**Rise of the Taliban**

The Taliban began amid the anarchy of Afghanistan when a local strongman raped several girls in the summer of 1994. Locals turned to a mullah named Mohammed Omar and his religious students. The students responded to further calls from other victims of lawlessness. Thus, the ranks of the Taliban grew with society’s desperate desire for order (Tanner).

The Taliban, in a raid against Spinbaldak, captured over 18,000 AK-47s and all the ammunition, which were meant for Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Afghan warlord whose weapons were funded for by the CIA (Tanner). This allowed for the Taliban to begin its raid against Kandahar, which was stockpiled with guns, ammunition, tanks, and even Soviet helicopters. With this new arsenal, the Taliban swept across Afghanistan, razing provinces and recruiting thousands of volunteers powered with religious fervor to their cause, thus beginning the growth of the Taliban.

**Taliban Today**

“While the Afghans may have been liberated from Soviet occupation, instead they suffered fourteen years of civil war.” (Wolf)

The Taliban Insurgency rose from the remains of the Taliban during the 2001 War in Afghanistan.