# Afghanistan Research Newsletter

**Number 11/12, October 2006/January 2007**

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Afghanistan National Population Census

In 1996, Daniel Balland wrote “The demography of Afghanistan is one of the least known in the world. . . . Even more problematic than the scarcity of statistical material is the reliability of what is available. Most data are mere estimates, subject to . . . manipulation, with the result that conflicting figures have often been released.” In 2002, Thomas Eighmy added that “Afghanistan has never had a full scale complete population census.” Today there remains considerable uncertainty about how many people live in Afghanistan, figures vary widely, currently ranging from 22.1 to 31.0 million inhabitants (see Table).

Background

The most comprehensive history of census activities in Afghanistan up to the early 1990s was written by Daniel Balland and appeared in volume 5 of the Encyclopedia Iranica (p 152-59, www.iranica.com/newsite). His essay included a detailed bibliography of more than thirty studies and papers and is the major starting point for research on the history of the Afghan census. Another important publication was Thomas H. Eighmy’s Afghanistan’s Population, Inside and Out (Islamabad: Office of USAID Representative for Afghan Affairs, 1990).

Both articles provide detailed discussions of problems in the then existing figures, particularly with regard to estimates of nomad population. Both authors agree that two sources provide foundational data: the first is the “sample census” and demographic survey completed in 1974 by the Ministry of Planning, the second is the 1979 compilation by the Central Statistics Office of the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan. These survey exercises resulted in estimates of total population, some demographic characteristics and population by districts.

1974

In the 1974 survey, demographic characteristics (age-sex distributions, education, health, occupational breakdowns) and population totals were calculated for 27 area-based rural strata and major and minor urban centres. This produced a total of the settled population. Prior to this study guesses of the size of the settled population had ranged from 12-19 million. The calculated total for 1974 was 10,882,753, of which slightly less than 15% was urban (Eighmy 2002, p. 2).

1979

The 1979 exercise was a serious attempt at scientific reporting of the population. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) completed “pre-census” activities with technical assistance from the UN, but spreading opposition to the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan prevented completion of the census proper. Officials and government staff forced into service for the census were uneasy about representing the new government in rural areas. Though a complete and accurate count could not be completed, a national total was established based on existing sources and preliminary tallies. The announced total for the sedentary population in 1979 was 13,051,358, of which slightly more than 15% was urban (Encyclopedia Iranica vol.5, p. 157). According to Eighmy (2002, p. 2), incrementing the 1974 figures by the observed annual rate of natural increase (2.4%) yielded a 1979 figure of 12,252,890 – close enough to the 1979 figure (within 6.5%) to confirm a measure of internal consistency between the two figures.

Estimates of Afghanistan’s population by source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Est. population (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The Upcoming Census

Since 2003, the CSO has been involved in pre-census activities as mandated by the 2002 Bonn Agreement (Annex III, 3, ii). With support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the initial household listings in 34 provinces were completed between early 2003 and the end of 2005. The household listings were officially released in August 2006 and this marked the completion of the first phase of the Afghanistan National Population Census.

At the beginning of October 2006 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the CSO and the Statistical Center of Iran, based on which Iran will assist Afghanistan in conducting the planned population and housing census.

The census proper is due to begin in 2008 and it is estimated that it will cost over US$50 million and require some 25,000 staff. Until it begins, the CSO is working to analyse information obtained in the pre-census activities, update household listings in quickly growing urban areas, demarcate enumeration areas, design questionnaires and train census staff.

AREU requested information from the CSO on the forthcoming census and they kindly supplied the update below.

The following files are currently downloadable from the CSO website, www.cso.gov.af:
- Population by age group
- 1986 Kabul City census by districts and age groups
- Estimated Population (English and Dari)
- Population chart (Dari)

Also available are softcopies of the Consumer Price Indexes for Kabul (October 2002-February 2006) and for the country as a whole (December 2004-January 2006).

Statement from CSO on the 2008 Census

In all countries, a series of basic activities and preparations are needed before a census; sometimes such preparations can take several years. In Afghanistan, the planning and budgeting for the census is designed to be done in two phases: the household survey and the census proper.

The first phase, the household survey, was carried out between 2002 and 2005. During this phase, a Technical Census Committee was formed within the Central Statistics Office (CSO); existing maps and cartography documents were checked and updated; new maps were created; lists of administrative units and villages were prepared; guidelines for cartographers were prepared and cartographers were trained; and, finally, household listings and village condition questionnaires were completed.

The census proper, according to the plan, will be carried out in 20 days in 2008 (SY1387). To conduct it successfully some basic functions need to be fulfilled. Since 2005, when the household survey was completed, the CSO has: developed staff capacities within the CSO; provided electronic tools and maps of the provinces, districts and villages; established a center for data processing; prepared provincial profiles from the household survey; prepared a draft census questionnaire and held meetings to collect feedback on the draft questionnaire; and created a sample framework of households and a database for collecting census data.

In addition to these achievements, prior to the census proper the CSO will also:
- Specify the census areas on maps 1:50,000;
- Prepare regulations to conduct the census;
- Draft guidelines for surveyors; and
- Finalize census documents and review the work plan.

