

HANDOUT



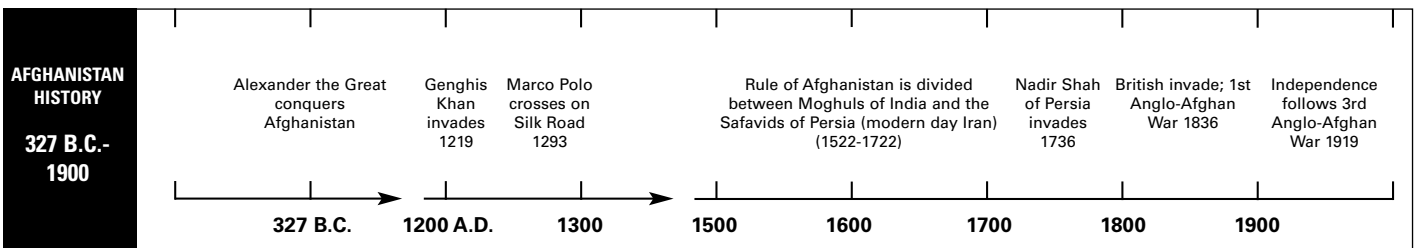
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: 2001

For thousands of years, Afghanistan's location in Central Asia has attracted both travelers and conquerors. In the 7th century **Arabs** introduced **Islam** to Afghanistan, and today the great majority of Afghans are **Muslim**. There are many different ethnic groups in Afghanistan, including Pashtun (the largest), Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbek. The people of this rugged land have remained staunchly independent for centuries and resisted modern domination by both the **British Empire** and the **Soviet Union**. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries Afghanistan was led by a succession of **shahs** until the **monarchy** was overthrown in 1973. Political turmoil in the 1970s culminated in a Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

WAR AGAINST THE SOVIETS

The **1979 Soviet invasion** of Afghanistan ushered in decades of war and a massive **refugee** crisis. Afghan **mujahideen**, Islamic warriors from various ethnic groups, fought the Soviets and gained support from around the world. President **Ronald Reagan**, who characterized the communist Soviet Union as "the Evil Empire," gave military,

financial, and moral support to the mujahideen as part of the **Cold War**. The battle against the Soviets drew thousands of non-Afghan Islamic warriors from throughout the Muslim world. One of these **militants** was a young Saudi millionaire named **Osama bin Laden**. Bin Laden, like many **Islamic fundamentalists**, believed that all Muslim countries should be ruled by strict religious governments that follow a particular brand of Islam. Mujahideen warriors like bin Laden were called "freedom fighters" by President Reagan for their relentless struggle against the Soviets. The **CIA** sent hundreds of millions of dollars a year to the mujahideen in one of the largest **covert** operations in U.S. history. Although the Soviets anticipated a quick victory in Afghanistan, that war became "Russia's Vietnam" and helped to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union. In 1989, after nearly a decade of fighting, the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in defeat. Over 1 million Afghans and 15,000 Soviets died in the war and over 6 million Afghans fled their homes. Two years later the Soviet Union dissolved into 15 new nations, including five Central Asian states with majority Muslim populations.



