

pashtun history

pashtun history is a rich and complex narrative that spans thousands of years, encompassing the origins, culture, and significant events that have shaped the Pashtun people. Known for their fierce independence, tribal organization, and distinctive code of conduct known as Pashtunwali, the Pashtuns have played a crucial role in the history of South and Central Asia. This article explores the ancient roots of the Pashtun ethnicity, their social and political structures, and their impact on regional history through various empires and modern times. The discussion will also highlight key historical figures, migrations, and cultural contributions that define Pashtun heritage. Understanding Pashtun history offers valuable insights into the dynamics of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the broader geopolitical landscape. Below is an overview of the main topics covered in this comprehensive examination of Pashtun history.

- Origins and Early History of the Pashtuns
- Pashtun Tribal Structure and Pashtunwali
- Pashtuns in Regional Empires and Conflicts
- Colonial Era and Pashtun Nationalism
- Pashtun History in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Origins and Early History of the Pashtuns

The origins of the Pashtun people trace back to ancient times, with various theories regarding their ethnogenesis. Pashtun history suggests that they are an Eastern Iranian ethnic group with roots linked to Indo-Iranian tribes. Historical sources and linguistic studies indicate that Pashto, the Pashtun language, belongs to the Eastern Iranian branch of the Indo-European family. Early mentions of Pashtun-like tribes appear in ancient Greek and Persian texts, often identified with the Pusht or Pakthas, who inhabited areas around the Hindu Kush and the Indus Valley.

Mythological and Historical Origins

Pashtun folklore often attributes their lineage to Qais Abdul Rashid, considered the legendary patriarch of the Pashtun people. This figure is said to have lived around the time of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, linking Pashtun identity to Islamic heritage. Historically, Pashtuns have been associated with the ancient Scythians, Kushans, and other nomadic groups that

migrated through Central Asia. Archaeological evidence supports the presence of Indo-Iranian tribes in the region since at least the first millennium BCE.

Geographical Roots

The traditional Pashtun homeland, known as Pashtunistan, spans the rugged terrains of eastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan. This mountainous geography has significantly influenced Pashtun society, fostering tribal autonomy and resistance to external control. The region's strategic location along historic trade routes and invasion paths has made it a crossroads of civilizations and a frequent battleground for empires.

Pashtun Tribal Structure and Pashtunwali

Central to Pashtun history is their distinctive tribal organization and the social code known as Pashtunwali. The Pashtun tribes are divided into various clans and subclans, forming a complex network of kinship ties that govern social relations and political alliances. This structure has historically provided cohesion and stability within Pashtun society.

Tribal Confederacies and Clans

Pashtun tribes are broadly categorized into several major confederacies, including the Durrani, Ghilzai, Karlani, and others. Each confederacy encompasses numerous tribes and subtribes, which often control specific territories or regions. Tribal elders and jirgas (councils) play a vital role in decision-making and dispute resolution, reflecting the decentralized nature of Pashtun governance.

The Code of Pashtunwali

Pashtunwali is an unwritten ethical code that governs Pashtun social behavior, emphasizing values such as hospitality (melmastia), honor (nang), courage (tura), and revenge (badal). This code has been instrumental in maintaining tribal unity and order, especially in the absence of centralized authority. Pashtunwali also influences interactions with outsiders and has historically guided Pashtun responses to conflict and cooperation.

- Melmastia (Hospitality): Obligation to offer generous hospitality to guests.
- Nang (Honor): Upholding personal and tribal honor above all else.
- Badal (Revenge): The right and duty to seek justice or revenge for

wrongs.

- Nanawatai (Asylum): Granting sanctuary to those seeking refuge.
- Hewaad (Loyalty): Loyalty to the tribe and its members.

Pashtuns in Regional Empires and Conflicts

Throughout history, Pashtuns have been influential actors in various empires and military conflicts across South and Central Asia. Their strategic location and martial culture made them both valuable allies and formidable adversaries to regional powers.

The Ghaznavid and Ghurid Periods

Pashtun warriors served prominently during the Ghaznavid (10th-12th centuries) and Ghurid empires, which controlled large parts of present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northern India. These empires facilitated the spread of Islam and Persian culture in the region, with Pashtuns often participating as soldiers and administrators.