In any country, conducting the census and house survey require a lot of expenses. In Afghanistan, a full census has not yet been conducted, and the current undertaking is made more difficult by the general lack of capacity. There is a need for donor countries to contribute more both financially and technically to CSO to carry out the census successfully. The census will provide a lot of information on the population of Afghanistan, its distribution and economic, social and cultural characteristics, which will be useful to both national and international actors.
### Settled population by civil division (urban and rural) and gender in 2005-06, figures in thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10796.6</td>
<td>11301.3</td>
<td>22097.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badakhshan</td>
<td>395.1</td>
<td>410.4</td>
<td>805.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badghis</td>
<td>205.5</td>
<td>214.9</td>
<td>420.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghlan</td>
<td>371.7</td>
<td>390.8</td>
<td>762.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh</td>
<td>524.2</td>
<td>548.8</td>
<td>1073.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamyan</td>
<td>187.0</td>
<td>192.2</td>
<td>379.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daikondi</td>
<td>190.2</td>
<td>200.8</td>
<td>391.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farah</td>
<td>208.9</td>
<td>219.9</td>
<td>428.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faryab</td>
<td>411.5</td>
<td>428.9</td>
<td>840.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghazni</td>
<td>508.6</td>
<td>531.5</td>
<td>1040.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghor</td>
<td>286.6</td>
<td>299.3</td>
<td>585.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helmand</td>
<td>380.6</td>
<td>401.5</td>
<td>782.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herat</td>
<td>762.3</td>
<td>782.5</td>
<td>1544.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawzjan</td>
<td>222.0</td>
<td>230.0</td>
<td>452.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>1485.3</td>
<td>1586.3</td>
<td>3071.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandahar</td>
<td>482.3</td>
<td>507.8</td>
<td>990.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapisa</td>
<td>185.5</td>
<td>189.0</td>
<td>374.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khost</td>
<td>237.8</td>
<td>249.6</td>
<td>487.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunar</td>
<td>186.4</td>
<td>195.5</td>
<td>381.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunduz</td>
<td>409.3</td>
<td>424.0</td>
<td>833.3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Laghman</td>
<td>184.4</td>
<td>193.7</td>
<td>378.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logar</td>
<td>163.3</td>
<td>169.1</td>
<td>332.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>616.1</td>
<td>645.8</td>
<td>1261.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nimroz</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>138.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuristan</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>125.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paktia</td>
<td>228.5</td>
<td>239.0</td>
<td>467.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>179.7</td>
<td>189.4</td>
<td>369.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panjshir</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>130.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parwan</td>
<td>277.1</td>
<td>283.7</td>
<td>560.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samangan</td>
<td>159.9</td>
<td>167.8</td>
<td>327.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sar-i-Pul</td>
<td>230.7</td>
<td>242.0</td>
<td>472.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takhar</td>
<td>405.5</td>
<td>422.0</td>
<td>827.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruzgan</td>
<td>144.2</td>
<td>153.0</td>
<td>297.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wardak</td>
<td>247.9</td>
<td>258.4</td>
<td>506.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zabul</td>
<td>125.5</td>
<td>132.1</td>
<td>257.6</td>
</tr>
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*Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), www.cso.gov.af*
News & Updates

This issue of the Afghanistan Research Newsletter is a combined edition, comprising the October 2006 and January 2007 issues. This was a necessary compromise resulting from the pressure that the increasing number of AREU publications puts on our librarians, editors and translators. In the future, however, we intend to return to our quarterly publication cycle, with the next Newsletter due out in April.

While we continue to receive encouraging feedback from readers of the Newsletter, the gathering of materials to include is still labour intensive as very few institutions or individuals in Afghanistan actively disseminate their publications. We rely on well disposed colleagues in other organizations in Kabul and elsewhere to forward papers and references they come across.

Although we try to cite only the most recently released research here, sometimes reports are released after a long lead time or come to our attention after having being released for several months; we cite the most important of these to make them better known.

If you come across new papers, studies, documents, maps or other materials relevant to recent research on Afghanistan, please do not hesitate to forward them to us at newsletter@areu.org.af.

The Editors

AREU Resource Centre

The growing collection now includes Afghan government publications from all periods as well as donor and NGO materials published about Afghanistan, relevant publications from UN agencies, periodicals, maps, CDs and DVDs. Of particular note are the holdings of the Official Gazette (Rasmi Jaridah) and the Statistical Handbook of Afghanistan.

The collection currently has more than 6,000 catalogued items, primarily in English, Dari and Pashto but also in French, German, Italian and Russian. Approximately 2,000 older items await processing. The Library’s main aim is not to compete with international collections, but rather to gather and preserve relevant materials available both within Afghanistan and abroad for use by national and international researchers.

The library is located in the AREU office (corner of Flower Street and Street 2). It is open to researchers Sunday to Thursday 9am-12.30pm and 1-4pm. All materials are available for use within the library, and photocopying is available. No materials can be borrowed. To contact the library, email newsletter@areu.org.af.

The Afghanistan Research Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). The purpose of the Newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate research findings and analysis. Some of the resources cited are available on the internet; most books and other publications are available at the AREU library, located in the AREU office (corner of Flower Street and Street 2) and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9am-12.30pm and 1pm-4pm. The Newsletter is compiled by Royce Wiles and Dr Abdul Jamil Alkozai, edited and designed by Anja Havedal, and translated by Ahmadullah Amarkhil and Faraidoon Shariq. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the Newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af.

AREU’s mission is to conduct high-quality research that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU also actively promotes a culture of research and learning by strengthening analytical capacity in Afghanistan and facilitating reflection and debate. Fundamental to AREU’s vision is that its work should improve Afghan lives. Current funding for AREU is provided by the European Commission (EC), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank, and the governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. More information and PDF files of all AREU publications are available at www.areu.org.af.
Afghanistan Research Newsletter

Current Research

Loya Jirga in Afghanistan

Under the working title “The history of Loya Jirga in Afghanistan” this PhD thesis will examine the historical development of the Loya Jirga, or “Grand Assembly”, as a political institution and its role as a decision making body at the national level. It aims to get a better understanding of this unique custom which has been institutionalized since the 1964 constitution and will analyze the political role of the Loya Jirga on Afghanistan’s way to becoming a modern state. The focus will be on the period from the rule of King Amanullah until the Constitutional Loya Jirga of 2004.

The research follows the hypothesis that the national Loya Jirga, while it has been incorporated in a modern state, has been separated from its traditional roots and has become a political label used by governments of different ideological colours to legitimize essential political decisions.

To verify this, the thesis will try to answer the following main questions:

- How has the loya jirga developed during the 20th century?
- What are the differences and/or continuities between the successive loya jirgas and their political surroundings since the 1920s?
- How was the loya jirga legitimized and/or instrumentalized as a decision making body by different Afghan governments?
- What place does the loya jirga take in earlier and present political discourses?

To achieve this aim, the research is based on 1) Primary sources, such as newspapers, minutes of Loya Jirgas, speeches; 2) The depiction of the Loya Jirga in Afghan historiography; and 3) Interviews with participants in former Loya Jirgas and Afghan scholars.

The research is undertaken by Benjamin Buchholz of the Department for Central Asian Studies at Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. The author can be contacted by email at: buchholz.benjamin@web.de.

Amu Darya Research Series

The research project “Local governance and fragile statehood: Analysis of institutional arrangements and development trajectories in the Amu Darya borderlands” started in April 2005 and will last until September 2008. It is funded by the Volkswagen Institute and carried out by the Centrum for Development Research at Bonn University, Germany.