Central Asia

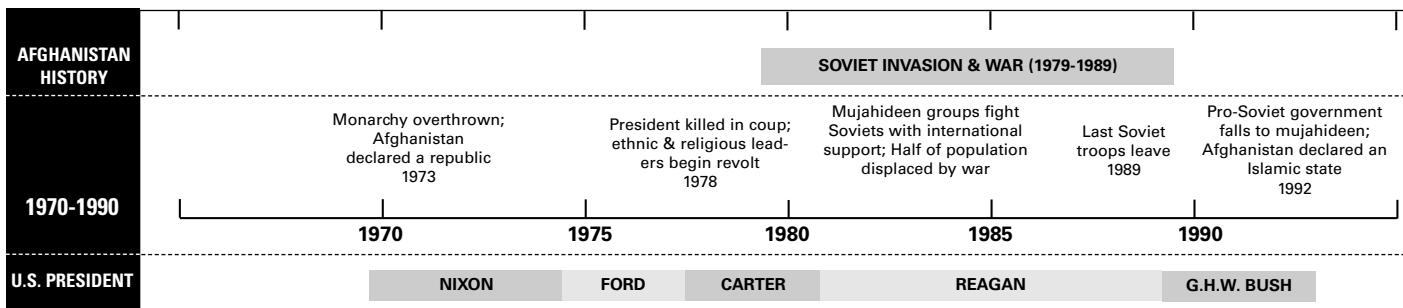


CIVIL WAR AND THE TALIBAN

The Soviet withdrawal did not bring peace to Afghanistan. Mujahideen leaders fought among themselves for control of the country, destroying much of the capital city of **Kabul** in the process. Afghanistan remained without a functioning central government throughout the early 1990s until a group of Islamic students and fighters known as the **Taliban** took control of Kabul in 1996. The Taliban established a fundamentalist government and imposed very strict Islamic laws. Women were forbidden from attending schools or working outside the home, music was banned, and non-Islamic religious practices were suppressed. The international community condemned the **human rights abuses** of the Taliban, but Afghanistan was so poor and isolated that the world had little leverage with which to influence the government.

OSAMA BIN LADEN IN AFGHANISTAN:

Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had developed a relationship with Osama bin Laden throughout the long war against the Soviets. After the Soviets were defeated, bin Laden and his followers decided to spread their **jihād** beyond Afghanistan. They turned their attention towards Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia and Iraq, which they believed were corrupting true Islam. After the Gulf War in 1991, the U.S. stationed thousands of troops in Saudi Arabia, bin Laden’s native country and the location of Muslim holy sites in **Mecca and Medina**. Bin Laden, and many other Islamic fundamentalists, developed a great hatred for the United States. They believed that American cultural, financial, and military influences were corrupting Muslim nations. They saw the United States as the primary supporter for **Israel**, a Jewish state created from Arab land in the heart of the Middle East. In the 1990s, bin Laden’s **Al Qaeda** network and other terrorist groups began attacks against U.S. targets. Bin Laden was expelled from The Sudan in 1996 and then returned to Afghanistan where the Taliban gave him **sanctuary**. In 1998 the **Clinton** administration bombed Afghanistan after it was determined that Al Qaeda was behind the deadly attacks on the U.S. **embassies in Kenya and Tanzania** that killed over 200 people. Despite the U.S. missile attacks and international pressure, the Taliban continued to harbor bin Laden and host Al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan.



SLIDE SCRIPT



WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: 2001

SLIDES 32-43

This slide script provides teachers with historical information and probe questions linked to each of the *Newsweek* images. Teachers may move quickly through the images delivering key information, but we suggest a slower “collective reading” of the images. This will allow teachers to involve typically quiet students, teach visual literacy skills, cover more content, and engage the class in an interactive analysis and discussion of the issues raised by these historic documents.

VOCABULARY AND KEY CONCEPTS (listed by slide number)

<p>#32 September 11th Al Qaeda World Trade Center (twin towers) Pentagon War on Terrorism Taliban</p>	<p>#40 burka Soviet Union Ronald Reagan mujahideen refugees human rights</p>
<p>#33 Islamic fundamentalism Osama bin Laden sanctuary terrorist training camps Muslim Arab</p>	<p>#42 Al Jazeera</p> <p>#43 commentary opinion piece news analysis columnist editorial</p>
<p>#34 commando air war</p>	<p>POSTSCRIPT Hamid Karzai</p>
<p>#37 Northern Alliance guerilla war</p>	
<p>#38 Kabul non-Afghan Muslim jihad</p>	

NOTE

Key concepts and vocabulary are in **bold** the first time they appear. Most are defined in the glossary.

Students should read the accompanying "Short History of the War in Afghanistan" before beginning the slides. This will provide key background information that will be reinforced during the slide analysis.

SLIDE #32



OCTOBER 1, 2001
"We will not falter.."

SEE INFO BOX →

QUESTION What messages about the upcoming war are communicated in this image and text? How are those messages communicated?

ANSWER The U.S. is prepared to go to war and determined to fulfill its mission.

EVIDENCE prominence of the flag = patriotism, upright posture of the sailors facing the ocean with the text = determination and power in facing a foreign enemy, simplicity and sharpness of the image = a simple and clear message

ANSWER The country is united and speaks with one voice.

