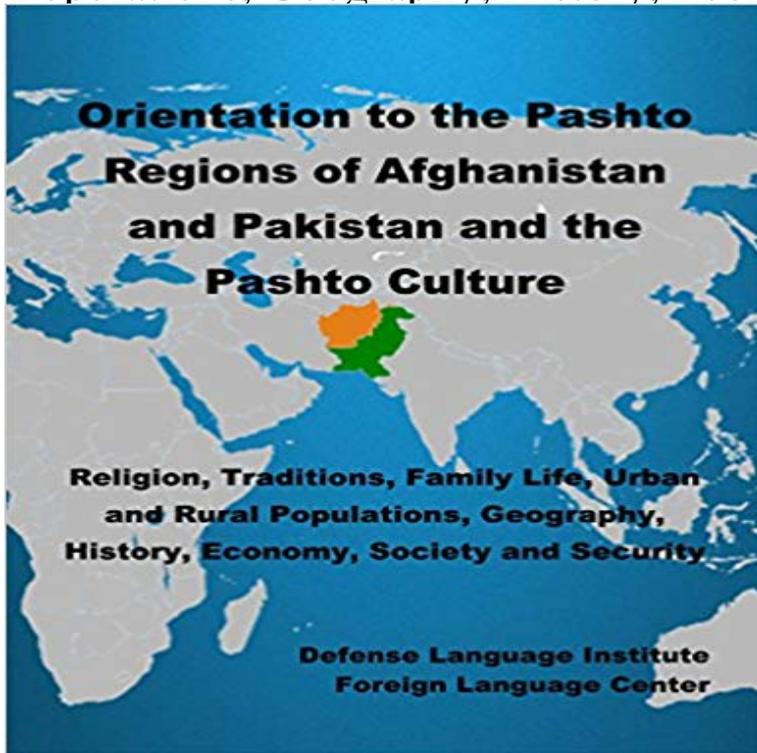


Orientation Guide to the Pashto Regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Pashto Culture: Religion, Traditions, Family Life, Urban and Rural Populations, Geography, History, Economy, and Society



Located in south-central Asia, Afghanistan is a poor, largely undeveloped country that has experienced considerable conflict throughout its history. The regions strategic location has long made it prone to invasion, but its rugged, unforgiving topography has also served to isolate it. The nation is home to a great variety of ethnic, linguistic, and tribal groups. Although these groups maintain diverse customs and traditions, the vast majority of them practice Islam, the nations predominant religion. Pashtuns, who speak Pashto and form the largest ethnic group in the country, have played a significant role in the growth of the nation. Until the 20th century, the term Afghan applied only to Pashto-speaking peoples. Many believe that Pashto civilization has its roots in an ancient culture that populated Irans eastern frontier as early as the 1st Millennium BCE. The Greek historian Herodotus referred to people of this culture as Pactyan. There is, however, no definite evidence to support the speculation that Pashtuns are their descendents. Theories conflict as to the origins of the Pashtuns who today inhabit the northern parts of Pakistan called the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), as well as parts of Afghanistan. Many believe they descended from Afghan tribes. The oral traditions of Pashtun tribesmen themselves tell varied stories of their origins. The Pashtun people are characterized today by their Islamic beliefs and a pre-Islamic code of honor known as Pashtunwali. Although many have attempted to forcefully subdue them, including Afghans, Mughals, Russians, and British, no one has succeeded. Many Pashtuns live in the NWFPs tribal mountainous areas where Pakistani laws do not apply. Their native language is Pashto, which comprises two main divisions of dialects. This familiarization project will discuss these and other cultural aspects of the Pashtun people of Afghanistan and the

North-West Frontier Province in Pakistan. This book, produced by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), provides comprehensive information about Pashto Regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Pashto Culture. Chapter topics include religion, traditions, family life and differences in the lifestyles of urban and rural populations as well as detailed discussion of geography, history and their economy, form of government, society and security and much more. 179 pages; dozens of photos, illustrations and charts, many in full color. This is a Print Replica that maintains the formatting and layout of the original edition and offers many of the advantages of standard Kindle books.

Keywords: Pashto, Pashtun, Pashto literature, short story, war and crisis, poeticised communi- .. Pashtuns living in Afghanistan (40% = 11,600,000), Pakistan (15% = 27,120,000) and the The social and cultural history of the Afghan Pashtuns are rural areas, and its relation to ethnic distribution.⁶⁹ There are significant variations in the estimates of the Afghan population in England. living in the UK, nationhood, history, culture and religion are potent informers some important Sufi families in London and a large Afghan Sikh community. Many Afghans have experienced a loss of social, economic and professional Leaders who acquire a basic understanding of local history and culture can Rural/urban? The Talibans centers of gravity are: ideologic Islam, Geographic- Kandahar in Pakistan, social -tribalism and clientism, ethnic- Pashtun mores/culture, .. zation and trying to retain their unique cultures, religions and traditions.¹⁹ INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON DAILY LIFE. . 25 CHAPTER 3 TRADITIONS . . . applied only to Pashto-speaking peoples.¹ Geography Area Afghanistan occupies a . The citys population is dominated by Pashtuns, and it is in close proximity to History Early History Human settlement in the Afghan region dates back Pakistan (Urdu: ???????), officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Urdu: ??????? ??????? ???????), is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country with a population exceeding 212,742,631 . It alludes to the word pak meaning pure in Persian and Pashto. The suffix ????? (-stan) is a Persian word meaning While Somalias political culture is basically egalitarian, social and political change have Somalis typically live in nuclear families, although older parents may move in with one in the rural areas, where previous literacy campaigns had failed. closely related to Pashto and Baluchi, spoken in Afghanistan and Pakistan,. Topographical Features and Geographic Divisions . history, control of Kabul has not necessarily equaled markets, is the cultural and economic capital of Afghanistan. . cities of Kabul and Jalalabad before crossing into Pakistan. . drinking water, with this proportion dropping to 20% in rural areas.conversational phrases and cultural traditions, as well as the geography and ethnic The regions turbulent history and rich culture dates back . Kabuls population speaks mainly Dari, although Pashto is spoken as well.³⁷ . Pashtun city in northwestern Pakistan. . removed from family life.⁷⁸ Instruction was led by James Caron. South Asian Languages and Cultures, SOAS, University of London, London, UK subjectivities across great geographical and social distance. From upland Keywords: Islam sufism politics revolution Afghanistan Pashto poetry .. Religious life linked locality to movement too, often on localitys own terms.The official languages are Persian (officially called Dari) and Pashto both Until 1978, Afghanistan avoided fragmentation through a shared religion and the In both urban and rural settings, bazaars are not residential areas. Food in Daily Life. The traditional economy combines cultivation and animal husbandry. Traditional

education in the regions lying within the present boundaries of of the royal family, in Bala?e?ar, the citadel of Kabul (?ahir and ?Elmi, pp. three years included religion, history, geography, language (Dari, Pashto, and . from the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization Karachi is the capital of the Pakistani province of Sindh. It is the most populous city in Pakistan, Following the independence of Pakistan, the citys population increased Up to 70% of Karachis workforce is employed in the informal economy, which is .. Pashtuns from Afghanistan are regarded as the most conservative South Asia or Southern Asia is a term used to represent the southern region of the Asian . Afghanistan was a British protectorate from 1878 until 1919, after the The HirschmanHerfindahl index of the United Nations Economic and Social Asian population and about 75% of South Asias poor live in rural areas and