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AFGHANISTAN: THE GLASS IS HALF FULL

**Information Resources in Support
of a Presentation
by**

**Scott M. Rauland
Counselor for Public Affairs**



The current state and future direction of Afghanistan is at the forefront of American and global interests. Conditions in Afghanistan continue to pose serious challenges for peace and security within its borders and for the region, the U.S. and the international community.

In his talk, Counselor for Public Affairs Scott M. Rauland will focus on the contributions that civilians are making to building strategic partnerships that address security, stabilization and development for a safer, more prosperous Afghanistan, and why and how the U.S. strategy involves the international community. He will also talk about U.S. public diplomacy efforts in Afghanistan, including the role of the network of Lincoln Corners in that country.

The Lincoln Resource Center is pleased to provide a selection of U.S. information materials surrounding Afghanistan and the U.S. and international contributions towards assisting the country towards achieving a more safe and stable condition for its people and that of its surrounding region.

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The Kabul Conference, July 20 2010

[Afghanistan – Country Background](#)

This current profile of Afghanistan provides background about its history, people, government, political conditions, economy, and foreign relations, and other key issues.

[Remarks by Secretary Clinton at Kabul Conference](#)

During her intervention at the Kabul Conference, Secretary Clinton, remarked that Afghanistan’s comprehensive strategy for the future is detailed, practical, and reflects a great deal of work and consultation.

[Strong U.S. Civilian Presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)

The United States will maintain a strong civilian presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan long after military forces are withdrawn from the region, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

[Civilians to Expand U.S. Commitments to Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)

Even after U.S. forces have left Afghanistan, U.S. civilians will remain to help the country build its democratic institutions and restore its agricultural economy, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says, adding that civilian assistance programs are also part of the approach to Pakistan

[U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Discussions](#)

Secretary Clinton emphasized that the U.S.-Afghanistan partnership will help Afghans build capacity so they can assume lead responsibility for security over time as conditions permit. And we will continue to equip, train, and support the Afghan national security forces.

[Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy](#)

Key U.S. initiatives include deploying additional civilian expertise, rebuilding Afghanistan’s agricultural and economic sectors, combating Afghan narcotics trade, countering extremist voices, mobilizing international support and enhancing partnerships with Pakistan.

[USAID in Afghanistan](#)

With over 4 billion dollars spent on development programs in Afghanistan since 2002, USAID provides the largest bilateral civilian assistance program to Afghanistan. Its work continues to be a vital support to Afghanistan in its efforts to ensure economic growth led by the private sector and establish a democratic and capable state governed by the rule of law.

[Afghanistan](#) State Department Resources for Afghanistan.

OTHER PERSPECTIVES

[In Poverty and Strife, Women Test Limits](#) (includes initiatives by Bamian Province Governor Habiba Sarabi, *New York Times* October 5, 2008))

[Heroes of the Environment 2008: Habiba Sarabi](#) (*Time*, September 24, 2008)

[Defining Success in Afghanistan](#) (*Foreign Affairs*, July –August 2010)

[Reasons for Hope on Afghanistan](#) (Brookings Institution, July 29, 2010)

[Once Upon a Time in Afghanistan](#) (*Foreign Policy* July 29, 2010)

[NATO/ISAF in Afghanistan](#)

[UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan](#)

BOOKS

[Descent into Chaos](#) by Ahmed Rashid

[Ghost Wars](#) by Steve Coll

[The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini

[A Thousand Splendid Sons](#) by Khaled Hosseini

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