EVIDENCE absence of quotation marks around the text "We Will Not Falter" implies that the country is speaking (this type of editorial statement in support of the war as the headline for a news article would have been very unlikely prior to September 11th)

QUESTION Is there a pro-war or anti-war bias to this two-page spread? What is your evidence?

ANSWER This image and text are pro-war.

EVIDENCE highly patriotic image and text: "We Will Not Falter"

INFO

On **September 11, 2001**, terrorists suspected of belonging to **Al Qaeda** hijacked four passenger planes from U.S. airports. The terrorists crashed two of the planes into the **World Trade Center twin towers** in New York City, killing approximately 3,000 people. A third plane crashed into the **Pentagon** in Washington D.C., the center for the United States military. The fourth plane, possibly destined for the White House, crashed in a field after passengers attempted to regain control from the hijackers. This was the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States. Within a day, President Bush declared a **War on Terrorism**. The first target in that war was the **Al Qaeda** terrorist group, which was being harbored and supported by the government of Afghanistan. This image appeared in *Newsweek* shortly after the September 11th attacks, as the Bush administration was preparing to go to war in Afghanistan to destroy **Al Qaeda** and overthrow the **Taliban** government that controlled the country.

SLIDE #33



OCTOBER 15, 2001
 “Why They Hate Us”

SEE INFO BOX A

QUESTION	What messages about Muslims are communicated by the titles and image? What is your evidence?
ANSWER	“They” (implying Muslims) hate “us” (implying Americans).
ANSWER	Muslims are violent, manipulative, and filled with rage.
EVIDENCE	innocent little boy with a gun = adult manipulation, the boy’s piercing eyes and sad expression which is intensified by harsh shadows = “Islamic rage”

SEE INFO BOX B

QUESTION	Why would Newsweek perpetuate a stereotype of hateful anti-American Muslims? What is your evidence?
ANSWER	The image together with the provocative title was very powerful and shocking, particularly after the September 11th terrorist attacks. This sensational coverage was likely to sell more magazines, which is the primary goal of <i>Newsweek</i> .

INFO A

The September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were carried out by Arab militants who follow an extreme form of **Islamic fundamentalism**. **Osama bin Laden** and members of Al Qaeda are committed to waging war on Western influence in the Middle East and Muslim world. They advocate violent revolution to overthrow the governments of most Muslim nations and the creation of extremely strict Islamic governments. Their brand of Islamic fundamentalism is opposed to many of the freedoms that Americans take for granted, including tolerance of religious differences. They receive some popular support, however, in many Muslim countries. In Afghanistan, a fundamentalist movement known as the Taliban took control of the government in the mid-1990s. The Taliban government provided **sanctuary** for Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda militants who set up **terrorist training camps** in which to plan their attacks. In response to both the September 11th attacks and the Taliban’s refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden and other Al Qaeda leaders, the United States went to war in Afghanistan. This photo was taken at an anti-U.S. rally in Pakistan shortly before the war began. The government of Pakistan sided with the U.S. in the war.

INFO B

Although there is considerable anti-American sentiment in many Muslim nations, it is a stereotype that **Muslims, Arabs**, or people from the Middle East hate the U.S. Only a small percentage of Muslims support violent Islamic fundamentalism.

QUESTION Is this an accurate news photo? Could it have been digitally manipulated?

ANSWER Although credible news magazines do not digitally alter “news” photos, the cover is considered to be an advertisement for the magazine, not news, and therefore open for manipulation. Since the photo credits indicate that it was taken at “an anti-U.S. rally in Islamabad (Pakistan) on September 28th, 2001,” it is likely that the photo is authentic. However, in this case the magazine may have changed the contrast, color, or other factors to dramatize the image.

SEE FOCUS ON THE MEDIA BOX →

SLIDE #34



OCTOBER 29, 2001
“Special Ops”

SEE INFO BOX A →

QUESTION What messages about the war are communicated? What is your evidence?

ANSWER The U.S. will win the war with high-tech weapons.

EVIDENCE emphasis on high-tech gun and text

QUESTION What role does the color red play in this otherwise green, gray, and black cover image?

ANSWER Red unifies and frames the cover, focuses the viewer on the weapon, and dramatizes the connection to war and blood.

