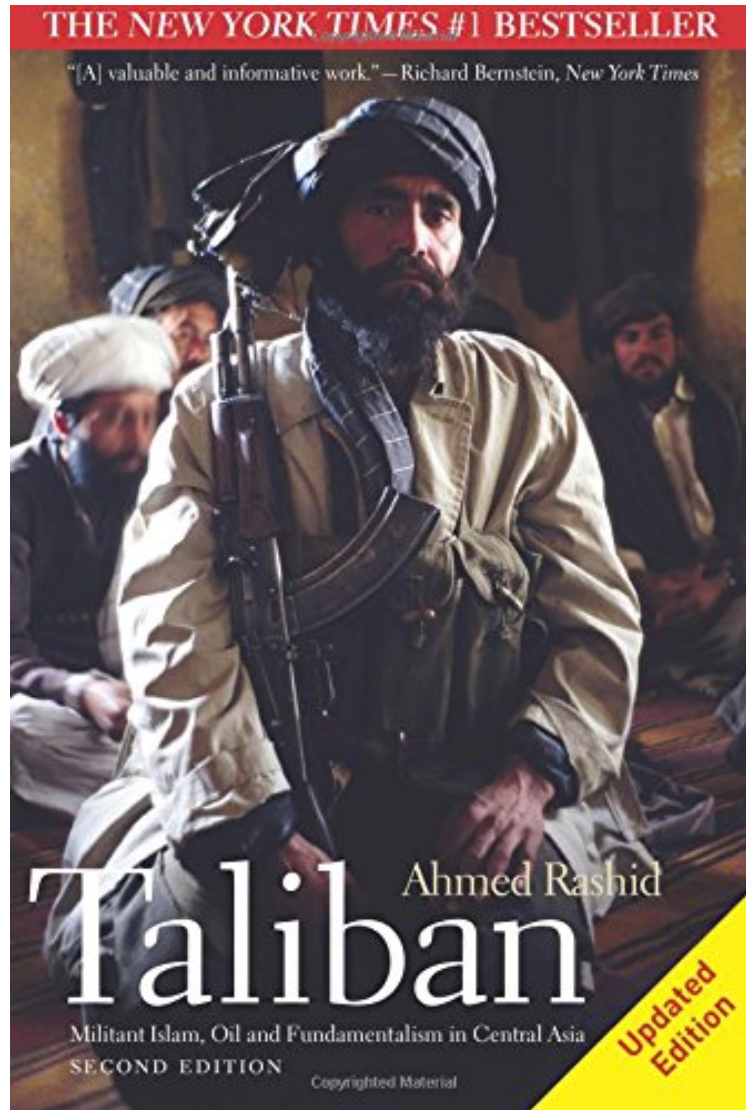


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## Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, Second Edition

Ahmed Rashid

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**Ahmed Rashid : Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, Second Edition** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, Second Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Rise of the Taliban and Implications for Central Asia By Michael Griswold Ahmed Rashid has written the gold standard of books on the Taliban. He charts the rise of Al Qaeda