The Durrani Empire

One of the most significant chapters in Pashtun history is the establishment of the Durrani Empire in the mid-18th century by Ahmad Shah Durrani, often regarded as the founder of modern Afghanistan. The empire extended over vast territories, including parts of Iran, Pakistan, and India. Ahmad Shah's leadership consolidated Pashtun tribes under a centralized authority and laid the foundation for Afghan national identity.

Pashtuns and the British Raj

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Pashtun territories became a focal point in the struggle between the British Empire and the Russian Empire, known as the "Great Game." The British faced persistent resistance from Pashtun tribes along the Northwest Frontier, leading to numerous military campaigns and complex political arrangements. Pashtun fighters such as the Afridi and Waziri tribes became known for their guerrilla tactics and fierce defense of their lands.

Colonial Era and Pashtun Nationalism

The colonial period brought significant changes to Pashtun society, including new administrative structures, education, and the rise of political consciousness. Pashtun nationalism emerged as a response to British colonial policies and the division of Pashtun lands between Afghanistan and British India.

The Khudai Khidmatgar Movement

One of the most prominent Pashtun nationalist movements was the Khudai Khidmatgar, or "Servants of God," led by Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the early 20th century. This nonviolent movement sought social reform and independence from British rule, advocating for Pashtun rights and unity. It played a critical role during the Indian independence movement and influenced later Pashtun political developments.

Partition and Its Impact

The partition of British India in 1947 divided Pashtun territories between the newly created states of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This division complicated Pashtun identity and political aspirations, leading to ongoing debates about Pashtun autonomy, integration, and nationalist movements within Pakistan. The Durand Line, established by the British, remains a contentious border in Pashtun history.

Pashtun History in the 20th and 21st Centuries

In recent decades, Pashtun history has been shaped by geopolitical conflicts, social changes, and cultural revival. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the rise of the Taliban, and ongoing conflicts have profoundly affected Pashtun society and its role in regional politics.

Pashtuns and the Afghan-Soviet War

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 mobilized many Pashtun tribes as part of the Mujahideen resistance. Pashtun fighters played a central role in the guerrilla warfare that eventually led to the Soviet withdrawal. This period also saw the rise of various Pashtun-led factions and the fragmentation of Afghan politics.

The Taliban Movement

Emerging in the early 1990s, the Taliban movement, predominantly Pashtun,

sought to establish an Islamic state in Afghanistan. Their rise to power in 1996 and subsequent rule had profound implications for Pashtun society and the wider region. The Taliban's governance, international isolation, and the US-led invasion in 2001 have been major events in contemporary Pashtun history.

Pashtun Culture and Diaspora

Despite political turmoil, Pashtun culture has continued to thrive through poetry, music, and traditional practices. The Pashtun diaspora, spread across the Middle East, Europe, and North America, maintains strong ties to their heritage. Efforts to preserve Pashto language and customs remain vital for sustaining Pashtun identity in the modern world.

1. Ancient origins and ethnolinguistic roots
2. Tribal organization and Pashtunwali code
3. Historical involvement in regional empires
4. Colonial encounters and nationalist movements
5. Contemporary challenges and cultural resilience

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the Pashtuns and where are they primarily located?

Pashtuns are an ethnic group native to the region spanning southeastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan. They are primarily found in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

What is the significance of the Pashtunwali code in Pashtun history?

Pashtunwali is the traditional ethical code followed by Pashtuns, emphasizing values like hospitality, honor, courage, and revenge. It has played a crucial role in maintaining social order and cultural identity among Pashtuns throughout history.

Which empires or dynasties have been established by Pashtuns in history?

Notable Pashtun-led empires and dynasties include the Hotak Empire (early 18th century) and the Durrani Empire (established in 1747 by Ahmad Shah Durrani), which laid the foundation of modern Afghanistan.

How did Ahmad Shah Durrani contribute to Pashtun history?

Ahmad Shah Durrani, also known as the founder of the modern state of Afghanistan, united various Pashtun tribes and established the Durrani Empire in 1747, which became a significant regional power in South Asia.

What role did Pashtuns play in the British-Afghan wars?

Pashtuns were central figures in the British-Afghan wars during the 19th and early 20th centuries, often resisting British colonial advances through guerrilla warfare and tribal uprisings.

How have Pashtun tribes influenced the political landscape of Afghanistan and Pakistan?

Pashtun tribes have significantly influenced the politics of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with many political leaders, militants, and tribal elders shaping regional governance, conflicts, and peace efforts.

