

A NATION DIVIDED

Although free of Taliban rule, Afghanistan is still wrestling with demons in its quest for lasting stability



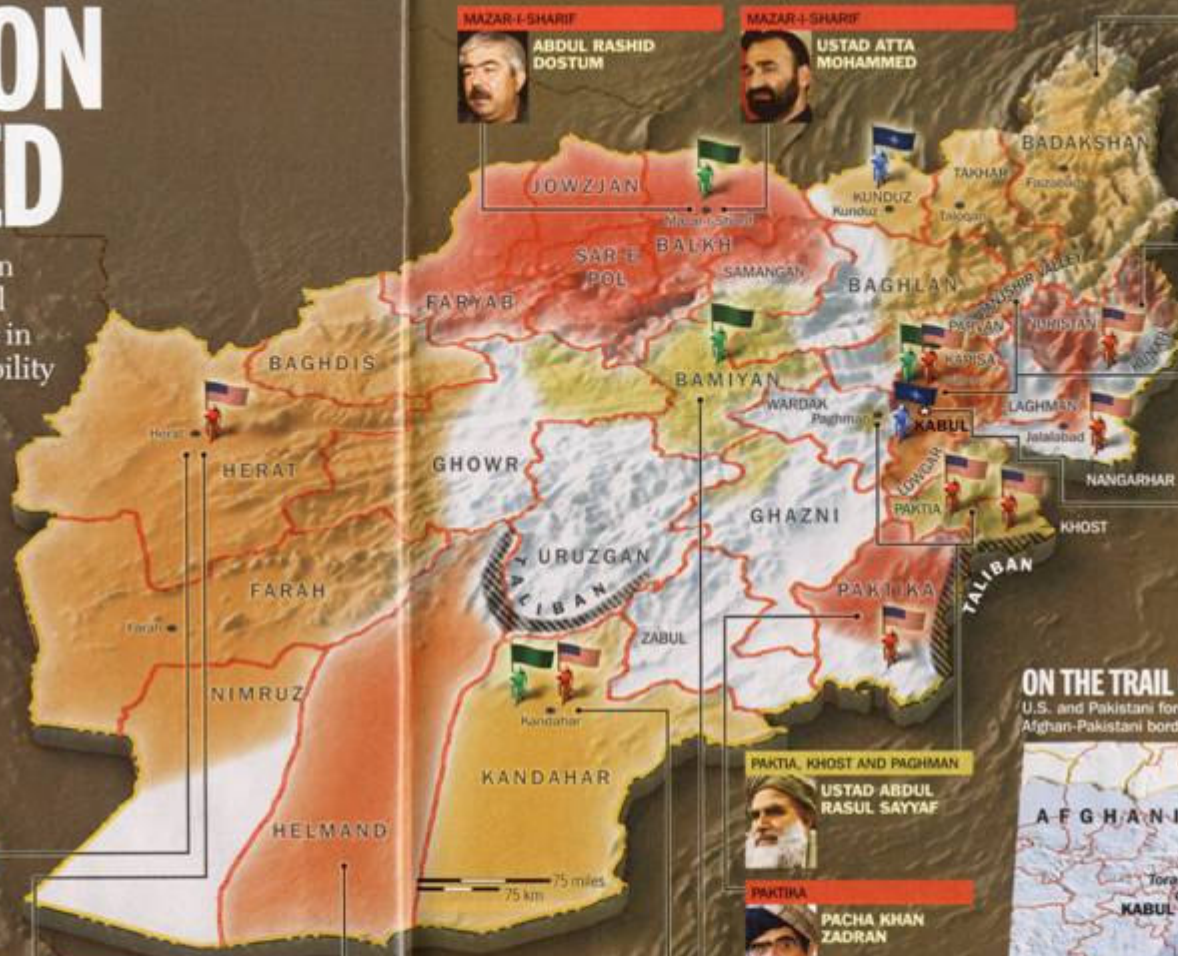
WARLORDS

President Hamid Karzai's inability to control areas outside Kabul has left much of Afghanistan in the grip of more than a dozen regional strongmen, who rule their fiefdoms with iron fists. In the absence of a credible Afghan national army, the U.S. has often relied on these warlords to maintain order but at a price: many of the local chiefs are believed to be involved in illegal land grabs, extortion and drug trafficking



HERAT
ISMAIL KHAN

HERAT
AMANULLAH KHAN



NATION BUILDING: A REPORT CARD

EDUCATION

1 million
Afghan children, mostly boys, enrolled in school under the Taliban

4 million
Children now attending school—the most in the country's history—including 1.4 million girls

MILITARY

11,000
U.S. troops in Afghanistan

2,000
Foreign troops belonging to the U.S.-led coalition

6,000
Troops belonging to NATO-led security force based in Kabul

FOREIGN AID

\$4 billion
Aid pledged by the U.S. to Afghanistan in 2002, through the end of 2004

\$5.2 billion
Aid pledged by other donors, including the European Union, Britain, Japan, Germany, Canada and the World Bank

CASUALTIES

108
American soldiers killed in Afghanistan since October 2001

600
U.S. troops seriously injured

3,300
Afghan civilians killed

REFUGEES

2.5 million
Afghans who have returned home since the Taliban's fall

1 million
Afghan refugees still abroad

180,000
Afghans who remain internally displaced

WAGES

\$2.70
Average daily wage of an Afghan worker during the Taliban regime

\$6.25
Average daily wage now

Sources: UNICEF; U.S. Central Command; U.S. State Department; Overseas Science Monitor; World Bank; University of New Hampshire; and University News, UNICEF and Deutsche Press Agency

ON THE TRAIL OF BIN LADEN

U.S. and Pakistani forces are launching a fresh assault along the Afghan-Pakistani border, in search of the al-Qaeda leader



OPIUM HARVEST

Afghanistan's opium-poppy cultivation from 1986 to 2003 in thousands of hectares

