

Soviet war in Afghanistan - patterns of Russian imperialism

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The Revolution and Russian Imperialism

A further 21,000 personnel were with the Soviet troop contingent over the same period doing various white collar and blue collar jobs. They arrived without their combat gear, disguised as technical specialists.

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Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Contacts between the United States and Afghanistan increased during the 1950s, especially during the Cuban Revolution between 1953 and 1959.

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Although they were controlled within Pakistan's largest province, under then-ruler General , the influx of so many refugees — believed to be the largest refugee population in the world — spread into several other regions. Soviet combat forces increased their direct operations in 1979, deploying across the country by 1981 in combat against the Mujahedeen, or national resistance. By forcing the people of Afghanistan to flee their homes, the Soviets hoped to deprive the guerrillas of resources and safe havens.

Soviet war in Afghanistan

Daoud abolished the monarchy, abrogated the 1964 constitution, and declared Afghanistan a republic with himself as its first President and Prime Minister. Most casualties were under 20 years old. February 15 is celebrated as the Day of Commemoration of those killed in the War in Afghanistan.

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