SEE INFO BOX B →

FOCUS ON THE MEDIA

News photos are always manipulated in some ways. For example, the photographer chooses the camera angle, source of lighting, and framing of the subject. Editors and art directors make other decisions such as cropping of the image, size, and placement on the page. These types of visual construction are considered within the accepted bounds of credible news photography. However, magazine covers are essentially considered to be advertisements, and photos shown on their covers are often altered in more sensational and manipulative ways in order to sell more magazines. Sometimes these kinds of manipulations have caused public criticism – as when *National Geographic* in 1982 digitally moved two pyramids closer together, or, more recently, when *Time* darkened O.J. Simpson’s skin color after he was found guilty in a civil trial. But mostly the obvious and dramatic manipulation of photographs on magazine covers is considered to be within ethical bounds.

INFO A

By mid-October U.S. forces like this **commando** were on the ground in Afghanistan supporting the American **air war** against Taliban and Al Qaeda forces.

INFO B

It is possible that *Newsweek* digitally manipulated the color in this cover image by adding red to the gun scope in the center.

SLIDE #35



OCTOBER 29, 2001
 "Get Out of My Way"

SEE INFO BOX →

QUESTION What messages about female soldiers are communicated? What is your evidence?

ANSWER Women soldiers are aggressive, determined, and powerful.

EVIDENCE angle looking up into sky = power and authority, posture and face = determination, text = aggressiveness, quotation marks imply she is saying "Get Out of My Way"

QUESTION Why might *Newsweek* highlight women soldiers in the war?

ANSWER Newness of women soldiers, appeal to female readers, promotion of new roles for women.

INFO

Only recently have female soldiers in the U.S. Air Force been permitted to fly combat missions.

SLIDE #36



OCTOBER 29, 2001
 "The Men at War...
 And Their Gear"

- QUESTION** What messages about the war are communicated? What is your evidence?
- ANSWER** The U.S. has training, technology, and high-tech weapons for fighting this war.
- EVIDENCE** images and text
-
- QUESTION** Why might *Newsweek* have laid out this article, "The Men at War... And Their Gear," the way that it did?
- ANSWER** This format attracts attention with its simple visuals. It is easy to read quickly, the layout is similar to an advertisement, the images of war and technology are sensational and attract quick attention.
-
- QUESTION** Is there a pro-war or anti-war bias to this two-page spread? What is your evidence?
- ANSWER** This seems like a pro-war article.
- EVIDENCE** the images and text present an exciting, exotic, even fun view of war without any bloodshed but with lots of new weapons that look like clothing and toys from a catalog

SLIDE #37



NOVEMBER 12, 2001
"At the Front"

SEE INFO BOX A

- QUESTION** What messages about the war are communicated? What is your evidence?
- ANSWER** There is some pain and suffering for Afghan fighters.
- EVIDENCE** grimace of Afghan guerilla in center, guns and rockets
- ANSWER** Some Afghan fighters practice traditional ways.
- EVIDENCE** hand-made guitar, traditional clothes and tent

SLIDE #38



NOVEMBER 26, 2001
"The Fall of the Taliban"

- QUESTION** Would you guess that the Afghan soldiers pictured here on the bus were from the Northern Alliance (U.S. allies), or from the Taliban (U.S. enemies)?
- ANSWER** The Afghan soldiers on the bus are pro-U.S. Northern Alliance troops.
- EVIDENCE** red, white, and blue colors framing soldiers = pro-U.S., smiles = allies, full and identifiable faces are typically used for allies while enemy forces are often faceless (or dead) with the exception of enemy leaders such as Osama bin Laden

SEE INFO BOX B

INFO A

The **Northern Alliance** was an Afghan military coalition that fought a brutal **guerilla war** for many years against the Taliban government. After the September 11th attacks, the U.S. aided the Northern Alliance in its attempt to overthrow the Taliban.