What is the historical importance of the Khyber Pass for the Pashtuns?

The Khyber Pass is a vital mountain pass connecting Afghanistan and Pakistan, historically serving as a key trade route and strategic military gateway. It has been crucial for Pashtun control and defense throughout history.

How has Pashtun culture preserved its identity despite external influences?

Pashtun culture has preserved its identity through adherence to Pashtunwali, strong tribal structures, oral traditions such as poetry and storytelling, and maintaining their language (Pashto), despite various foreign invasions and political changes.

Additional Resources

1. *The Pathans: 550 B.C.–A.D. 1957*

This comprehensive work by Sir Olaf Caroe explores the history of the Pashtun people from ancient times through the mid-20th century. It delves into their tribal structures, cultural practices, and political influence in the region. The book is considered a seminal text for understanding Pashtun history and their role in South and Central Asian geopolitics.

2. *A History of the Pashtun Tribes*

Authored by Haroon Rashid, this book provides a detailed account of the origins, social organization, and historical movements of the Pashtun tribes. It investigates the tribal codes and customs that have shaped Pashtun identity over centuries. The narrative also highlights significant events impacting the Pashtuns during colonial and post-colonial periods.

3. *Pashtunwali: The Way of the Pashtuns*

This book explores the traditional code of conduct known as Pashtunwali, which governs the social and ethical framework of Pashtun society. Through historical examples and ethnographic studies, the author explains how Pashtunwali has preserved tribal cohesion and influenced political dynamics. It is an essential read for understanding Pashtun cultural resilience.

4. *The Afghan Frontier: At the Crossroads of Empires*

This book, written by Victoria Schofield, examines the role of Pashtuns in the geopolitics of the Afghan frontier region. It covers the impact of British colonial policies, the Great Game, and subsequent conflicts on Pashtun lands. The narrative provides insights into how Pashtun tribes navigated imperial ambitions and retained their autonomy.

5. *Pashtun Resistance and the Soviet-Afghan War*

This historical account focuses on the Pashtun role during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. It details the contributions of Pashtun mujahideen fighters and the social ramifications of the conflict on their communities. The book also analyzes the war's long-term effects on Pashtun society and regional stability.

6. *The Tribal Dynamics of Pashtun Society*

This scholarly text investigates the complex tribal affiliations and power structures within Pashtun society. It discusses the interplay between kinship, politics, and economics that define Pashtun tribal life. The author uses historical records and contemporary studies to illustrate how tribes have adapted to changing political landscapes.

7. *Rebels and Rulers: The Pashtun in Historical Perspective*

The book traces the history of Pashtun leaders who have challenged and shaped regional authority from medieval times to the present. It highlights key figures such as Ahmad Shah Durrani and their impact on the formation of modern Afghanistan. The work underscores the dual nature of Pashtun identity as both rebellious and state-building.

8. *Pashtun Women: Voices from the Tribal Heartland*

This collection of narratives and research sheds light on the lives of Pashtun women throughout history. It challenges common stereotypes by presenting their roles in family, society, and resistance movements. The book offers a nuanced perspective on gender and cultural traditions within Pashtun history.

9. *The Making of the Pashtun Nation*

This book explores the emergence of Pashtun nationalism and identity in the 19th and 20th centuries. It examines the cultural, political, and linguistic factors that contributed to a collective Pashtun consciousness. The author also assesses the impact of colonial and post-colonial state policies on Pashtun aspirations.

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pashtun history: *A Concise History of Afghanistan in 25 Volumes* Hamid Wahed Alikuzai, 2013-10 Afghanistan Literature is World's greatest and richest - without Afghan- Literature no European (German, French, Spanish or English) Literature would exist today The Vedas, Zoroastrian, and Buddhist, among the oldest known Literature of Afghanistan, originating from the Great capital of Bactria present day Balkh, and Aria present day Herat, Sanskrit is the reference to the original history of Afghanistan. The Saxon Europeans' influence during the Great Games of the mid nineteenth century affected the Afghan language, religion and Territories' size, which previously had extended from India to North Africa at 2.6 million square kilometers. The Great Games continued at any cost evolving into present-day conflicts of 2013.

