

A close-up portrait of a man with a dark beard and mustache, wearing a black and white patterned headscarf. The text "The Afghan Taliban" is overlaid in the center of his face.

# The Afghan Taliban

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# IDEOLOGY/GOALS

- RELIGIOUS & NATIONALIST
- HANAFI ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENCE
  - FOUNDED BY ABU HANIFA
  - TOLERANCE
  - SUNNI ISLAMIC TRADITION
- CREATE A WAR-FREE AFGHANISTAN
- ESTABLISH A PASHTUN STATE





# FORMATION/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- “TALIBAN” = STUDENTS
- 1994-1996 (MILITIA); 1996-2001 (GOVERNMENT); 2004-PRESENT (INSURGENCY)
- EARLY 1900s; AFGHAN FACTION OF MUJAHIDEEN
- EXTREMELY HARSH TREATMENT OF WOMEN, MINORITIES, AND RELIGIOUS OPPONENTS
- PROVIDED A SAFE HAVEN FOR AL-QAEDA AND OSAMA BIN LADEN



# LEADERSHIP

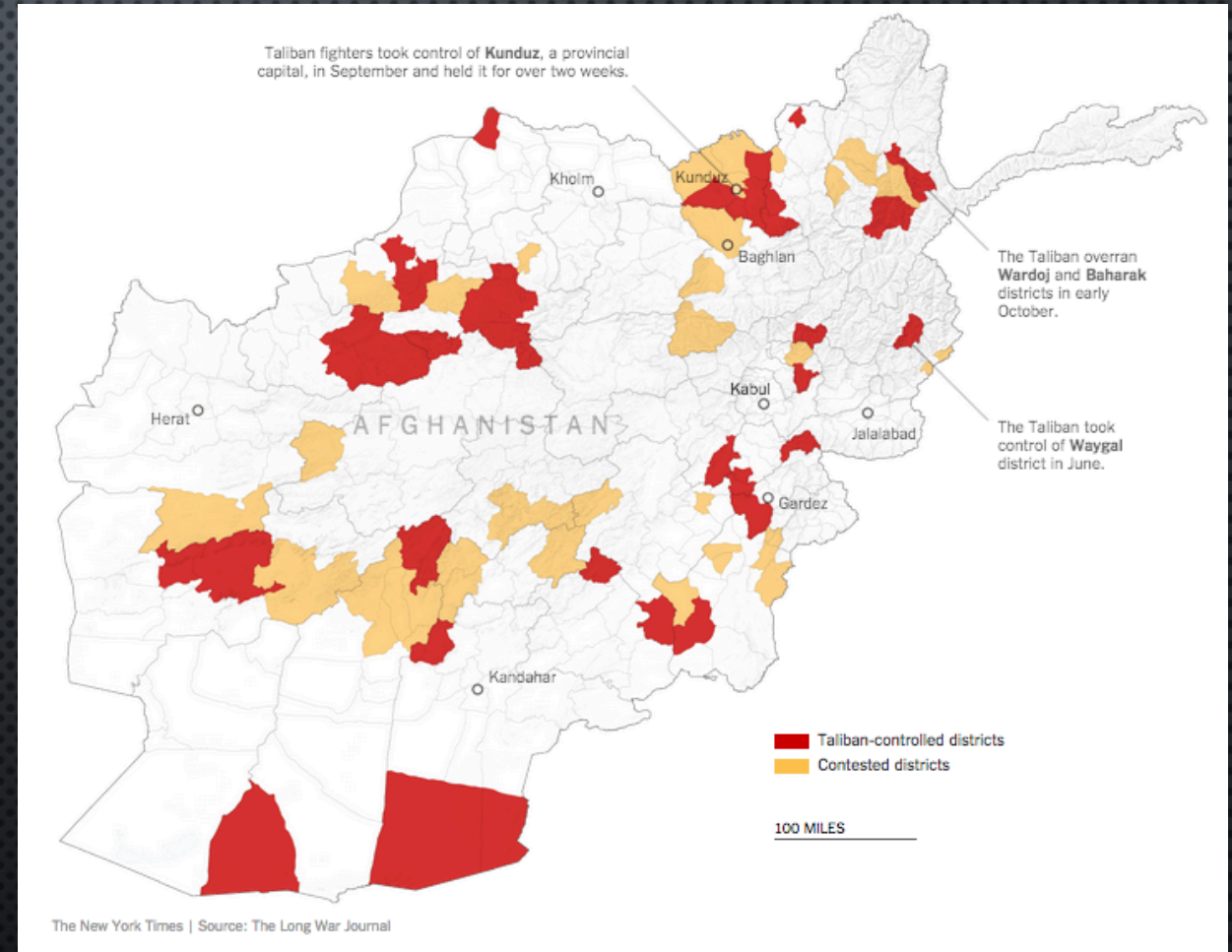
- MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR (1996-2001)
- MULLAH AKHTAR MOHAMMAD MANSOUR (AUGUST 2015-MAY 2016)
- MAWLAWI HIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA
  - DEPUTIES: SIRAJUDDIN HAQQANI & MULLAH MOHAMMED YAQOOB





# GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

- PREVIOUSLY RULED OVER MUCH OF AFGHANISTAN (1996-2001)
- PASHTUN REGION
- CAPTURED PROVINCE OF HERAT (1995)





# REASONS FOR ADOPTING TERROR AS A TATIC

- PREVALENT ANARCHY IN AFGHANISTAN (1994)
- LEADERSHIP BY U.S. AND SAUDI INTELLIGENCE DIMINISHED
- NO FUNCTIONING GOVERNMENT OR ECONOMY
- CIVIL WAR IN AFGHANISTAN LEFT AN APPALLING AMOUNT OF CASUALTIES; NO CLEAR VICTOR



# RECRUITMENT AND PROPAGANDA

<http://alemarah-english.com/> | <https://twitter.com/alemarahurdu?lang=en>

- ATTRACTED INITIAL SUPPORT IN THE POST-SOVIET ERA
- SEEK OUT YOUNG MEN AND BOYS FROM POOREST AREAS OF AFGHANISTAN
- GAIN SUPPORT USING CORRUPTION OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT
- PLAY ON THE DISTRUST AFGHAN PEOPLE HAVE AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT AND SOVIETS, BRITISH, AND AMERICANS





# SIGNATURE ATTACKS AND OVERALL ANALYSIS

- 1996: KILLED AFGHAN PRESIDENT, BURHANUDDIN RABBANI
- 1996-2001: AT LEAST 15 MASSACRES CARRIED OUT AGAINST AFGHAN CITIZENS
- 2012: CARRIED OUT A RAID ON NATO'S CAMP BASTION BASE
- 2014: INSURGENTS SET FIRE TO OVER 200 OIL TANKER TRUCKS THAT WERE SUPPLYING FUEL TO NATO FORCES
- AUG 7-10, 2015: FOUR SEPARATE ATTACKS



HAS THE TALIBAN ACHIEVED ITS GOALS?





# HAS THE TALIBAN ACHIEVED ITS GOALS? IN THEIR PERSPECTIVE, YES...

- THE U.S. LEFT AFGHANISTAN
- RECOGNITION AS THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN FROM UAE, PAKISTAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA (LOST TITLE IN 2001)
- WERE SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING THEIR FELLOW MUSLIMS (AL QAEDA)



# HAS THE TALIBAN ACHIEVED ITS GOALS?

## IN THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE, NO...

- ALTHOUGH THEY CLAIMED VICTORY BECAUSE THE US LEFT AFGHANISTAN, THEY ALSO BLAME THE US FOR LEAVING THEIR COUNTRY IN RUIN WITH NO DIRECTION
- STRIPPED OF THEIR TITLE OF THE AIE DUE TO THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN HIDING BIN LADEN
- REGIME HAS WEAKENED DRASTICALLY DUE TO ITS ROLE IN HARBORING BIN LADEN
- STRUGGLING ORGANIZATION; INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



# THE TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA

- IDEOLOGIES BASED ON SHARIA LAW
- SHARE JIHADIST CONCEPTS
- BIN LADEN PROVIDED MOST OF AQ'S FUNDING AND THE TALIBAN RECEIVED MOST OF ITS FUNDING FROM AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE
- TALIBAN FORCES MEMBERS TO FOLLOW A VERY STRICT CODE OF CONDUCT





# THE TALIBAN AND ISIS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A5pm0Hq3Mo>





# HOW HAS GOVERNMENT/US TRIED TO HANDLE THE GROUP?

- 1998: UN URGED TALIBAN TO END ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- 1999: UN IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
- 2001: TOPPLED BY U.S. INVASION
- U.S. HAS LED A NUMBER OF ATTACKS AGAINST TALIBAN LEADERS
- 2016: U.S. KILLED MULLAH MANSOUR IN A DRONE STRIKE



# OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- NATION BUILDING IN AFGHANISTAN BY U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS
- BETTER COLLABORATION WITH AFGHAN GOVERNMENT
- MORE DRONE STRIKES TO TAKE OUT LEADERS



QUESTIONS?



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