The aim of this research project is to identify the perspectives of statehood in the border region of Amu Darya (northeast Afghanistan, southeast Uzbekistan and southwest Tajikistan). The study is focused on the analysis of the reciprocal relationships of local governance and the exertion of influence on behalf of the state in the context of fragile statehood.

An international research team, consisting of seven members, will investigate the relationships between formal (state-run) and informal (community based) institutions, focusing on the governance dimensions of security, jurisdiction, administration as well as natural resources management. In 2006, the Amu Darya project released three publications:

- Village institutions in the perception of national and international actors in Afghanistan / Christine Noelle-Karimi. Bonn: Center for Development Research, 2006. 11 p.; 30 cm.

For more information on this research project, see http://131.220.109.9/index.php?id=751.
Research from Oxfam

Trade

Oxfam is currently in the process of writing a policy paper on Afghanistan’s accession to the World Trade Organisation. The paper will look at the threats and benefits to Afghanistan’s accession. In addition to the policy paper, Oxfam has also produced a series of factsheets in Dari and Pashto with basic information about the WTO. These are available from the AREU Library or from Oxfam. For information about the policy paper or the factsheets please email Christian Dennys, cdennys@oxfam.org.uk.

Education

Oxfam will soon be launching a report on Financing Education in Afghanistan. The report will map spending in the sector, demonstrate how much funding will be needed for the education sector during the next 5 years, and propose reforms to current budgeting mechanisms. For more information please contact Basira Mojaddidi at bmojaddidi@oxfam.org.uk.

Essential Services

Oxfam will soon be launching the South Asia Essential Services report. The report discusses how essential services; education, health, and water and sanitation can be provided across South Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Nepal). The report will be available from www.oxfam.org.uk. If you would like more information please contact Basira Mojaddidi at bmojaddidi@oxfam.org.uk.

Justice, Violence and Human Rights in Kabul

This doctoral research project, which specifically fits into the anthropology of justice, is conceived as an ethnographic inquiry into the juridical-legal system. Special emphasis is on a category of social “actors” – judges – and the consequent setting up of a legal practice which will be at the core of the present trend of the Afghan legal scenario, although that is upset by several problems and deep contrasts. Moreover, such a scenario is set against a background that is politically unstable and is characterized by different overlapping reference systems, for example, Islamic law (Shari’a) and the movement for human rights, the formal system to solve disputes and the informal one (Jirga, Shure).

At this stage of the research, the ethnographic work mainly aims at looking into the answers the “legal machine” is giving to violence against women through the “participant observation” of what some judges are doing and the evidence given by some women who have been victims of violence.

The research is being undertaken by Antonio De Lauri, PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Milan, Bicocca in Italy. He can be contacted by email at: antonio.delauri@gmail.com
Recent AREU Reports

The following publications were released by AREU between July and December 2006. They may be downloaded from www.areu.org.af, and hard copies are available for free at the AREU office. To receive electronic announcements of newly released AREU publications, send an email to publications@areu.org.af.

**Governance**

The briefing paper *Moving Forward? Public Administration Reform in Afghanistan* by Sarah Lister examines the successes and failures of the Afghan government’s public administration reform programme and makes recommendations for its improvement.

**Livelihoods**

The synthesis report *Urban Livelihoods in Afghanistan* by Stefan Schütte draws out the main findings and recommendations from five case studies on urban poverty in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Pul-e-Khumri. The report examines livelihood strategies, assets and crisis management over time in a set of households in each of these cities. It calls on the Afghan government to implement long-term strategies for economic growth that would create more jobs with regular income, and draws attention to the uneven thrust of national assistance — focused more on poverty-reduction initiatives in the rural communities — and the need to expand programmes to urban areas.

*Informal Credit Practices in Rural Afghanistan. Case Study 2: Kapisa*, by Floortje Klijn, is the second of three case studies providing insight into how micro-credit may intersect with and affect informal credit practices.

**Migration**

*Afghan Transnational Networks: Looking Beyond Repatriation*, written by Alessandro Monsutti, is the final publication of AREU’s long-term research project looking at Afghans’ transnational networks in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

**Natural Resources**

AREU’s three-year study “Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy”, which analyses current practices in water management, livestock production, land tenure, as well as the context and drivers of opium poppy cultivation. Two new case studies were released in October and December, respectively:

*Livestock Production and Health* by Euan Thomson

*Opium Poppy Cultivation in Nangarhar and Ghor* by David Mansfield

From the same research project, the briefing paper *Opium Poppy Eradication: How to raise risk when there is nothing to lose?*, by David Mansfield and Adam Pain, argues that eradicating opium poppy prior to establishing legal alternative livelihoods for farmers does not contribute to the long-term elimination of Afghanistan’s drug crop, and risks undermining the already strained relationship between communities and the state.

**Political Economy and Markets**

The briefing paper *Putting the Cart Before the Horse? Privatisation and Economic Reform in Afghanistan* by Anna Paterson holds that, before embarking on the privatisation of enterprises that are not doing much harm in fiscal terms, the government should implement structural reforms to ensure adequate investment legislation, improved security and infrastructure and streamlined and strengthened regulation.

The fifth edition of the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* was released in December. The A to Z Guide, AREU’s flagship publication, aims to ensure a shared vocabulary and common understanding of the forces at play by providing a glossary of assistance terms, an overview of Afghanistan’s system of government, a series of locator maps, key primary documents, Web links, and an extensive contact directory.
New Publications & Resources

**Agriculture**

*Agro-meteorological bulletin / Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF).* Issues appeared: 2004 (March, April, May, June); 2005 (April, May, June, July, October, November, December); 2006 (January-July). Copies of the issues translated into Dari are available on the Ministry of Agriculture homepage www.agriculture.gov.af (the English website was still under construction in October 2006). Copies of the English files are available from Mohammad Fahim Zaheer at the MAAHF: fahimzaheer@yahoo.com.


**Making poultry production projects work in Afghanistan: guidelines for the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of poultry production projects / FAO, MAAHF.** Kabul: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2006. 19 p.; 30 cm.

