

***For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?***

Sign up to do research for the country of your choice.
The sign up book can be found in the Narthex on the
table with the globe .

***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Afghanistan
January 2nd, 2011**

AFGHANISTAN

Full Name

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Capital

Kabul

Location

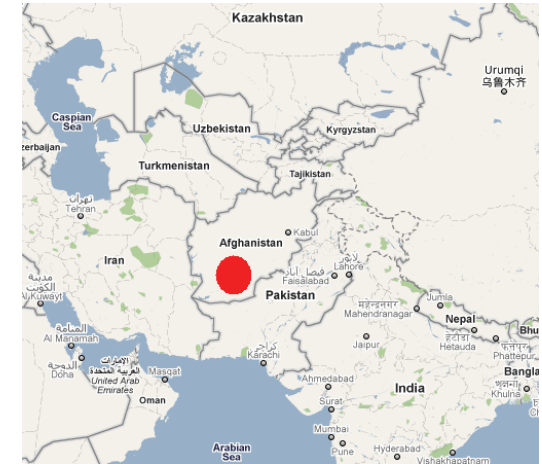
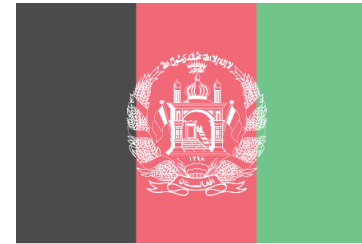
Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran

Leadership

President Hamid KARZAI (since 7 December 2004)

Overview

The country of Afghanistan was founded when several local tribes united in 1747. Afghanistan served as a buffer between the British and Russian Empires until it won independence from British control in 1919. A brief experiment in democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 Communist counter-coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to support the Afghan Communist regime. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under pressure by internationally supported anti-Communist mujahedin rebels. A series of subsequent civil wars followed until takeover in 1996 by the Taliban, a hardline Islamic movement that severely limited civil liberties and demanded strict adherence to Islamic fundamentalism. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11 of 2001 in the United States, an international military alliance led by the U.S. declared war and toppled the Taliban for sheltering Osama Bin Laden. The UN Conference in 2001 established a process for political reconstruction. In the past few years Taliban has gained new grounds and continues to be a serious threat to the region. Right now thousands of Americans are still deployed to Afghanistan trying to bring peace and stability to this war-ridden country. People of Afghanistan have rich traditions in crafts, music, poetry, and other arts. Unfortunately, in recent history culture has been overshadowed by violence and unimaginable human suffering.



Population

27,208,000

Economy

Afghanistan is extremely poor, landlocked, and highly dependent on foreign aid, agriculture, and trade with neighboring countries. Its living standards are among the lowest in the world. Opium continues to be Afghanistan's main agricultural product. Drug trade greatly contributes to regional instability.

Religion

Islam (Sunni and Shia)

Prayer Concerns

The country has been ravaged by war after war throughout its entire history. Afghanistan's death rate is among the highest in the world. It is second in the world in infant mortality rate. Current life expectancy is only 44 years. Average woman goes to school for five years and gives birth to 5 children. Literacy among women is at 12 percent. Violence, due to war, civil unrest, and Taliban brutality, especially towards women, remains to be the overwhelming problem. Prayers also go to U.S. soldiers deployed in Afghanistan who are trying to make a positive difference in the lives of people in the region.