pashtun history: The Pashtun Tribes in Afghanistan Ben Acheson, 2023-06-30 'The Pashtun Tribes of Afghanistan is a tour de force – combining erudite analysis, historical research, atmospheric story-telling, page-turning prose and above all, profound passion.' - Sir Nicholas Kay, NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan (2019-2020) & British Ambassador to Afghanistan (2017-2019) The abrupt withdrawal of US and NATO forces in 2021 ushered in a new era for Afghanistan. The subsequent Taliban takeover facilitated a reversion to some of the worst hallmarks of Afghanistan's past, including bans on women's education and other rights-related roll-backs. Navigating this new reality necessitates that more constructive relationships are built between Westerners and Afghans, particularly with the majority ethnicity – the Pashtun tribes. The Pashtun Tribes in Afghanistan: Wolves Among Men is the toolkit for doing so. It provides the knowledge needed to navigate a complex tribal environment. Framed by first-hand experience and balancing in-depth analysis with engaging anecdotes, it sheds light on the Pashtun way of life still enshrined in the ancient "Pashtunwali" honor code. It explains the tribal structure, tribal territories, historic battles, prominent figures and even Pashtun proverbs and poets. It also highlights how recent wars are destroying the tribal arena. Focusing on people rather than politics, this book unveils the layers, paradoxes and subtleties of the world's largest tribal society. On turning the final page, readers will understand the Pashtun brand of tribalism and how it influences Afghanistan

today. They will be aware that tribal life has been permanently challenged but that the Pashtun identity remains intact – in psychology if not always in practice. They will recognize why Pashtuns are not a single entity and should not be treated as “one”. The need to understand the tribes as they understand themselves will also be clear, particularly their concept of honor. This book illuminates why, from Alexander the Great to Winston Churchill, and even with the Taliban today, Pashtuns are still stereotyped as primitive, violence-prone barbarians. But were men like Rudyard Kipling right to characterize tribesmen as being “as unaccountable as the grey Wolf, who is his blood brother?” This book has the answer.

pashtun history: A Concise History of Afghanistan-Central Asia and India in 25 Volumes HAMID ALIKUZAI, 2015-01-19 Thirteen years after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan Thirteen years after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the gains that the international coalition has made with its local partners are real but reversible. Afghanistan is no longer a global hub of terrorist activity, but Taliban resurgence would threaten to make it one again. Reconstruction assistance has produced demonstrable progress in health, education, and economic well-being, but corruption and governance problems have undermined popular support for the government in Kabul and constrained the overall level of progress. Internationally, a coalition still backs the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) military mission. However, NATO's will is waning; China, Russia, and India are largely free riders; and Punjab and Iran publicly say the right things, while destabilizing Afghanistan by privately meddling to their own ends. Political and economic realities in the United States make the current level of American engagement in Afghanistan unsustainable. But as the commitment of coalition partners fades, what Washington decides will shape the future of South Asia. Looking ahead, there are three different scenarios for American engagement in Afghanistan. It remains to be seen exactly which route Washington will take. But it is clear that U.S. interests require a long-term commitment not only in Afghanistan but across the region. Lest it be forgotten, the consequences of ignoring the region in the 1990s were visited upon the United States on 9/11. So the most vital goals present-day are defeating the remnants of al Qaeda in Punjab, preventing the reemergence of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan, ensuring the security of Punjab's nuclear weapons, and discouraging Punjab's use of extremism and terror as a policy instrument. There are three ways forward. Each entails a different degree of involvement and carries varying risks and rewards. The first option is the riskiest. Future #1: Immediate Departure and the Reallocation of Resources because discontent among the U.S. public over the war is already at an all-time high.

pashtun history: A History of Pashtun Migration, 1775-2006 Robert Nichols, 2008 For centuries Pashtuns from the Peshawar Valley and today's Pakistan-Afghan borderlands have circulated throughout the sub-continent and the Indian Ocean region. This interregional history of migration and mobility in the modern period from 1775 to 2006 follows Pashtun individuals and communities as they left homelands and responded to colonial and post-colonial opportunities and challenges in eighteenth century Rohilkhand, nineteenth century northern India and Hyderabad, Pakistan after 1947, and the Gulf region from the nineteenth century to the present. Pashtuns in permanent or temporary diaspora were transformed by the range of possible social consequences as they circulated in South Asia and the greater Indian Ocean region, variously experiencing degrees of assimilation, integration, sustained ethnic self-awareness, and, increasingly, notions of national identity. Pashtuns in home villages and in distant locations exhibited personal initiative and agency even as they were affected by wider European imperial policies, national and interregional political competition, and the evolving pressures of an expanding world economy. This work illuminates the history of Pashtuns and Pakistan and offers insight into how Asian regional populations have been integrated into, and often subordinated by, the dynamics of contemporary globalization.

