

Why We Couldn't Win the War or the Peace in Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Examination

The United States and its allies entered Afghanistan in 2001 with the stated goals of toppling the Taliban regime, preventing al-Qaeda from using the country as a base for attacks, and establishing a stable and democratic government. However, after 20 years of war and an estimated \$2 trillion spent, the US and its allies withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021, leaving behind a country that was more unstable and dangerous than when they had first arrived.

There are many reasons why the US and its allies were unable to achieve their goals in Afghanistan. Some of these reasons include:



The Good War: Why We Couldn't Win the War or the Peace in Afghanistan by Jack Fairweather

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4708 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 416 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



- **A lack of understanding of Afghanistan's history, culture, and politics.** The US and its allies entered Afghanistan with a superficial understanding of the country's complex history, culture, and politics.

This lack of understanding led to a number of missteps, including the decision to focus on military operations rather than on building relationships with the Afghan people and supporting local governance.

- **A failure to develop a coherent strategy for Afghanistan.** The US and its allies never developed a coherent strategy for Afghanistan. Instead, they pursued a series of piecemeal and often contradictory policies that failed to address the underlying causes of instability in the country.
- **Corruption and mismanagement within the Afghan government.** The Afghan government was plagued by corruption and mismanagement, which undermined its ability to provide essential services to the Afghan people and to maintain security. The US and its allies failed to adequately address the problem of corruption within the Afghan government, which contributed to the government's collapse in 2021.
- **The rise of the Taliban and other insurgent groups.** The Taliban and other insurgent groups were able to exploit the weaknesses of the Afghan government and the lack of a coherent US strategy to make gains on the battlefield. The US and its allies failed to develop effective counterinsurgency strategies that could defeat the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

The Consequences of Failure

The failure of the US and its allies to achieve their goals in Afghanistan has had a number of negative consequences. These consequences include:

- **The loss of American and allied lives.** Thousands of American and allied soldiers were killed or wounded in Afghanistan. The loss of these

lives is a tragedy that cannot be forgotten.

- **The suffering of the Afghan people.** The Afghan people have suffered greatly as a result of the war in their country. Millions of Afghans have been killed, injured, or displaced from their homes. The war has also destroyed Afghanistan's economy and infrastructure.
- **The rise of terrorism.** The war in Afghanistan has created a breeding ground for terrorism. The Taliban and other insurgent groups have been able to use Afghanistan as a base to launch attacks against other countries, including the United States.
- **The loss of US credibility.** The failure of the US and its allies to achieve their goals in Afghanistan has damaged the credibility of the United States. This damage to US credibility will make it more difficult for the United States to achieve its goals in other parts of the world.

The war in Afghanistan was a tragedy for all involved. The US and its allies failed to achieve their goals in Afghanistan, and the Afghan people have suffered greatly as a result. The lessons learned from the war in Afghanistan should be used to improve US policy in other parts of the world.



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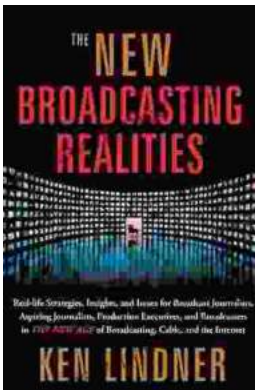
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