INFO B

In November 2001, Northern Alliance troops, backed by U.S. air strikes, succeeded in overthrowing the Taliban and taking control of **Kabul**, the capital of Afghanistan. The Taliban government of Afghanistan was supported by **non-Afghan Muslims** (like Osama bin Laden) who provided money and soldiers to the government. In exchange the Taliban allowed Al Qaeda to set up terrorist training camps where thousands of foreign fighters came to join what they believed to be a **jihad**, or holy war, against nonbelievers. The dead soldier pictured here was believed to be a "foreigner" (non-Afghan), possibly from Al Qaeda, who was likely executed by Northern Alliance troops.

SLIDE #39



NOVEMBER 26, 2001
 "The Hunt for bin Laden"

QUESTION **What messages about the war are communicated here? What is your evidence?**

ANSWER U.S. forces are now focused on killing one evil man.

EVIDENCE the bull's-eye, text: "Hunt," "Zero In," and "The Evil One"

SEE INFO BOX →

QUESTION **Why is "The Evil One" in quotes?**

ANSWER It is a quote from President Bush.

INFO

After the fall of the Taliban, Al Qaeda forces fled in search of new bases for their war against Western influence on Islamic societies.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Is Osama bin Laden evil?

SLIDE #40



NOVEMBER 26, 2001
 "Into the Light,"
 "Newfound Freedom"

SEE INFO BOX A →

QUESTION **What messages about the war are communicated? What is your evidence?**

ANSWER The people of Afghanistan are now happy and free.

EVIDENCE smiling girl's face with text: "Into the Light," man being shaved with text: "Newfound Freedom"

SEE INFO BOX B →

INFO A

When the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance took control of the government of Afghanistan they lifted many strict Islamic laws put in place by the Taliban. Afghan men were allowed to shave and women could open their **burkas** (pictured here) to show their faces in public for the first time since the Taliban came to power.

INFO B

Afghanistan fought a bloody war against the **Soviet Union** that invaded in 1979. In the 1980s Islamic fighters like Osama bin Laden came to Afghanistan from around the world to fight the Soviets. The **Reagan** administration supported these Islamic **mujahideen** fighters with weapons and money because of U.S. opposition to the USSR. After the Soviets were defeated, mujahideen groups fought amongst each other for control of the nation for over a decade and millions of Afghans became **refugees**. In the mid-1990s an army of Islamic students called the Taliban came to power. They instituted an extreme brand of Islamic fundamentalism that violated basic standards for **human rights**. Women were denied employment and schooling, music was outlawed, ancient Buddhist statues were destroyed, and the country became isolated. The Taliban was even condemned by other Islamic fundamentalist governments such as the one in Iran.

SLIDE #41



DECEMBER 3, 2001
 "Where We Get Our Strength"

- QUESTION** What messages about President Bush does this cover communicate? What is your evidence?
- ANSWER** The President values his wife and family.
- EVIDENCE** pictured with wife and dogs on a lawn with text: "Where We Get Our Strength"
- ANSWER** He is strong but also emotional.
- EVIDENCE** size and upwards angle = power, text emphasizes strength and "His Emotions," smile = friendly
- ANSWER** He is the leader of our nation in this time of crisis.
- EVIDENCE** red, white, and blue colors and flag on his lapel emphasize patriotic theme while the text seems to speak for the Bushes and the nation

SEE INFO BOX →

- QUESTION** Is there a pro-war or anti-war bias to this cover? What is your evidence?
- ANSWER** This is a pro-war cover.
- EVIDENCE** patriotic, family-oriented, and up-beat image of the U.S. President emphasizing strength and feelings below text "Horror & Heroes"

INFO

An "exclusive" is when one news source carries an article that no other source has. In this case *Newsweek* is the only news source to carry this interview.

SLIDE #42



DECEMBER 24, 2001
 "Eager boys rushed to do battle with evil men"

QUESTION What messages about the war are communicated? What is your evidence?

ANSWER Our young soldiers are pumped-up to fight evil foreigners.

EVIDENCE text with image of shouting "boys" in war paint contrasted with a still of bin Laden with Arabic script (taken from Arabic television)

QUESTION Is there a pro-war or anti-war bias to this photo montage? What is your evidence?

ANSWER This is a pro-war montage.

EVIDENCE America's "boys" are justified in their enthusiasm for war because the enemy is "evil"

SEE INFO BOX →

INFO

The photo of bin Laden is taken from a television broadcast on the Arabic language news station **Al Jazeera**. Bin Laden sent videos exclusively to Al Jazeera, which has arguably become the most important news source in the Middle East since the September 11th attacks.

