

The United States in Afghanistan

Third edition. August 2019.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with imperialists' interests in Afghanistan around 1748.
- Includes the Saur Revolution, mujahideen, rise and overthrow of the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, 9/11, and "the forever war."
- Concludes with an overview of the political, economic, and social issues faced as the United States began to withdraw in 2018.

STUDENT TEXT

- Provides significant content on daily life, regional geography, and the role of religion.
- Profiles continuity and change in Afghanistan's politics and foreign relations.
- Explains how the Cold War influenced Afghan politics, culminating in multilateral warfare.
- Describes the rise of the Taliban and its influence on politics, society, and culture.
- Contextualizes why the United States declared war on Afghanistan as part of the War on Terror.
- Presents the political and social dilemmas the United States faces as the result of 20 years of war.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What should the U.S. role in Afghanistan be?

Setting: U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Read maps;** identify physical and human characteristics of Afghanistan.
- **Analyze images** and evaluate the point of views expressed in photographs.
- **Close read** primary source documents, including letters between Brezhnev and Carter.
- **Compare and contrast** first-person narratives of women in Afghanistan.
- **Evaluate** continuity and change over time.
- **Work with a team** to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen actively** and deliberate with peers on the complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Reflect** and write their own position on the U.S. role in Afghanistan.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).