pashtun history: The Pashtuns Abubakar Siddique, 2014-06-10 Most accounts claim that the instability gripping Afghanistan and Pakistan is either rooted in Pashtun history and culture, or finds willing hosts among Pashtun communities on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. In *The Pashtuns*, Abubakar Siddique, a stout-hearted Pashtun himself, sets out to interrogate this claim. He

tells a very different story: that the failure, and unwillingness, of both Afghanistan and Pakistan to absorb the Pashtuns into their state structures and to incorporate them into the economic and political fabric is central to South Asia's problems, and a critical failure of nation- and state-building in both countries. In a voice that is both engaging and erudite, he makes clear that religious extremism is the product of these critical failures and that responsibility for this lies to a large degree with the elites of both countries. Partly an eye-witness account and partly meticulously researched scholarship, *The Pashtuns* describes a people whose destiny will, no doubt, shape the future of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and also the rest of the world.

pashtun history: *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania* Barbara A. West, 2010-05-19 Presents an alphabetical listing of information on the peoples of Asia and Oceania including origins, prehistory, history, culture, languages, and relationships to other cultures.

pashtun history: *History of Humanity* UNESCO, 2008-12-31 This is the seventh and final volume in this comprehensive guide to the history of world cultures throughout historical times.

pashtun history: *The Routledge International Handbook of Indigenous Resilience* Hilary N. Weaver, 2021-12-30 This handbook provides a comprehensive and cutting-edge strengths-based resource on the subject of Indigenous resilience. Indigenous Peoples demonstrate considerable resilience despite the social, health, economic, and political disparities they experience within surrounding settler societies. This book considers Indigenous resilience in many forms: cultural, spiritual, and governance traditions remain in some communities and are being revitalized in others to reclaim aspects of their cultures that have been outlawed, suppressed, or undermined. It explores how Indigenous people advocate for social justice and work to shape settler societies in ways that create a more just, fair, and equitable world for all human and non-human beings. This book is divided into five sections: From the past to the future Pillars of Indigeneity The power in Indigenous identities The natural world Reframing the narrative: from problem to opportunity Comprised of 25 newly commissioned chapters from Indigenous scholars, professionals, and community members from traditions around the world, this book will be a useful tool for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of manifestations of wellness and resilience. This handbook will be of particular interest to all scholars, students, and practitioners of social work, social care, and human services more broadly, as well as those working in sociology, development studies, and environmental sustainability.

pashtun history: *The Taliban Revival* Hassan Abbas, 2014-06-24 In autumn 2001, U.S. and NATO troops were deployed to Afghanistan to unseat the Taliban rulers, repressive Islamic fundamentalists who had lent active support to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda jihadists. The NATO forces defeated and dismantled the Taliban government, scattering its remnants across the country. But despite a more than decade-long attempt to eradicate them, the Taliban endured—regrouping and reestablishing themselves as a significant insurgent movement. Gradually they have regained control of large portions of Afghanistan even as U.S. troops are preparing to depart from the region. In his authoritative and highly readable account, author Hassan Abbas examines how the Taliban not only survived but adapted to their situation in order to regain power and political advantage. Abbas traces the roots of religious extremism in the area and analyzes the Taliban's support base within Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas. In addition, he explores the roles that Western policies and military decision making—not to mention corruption and incompetence in Kabul—have played in enabling the Taliban's return to power.

pashtun history: *Doing Research as a Native* Kira D. Jomet, Merouan Mekouar, 2024 When I started fieldwork for my PhD dissertation, I was fresh out of Edward Schatz's qualitative methods graduate seminar at the University of Toronto. The seminar was based on his edited volume *Political Ethnography* (Schatz 2009), which I devoured, but I have only recently grasped the book's importance in my discipline of political science. *Political Ethnography* signaled that questions of positionality were finally being taken seriously by political scientists, many years after their integration in fields such as anthropology, sociology, and geography. Around the same time, the late Lee Ann Fujii, whose 2018 book *Interviewing in Social Science Research* in many ways defined the

direction of qualitative methods in political science, gave a job talk in my department. Mesmerized by her account of how local ties shaped mass-scale violence in Rwanda, I asked Fujii to join my doctoral committee. Looking back, I realize just how much these formative mentors influenced what I would see as my key responsibilities during my first fieldwork trips to the former Yugoslavia region in 2010 and 2011--