**Archaeology and Restoration**

*AKTC Newsletter.* The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has launched a newsletter to inform people about its work. The AREU library received issues in August and September 2006. For more details, see http://archnet.org or contact anna.soave@aktc.akdn-afg.org. See also http://archnet.org/library/places/one-place.tcl?place_id=1779 for images and publications related to architectural restoration projects in Afghanistan.


**Cross-Cutting & General**


The **Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)** was established by the Afghan government and the international community for overall strategic coordination of the implementation of the **Afghanistan Compact** and the **Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).** The JCMB has met three times so far (30 April, 30 July, 12 November 2006). Reports of each meeting, as well as other relevant documents, are available at www.ands.gov.af (follow JEMB menu link on the left). Among the reports, the following stand out:


**Sector summary report: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Afghanistan National Development Strategy.** Kabul: ANDS Office, 2006. 17 p.; 30 cm. Review of progress made in implementing the short-term benchmarks and the critical constraints in each sector as they emerged from the Consultative Group (CG) process of the ANDS. Included is a brief survey of recent progress in: security, governance, infrastructure and natural resources, education, health, agriculture and rural development, social protection, economic governance, gender, etc.


Economic Development


ANDS economic issues and terminology: a CSANDS basic guide to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy / Saurabh Naithani. Kabul: ACBAR, 2006. 24 p.; 30 cm. This economic guide to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) has been released for Afghan civil society organizations through the Agency Coor-
dination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) in Kabul. It covers key economic terminology and major issues arising from the process of economic development in Afghanistan. The Guide is not an exhaustive list of all economic terms, instead the approach has been to simplify economic definitions and themes for a wider Afghan and international NGO audience. Available though the main ACBAR website at: www.acbar.org. Contact Saurabh Naithani, ACBAR: saurabh@acbar.org.


Da Afghanistan Bank quarterly economic and statistical bulletin. All ten issues (1382-84, 2003-2005/06) of this publication from Da Afghanistan Bank are now available for download at: www.centralbank.gov.af/publications-dab.asp. The latest issue (79 p.) is dated April 2006 and contains the following sections: Macroeconomic overview; Monetary policy and market operations; Financial sector developments; Fiscal sector developments; External sector developments; Special feature: currency conversion in Afghanistan; Speeches.

Getting infrastructure priorities right in post-conflict reconstruction / P.B. Anand. Helsinki, Finland: United Nations University and World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), 2005. 22 p.; 30 cm. This paper attempts to identify some key challenges for infrastructure sectors in post-conflict contexts. Drawing on evidence from evaluation studies including Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, East Timor and Rwanda, it identifies policy tensions and action points for policymaking in infrastructure sectors in post-conflict contexts. Contact: p.b.anand@bradford.ac.uk.

IMF website, Afghanistan macroeconomic data. The website of the International Monetary Fund’s General Data Dissemination System now includes Afghanistan economic information (e.g. national accounts, consumer price index, government operations, central bank aggregates, broad money and credit aggregates, balance of payments). http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddscountrylist/?strcode=AFG.


Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: selected issues and statistical appendix. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 2006. 130 p.; 30 cm. (IMF Country report no. 06/114). This document consists of two parts. The first part includes three issues papers: The first paper revises indicators of Afghanistan’s external competitiveness; the second one discusses the rebuilding of domestic revenue; the third one analyzes the macroeconomic impact of the drug economy and the counternarcotics efforts. The second part of this document provides statistical information on the real, fiscal, monetary, and external sectors. It also contains a list of state-owned enterprises and an updated summary of the tax system as of end-December 2005. www.imf. org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=19051.0.


This fundamental source for published statistics from the Government of Afghanistan, is produced annually by the Central Statistics Office in Kabul in English and Dari. The 1385 (2006) issue has just been printed (307 p.). To purchase a copy (US$20) contact Mr. Abdullah Azizi, Director of External Relations at the CSO in Kabul. The AREU library has the following issues available for researchers to consult: 1357 (1978/79); 1360 (1981/82); 1362 (1983/84)-1374 (1995/96); 1380 (2001/02)-1385 (2005/06). No volumes were published in the period 1375-79 (1996/97-2000/01). www.cso.gov.af.
Education & Children


Back to school in Afghanistan: Determinants of school enrolment / Stephane Guimbert, Keiko Miwa, Duc Thanh Nguyen. 2006. 28 p.: map ; 30 cm. Unpublished draft. This draft paper reviews some key features of the education system in Afghanistan. By matching household data and district-level school data, it assesses the impact of various factors on enrolment. The analysis does not support the claim that further increasing supply will alone deliver much in terms of higher enrolment.


Learning away from home: a book about 'Basic education refugees', BEFARe and other refugee and returnee education activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan 1980-2005: expanded volume / Atle Hetland. Islamabad, Pakistan: Alhamra, 2006. 282 p.; 30 cm. The BEFARe (Basic Education For Afghan Refugees) organization administers the world’s largest and longest-running emergency education project for refugees. Established in the mid-1980s and funded primarily by Germany and UNHCR, BEFARe has been involved in operating over 300 schools and over a thousand non-formal education courses for some 20,000 participants. It has developed and produced more than 100 textbooks and teachers’ guides and has an extensive teacher-training programme complemented by regular monitoring and supervision of teachers. BEFARe promotes peace, health, female education and women’s rights. www.befare.org.

Lessons in terror: attacks on education in Afghanistan / Human Rights Watch. New York: Human Rights Watch, 2006. 126 p.: ill., map ; 30 cm. “This report examines the impact of insecurity on education in Afghanistan, especially on girls’ education. It concentrates on armed attacks on the education system in the south and southeast of the country, where resurgent opposition forces, local warlords, and increasingly powerful criminal groups have committed abuses aimed at terrorizing the civilian population and contesting the authority of the central government and its foreign supporters. This confrontation has stunted and, in some places, even stopped the development and reconstruction work so desperately desired and needed by local residents” (p. 4). www.hrw.org/reports/2006/afghanistan0706.

Needs assessment exercise of education sector / prepared by Andrew Wilder. Islamabad: CCAR-UNHCR, 2006. 75 p.; 30 cm. This report presents the findings of an assessment of education needs in refugee-affected areas of Balochistan and the Northwest Frontier Province in Pakistan. It is one component of a multi-sectoral needs assessment implemented as part of the Refugee Affected Areas initiative, the goal of which is to transition from short-term humanitarian assistance projects to longer-term development oriented programs in refugee affected areas of Pakistan. A specific objective of this initiative is to rectify the past mistake of narrowly focusing on the assistance needs of refugees while ignoring the tremendous needs of surrounding host communities.