from the Soviet war in Afghanistan to Afghan civil war, to a ruling government of sorts until after September 11th 2001. That alone would be impressive, but Rashid goes a step further by detailing the economic and security impacts the Taliban movement has had on the regional and global environment. No one from Afghan warlords to United States Presidents comes across as a choirboy in the rise of the Taliban or even as soon as they took power. What really comes across is that Afghanistan has been a train-wreck for decades and that history should be ignored by policy makers at their own risk. Afghanistan isn't just some isolated corner of the map, but as Afghanists' problems are starting to leak into other countries like Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and other former Soviet Republics, Iran, and even the United States. Although Rashid has added a 2000-2009 section on the Taliban's reemergence, some readers may want to know his thoughts on the post 2009 period. Try his 2013 release *Pakistan on the Brink*, but this is still a great background on the complicated land of Afghanistan. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for all. By Helmut A most comprehensive and enlightening account of this group's origins, ideology and threat to the West. It is amazing that an organization with no real central leadership is able to take control of an entire country. But without the support of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia they would not have continued to grow. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good read. By Customer As the author himself says in his preface to another book of his, this reads like a reporter's diary. One of the plus points is that the book gives a historical background to the events in Afghanistan, helpful particularly for the readers under thirty. The author makes a good case for the international community's more serious efforts at ameliorating the sufferings of those involved in this human tragedy. Brings out the shorted sightedness of the leaders of the world's most powerful democracy. One feels outraged. As one reads along, too many *dramatis personae* come in and is difficult to keep track. The author gives in the appendix, the who's who of the movement and its leadership but the list itself is quite a LONG LIST. The chapter on oil pipelines and the related appendix add another dimension to the problem but do not impress the reader as the major reason for the events in Afghanistan, particularly the appendix appears superfluous as the battle in Afghanistan appears to be an outcome of its bloody history and Taliban's reaction to it than oil economics /politics. The date line too, is useful for a more serious student of the history /politics of the region than an interested ordinary reader. May be the appendices will be more useful if one reads the book again for some more serious use. Overall, a good read that gives a comprehensive account of the travails of the region.

Correspondent Ahmed Rashid brings the shadowy world of the Taliban, the world's most extreme and radical Islamic organization, into sharp focus in this enormously insightful book. Rashid offers the only authoritative account of the Taliban available to English-language readers, explaining the Taliban's rise to power, its impact on Afghanistan and the Middle East and Central Asia, its role in oil and gas company decisions, and the effects of changing American attitudes toward the Taliban. He also describes the new face of Islamic fundamentalism and explains why Afghanistan has become the world center for international terrorism. New to this updated edition of the #1 New York Times Bestseller with more than 1.5 million copies sold worldwide: How the Taliban has regained its strength How and why the Taliban has spread across Central Asia How the Taliban has helped AlQaidas spread into Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East Why the Afghan people feel the United States is losing the war A major new introduction and an all-new final chapter

.com This is the single best book available on the Taliban, the fundamentalist Islamic regime in Afghanistan responsible for harboring the terrorist Osama bin Laden. Ahmed Rashid is a Pakistani journalist who has spent most of his career reporting on the region--he has personally met and interviewed many of the Taliban's shadowy leaders. *Taliban* was written and published before the massacres of September 11, 2001, yet it is essential reading for anyone who hopes to understand the aftermath of that black day. It includes details on how and why the Taliban came to power, the government's oppression of ordinary citizens (especially women), the heroin trade, oil intrigue, and--in a vitally relevant chapter--bin Laden's sinister rise to power. These pages contain stories of mass slaughter, beheadings, and the Taliban's crushing war against freedom: under Mullah Omar, it has banned everything from kite flying to singing and dancing at weddings. Rashid is for the most part an objective reporter, though his rage sometimes (and understandably) comes to the surface: "The Taliban were right, their interpretation of Islam was right, and everything else was wrong and an expression of human weakness and a lack of piety," he notes with sarcasm. He has produced a compelling portrait of modern evil. --John Miller From *Library Journal* Afghanistan's position as a crossroads in Central Asia made it part of the 19th-century Great Game of imperialism and brings it to international strategic prominence once again. Rashid is a correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic* who has covered Afghanistan's changing fortunes since the 1978 Soviet invasion. In his second book, he covers the origin and rise of the Taliban, its concepts of Islam on questions of gender roles and drugs, and the importance of the country to the development of energy resources in the region. His account of the Taliban's origins among the Pashtun refugees in Pakistani camps and their minimal education in Koranic schools from poorly educated teachers explains their lack of knowledge of the history and culture of their own country and of what it means to govern. The failed state that is now Afghanistan threatens to destabilize its neighbors by exporting both drugs and extremist views. Unlike Peter Marsden's *Taliban: War Religion and the New*

Order in Afghanistan (Oxford Univ., 1998), this new work emphasizes the international implications of the Taliban and its government. A lucid and thoroughly researched account, it is recommended for academic and most public libraries.-Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "[A] valuable and informative work."Richard Bernstein, New York Times (on the first edition)