

US LEAVES AFGHANISTAN

Sep 1, 2021

WARM-UP QUIZ • Answer the following questions about Afghanistan. Guess if you don't know the answers. Then check your answers by looking at the bottom of the next page.

1. Which of the following countries does **not** share a border with Afghanistan? (choose two)
Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, Pakistan
2. What is the majority religion in Afghanistan?
Christianity, Islam, Buddhism
3. What is the population of Afghanistan?
Under 5 million, between 10 and 15 million, between 30 and 35 million

VOCABULARY • Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.

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|---------------|---|
| 1. Occupation | a) to leave an area |
| 2. Adversary | b) to speak in support of something |
| 3. Invade | c) an enemy or opponent |
| 4. Defend | d) without order |
| 5. Troops | e) unpleasant, disorganized |
| 6. Withdraw | f) groups of soldiers |
| 7. Remake | g) when a military moves into an area and controls it for some time |
| 8. Chaotic | h) to enter a place to take control by force |
| 9. Logistical | i) to make something into something else |
| 10. Messy | j) to do with the organization of many people or things |

LISTEN • Listen to the audio track or a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words.

The United States has ended a near 20-year _____ of Afghanistan. The American Government had agreed with its adversary, the Taliban, to leave before September 1st.

The American _____ had been occupying the central Asian country since invading in 2001 as a response to the 9/11 _____ attacks in New York and Washington D.C. At that time, the Taliban was hiding terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and protecting his terrorist _____, Al Qaeda. Osama bin Laden was killed by American forces in Pakistan, in 2011.

The American President, Joe Biden, defended the _____ to leave in a recent speech, in which he said his choice was between sending more troops and withdrawing. He said he did not want America's _____ war to become a 'forever war'. He also said that, in the future, the American military would not be used to 'remake' other _____.

President Biden was criticized by some people who thought the United States should stay in Afghanistan. He was also criticized for the chaotic withdrawal, which included a _____ bombing near the Kabul

airport that killed 169 Afghans and 13 American soldiers. The President claimed the withdrawal was a logistical _____ that was always likely to be messy.

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Sources: apnews.com, theguardian.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

DISCUSSION • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What do you know about Afghanistan?
2. The Taliban now rules Afghanistan. Many people consider them to be traditional and conservative. What are some traditional and conservative values in your country?
3. Some worry that under Taliban rule, women will have fewer rights and opportunities. What do you think about this?
4. Do you remember September 11th, 2001? If so, what memories do you have of that day? If not, what have you learned about it?
5. Was invading Afghanistan the right thing for the United States to do? Why or why not?
6. Was it a good idea for the United States to leave Afghanistan? Should they have left earlier?
7. President Biden doesn't want to use the American military to 'remake' countries. Do you agree or disagree with his idea?
8. The United States has military bases in many countries around the world. Why is this?
9. What do you think about terrorism? Is it a big problem where you live?
10. Have you considered joining the military? What does your country's military usually do?

Warm-up Quiz Answers: (1) Turkey, Russia. (2) Islam. (3) Between 30 and 35 million.