

THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan

October 2001 - Present

THE WAR ON TERROR WAGES ON!

A radical government group called the Taliban took over control from local Afghani warlords in 1994. At first, the change was a welcome one because of the structure the new government provided the people. However, as fighting continued in the region, more radical members of

the Taliban became involved in terrorist activities. As the violent regime continued to gain power, they targeted a Shia Muslim minority group in northern Afghanistan, terrorizing and killing thousands of these civilians.



In 1998, following the terrorist bombings of American embassies in Africa, the United States launched a cruise missile attack on training camps belonging to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda organization in Afghanistan.

The War in Afghanistan began on October 7,



Osama bin Laden, leader of the Al-Qaeda organization masterminded the September 11th attacks on the United States.

2001, as the armed forces of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, and the Afghan United Front (Northern Alliance), launched Operation Enduring Freedom, invading the country, in response to the September 11th attacks on the United States, with the stated goal of dismantling the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization and ending its use of Afghanistan as a base. The United States also said that it would remove the Taliban regime from power and create a viable democratic state.



WHO/WHERE

United States
The Taliban government, Al-Qaeda, and other insurgencies
Afghanistan

WHAT

US troops invaded Afghanistan in order to hunt down terrorists in the country

WHEN

October 2001—present

WHY

The United States hoped to find and bring to justice terrorist organizations thought to be linked to the September

WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?

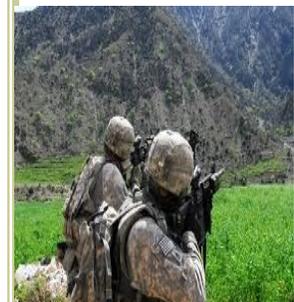


The Taliban regime, despite its harsh treatment of the Shia minority, was recognized by nations such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as the **true** government of Afghanistan. The United States, ever on a quest to bring elections and citizens' rights to countries, wanted to overthrow the Taliban and help Afghanistan create a democratic government.

Though associated with the legitimate Taliban government, Al-Qaeda was a radical Muslim group. The official reasons



for the invasion of Afghanistan was to “overthrow” the Taliban government.



Coalition forces:



NATO – ISAF

(130,670)^[1]



United States – 90,000



United Kingdom – 9,500



Germany – 4,998



France – 3,935



Italy – 3,918



Poland – 2,580



Romania – 1,948

[38 other countries](#)

Insurgent groups:



[Taliban](#)



[al-Qaeda](#)



[IMU](#)



[HI-Gulbuddin](#)



[HI-Khalis](#)



[Haqqani network](#)



[Lashkar-e-Taiba](#)



[JeM^{\[2\]}](#)



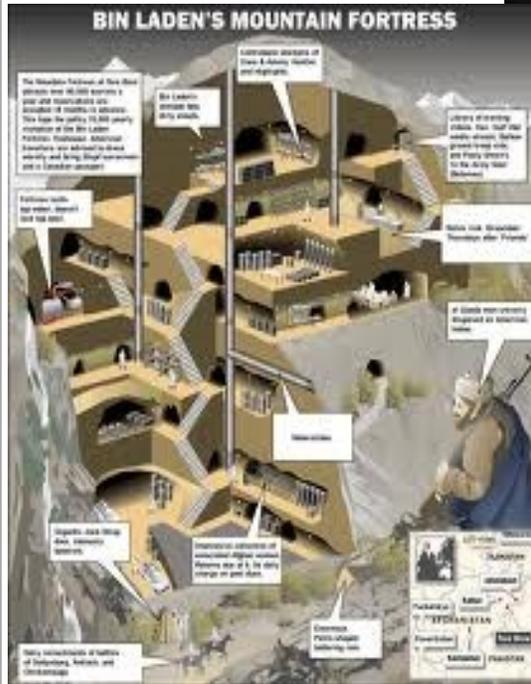
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Insurgent: (n.) a rebel, someone who forcibly rises against a civil or government authority*

*paraphrased definition



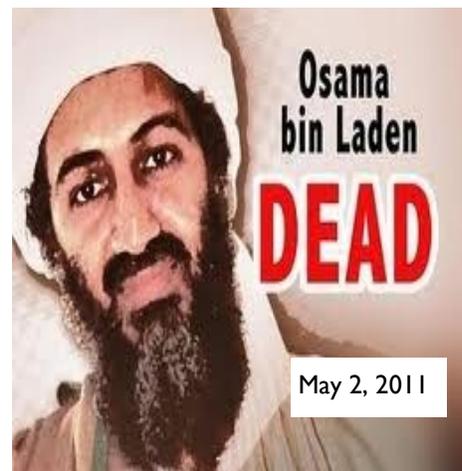
The September 11th attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon were organized and carried out by Al-Qaeda members. Afghanistan's Taliban government often worked with Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda.



The hunt, capture, and execution of Osama bin Laden was a long and expensive process. The U.S. sent troops to scour the mountains in the northern part of Afghanistan, then bin Laden was tracked to various safe houses, always eluding the troops sent to apprehend him.



- **Al-Qaeda leader killed in operation led by Navy SEALs, CIA forces**
- **DNA evidence: 99.9 certain it was bin Laden**
- **His compound was located close to Pakistan army base**
- **President Obama says 'justice has been done'**
- **Former President Bush hails 'momentous achievement'**



May 2, 2011