

Very Barren Ground

Many errors were made in Afghanistan, but America's biggest mistake was converting our mission from killing Islamic terrorists into attempting to install pluralistic democracy in a nation of goat-herders straight out of the 7th Century. Afghanistan's Islamic Theocracy has ensured that it will remain in the 7th Century, both politically and economically, and there is absolutely nothing we can do about that fact.

We are no more capable of imposing Western, democratic institutions on this "nation" of primitive, stone-aged people (and I use the term "nation" loosely,) than we are capable of teaching Latin to pigs. I don't know who thought up this idiocy, but it must have been a Harvard graduate with an appropriate level of *hubris*. Afghanistan is no more capable of adopting democratic institutions than is black Africa, an equally squalid, backward, primitive and hopeless geographic entity.

One soldier who served there claimed that Afghanistan wasn't even perceived as a real country by many of its inhabitants, who consider it mere arbitrary delineations on a map. In some rural areas, residents had no conception that they live in a nation called "*Afghanistan*." Some of them had never heard of the Russian occupation in 1979, nor did they know that the soldiers they recently met were Americans.

Some of the residents in one rural village do not know where Kandahar is, even though it is a mere 30 miles away. No one from their village had ever been to Kandahar, although some had heard of it. They had also not heard of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979. "**For them there was no "*Afghanistan*." The concept didn't exist.**" ("*gzoont*")

Likewise, another U.S. soldier tells of an **Australian Special Forces** patrol that ventured up into the mountains and came across another rural and

isolated Afghan village. Its inhabitants assumed the Aussies were Soviet troops, and had no idea that the Soviet occupation had ended decades before. ("[lookseemo](#)")

Another obstacle confronting our mission was that "***The people don't even understand who you are or why you're there. The place is a f***ed up maelstrom, with no conceivable sense of morality, justice, benevolence, or community.***" He continued that Afghanistan is a place where "***Every single person is just trying to survive.***" ([NAPALM_SON](#))

The total isolation of rural villages is evident in the observations of another soldier, who noted the following: "***Each isolated valley and village had their own language. Some sound very Persian. Some sounded like archaic Greek. There was a village in the north that sounded like a "tone" language. My team tried to record as many local languages as we could. We had terps ([interpreters](#)) ask questions in Pashto and had them answer in their local language.***" ([Ilvihearsevil](#))

That's some very barren ground to send American kids to fight for and defend at the risk of their lives or at the risk being permanently disfigured. Their loss of life and limb and the Trillions of dollars we spent there were squandered when their mission was altered and America decided to play "*Moses, the law-giver.*"

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