Research report on child marriages in Afghanistan / Inkeshaf Consulting. Kabul: Inkeshaf Consulting, 2006. 18 p.; 30 cm. The primary objective of this research study was to assess the attitudes among the respondents concerning the issue of child marriages. The secondary objective was to assess the public awareness campaign conducted by UNFPA in 2005. A total of 900 random-sample surveys were collected in nine provinces throughout Afghanistan during the period of December 3 to 28, 2005.

Kabul: TDH, 2006. 39 p.; 30 cm. This survey covered 288 individuals ranging in age from three to seventeen years. It had three objectives: to obtain detailed data about the work of children in Torkham on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, to obtain detailed data about the family situation of the children, to organize future mechanisms of protection. Semi-structured and structured interviews, participant observation, daily diaries, recreational activities and a review of existing documentation were used to compile information.

**Gender**

*Enhancing women’s roles in the household economy: Lal district (Ghor province), Oxfam: final report / Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement (URD); written by Peggy Pascal, Cécile Duchet, Jean-Christophe Duchier. London: Oxfam, 2005. 64 p.; 30 cm.* This report, based on visits to five villages in Hazarajat in late 2005, finds that many families still experience food insecurity and cycles of asset depletion. An income-generation project targeting women only did not appear to be relevant, since male and female roles remain firmly entrenched. Instead, an integrated approach is desirable. Available from newsletter@areu.org.af.


*Taking stock update: Afghan women and girls, five years on / Layryn Oates. London: WOMANKIND Worldwide, October 2006. 36 p.; 30 cm.* This research shows that five years after the fall of the Taliban regime the gains made on paper for women and girls are not matched in reality when you look at what is happening on the ground. Set in a table format around key women’s rights issues, this balance sheet draws together a wide range of research and anecdotal evidence collected from national and international sources. It aims to provide a resource for agencies working on women’s rights in Afghanistan, and hopes to raise awareness of the current situation and as such call the international community to urgent action. www.womankind.org.uk.

*Uncounted and discounted: a secondary data research project on violence against women in Afghanistan / UNIFEM Afghanistan and Julie Lafreniere. Kabul: UNIFEM, 2006. 36 p.; 30 cm.* A study of more than 1,300 cases reported to authorities between January 2003 and June 2005, found that violence against women—whether sexual, physical or psychological—affects all branches of Afghan society, regardless of the woman’s marital status or her level of education or employment. Available in English and Dari. http://afghanistan.unifem.org.

**Governance & Politics**

*Afghanistan’s geo-strategic identity / Barnett R. Rubin. 2006. 18 p.; 30 cm.* Paper presented the Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 1, 2006. “The simultaneous presence in this region of nuclear armed powers, global terrorist networks, transnational criminal enterprises, and some of the world’s most intense poverty (Afghanistan is the poorest country outside sub-Saharan Africa) escalates the risk of warfare. The underanalyzed effect of poverty and lack of productive infrastructure on the risk of violence and extremism again shows the link of human security to international security. But ending or limiting this warfare requires a political settlement of the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as of the larger borderland among the three macro-regions that surround these countries, in a context where the US and NATO remain intimately involved, though without a clear understanding of or strategic approach to the long-term issues that make warfare and attractive option and undermine state building.” (p. 18).

*Causes of the fall of the Islamic state of Afghanistan under Ustad Rabbani in Kabul / Syed Allam-uddin Atseer; translated by Sher Zaman Taizi; edited by Syed Fida Yunas. Peshawar, Pakistan: Area Study Centre (Russia, China and Central Asia), 2005. ix, 177 p.; 22 cm.* Translated from Persian.


*Islamic leftists and a void in the center: Afghanistan’s political parties and where they came from (1902-2006) / Thomas Ruttig. [Kabul]: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2006. 47 p.; 30 cm.* The paper analyses the stream of political groupings and parties in Afghanistan,
linking the description with political events and developments over the decades. Using his knowledge of both Dari and Pashto, the author also introduces the emerging Afghan literature on this subject. Thus, he provides the reader with an insight into the prevailing structures and determinants of political life in Afghanistan. Furthermore, this paper makes us aware that the history of an Afghanistan striving for political pluralism and democracy certainly does not begin only after the fall of the Taliban regime five years ago.

www.kas.de/proj/home/pub/80/2/dokument_id-9674/index.html


Public Record of Afghanistan’s Loya Jirga, June 2002: full transcript [in Dari and Pashto]. 337 p.; 30 cm. With support from the International Organisation of Migration, IOM, IWPR reported on every stage of the Loya Jirga. From these recordings, a transcript has been created in Dari and Pashto. This transcript is in the process of being edited and translated in a book and CD-ROM. In the meantime, IWPR in conjunction with IOM is happy to make available in PDF format a full and un-edited transcript of all 70 hours of the Loya Jirga proceedings. www.iwpr.net.

Resolving the Pakistan-Afghanistan stalemate / Barnett R. Rubin and Abubakar Siddique. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), October 2006. 20 p.: col. map; 30 cm. The Taliban and al Qaeda insurgencies today are equally active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The nationalist insurgency in Pakistani Baluchistan, which Pakistani leaders assert receives support from Indian agents in Afghanistan, also aggravates relations between the two countries. The challenges of violent insurgency require both countries to address their relationship, particularly as it affects the border areas. www.usip.org.

The failure of a clerical proto-state: Hazarajat, 1979-1984 / Niamatullah Ibrahimi. London: Development Research Centre, Crisis States Programme, 2006. 23 p.; 30 cm. This paper uses coaliational analysis to examine the Shura-ie Inqilab-i Ittifaq Islami Afghanistan (Revolutionary Council for the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan) as an attempt to build a proto-state and the implicit difficulties within the context of Hazarajat and Afghanistan. Defining the key characteristics of a state as a polity having: political legitimacy, an administrative system, military control over its territory, a degree of service provision and official external recognition as a state, the author examines how far the Shura achieved these goals. The paper further examines the ideological and political components of the Shura, including the traditionalist Ulema, the radical Islamist Ulema, the khans, and the intelligentsia. Considering the Shura's military structure and diplomacy policies, he attempts to explain why it collapsed after five years, resulting in civil war. www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/working.htm.

