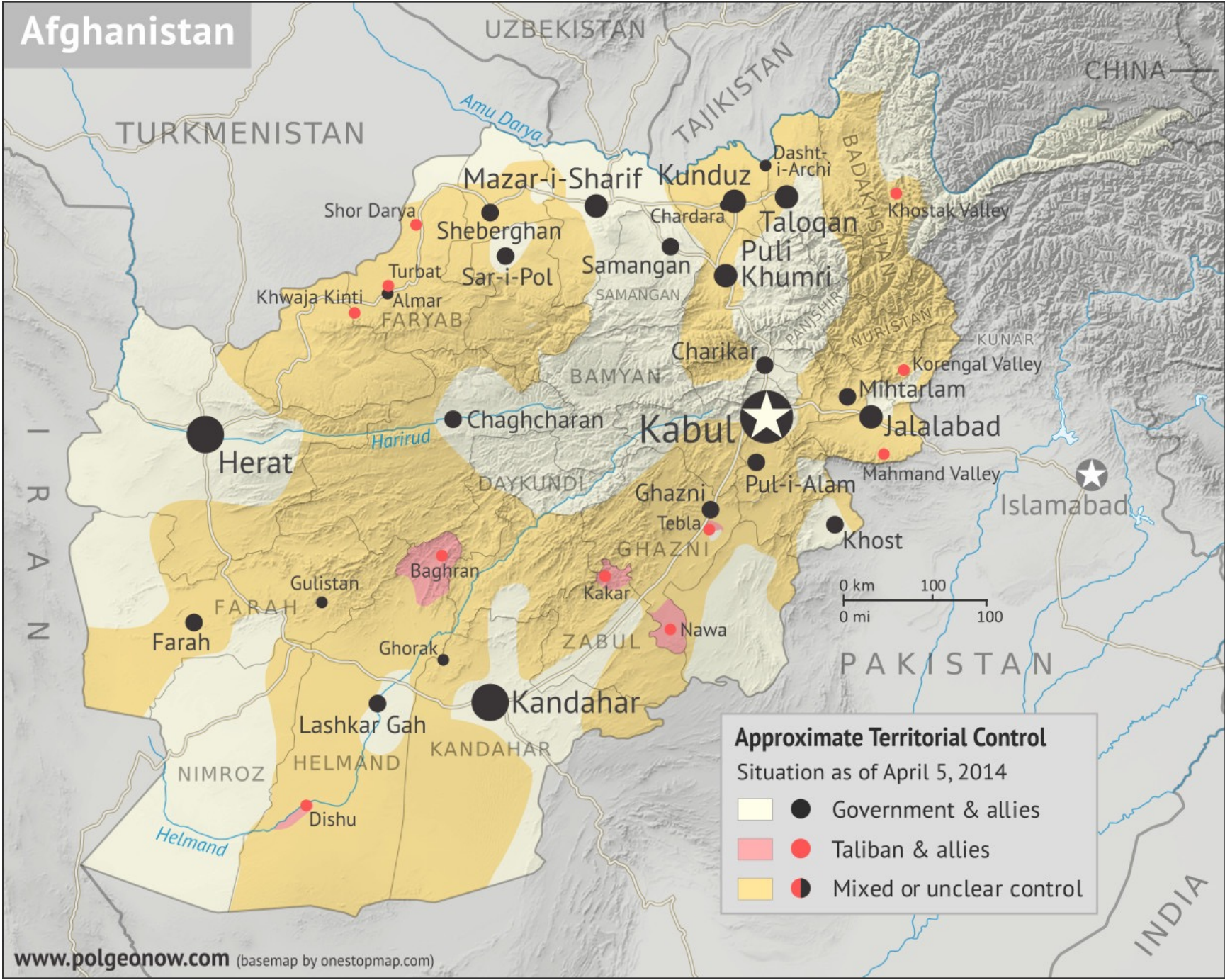


Background to *RESTREPO*

Coms 133 Documentary Film

CSUS Spring 2022





Afghanistan

- Officially: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
- “Crossroads of Central and South Asia”
- “The Heart of Asia”
- Area inhabited since the Middle Paleolithic era (250,000 – 30,000 years ago)
- Population: about 40 million
- Religion: Islam (99.7% of population)
- Ethnicity: 42% Pashtun, 27% Tajik, 31% Other (at least 6 different)
- Capital: Kabul

- Since the late 1970's, their history has been dominated by warfare:
- Coups
- Revolutions
- Invasions
- Insurgencies
- Civil wars
- The country has high levels of:
- Terrorism
- Poverty
- Child malnutrition

United States War in Afghanistan

- Started in 2001 after the United States was attacked on 9/11/2001.
- The US attacked Afghanistan because the Taliban, who ruled the country at the time, refused to extradite Osama bin Laden; the al-Qaeda “mastermind” behind the attack.
- The war lasted from 2001 until 2021, when the US decided to leave and the Taliban took over the country again.
- The war killed over 106,000 to 179,000 Afghanistan civilians.
- Close to 2,500 Americans were killed in the war.
- Close to 21,000 Americans were wounded in the war.
- The war cost the United States over 2 trillion dollars.

Taliban/ISIS & ISIS-K/al-Qaeda

- **The Taliban:**
- Were formed in 1994 as Afghan resistance fighters who fought invading Soviet forces in the 1980's.
- They have a complicated relationship with the United States as we helped train and arm them during their conflict with the Soviet Union.
- They seek, and now have, control of Afghanistan, and do not directly involve themselves outside their country.
- **ISIS:**
- Focuses on ridding the Middle-East of Western influence through terrorism.

- **ISIS-K:**

- The same goals as ISIS but this group is much more intense and tends to recruit fighters who feel the Taliban and ISIS is not extreme enough.
- They've bombed hospitals and a women's school (where 75 people were killed).

- **Al-Qaeda:**

- Founded in Pakistan in 1988 by Osama Bin Laden.
- It believe that it's every Muslim's duty to fight those who may oppose Islam, thus their terrorist targets are world wide.
- The 9/11 attacked was carried out by them because of the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia, American support of Israel, and our support for attacking Muslims in Somalia and Kashmir.