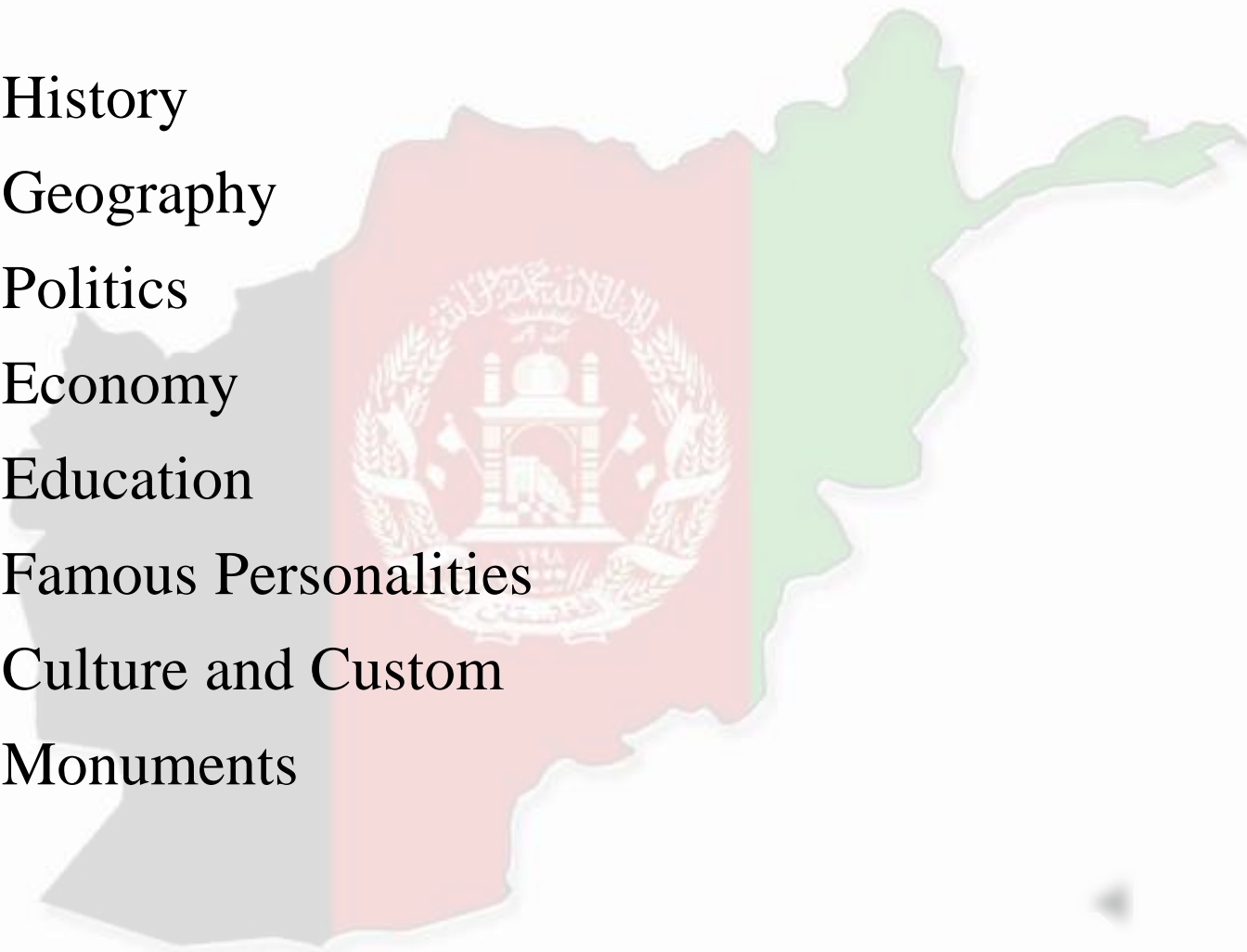
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# History