pashtun history: Afghanistan at War Tom Lansford, 2017-02-16 Covering wars and conflicts of Afghanistan from the modern founding of the country in the 1700s to the contemporary struggle with the Taliban, this single-volume reference analyzes the causes and results of Afghanistan's wars and examines leading political and military figures, weapons, and tactics. Afghanistan has been embroiled in war and conflict throughout the latter part of the 20th century as well as the current millennium, but due to its location at the crossroads of Central Asia, Afghanistan has also endured repeated conquests throughout its turbulent earlier times. Examining Afghanistan's long military history through this book will enable readers to grasp the wider sociopolitical history of the country; appreciate the impact of these wars on Southwest Asia and superpowers such as Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States; and understand why Afghanistan remains a controversial battleground today. The alphabetically organized entries examine the major wars and conflicts of Afghanistan from the modern founding of the country during the Durrani Dynasty in the 1700s through the contemporary struggle with the Taliban. The book spotlights the role of key individuals in starting, pursuing, or ending conflicts, as well as their broader contributions to—or negative impact on—Afghanistan and the international arena. The work also presents essays that examine key subtopics such as weapons, tactics, ethnic groups, religion, and foreign relations. This allows the reader—whether a student, scholar, or member of a nonacademic audience—to examine a topic in depth and see how the event, figure, or movement fits into the broader history of Afghanistan.

pashtun history: Minority Nationalisms in South Asia Tanweer Fazal, 2013-10-18 South Asia is the theatre of myriad experimentations with nationalisms of various kinds - religious, linguistic, religio-linguistic, composite, plural and exclusivist. In all the region's major states, officially promulgated nationalism at various times has been fiercely contested by minority groups intent on preserving what they see as the pristine purity of their own cultural inheritance. This volume examines the perspective of minority identities as they negotiate their terms of co-existence, accommodation and adaptation with several other competing identities within the framework of the 'nation state' in South Asia. It examines three different kinds of minority articulations - cultural conclaves with real or fictitious attachments to an imaginary homeland, the identity problems of dispersed minorities with no territorial claims and the aspirations of indigenous communities, tribes or ethnicities. The essays in this volume offer a rich menu: the evolution of Naga nationalism, the construction of the territory-less Sylheti identity, the debates over Pashtun nationalism in Pakistan, the evolution of Muslim nationalism in Sri Lanka, the politics of religious minorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan, the making of minority politics in India, and questions of Islam and nationalism in colonial India. It is an eclectic mix for students of nationalism, politics, modern history and anyone interested in the evolution of South Asia. This book was published as a special issue of South Asian History and Culture.

pashtun history: Clan and Tribal Perspectives on Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability James C. Spee, Adela J. McMurray, Mark D. McMillan, 2021-03-01 In a climate of in-migration, clan and tribal communities have been forced to build sustainable solutions together. Breaking fresh ground by shining a light on sustainability journeys from outside the global mainstream, this book demonstrates how sustainable development occurs in respectful collaboration between equals.

pashtun history: The regional travel guide for Nangarhar (Afghanistan) , 2025-09-24

pashtun history: *The Muslim Secular* Amar Sohal, 2023-08-01 Concerned with the fate of the minority in the age of the nation-state, Muslim political thought in modern South Asia has often been associated with religious nationalism and the creation of Pakistan. The Muslim Secular complicates that story by reconstructing the ideas of three prominent thinker-actors of the Indian freedom

