

The Afghanistan Graveyard

Afghanistan is known as the “graveyard for empires:” Persians, Maurya Empire (India), Arabs, Mongols, then numerous internal wars, followed by Britain, Russians, and now the United States all have fought and lost in Afghanistan. Why? The country's terrain is impossible to seize; the people are adept at hiding and surviving from 1000 years of war and have nowhere to go, so they fight.

History alone tells us that foreign occupation of Afghanistan is a fruitless exercise in futility; stay ten years or 100, and the outcome will be the same: death and no acceptance by the populace.

Our mission should have been just to get Osama bin Laden and then get out. Nation Building in Afghanistan? Any historian could have told you the outcome on day one: defeat, or at least not winning.

The surprise should not be that we lost this war; it should be that the Afghanistan Army folded so quickly. Why did that happen? Bad leadership and an army with no cause, pure and simple. So, what of President Biden's decision to leave? It was leadership, honesty, and a recognition that this was only a place for the loss of more American lives and a waste of taxpayer money. President Biden should be thanked and praised for being the brave one to end this charade. He will take the hit for pulling out, which is the right thing to do. Can you honestly say you know anyone who thinks this was a winnable war?

From my perspective, I believe the generals are responsible for this debacle; for 20 years, they have been training and observing the Afghan Army, and they failed to determine how pitiful they are as soldiers. As for the rescue operations, let us not forget we lost this war; there is no safe highway for us and our Allies to calmly walk down the street to the waiting bus to take us home. Right now, the BEST we can hope for is that we leave on 31 August and none of our soldiers are attacked.

General MacArthur said on the withdrawal from Korea, “Whether this war is right or wrong, we cannot retire without dishonor.” This was said by a man who loved war and who had zero chance of returning home in a body bag, not by the mothers of those who were going to die there.

There is honor in serving and dying for your country; there is no honor in sending good soldiers to die for a cause you know is both unjust and unwinnable.

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