

Hassan Abbas discusses the modern history of Pakistan.

This and all of our webcasts can be found at www.national911memorial.org/new_history_exploring.

The Speaker

Hassan Abbas is a Research Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center and a former Sub-Divisional Police Chief in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province.

Review Questions

CHAPTER 1: *Abbas describes the creation of Pakistan and its ethnic composition.*

1. Describe some of the political/societal characteristics of Pakistan at its founding as described by Abbas.

CHAPTER 2: *How colonial powers ignored the settlement of ethnic groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and how tribal areas in Pakistan have governed themselves independent of Pakistani law.*

1. Describe the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP).
2. What is the relationship between Pakistan and the NWFP?

CHAPTER 3: *How the NWFP has avoided being brought under Pakistani law, and the evolution of social and political ideology.*

1. How did tribes in the NWFP ingratiate themselves to the central government of Pakistan?
2. How did militants develop a foothold in the NWFP?

CHAPTER 4: *Abbas' experience in the NWFP as a police chief, and the difficulties he encountered there as an "outsider."*

1. Describe some of the cultural differences Abbas came across that made policing tribal areas challenging.

CHAPTER 5: *The causes for the rise of militant religion during the Soviet-Afghan war.*

1. How did the Soviet-Afghan war affect Pakistan's tribal areas?
2. What were the long-term effects of the decision by Middle Eastern governments to send their religious militants to fight in Afghanistan?

CHAPTER 6: *The factors that contributed to Al-Qaeda's presence in the area, including Pakistan's support of Afghan fighters during and after the Soviet-Afghan war.*

1. Why does Abbas suggest Pakistan tolerated and in some cases supported religious militants?
2. What other factors have contributed to Al-Qaeda's continued survival?

Key Figures and Vocabulary

Pashtunwali

Pre-Islamic un-written law of the Pashtun people, based in part on the notions of hospitality and avenging dishonor.

Malik

Tribal head in charge of decision making and conflict resolution.

Huira

Place for tribal political and social activity.

Madrasah

School for Islamic religious instruction.

Webcast: Exploring 9/11 – The World Before and After Supplementary Materials

CHAPTER 7: *Relations between Pakistan's government and militant groups.*

1. Why does Abbas think conflict resolution in Pakistan is more possible now than in previous years?

CHAPTER 8: *The possible whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, the likelihood of their capture, and how Al-Qaeda's ideology can be confronted and countered.*

1. Why does Abbas believe Bin Laden and al-Zawahiri are in the NWFP, and how does he suggest militant ideologies can be challenged?

Questions for Further Discussion

1. What are some examples given in this webcast of the influence Middle Eastern countries' histories and interests can have on one another?
2. How has the relationship between Northwest Frontier Province tribes and religious militants progressed since the Afghan-Soviet war?
3. What are the pros and cons of the relationship Pakistan has developed with its tribes in the Northwest Frontier Province?

Recommended Resources

Recommendations have been provided by the speakers

Abbas, Hassan. *Police & Law Enforcement Reform in Pakistan: Crucial for Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism Success*. Clinton, Mich.: Report for Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, April 2009.

Abbas, Hassan. "Defining the Punjabi Taliban Network." *CTC Sentinel* 2, no. 4 (April 2009): 1-4.