- The written recorded history of the land presently constituting Afghanistan can be traced back to around 500 BCE when the area was under the Achaemenid Empire.[1]
- Although evidence indicates that an advanced degree of urbanized culture has existed in the land since between 3000 and 2000 BCE.[2]
- From the first through the fifth centuries, the early Afghan region was called Aryana.
- Later became Khurasan, and then finally the name changed to Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan's capital was Kandahar, then the capital of Afghanistan changed to Kabul in 1776. [3]
- Buddhism was one of the major religions in Afghanistan during pre-Islamic era.
- The modern state of Afghanistan began with the Durrani dynasty in the 18th century, with the Durrani Afghan Empire being formed by Ahmad Shah Durrani.
- Afghanistan got its independence from British Angolan on 19/August/1919 and emerged as the independent Kingdom of Afghanistan under Amanullah Khan.

# Geography

- Afghanistan is a landlocked mountainous country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia, Referred to as the Heart of Asia. [4][5]
- Afghanistan has 7 Neighboring Countries (India, China, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan).
- Occupying 652,864 square kilometers of land.
- The country has 34 provinces.
- As of 2021, its population is 40.2 million, composed mostly of ethnic Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks. [6]
- Cold winters (low as  $-25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and hot summers (maximum of  $45\text{--}50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
- There are four major rivers in the country (the Amu Darya, the Hari River, the Kabul River and the Helmand River).
- The most important mountain range in the country is the Hindu Kush, which is considered a logical extension of the Himalayan Mountains.

# Geographical Map of Afghanistan



# Politics

- From 2001 to 2021 the politics of Afghanistan have been influenced by NATO countries, particularly by the United States, in an effort to stabilize and democratize the country.
- In the above period politics of Afghanistan was consisting of the council of ministers, provincial governors and the national assembly, with a president serving as the head of state and commander-in-chief of the Afghan Armed Forces.
- The National Assembly was Afghanistan's national legislature. composed of the House of the People and the House of Elders.
- In August 2021, the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan and changed the name of the country to the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan.
- Hibatullah Akhundzada is the supreme leader of Afghanistan, having authority on all political, military, religious decisions, and government appointments.
- As supreme leader, much of his work is done alongside the Rahbari Shura (Leadership Council) which oversees the Cabinet and Prime Minister of Afghanistan.

# Economy

- The economy of Afghanistan is listed as 103rd in the world in terms of gross domestic product (GDP).
- It currently imports around \$5 billion worth of goods but exports little over \$1 billion worth of legal products, mainly fruits and nuts.[7]
- Despite holding over one trillion dollars in proven untapped mineral deposits, Afghanistan remains one of the least developed countries in the world.
- Its unemployment rate is over 23% and about half of its population lives below the poverty line. [8]
- Agriculture remains Afghanistan's most important source of employment: 60-80 percent of Afghanistan's population works in this sector.
- Afghanistan currently generates over 600 megawatts (MW) of electricity from its several hydroelectric plants as well as using fossil fuel and solar panels.
- Over 670 MW more is imported from neighboring Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Da Afghanistan Bank serves as the central bank of the nation. The "Afghani" (AFN) is the national currency, which has an exchange rate of nearly 89 Afghanis to 1 US dollar.



# Afghanistan's currency notes 'Afghani'





# Education

- Afghanistan it has, according publishes UNESCO, an adult literacy rate of 43.02%. While the male literacy rate is 55.48%, for females is 29.81%.
- For schooling Afghanistan has a 6-3-3 formal education structure under the Ministry of Education.
- Primary school has an official entry age of seven and a duration of six grades. Secondary school is divided into two cycles: lower secondary consists of grades 7 - 9, and upper secondary consists of grades 10 - 12.
- Higher education in Afghanistan falls under the Ministry of Higher Education which establishes government policies to reform higher education at Afghan universities.
- The country had separate classes for boys and girls in schools and there was co-education in government and private universities.
- After the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, they shut down schools for girls over 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The Taliban first formally announced a ban on coeducation in Afghanistan, resulting in the partitioning university classrooms, and then fully banned females from higher education.