struggle: the Indian National Congress leader Abul Kalam Azad, the popular Kashmiri politician Sheikh Abdullah, and the nonviolent Pashtun activist Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Revising the common view that they were mere acolytes of their celebrated Hindu colleagues M.K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, this book argues that these three men collectively produced a distinct Muslim secularity from within the grander family of secular Indian nationalism; an intellectual tradition that has retained religion within the public space while nevertheless preventing it from defining either national membership or the state. At a time when many across the decolonising world believed that identity-based majorities and minorities were incompatible and had to be separated out into sovereign equals, Azad, Abdullah, and Ghaffar Khan thought differently about the problem of religious pluralism in a postcolonial democracy. The minority, they contended, could conceive of the majority not just as an antagonistic entity that is set against it, but to which it can belong and uniquely complete. Premising its claim to a single, united India upon the universalism of Islam, champions of the Muslim secular mobilised notions of federation and popular sovereignty to replace older monarchical and communitarian forms of power. But to finally jettison the demographic inequality between Hindus and Muslims, these thinkers redefined equality itself. Rejecting its liberal definition for being too abstract and thus prone to majoritarian assimilation, they replaced it with their own rendition of Indian parity to simultaneously evoke commonality and distinction between Hindu and Muslim peers. Azad, Abdullah, and Ghaffar Khan achieved this by deploying a range of concepts from profane inheritance and theological autonomy to linguistic diversity and ethical pledges. Retaining their Muslimness and Indian nationality in full, this crowning notion of equality-as-parity challenged both Gandhi and Nehru's abstractions and Mohammad Ali Jinnah's supposedly dangerous demand for Pakistan.

pashtun history: *Afghan Refugees, Pakistani Media and the State* Ayesha Jehangir, 2023-12-20 Drawing on the frameworks of peace journalism, this book offers new insights into the Pakistani media coverage of Afghan refugees and their forced repatriation from Pakistan. Based on a three-year-study, the author examines the political, social and economic forces that influence and govern the reporting practices of journalists covering the protracted refugee conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Through a critical discourse analysis of the structures of journalistic iterability of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the author distils four dominant and three emerging frames, and proposes a new teleological turn for peace journalism as deliberative practice, that is to say practice that by promoting transparency and accountability (recognition) and challenging dominant power-proposed narratives and perspectives (resistance) encourages public engagement and participation (cosmopolitan solidarity). The author also privileges an analytical approach that conceptualises the nexus between digital witnessing and peace journalism through the paradigm of cosmopolitanism. The author finds routinely accommodated media narratives of security that represent Afghan refugees as a 'threat', a 'burden' and the 'other' that, through reinforcement, have become an incontestable reality for the public in Pakistan. This book will appeal to those interested in studying and practicing journalism as a conscientious communicative practice that elicits the very public it seeks to inform.

pashtun history: *Warlords* Kimberly Marten, 2012-06-12 Warlords are individuals who control small territories within weak states, using a combination of force and patronage. In this book, Kimberly Marten shows why and how warlords undermine state sovereignty. Unlike the feudal lords of a previous era, warlords today are not state-builders. Instead they collude with cost-conscious, corrupt, or frightened state officials to flout and undermine state capacity. They thrive on illegality, relying on private militias for support, and often provoke violent resentment from those who are cut out of their networks. Some act as middlemen for competing states, helping to hollow out their own states from within. Countries ranging from the United States to Russia have repeatedly chosen to ally with warlords, but Marten argues that to do so is a dangerous proposition. Drawing on interviews, documents, local press reports, and in-depth historical analysis, Marten examines warlordism in the Pakistani tribal areas during the twentieth century, in post-Soviet Georgia and the Russian republic of Chechnya, and among Sunni militias in the U.S.-supported Anbar Awakening and

Sons of Iraq programs. In each case state leaders (some domestic and others foreign) created, tolerated, actively supported, undermined, or overthrew warlords and their militias. Marten draws lessons from these experiences to generate new arguments about the relationship between states, sovereignty, local power brokers, and stability and security in the modern world.

pashtun history: Forgotten Kings Changez Jan, 2022-07-18 'This Hindu Sahiya dynasty is now extinct, and of the whole house there is no longer the slightest remnant in existence. We must say that, in all their grandeur, they never slackened in the ardent desire of doing that which is good and right, that they were men of noble sentiment and noble bearing.' People and their acts of bravery are often lost to the annals of history. But what of mighty lineages? Generations of kings and the lands and people they fought for? What of kings who fought against their own people? The Hindu Sahi kings, to whom honour and pride were more important than their own survival, fought a near 150 year rear-guard action as they continued to be pushed east from Kabul, their original homeland, changing their capitals and defending themselves from their own countrymen. The last of their house had the misfortune of confronting the juggernaut that was Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni. Where obedience to the Sultan would have allowed their house to endure, their honour would have them confront him over and over. But who were they? This book tries to piece together their story from the limited sources that are available from an age where historical sources were few and, in the case of the Sahis, mostly from the point of view of their enemies. This is the story of a dynasty that represented a resurgent Hindu faith in a land that was long dominated by Buddhism but also coincided with the arrival of the Muslims.

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