

Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989)

■ Vocabulary:

KHAD (Afghan secret police)

LCOSF (Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces)

● Who, Where, And When :

- USSR vs Afghanistan resistance group (80% mujahideen)
- Front: Mainland of Afghanistan
- December 1979-February 1989

● Motivation of USSR's Invasion:

- (Map 1) Geopolitical region: Access to the coast of Indian Ocean
- Political Conflicts between Allies Force and USSR(Communist)



Before the War

- In 1978 Afghanistan, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was formed, installing **Nur Mohammad** as president. During that time, the country had close economic and political relationship with Soviet Union.
- The Republic caused the revolution and rebellion within the country.

- By 1979, the president was deposed by followers of **Hafizullah Amin**, who then became president.
- In USSR, Deteriorating relations and worsening rebellions led the Soviet government, under leader **Leonid Brezhnev**, to deploy the 40th Army on December 24, 1979.
- Because Amin announced that wanted to normalization the relationship with the US and Iran and Pakistan had great relationship with US. So USSR decided to “help”on Afghan.

Coup in Kabul

- Arriving in the capital Kabul, they staged a coup, secretly executed president Amin and installing Soviet loyalist **Babrak Karmal**.

During the War

● **First Phase**(December 1979-February 1980: USSR’s Occupation)

- Soviet troops entered Afghanistan along two ground routes and one air corridor, quickly taking control of the major urban centers, military bases and strategic installations.
- Based on the nationalistic feeling, the occupation of USSR caused the rebellion among the Afghanistans.
- USSR started to fighting against urban uprisings, tribal armies (called lashkar), and sometimes against mutinying Afghan Army units.

● **Second Phase** (March 1980 – April 1985: Soviet offensives)

- The Soviets occupied the cities and main axis of communication.
- The mujahideen side(Afghan Troops) divided into small groups, waged a guerrilla war.
- Strategically important Panjshir Valley (Mujahideen strongholds)
- Heavy fighting also occurred in Pakistan, where cities and government outposts were constantly under siege by the mujahideen.
- **Operation Magistral**(November 1987 -January 1988)

One of the final offensive operations undertaken by the Soviets.

Its purpose was to sweep the road between Gardez and Khost, in order to deliver supplies to the population and Afghan government troops in the besieged city on the Afghan-Pakistani border.



- **Final Phase** (January 1987 – February 1989: Withdrawal)
 - 1987 Policy of "National Reconciliation," introduced by Mohammad Najibullah, new president in Afghan.
 - Geneva Agreement:
Full Soviet Withdrawal
- On February 15, 1989, the last Soviet troops departed on schedule from Afghanistan.

- **Who is backing each side?**
 - January 1980 Islamic Conference, 34 nations demand "the immediate, urgent and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops" from Afghanistan.
 - Muslim countries provided thousands of volunteer fighters known as "**Afghan Arabs**", who wished to wage jihad against the atheist communists.
 - Afghanistan received huge amount of aids from **Pakistan** and **China**.
 - Resource and military's paid by **USA** and **Arab** monarchies in the Persian Gulf.
 - **CIA** worked through Pakistani intelligence services to reach Afghani rebel groups.

USSR's Strategy:

- **1st Intimidation:**
USSR would use air bomb to destroy the village which provided supports to the mujahideen.
Results: Deprive the guerrillas of resources and safe havens successfully.
- **2nd subversion:**
USSR sent spies to Afghans' resistance group, report informations, also convinced the mujahideen to quit the war.
KHAD- Soviet sent KHAD (Afghan Secret Police) into mujahideen and causing civil conflicts.
Result: As many of mujahideen were not truly loyal to the communist government but simply collecting a paycheck, this strategy worked out.
- **3rd: Root out.**
USSR root out every civilian when they took over a village.
[Photo 1]

Afghan (mujahideen)'s strategy:

- **Sabotage operations**
Damaging power lines, knocking out pipelines and radio stations, blowing up government office buildings, air terminals, hotels, cinemas became mujahideen's main strategy.

After War

Casualties:

Soviet forces: 14,453 killed

Afghan forces: 18,000 killed

Mujahideen: 75,000-90,000 killed

Influence:

- The Soviet war in Afghanistan badly affected the rule of Communist Party.
- Many thought that the war was against Islam. This created strong feelings among the Muslim population of Central Asian Soviet Republics.
- Even after the Soviet Army left Afghanistan, civil war continued in Afghanistan.
- During this war lasting for about ten years, Afghanistan's economy suffered badly.
- The war did not end with the withdrawal of the Soviet Army. Najibullah's government, though failing to win popular support, territory, or international recognition, was able to remain in power until 1992.
- Soviet Union spent over 20 billion dollars on this war, which considered to be the main issue which lead to the collapse of Soviet Union.

Citation Page:

Youtube Video Citation:

1.DOCUMENTARY TUBE (January 14,2014) GREATEST MYSTERIES: Soviet–Afghan Conflict 1979 - 1989 (720p) Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_u3Uuye7EQ

2.Kyle Pryor-Landman (May 25,2016)101History - Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP6M8pQ3H6w>





Photo Citation

Map 1: Published by ELI GERANIOS JANUARY 20 2015, Map of Afghanistan and Region .Retrieved from <https://history105.libraries.wsu.edu/spring2015/2015/01/20/operation-cyclone-and-the-funding-of-the-taliban/>

Photo 1: Todd Huffman(Photographer). No public date.An Afghan village left in ruins after being destroyed by Soviet forces[digital image]. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet-Afghan_War#/media/File:Afghan_village_destroyed_by_the_Soviets.jpg

Photo 2: Yuriy Somov (Photographer).Created on 20 October 1986. "Soviet Army soldiers return from Afghanistan". Soviet soldiers welcomed by a local resident upon their return from Afghanistan. [digital image]. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet-Afghan_War#/media/File:RI-AN_archive_476785_Soviet_Army_soldiers_return_from_Afghanistan.jpg

Wikipedia Article

1.Soviet-Afghan War.published on 30 May 2017. In Wikipedia.Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet-Afghan_War#cite_note-crile1-8

2. Operation Magistral, published on 9 December 2016. In Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Magistral.

Important things to include:

√-when and where

√-who is fighting

√-who is backing each side (if anyone)

√-what does each side want

√-key events of the conflict

√-end results of the conflict –how did it end, who won, what changed -maps and

√pictures

√-citations