# Education



# Famous Personalities

- Rashid Khan has been Afghanistan's first global superstar, and the key to their successes in their early years in international cricket.
- His Current rank is 2<sup>nd</sup> among the top 10 T20 bowlers in the world.



# Custom & Culture

- Festivals
- Languages
- Clothing
- Foods
- Sports



# Festivals

- **Nowruz** : Nowruz, or the New Year, is the best known and most joyous time in the country.
- **Independence day** :Afghanistan Independence Day is on August 19.
- **Ashura** : Among Afghan Shia Muslims, Ashura is observed through large demonstrations of high-scale mourning as it marks the death of Husain ibn Ali (a grandson of Muhammad), who was beheaded during the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.



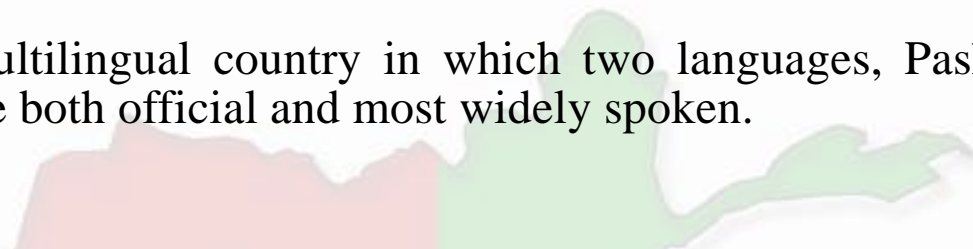
# Festivals

- **Eid al Fitr** : Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which Muslims the world over fast from dawn to sunset. It means Festival of the Breaking of fast. People often visits their friends and relatives .
- **Eid al Adha:** Eid al-Adha is celebrated in Afghanistan with sacrifices of animals, and visiting relatives and friends.
- **Mawlid** : 'Mawlid' is Celebrated by Muslims during the month of Rabiulawal, the third month of the Muslim calendar.



# Languages

- Afghanistan is a multilingual country in which two languages, Pashto and Dari Persian are both official and most widely spoken.



## Alphabets

ذ	د	خ	ح	چ	ج	ث	ت	پ	ب	ا
z	d	kh	h	ch	j	ʔ	t	p	b	-
[z]	[d]	[x]	[h, ʔ]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[ʔ]	[t]	[p]	[b]	[ʔ, ɔ] [æ, ʔ]
غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ژ	ز	ر
gh	ʕ	z	t	z	s	ʃ	s	zh	z	r
[ɣ]	[ʔ, ʔ]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[s]	[ʒ]	[z]	[r]
[q, ʕ, x]										
ی	ه	و	ن	م	ل	گ	ک	ق	ف	
y	h	w	n	m	l	g	k	q	f	
[i, i, e]	[h, ʔ]	[v, u]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[g]	[k]	[q, ʕ]	[f]	
	[ɛ, æ]	[o, ow]								

## Numbers

۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۰
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

# Traditional Clothes

Gande Afghani for females and Shalwar Kameez for males and one of the most traditional dresses in the country.





# Foods

One of the most delicious and famous Afghani food is Qabuli palaw.



# Fresh & Dry Fruits

Afghanistan's fruits (Dry & Fresh) are famous all over the world and mostly export it to neighboring, European and American countries .



# Saffron

After three straight years of being recognized as the world's highest quality saffron, Afghan saffron is making its mark on the world.





# Sports

- Buzkashi is the national sports of Afghanistan, beside that cricket and football has its own craze in the country.



