

The exact number of **Taliban** forces is unknown. The group's **aim** is to impose its interpretation of Islamic law on Afghanistan and remove foreign influence from the country.

Al Qaeda and the **Taliban**: Not the Same Thing. ... **Al Qaeda** is a global terrorist movement with the United States (including the American homeland) as a prominent, if not the primary, target. The **Taliban** is a Pashtun political movement with a focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan's largely Pashtun border-region. **Bin Laden** believed that Afghanistan, under the rule of Mullah Omar's **Taliban**, was "the only Islamic country" in the Muslim world.



The Taliban emerged as a force for social order in 1994 in the southern Afghan province of [Kandahār](#) and quickly subdued the local warlords who controlled the south of the country. By late 1996, popular support for the Taliban among Afghanistan's southern [Pashtun ethnic group](#), as well as assistance from [conservative](#) Islamic elements abroad, had enabled the faction to seize the capital, [Kabul](#), and gain effective control of the country. Resistance to the Taliban continued, however, particularly among non-Pashtun ethnic groups—namely, the [Tajik](#), the [Uzbek](#), and the [Hazāra](#)—in the north, west, and central parts of the country, who saw the power of the predominantly Pashtun Taliban as a continuation of the traditional Pashtun [hegemony](#) of the country. By 2001 the Taliban controlled all but a small section of northern Afghanistan. The Taliban's refusal to extradite bin Laden to the [United States](#) following the attacks on the [World Trade Center](#) in [New York City](#) and on the [Pentagon](#) outside Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, prompted a military confrontation with the United States and allied powers (see [September 11 attacks](#); [Afghanistan War](#)). The Taliban was subsequently driven from power.

Worksheet 7



Name _____, Sec _____, Id# _____, Date _____.

Q1) “The Talibans are the menace to the modern educated civilization.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer briefly.

Q2) What can be done by the U.N to dismantle the Taliban? Explain your answer briefly.
