

For more information about Afghanistan:

-The Afghanistan Conflict Monitor  
[www.Afghanistanconflictmonitor.org](http://www.Afghanistanconflictmonitor.org)

-Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)  
[www.Rawa.org](http://www.Rawa.org)

-Counterpunch, News and Analysis  
[www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)

-Professor Marc Herold's Afghan Canon  
[www.cursor.org/stories/archivistan.htm](http://www.cursor.org/stories/archivistan.htm)

**Afghanistan is “becoming a sort of surreal hunting estate, in which the U.S. and NATO breed the very terrorists they then track down.”**

**-Anatol Lieven,  
Professor of war  
King's College London**



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# **AFGHANISTAN: THE GOOD WAR?**

Both major parties would have us believe that Afghanistan is a “Good War” that must be won to win the “War on Terror.”

Those who conspired to hijack airplanes and kill thousands of people on 9/11 are guilty of crimes against humanity. They must be identified and brought to justice in accordance with the law. But **retaliation by invading Afghanistan is not the answer and will only lead to the deaths of more of our troops and Afghans.**

Even if we believe that we *should* be there, Britain's most senior military commander in Afghanistan, Brigadier Mark Carleton-Smith, has warned that **the war against the Taliban cannot be won.**

**“Freedom and democracy can't be donated ; it is the duty of the people of a country to fight and achieve these values. Under the US-supported government, the sworn enemies of human rights, democracy and secularism have gripped their claws over our country and attempt to restore their religious fascism on our people.”**

**-Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)**

The US has occupied Afghanistan for over 7 years, since the illegal invasion in 2001. But US involvement goes back much farther. **The US organized and supported the Islamic forces that formed the Taliban** through the 1980s to fight a war against the then occupier, the Soviet Union.

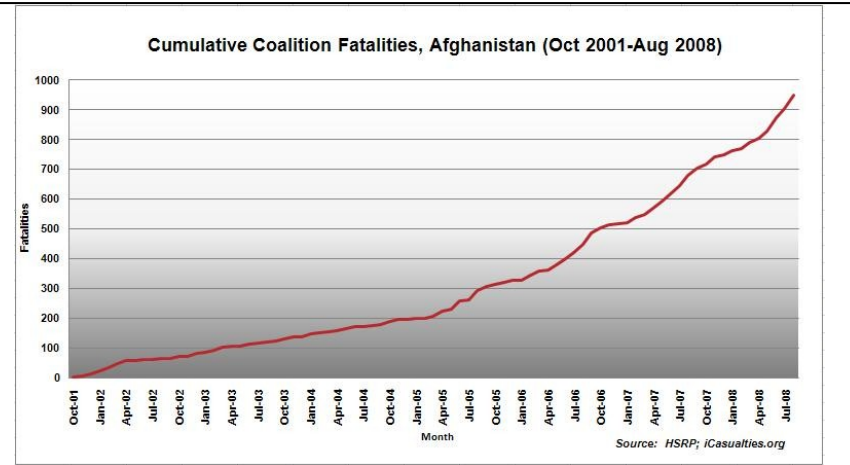
After the fall of the USSR, the US pulled much of its resources out of Afghanistan, never helping to rebuild the country. Civil War raged between rival factions of the former US-backed Islamic militias (Taliban and "Northern Alliance"), neither of which were any good for Afghanistan.

Now with 7 years of US occupation, **Afghanis have seen their country racked by war for almost 30 years**. It's time to rethink US policy in Afghanistan and see this war for what it is.

## Afghanistan Since the Invasion:

- 1.) The US and NATO forces have engaged in significant **human rights abuses** by forced detentions, torture and murder of civilians.
- 2.) Afghanistan has become the **#1 leading producer of opium** for heroin in the world.
- 3.) **The status of women has not improved**, despite the fact that this was used to win public support.
- 4.) Innocent Afghanis have been sent to **Guantanamo** and have been subjected to **torture** and other abuses.
- 5.) **The Northern Alliance has been equally brutal** towards the population as the Taliban.
- 6.) **Private military contractors** have benefited from the US occupation of Afghanistan.
- 7.) **US news corporations have failed the public miserably** in covering what has been happening and have fed into the idea that this is the "good war."

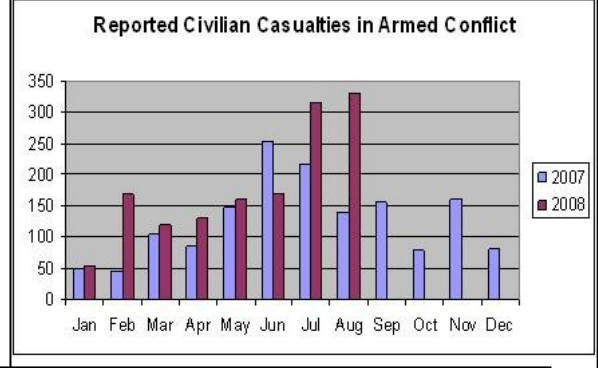
## Afghanistan is now deadlier than Iraq for coalition forces



Estimates of the number of civilians killed vary widely and must be treated with caution. Systematic collection of civilian fatality data only began in 2007.

Collection of casualty data, is hampered by insecurity and a lack of resources. As a result, figures likely represent a substantial undercount.

-Afghanistan Conflict Monitor



## Rethinking Afghanistan...

The Afghan people have endured seven long years of misery thanks to U.S. occupation, and it is high time to take a principled stand against U.S. imperial aims in Central Asia.

**"As far as the occupation goes, people were somewhat supportive of it originally, but as conditions have deteriorated, they have begun to see the presence of foreign troops as a big part of the problem. I would say that a majority of Afghans now want the US and NATO to leave as soon as possible."**

-Solani Kolhatkar of the Afghan Women's Mission