SLIDE #43



DECEMBER 24, 2001
 "How to Save the Arab World"

INFO

News magazines and newspapers have different ways of covering current events. News articles typically focus on reporting factual news and the opinions of newsmakers, not the views of the news reporters. In this article, the *Newsweek* writer Fareed Zakaria shares his opinion about recent events and their meaning. This kind of article is known as a **commentary, opinion piece, or a news analysis**. The writers of these opinionated pieces are called **columnists** rather than reporters. Sometimes newspapers publish opinion pieces that reflect the views of the newspapers' editors who choose what news to print. When the opinion is that of the newspaper or magazine itself it is referred to as an **editorial**.

SEE INFO BOX →

QUESTION What messages about Arabs are communicated by this image? What is your evidence?

ANSWER Arabs are lazy and unproductive.

EVIDENCE old and young Arab men and women sitting around and staring blankly into the camera, implied drug use (smoking a hookah)

QUESTION What messages about the U.S. role in the world are communicated by this title and image? What is your evidence?

ANSWER The Arab world is a mess and needs the U.S. to save it.

EVIDENCE photo of man smoking a hookah pipe in a dirty and decaying cafe with text: "How to Save the Arab World"

QUESTION Is there a pro-war or anti-war bias to this two-page spread? What is your evidence?

ANSWER This image and text are pro-war.

EVIDENCE justifies U.S. military involvement in the Middle East by suggesting that the Arab world needs the U.S. to intervene in order to cleanup the mess

POSTSCRIPT

After the Northern Alliance took control of Kabul, the U.S. helped to install a pro-Western government in Afghanistan under President **Hamid Karzai**. Two years after the fall of the Taliban, Karzai's government had little control outside of Kabul. Although many Afghan refugees returned to the country, the job of rebuilding the nation after decades of war remains daunting. Osama bin Laden disappeared and the Al Qaeda network continued to stage terrorist actions from bases throughout the Middle East and beyond. The Bush administration's War on Terrorism quickly shifted its attention from Afghanistan to Iraq where it waged another war in 2003. Media attention has also shifted away from Afghanistan.

role. We should encourage them to seek multiple perspectives and diversify their sources. We can teach them to be critical readers, viewers, and listeners. And we must help them to seek truth, especially in times of crisis.

MEDIA AND THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN:

The September 11th attacks had a clear effect on mainstream media coverage of the War in Afghanistan. *Newsweek* coverage of this war was characterized by patriotic imagery and language, the vilification of the enemy, stereotyping of Arabs and Muslims, and the absence of critical questions. This is a substantial departure from *Newsweek* coverage of prior wars. It is important for students to understand how and why news coverage is constructed, including the importance of historical context (i.e. September 11th). Media play a central role in American democracy. For our system to work we must teach our young people about that

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN GLOSSARY

Al Jazeera: independent Arab television station that exclusively received and broadcast tapes of Osama bin Laden; a popular Arab news source since September 11th, 2001; considered by many to have a strong anti-American bias

Al Qaeda: Arabic for “the base”; an international terrorist organization founded in the 1980s by Osama bin Laden committed to using force and violence to oppose non-Islamic governments; organization that claimed responsibility for the events of September 11th

Arab: an ethnic identity typically referring to someone who comes from, or whose ancestors came from, one of 22 Arab nations in the Middle East and North Africa

bin Laden, Osama: founder of Al Qaeda and leader of various terrorist attacks including the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the bombing of the U.S. warship Cole and the September 11th attacks in 2001

British Empire: the former territory controlled by Great Britain that included modern day Arab nations such as Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and Kuwait as well as many other countries around the world.

burka: also called a “chador”; a piece of clothing for women that covers the entire body, including the face; worn by some Muslim women, and mandatory for women in Afghanistan during Taliban rule

Bush, George H.W.: 41st President of the United States (1989-1993)

Bush, George W.: 43rd President of the United States (2001-)

Carter, James E. (Jimmy): 39th President of the United States (1977-1981)

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): a government agency that gathers, interprets, and disseminates foreign intelligence in order to aid the president and senior U.S. government policymakers in decision making