Throttled phoenix: the great betrayal in Afghanistan / Vanni Cappelli. 2006. Published in “New politics” (Summer 2006, p. 147-159).

‘Tribes’ and warlords in southern Afghanistan, 1980-2005 / Antonio Giustozzi, Noor Ullah. London: Development Research Centre, Crisis States Programme, 2006. 21 p.: maps ; 30 cm. The paper seeks to distinguish different “ideal types” within the ranks of non-ideological non-state actors, such as warlords and strongmen. In examining warlordism and the importance of the above-mentioned distinctions in Afghanistan, the paper also analyses the so-called “Pashtun belt” where warlordism did not find a fertile ground. Throughout the years of jihad and civil war, few warlords emerged in this area, and few of those who did lasted very long. The author considers that the weak presence of warlords must be due to local factors and his paper examines the structures of tribal leadership and political influence in the area. www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/wp7.2.pdf.

Village institutions in the perception of national and international actors in Afghanistan / Christine Noelle-Karimi. Bonn: Center for Development Research, 2006. 11 p.; 30 cm. “The survey shows that attributes like ‘traditional’ and ‘customary’ applied to local bodies of decision making are relative terms and by no means imply timelessness or immutability. Until recently, local patterns of representation and adjudication have been
strongly affected by the dynamics of war and the emergence of new, gun-bearing elites. One striking phenomenon is that village institutions do not readily fit into patterns that would neatly correspond to the interest of the government and international agencies of establishing administrative linkages with the countryside.” (p. 8-9). http://131.220.109.9/index.php?id=752.

Health


National disability survey in Afghanistan: Understanding the challenge ahead, Executive Summary Report / by Jean-François Trani, Parul Bakhshi. Lyon, France: Handicap International, 2006. xiii, 77 p.; 30 cm. The fieldwork for the National Disability Survey in Afghanistan (NDSA) was completed under extreme security situations and harsh conditions. This executive summary gives an overview of the entire research project while other findings will become available in supplementary chapters focusing on education, health, employment and gender. www.handicap-international.org/uploads/media/Understanding-the-challenge-ahead.pdf.

Provincial survey of Nuristan / Katarina Larsson. Stockholm, Sweden: Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, 2006. 2-70 p.; col. ill., maps ; 30 cm. Desk-based survey of information available on Nuristan, prepared by the SCA because it has been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Public Health to implement the Basic Package of Health Services (BPBS) in Nuristan.

Rural Expansion of Afghanistan’s Community-based Healthcare (REACH) Program (electronic resource). [Boston]: Management Sciences for Health, 2006. 1 computer optical disc; 12 cm. Summary: Compilation of over sixty REACH documents, studies, evaluation reports, etc. Abridged contents: 1) Transforming a fragile health system; 2) Expanding Services; 3) Strengthening Health Systems; 4) Fostering Sustainability; 5) Measuring Results; 6) Other Key Project Documents.


Humanitarian Assistance


Aid effectiveness in Afghanistan: At a crossroads / lead author Holly Ritchie. Kabul: Agency Coordinating Body
for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), November 2006. 20 p.; 30 cm. (ACBAR briefing paper). This paper aims to highlight those aspects of the aid effort that require renewed attention by the international community and the Afghan government. This paper argues that a more flexible, innovative and pragmatic response to Afghanistan’s current situation is now imperative for the sustainability of progress made to date, and to build on these efforts. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SMIN-6YYQPD?OpenDocument.

An assessment of the hearts and minds campaign in southern Afghanistan: zroona aw zehnoona / The Senlis Council Afghanistan. London: Senlis Afghanistan, 2006. ix, 151 p. : col. ill., col. maps; 30 cm. Contents: Executive summary (p. i-ii); Conclusions and recommendations (iii-ix); Chapter 1) We are losing the hearts and minds in southern Afghanistan (1-24); 2) The politics of fear: bombings in southern Afghanistan (25-46); 3) The starvation crisis in southern Afghanistan reveals failing, dysfunctional international aid (47-68); 4) Internal refugee camps in southern Afghanistan are fuelling the insurgency (69-96); 5) Opium poppy eradication in Afghanistan: ill-conceived policy undermines support for Karzai and exacerbates poverty (97-112); 6) The Taliban’s successful hearts and minds propaganda damming the west (113-132); Appendices (133-151). www.senlis council.net.

Bargains for peace? Aid, conditionalities and reconstruction in Afghanistan / Jonathan Goodhand and Mark Sedra. The Hague: Netherlands Institute of International Relations, August 2006. 109 p.; 30 cm. “This study aims to address two core questions. Firstly to what extent and with what effects have donors used peace conditionalities as a tool for peace building in Afghanistan? Secondly, in light of the above, can new strategies and approaches to peace conditionalities be identified which are likely to strengthen international efforts to build a durable peace?” (p. 1). www.clingenda el.nl/cscp.

Conditioning peace? The scope and limitations of peace conditionalities in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka: synthesis study / Jonathan Goodhand. [The Hague]: Netherlands Institute of International Relations, 2006. 67 p.; 30 cm. The study draws together two distinct though increasingly overlapping areas of academic inquiry and policy debate. Firstly, in development circles as the discourse has shifted towards notions of partnership, policy conditionalities are increasingly associated with “old style” donorship. Donors such as DFID are said to have adopted a “post conditionality” position, which emphasizes policy dialogue and ownership. Secondly, aid donors find themselves increasingly working in areas affected by armed conflict. In fragile state settings, characterized by fractured governance and competing centres of power, it is less clear how notions of “incentive compatibility”, ownership and partnership can be translated into practice. www.clingendael.nl/cscp.

Humanitarian agenda 2015: Afghanistan country study / by Antonio Donini. Medford, Ma.: Feinstein International Center, June 2006. 53 p.: ill., map.; 30 cm. This study is part of a research program undertaken by the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University on “The Humanitarian Agenda 2015: Principles, Politics and Perceptions” (HA 2015). The key findings of the research in Afghanistan are presented under the four HA 2015 headings: the universality of the humanitarian enterprise; terror and counter-terror and its impact on humanitarian action; coherence of political and humanitarian endeavors; and issues related to security of communities and humanitarian personnel. This is preceded by a brief historical background and by an overview of Afghans’ perceptions of the aid effort. A final section presents key conclusions and (policy) recommendations. http://fic.tufts.edu.


