



# Allama Iqbal and Afghanistan

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# Scheme of Presentation

- Historical background of Afghanistan
- Afghanistan's situation in Iqbal's times
- Prominent Afghan figures in Iqbal's work
- Iqbal on Afghanistan's geo-political importance
- Western designs about Afghanistan and Iqbal
- Current Afghan crisis and Iqbal
- Solution to Afghan problems in Iqbal's views

# Afghanistan's Islamic Background and Reasons of Iqbal's Attachment



- Afghans' conversion to Islam, 50 years after advent of Islam
- Help to south Asian Muslim conquerors
- Great Muslim figures belonged to Afghanistan: an important factor in the life of Asia
- Afghans' brave resistance against foreign invasion
- Khush Hal Khan Khattak's idea: Afghans are descendent of Bani Israel
- Insistence on research on Afghans

- Afghans' strong affiliation with their culture and past
- Three qualities: (Preface of "Introduction to Modern Afghanistan" by Abdul Aziz)
  - 1) Deep religious spirit
  - 2) Complete freedom from distinction of birth and rank
  - 3) Perfect balance with which they always maintained their religious and national ideas.

# Afghan Situation During that Time and Iqbal



- Third Anglo-Afghan war: Afghanistan got independence in 1919
- King Aman Ullah Khan (1919-1929): Modernization
- Aman Ullah Khan's govt. was toppled in 1929, Bacha Saqa period
- King Nadir Khan (1929-1933)
- Halal Ahmar fund 1929
- Iqbal's visit to Afghanistan

- Building of a new University at Kabul: “An educated Afghanistan will be the best friend of Muslim India” (Statement on the proposed Afghan University)
- Zahir Shah period

# Afghans in Iqbal's Work



- Some Afghan personalities discussed by Iqbal
  - Mehmood Ghaznavi (971-1030)
  - Hakim Sanai (1044-1150 or 1080-1150 aprox)
  - Zaheer Uddin Babur (Born in Uzbekistan) (1483-1530)
  - Sher Shah Suri (Born in Sub continent but was from an Afghan family) (1486-1545)
  - Khush-hal Khan Khattak (Born in Nowshera and worked for unification of Pashtuns) (1613-1689)
  - Ahmad Shah Abdali (1722–1773)

Jamaluddin Afghani (1838-1897)

Nadir Shah (1883-1933)

Aman Ullah Khan (1892-1960)

Zahir shah (1914-2007)

Mehrab Gul Afghan (imaginary person)

- Iqbal's visit to shrines of different Afghan personalities during stay in Afghanistan
- Persian "Musafir" especially was about visit of Afghanistan and focused on Afghans to strengthen their spirituality



# Iqbal's Views on Geo-Political Importance of Afghanistan



- Stability in Afghanistan is a source of strength for Muslims of Sub-Continent as well as Central Asia (Letter to M Abdul Jaleel Banglari, 1929)
- Peace of Asia depends on peace in Afghanistan
- Political deterioration in Western and Central Asia will have negative fallout for progress of Sub-Continent and China (Conversation to a journalist, 26 Feb 1929)
- Afghanistan and Frontier nations are the Balkan of Asia (Letter to Ch. M. Hussain, 1925)

- Idea of rail track from Kabul to Istanbul including Muslim countries of central Asia (Letter to Sheikh Ata Muhammad, 1922)
- Afghanistan is an important future trade route (Afghan visit, 1933)

# Plans of Western Powers to Occupy Afghanistan, and Iqbal



- Rob Afghans of their Islamic spirit
- Promotion of Western culture in the garb of modernization to eliminate Islamic identity
- Slavery destroys the generations
- I am afraid of your innocent nature;  
The sweet-sellers of Europe are too clever!
- Afghan Baqi, Kuhsar Baqi Alhukmu Lillah! Almulku Lillah!

# Current Situation of Afghanistan in the Eyes of Iqbal



- Lack of unity, absence of Afghan spirit and slavery of non believers
- Unacquainted with contemporary and emerging challenges
- Instability of region
- Lack of education
- O My Zealous Faqr! Which would you prefer: Englishman's robes or tattered clothes?

- “Woe to the people that, prey to others strengths destroy themselves and build up others”

# Solution of Afghan Crisis in the Light of Iqbalian Vision



- Promotion of education
- Unity of Afghan nation
- Afghans should realize their own potential
- Sovereignty
- Strengthening relation with Quran and Sunnah
- Self confidence and self reliance
- Establishing strong bond with the Ummah

# Thank You