Clinton, William J. (Bill): 42nd President of the United States (1993-2001)

Cold War: the conflict between the United States and the former Communist USSR from the 1940s to the 1990s; the cause of many armed conflicts including the Korean War and the Vietnam War

commando: a member of a military unit that specializes in quick, hit-and-run raids into enemy territory

covert operations: undercover or secret military action

embassy: the official residence and offices of foreign government diplomats

guerilla war: a type of irregular warfare in which sabotage and/or harassment by fighters in small, independent groups is used to attack a large, often occupying, army

human rights: certain freedoms considered fundamental to all human beings

infrastructure: the system of public works and the resources required for the operation of a nation or state

Islam: the monotheistic religion based on the teachings of the Koran and the Prophet Muhammed; rapidly growing faith with over 1 billion followers predominately in South and East Asia, and the Middle East

Islamic fundamentalist: one who believes that life and society should be structured around the edicts of Islam; popularly used to refer to militants who advocate revolution to bring about strict Islamic government

Jihad: popularly understood as a holy war; according to Islam, efforts made by individuals and groups of people to eliminate evil from society

Kabul: the capital city of Afghanistan

Karzai, Hamid: President of Afghanistan beginning in June 2002; elected by a loya jirga in the aftermath of the U.S. War in Afghanistan and supported by the administration of George W. Bush

loya jirga: Afghan grand council that serves as the traditional forum for deciding the future of the country

Mecca: western Saudi Arabian city considered the holiest in Islam because it is the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammed

Medina: western Saudi Arabian city considered the second holiest in Islam because it is the place from which the Prophet Muhammed conquered Arabia after fleeing Mecca; only Muslims may enter the city

militant: one who uses military means or violence to fight for a cause

militia: a military force that is not part of a regular army

monarchy: rule by one person, usually for the lifetime of the ruler; hereditary rule by king, queen, emperor, or shah

mujahideen: Islamic guerilla fighters from throughout the Islamic world who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviets and during the Afghan civil war

Muslim: a follower of Islam

Northern Alliance: the anti-Taliban coalition formed in October 1996 among the Uzbeks, Tajiks and Hazaras, northern Afghan ethnic minority groups who were former enemies

Pentagon: the leadership of the U.S. military; U.S. military headquarters that is a five-sided building in Washington D.C.

post-9/11: referring to the condition or state of things after the September 11th attacks in 2001

Reagan, Ronald W.: 40th President of the United States (1981-1989)

refugee: a person who flees his/her country to escape political or military danger or persecution

sanctuary: a place of protection or refuge

September 11th: the popular culture reference to the terrorist hijackings and attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; also referred to as 9/11

shah: the historic title given to rulers in Iran, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian states

Soviet Union: formally the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR); the former communist union that spanned from Eastern Europe to Northern Asia and included 15 component republics; formed in 1917 and dissolved in 1991

Taliban: ultra-conservative religious and political group that seized control of Afghanistan in 1996 and was removed from power after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001

War on Terrorism: the term coined by the administration of George W. Bush after the September 11th attacks referring to efforts to eliminate terrorism and terrorist organizations

World Trade Center: international trade complex of seven buildings in New York City including two 110-story towers (known as the twin towers); target of terrorist attacks in 1993 and 2001, the latter of which destroyed the center

NAME:**Date:**

Use your knowledge of history and the handout of *Newsweek* images of the War in Afghanistan to answer these questions.