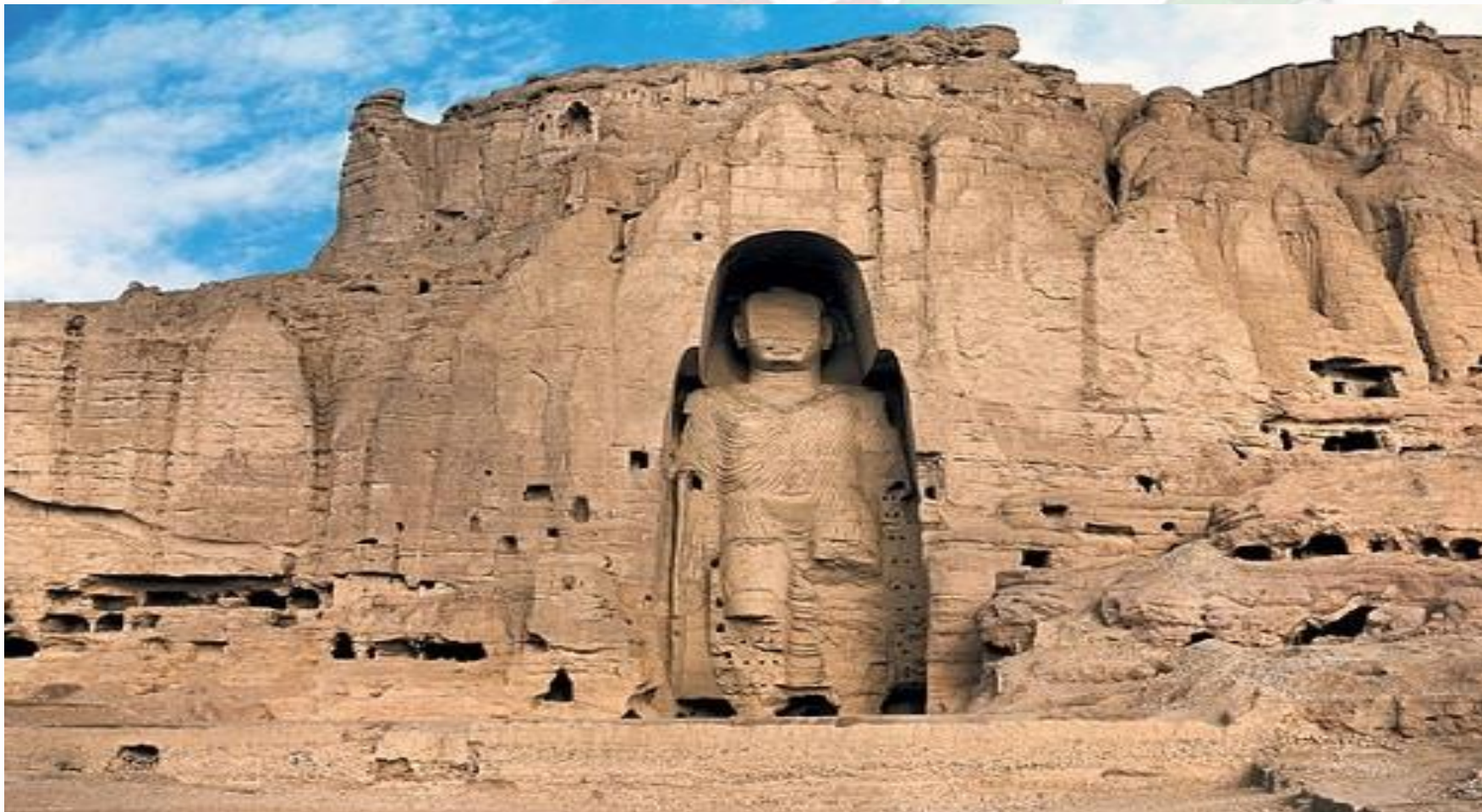
# Traditional dances

Attan and Qarsak are famous traditional dances in the country.



# Monuments

**Bamiyan Buddhas:** The statue built in the 5th century, and standing 55m and 38m high respectively.





**Blue Mosque:** It was built in 15<sup>th</sup> century, the mosque is located in the center of Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan.





**Minaret of Jam:** The Minaret of Jam is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in western Afghanistan. It is located in a remote and nearly inaccessible region of the Shahrak District, Ghor Province, next to the Hari River. The 65-meter (213 ft) or 62-meter (203 ft) high minaret was built around 1190.





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