National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) workshop: presentations and photos, 17-19 July 2006, Kabul, Afghanistan / Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), United States Geological Service (USGS), Central Statistics Office (CSO). Kabul: AGCHO, USGS, CSO, 2006. 1 v. (various pagings); 30 cm. + 1 CD-ROM. For further details please contact USGS representative Fahim Zaheer at fahimzaheer@yahoo.com.

NGOs playing for humanitarian space in the New Great Game: lessons from post-9/11 Afghanistan / Shannon Roisin. 2006. [70] p.; 30 cm. The politicisation, developmentalisation and securitisation of aid, often referred to as ‘new humanitarianism’, has triumphed in post-9/11 Afghanistan. The role of NGOs as neutral actors has been seriously undermined, not least by the NGOs themselves. Contact: shannon_roisin@yahoo.co.uk.
Voices of Afghanistan: an evaluation study / by Seema Patel. Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2005. 7 p.; 30 cm. Afghans are less hopeful today than they were a year ago. The state-building mission has lost ground, and is slipping further into the “danger zone”. These are the initial findings and first impressions of Measures of Progress 2006, a study being conducted by the PCR Project, to evaluate the impact that reconstruction efforts have had on the study being conducted by the PCR Project, to evaluate the impact that reconstruction efforts have had on the average Afghan. Six Afghan interviewers conducted 1,000 qualitative interviews over a six-week period covering thirteen provinces and the five pillars of reconstruction: security, governance, justice, economic opportunity, and social well-being. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/TKAE-6V44GJ?OpenDocument and http://pcrproject.com/blog/2006/09/25/csis-event-


Law, Justice & Human Rights


Organisation and jurisdiction of the newly established Afghan courts: the compliance of the formal system of justice with the Bonn agreement / Ramin Moschtaghi.

Afghan laws on the Web and on DVD
www.moj.gov.af

The Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (AROLP) has uploaded the entire contents of their digital collection of the Official Gazette of Afghanistan, the official publication of laws and other legislative documents for Afghanistan, on the website of the Ministry of Justice www.moj.gov.af. Certain “key legal texts” of Afghanistan (formerly referred to as the Basic Legal Texts) and English translations of indexes are also available. The collection is also available on a single DVD. Plans for the future include adding information and images from scans of original Usulnamahs and Nizamnamahs from various collections in Kabul. English-language translations are available at www.afghanistantranslation.com. Material on that website is still being uploaded and organized, and there are hundreds of documents still to be uploaded. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact rremias@afghanistanrolp.org or mhamilton@afghanistanrolp.org.

Recently published laws
883 (2006/1385): Regulation on the procedures of the Ministry of Economy and charter for industrial enterprise in prisons.
893 (2006/1385): Decree of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Regulation on public finance and expenditure management.
894 (2006/1385): Regulation on purchase and sale of vehicles belonging to diplomatic missions and international organizations located within the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Regulation on controlling materials destructive to the ozone layer.
896 (2006/1385): Decree of the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, suspension of Article 8 (2) of the regulation on educational institutions, hostels and the charter of Ariana Afghan Airlines.
897-899 (2006/1385): Registration of commercial documents and trade marks.


Livelihoods & Poverty


Maps


Afghanistan landcover map / RAMP GIS Unit. Kabul: RAMP, 2006. 1 col. map ; 30 x 42 cm. Scale 1:15,000,000. 1.5 cm=100 km. This land cover map is based on interpretation of Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite imagery of Afghanistan, acquired in 1990 (full coverage) and 1993 (partial coverage). Available at www.dec.org (enter code PN-ADG-276).

Afghanistan: RAMP veterinary field unit network [map] / RAMP GIS Unit. Kabul: Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP) Afghanistan, September 2005. 1 map: col.; 24 x 34 cm. Scale 1:15,000,000. 1.5 cm=100 km. Available at www.dec.org (enter code PN-ADG-278).


Media

The Islamist Websites Monitor, which focuses on the major jihadi websites, is a new initiative of the Jihad and Terrorism Studies Project at the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). MEMRI is an independent, non-profit organization that translates and analyzes the media of the Middle East. MEMRI will be regularly releasing translated news, analysis, and videos from these websites. From October-December 2006 more than 35 updates have been released. The report of November 17 includes footage of attacks in Arghandab district in southern Afghanistan. www.memri.org/iwmp.html.


Migration

article aims to link the goal of sustainable return and the impact of aid in this regard to the wider migration debate in (post-) conflict countries by using Afghanistan as a case-study. http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org.


Networks in transition: wartime migration in Afghanistan / Kristian Berg Harpviken. Oslo, Norway: University of Oslo, 2006. 384 p.: maps; 24 cm. Bibliography, p. 351-384. PhD thesis, University of Oslo, 2006. The primary ambition of this study was to contribute towards the development of a theoretical framework for understanding the role of social networks in migration, drawing on the multifaceted patterns of Afghan displacement over the past 25 years of war while focusing on two contrasting communities in northwestern Afghanistan. Contact: kristian@prio.no.

Natural resources


Opium


Afghanistan’s drug industry: structure, functioning, dynamics and implications for counter-narcotics policy / edited by Doris Buddenberg and William A. Byrd. Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, 2006. vii, 214 p.; maps; 30 cm. This volume, a joint effort edited by UNODC and World Bank staff and including work by a number of contributors, constitutes a first attempt to broaden the analysis of Afghanistan’s opium economy to encompass, in addition to the rural farm/household level: opium trading, price patterns and
pricing behavior, the drugs/informal financial transfer (hawala) nexus, the organized crime perspective, and macroeconomic dimensions. www.worldbank.org/afghanistanopium.