- 1. Which best describes Afghanistan's geographic location?**
 - a) an Islamic state in the heart of the Middle East
 - b) a landlocked Central Asian nation
 - c) a fiercely independent nation made up of many ethnic groups
 - d) a former Soviet state with historic ties to Great Britain
- 2. Islam was introduced to Afghanistan**
 - a) by the Taliban in the 1990s
 - b) by Arabs in the 7th century
 - c) by Marco Polo through the Silk Road
 - d) by the mujahideen during the war against the Soviets
- 3. Afghanistan has a long history of**
 - a) resisting foreign invaders
 - b) welcoming cultural diffusion
 - c) close cooperation between various ethnic groups
 - d) industrial development
- 4. For much of the last 200 years Afghanistan was ruled by a succession of**
 - a) American presidents
 - b) Russian czars
 - c) Persian kings
 - d) Afghan shahs
- 5. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 did not begin**
 - a) decades of war
 - b) a huge refugee crisis
 - c) U.S. support for the mujahideen
 - d) Islamic fundamentalism
- 6. Ronald Reagan called the mujahideen "freedom fighters" because of their**
 - a) struggle against the Soviet occupation
 - b) battle for religious tolerance
 - c) love of freedom and liberty
 - d) historic ties to the United States
- 7. The Taliban were not accused of**
 - a) oppressing women
 - b) persecuting religious minorities
 - c) supporting terrorists
 - d) establishing a communist dictatorship
- 8. Osama bin Laden first came to Afghanistan to**
 - a) work with the Taliban
 - b) set up anti-American terrorist training camps
 - c) fight against the Soviets
 - d) plan the 9/11 attacks
- 9. Bin Laden is originally from**
 - a) Afghanistan
 - b) Pakistan
 - c) The United States
 - d) Saudi Arabia
- 10. Which is not one of bin Laden's reasons for his jihad against the U.S.?**
 - a) the U.S. did not do enough to support the government of Saudi Arabia
 - b) the U.S. supports the government of Israel
 - c) the U.S. keeps in power corrupt and anti-Islamic Arab governments
 - d) the presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia shows disrespect of the holy sites in Mecca and Medina

11. The Clinton administration linked Al Qaeda to which terrorist acts in 1998?

- a) the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania
- b) the killing of Soviet citizens in a Moscow theatre
- c) September 11th
- d) attacks on U.S. peacekeeping troops in Somalia

12. The day after the 9/11 attacks President George W. Bush declared

- a) the Cold War
- b) War on Afghanistan
- c) War on Iraq
- d) War on Terrorism

13. The majority of the 9/11 hijackers were citizens of

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Pakistan
- d) Iraq

For questions 14 - 17 and 20 refer to the handout of *Newsweek* images

14. Slides #34 and #36 suggest that the U.S. will defeat the Taliban through

- a) strong American leadership
- b) our alliance with anti-Taliban forces in Afghanistan
- c) high-tech weapons and training
- d) determination and patriotic spirit

15. The conflict shown in slide #37 came about as a direct result of

- a) the Cold War
- b) the Gulf War
- c) the Arab/Israeli conflict
- d) the War on Terrorism

16. The Afghan troops pictured in slide #38, who took control of Kabul in November of 2001, are from

- a) Al Qaeda
- b) the Taliban
- c) the Northern Alliance
- d) the U.S. and British forces

17. Which *Newsweek* page shows Kabul after the Taliban were overthrown?

- a) #32
- b) #37
- c) #40
- d) #43

18. The *loya jirga* is...

- a) an Afghan grand council
- b) a mujahideen faction that fought the Soviets
- c) the constitution of Afghanistan
- d) Afghanistan's head of state

19. Who was appointed leader of the government of Afghanistan in 2002?

- a) Mullah Mohammad Omar
- b) Osama bin Laden
- c) Hamid Karzai
- d) an American military officer

20. Which is not implied by the text and image in slide #43?

- a) Afghanistan should be an Islamic state
- b) the Middle East is a mess
- c) the U.S. should play an active role in the world
- d) Arab governments are in need of reform

ANSWER SHEET FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST**THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

1. **b)** a landlocked Central Asian nation
2. **b)** by Arabs in the 7th century
3. **a)** resisting foreign invaders
4. **d)** Afghan shahs
5. **d)** Islamic fundamentalism
6. **a)** struggle against the Soviet occupation
7. **d)** establishing a communist dictatorship
8. **c)** fight against the Soviets
9. **d)** Saudi Arabia
10. **a)** the U.S. did not do enough to support the government of Saudi Arabia
11. **a)** the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania
12. **d)** War on Terrorism
13. **b)** Saudi Arabia
14. **c)** high-tech weapons and training
15. **d)** the War on Terrorism
16. **c)** the Northern Alliance
17. **c)** #40
18. **a)** an Afghan grand council
19. **c)** Hamid Karzai
20. **a)** Afghanistan should be an Islamic state