

Afghanistan

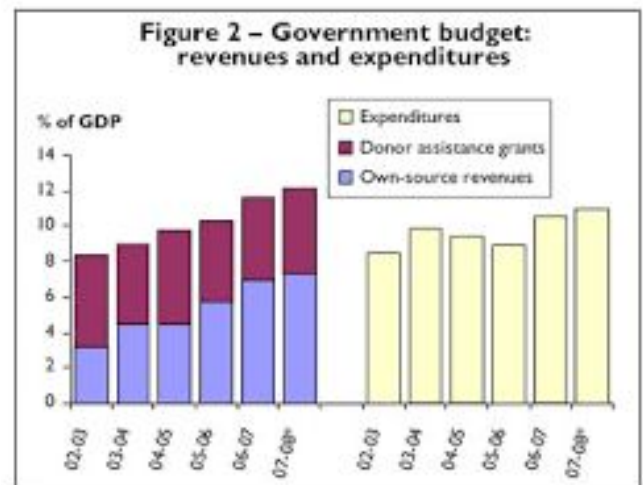


Recent Events

- Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to support Afghan communist regime.
 - This caused a long and destructive war
- The USSR withdrew in 1989
- The Taliban movement emerged to stop civil war and anarchy
- Many civil wars caused Kabul to fall in 1996 to the taliban
- Taliban continued to gain power and military strength
- In 2001, war in Afghanistan started off again because of terrorist attack from the Taliban. This caused USA to fight against taliban
- Also in 2001, UN sponsored conference called for political reconstruction
- In 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first democratic president of Afghanistan
- In 2014, Ghani became president among accusations of fraud

Economics

- Afghanistan is recovering from decades of conflict
- Economy has improved significantly since the Taliban's fall in 2001
- Despite progress, the nation is still poor and landlocked
- Afghanistan is highly dependent on aid from other nations
- Challenges for future economic growth include difficulty in government, criminality, lack of infrastructure, and more
- More reforms will take time to implement
- Afghanistan will remain dependent on international support over the next several years



Political Structure

- Afghanistan's current leader is *Ashraf Ghani*
- He came to power by becoming elected over Abdullah Abdullah
- Afghanistan has a Islamic Republic
- Afghanistan has had a republic, a peoples democratic party, and communism since 1970
- The functions of the current government are that it has a penal code of the state and it works with some or all laws of Sharia. Because it is a Republic, people vote for the leader of the country
- The advantages that this government has had on Afghanistan is that it has strengthened the political structure of Afghanistan because of voting for a leader. The disadvantage of this government is that it can wrongly accuse people of crime and the punishments can be very severe



Physical Structure

- In terms of size, Afghanistan is in total, 652,230 square kilometers
- The nation is both mountainous and in the desert
- The population of Afghanistan is 33,332,025 (July 2016)
- Since 1970, the population has increased 22,312,025 people
- This has added more people and caused overcrowding



Culture and Society

By Jordan and Matthew

Population: 33,332,025 (July 2016 est.)

Languages:

- Afghan Persian or Dari (Official)-50%
- Pashto (Official)-35%
- Turkic languages-11%
- 30 minor languages-4%

Religions (2009 est.):

- Muslim-99.7% (Sunni 84.7-89.7%, Shia 10-15%)
- Other-.3%

Life Expectancy:

- Male-49.9 years
- Female-52.7