Exploring the roots of opium and illicit economy in Afghanistan / Raphy Favre. Addis Abeba, Ethiopia: AIZON, 2005. 101 p.; col. ill., col. maps ; 30 cm. This paper from late 2005 reviews the context in which opium poppy and the illicit economy took root in Afghanistan from the early 1970s to 2005. The analysis builds on historical, political, military, social, and economic data and extensive field observations by the author since 1994. The findings contradict sensationalist anecdotes often heard on the drug industry in Afghanistan which tend to be repeated by actors involved in the fields of counter-narcotics and alternative livelihoods. In particular, simplifications of the opium poppy issues by considering poppy production being the result of either greed or poverty is challenged. The paper shows that the illicit economy continues to provide the mainstay of the Afghan economy and maintaining its production system in place is essential for a majority of Afghans. Further, it explores the social and economic roles of key actors in the illicit economy in perpetuating the production systems, which continues to benefit a majority of Afghans. Finally, the paper highlights the potential risks of pushing too fast a strategy to get rid of the poppy and illicit economy in a context where many Afghans still have a stake in it. Author contact: raphyfavre@gmx.net.


Security


All along the watch tower: bringing peace to the Afghan Pakistan border / Peter J. Middlebrook and Sharon M. Miller. New York: Foreign Policy Futures, 2006. 8 p.; col. maps; 30 cm. The paper argues that while the Durand Line Agreement is no longer considered a contentious issue between the current de jure Afghan and Pakistan states, the continued existence of political discontent between their sub-national interest groups continues to usurp the rule of law and undermines the effectiveness of border management controls. In the absence of a legally recognized and enforceable border, it is impossible for the international community to apportion responsibility for the lack of effective state control over insurgency, terrorist, narcotics and smuggling.; a situation which must surely be unacceptable to the UN, the US and UK. The authors argue that the Taliban, terrorism, insurgency and the rise of the opium economy are manifestations (not causes) of historical grievances that were neither addressed during the signature of the Durand Agreement of 1839 or the Bonn Agreement of 2001. www.middlebrook-miller.com.

Det var en gang en bokhendler i Kabul (“Once upon a time there was a bookseller in Kabul”) / Shah Muhammad Rais. [Oslo]: N. W. Damm & Son, 2006. 94 p.; 22 cm. Soon available in English. “You cannot stop running water,” Shah Muhammad Rais once said about The Bookseller of Kabul, the controversial and revealing book about Rais and his family. No matter what he does, Åsne Seierstad’s book remains a reality and no response can alter that fact. Nevertheless, Rais has chosen to tell his own version of the events. Once upon a time there was a bookseller in Kabul is a fast-paced playing with genres (including the fairytale and the novel) and represents a teasing echo of his opponent’s book. tone.hansen@damm.no, www.damm.no
Countering Afghanistan’s insurgency: no quick fixes. Kabul: International Crisis Group, November 2006. 34 p.; maps; 30 cm. Fierce battles rage in southern Afghanistan, insurgent attacks in the east creep towards the provinces surrounding Kabul and a new campaign of terrorist violence targets urban centres. The country’s democratic government is not immediately threatened but action is needed now. This includes putting more international forces into the battle zones but insurgencies are never beaten by military means alone, and there are no quick fixes. Diplomatic pressure on Pakistan is needed, and the government of President Karzai must show political will to respond to internal discontent with serious efforts to attack corruption, work with the elected National Assembly and extend the rule of law by ending the culture of impunity. Afghanistan needs a renewed, long-term effort to build an effective, fair government that provides real security to its people. www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4485&l=1.

Denying terrorists safe haven in Pakistan / Lisa Curtis. Washington, D.C.: The Heritage Foundation, 2006. 10 p.: map; 30 cm. Stability in Afghanistan and in South Asia more generally is closely linked to the policies that Islamabad pursues over the next few years, including actions that limit the Taliban’s ability to operate on Pakistani soil, peace efforts with neighboring India, exploration of trade and investment opportunities in the region, and a return to democratic politics. www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/bg1981.cfm


NATO in Afghanistan: a test case for the future: draft / by Helle Dale. Washington, D.C.: The Heritage Foundation, 2006. 8, 1 p.; 30 cm. The future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has become inextricably linked to the future of Afghanistan. NATO, an alliance created in the early days of the Cold War to defend the West against Soviet aggression, is actively engaged in assisting Afghanistan’s young democratic government against the resurgent Taliban. This is not only NATO’s first mission outside of Europe, but its largest ever operational deployment. Afghanistan has now become a test of NATO’s ability to transform itself and adapt to the post-9/11 threat environment. www.heritage.org/Research/MiddleEast/bg1985.cfm.

Pakistan’s tribal areas: appeasing the militants. Kabul: International Crisis Group, December 2006. 29 p.; 30 cm. (ICG Asia Report 125). This report examines interlinked issues of governance, militancy and extremism in the Pashtun-majority Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. It identifies the challenges the government faces in wresting control of these areas and the stakes for the U.S. and other Western countries. www.crisisgroup.org.


The privatizing of war and security in Afghanistan: future or dead end? / Antonio Giustozzi. Published in “The economics of peace and security journal” v. 2, issue 1, 2007. p. [29]-34; 30 cm. The use of alliances with strongmen’s private armies is falling out of fashion after a number of debacles (not only in Afghanistan but also in Iraq), the reliance on non-combat private security companies and mercenaries remains in great favor within policy circles in Washington and in some other western capitals. For this reason, this article focuses on private security companies and their impact on post-Taliban Afghanistan, trying to establish whether they proved to be cost-effective, whether there have been any significant side effects to their employment, and whether there is potential for their future development and deployment. www.epsjournal.org.uk.

Security sector reform in Afghanistan: the slide towards expediency / Mark Sedra. 2006. Published in “International peacekeeping” v. 13, issue 1, March 2006. p. 94-110; 30 cm. “The outcome of Afghanistan’s security sec-
The reform process will be a key element in determining whether Afghanistan’s path will lead to peace and sustainable development, or a return to violence and deprivation. Although delivering a final verdict on the process only three years after its launch would be premature, an interim assessment illustrates that it has not had the transformative effect originally envisaged.” (p. 108).

Understanding local violence: security arrangements in Kandahar, Kunduz and Paktia (Afghanistan) / Conrad Schetter, Rainer Glassner, Masood Karokhail. Bonn: Center for Development Research, 2006. 15 p.; 30 cm (Amu Darya series, paper no. 3). “The aim of this paper is to show that the term ‘warlordism’ and its connoted perceptions are not sufficient to characterize the structures of violence in Afghanistan...the variations of security arrangements on the local level are enormous” (p. 2). http://131.220.109.9/index.php?id=751.

Urban issues

