

Facts to know:

- Direct eye contact or shaking of hands between men and women is generally not considered appropriate.
- Hospitality is one of the most important virtues in Afghan culture. Guests should be offered the best that the household has to offer.
- Under 30% of the population is literate.
- The Soviet Union fought a long, unsuccessful war in Afghanistan during the 1980s. This war is considered the "Vietnam" of the U.S.S.R.

Current Events:

- As of 31 August 2021, the US has welcomed families and individuals; 643 (2021), 604 (2020), 1,198 (2019), and 805 (2018).
- Many of the problems facing Afghanistan have their roots in 1996, when the Taliban took over the country and instituted their own government. In 2001, in the wake of 9/11, the Taliban government refused to hand Osama bin Laden over to the United States. This prompted our invasion of the nation, which led to a Taliban-led insurgency war against the US-backed government in Kabul. This conflict has continued, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties and millions of displaced persons. In fact, there are 2.7 million Afghan refugees registered globally.
- After the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the US has initiated the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program here in the USA. Afghan individuals and families are in need of cultural mentors who will help them integrate into their new homes.

Sources for additional study : <http://www.culturalorientation.net/learning/backgrounders>, <https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals> Afghanistan Online, BBC, Britannica, Building Markets, Council on Foreign Relations, Culture Trip, Eton Institute, KonnectHQ, New York Times, Omniglot, Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project, Stacker, TripAdvisor, Trip101, U.S. Central Command

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