The US Debacle in Afghanistan: Resources

Historians for Peace and Democracy

Rusti Eisenberg and Jim O’Brien of Historians for Peace and Democracy (H-PAD) compiled the following digest of articles responding to the US debacle in Afghanistan with the reflections of historians and journalists critical of the twenty year US war for the H-PAD Blog. We share the list for your reference. Please visit the H-PAD website for more.

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Gordon Adams, Afghanistan only the latest US war to be driven by deceit and delusion, The Conversation, posted August 17


Andrew Bacevich, Through its Misuse of Military Power the United States has Made a Terrible Mess in Afghanistan, Responsible Statecraft, posted August 16

Patrick Cockburn, The US and UK got things so wrong in Afghanistan because they do not understand the Afghan way of war, Yahoo News, posted August 17

Juan Cole, Déjà vu All Over Again: The Last Time Mazar-i-Sharif Fell to the Taliban There Were Massacres, Informed Comment blog, posted August 15

Anatol Lieven, The Generals Lied and the Fantasies Died, Responsible Statecraft, posted August 16

Anatol Lieven, Why Afghan Forces So Quickly Laid Down Their Arms, Politico, posted August 16

Samuel Moyn, Biden Pulled Troops Out of Afghanistan. He didn’t End the Forever War, Responsible Statecraft, posted August 17

Paul Pillar, Taliban and Al Qaeda: If there is no war, there won’t be an alliance, Responsible Statecraft, posted August 19

Vijay Prashad, The Return of the Taliban 20 Years Later, CounterPunch.org, posted August 19

Nick Turse, *The Fall of Kabul*, Reader Supported News, posted August 16

Katrina vanden Heuvel, *Rather than Focus on How the US Got out of Afghanistan, Focus on How It Got In*, Washington Post, posted August 17

Robert Wright, *How the Afghanistan War Really Started: And how seeing its origins in Cold War geopolitics can help us avoid future disasters*, Nonzero Newsletter, posted August 16

**Very Helpful Primary Sources**, See especially:

Special Inspector General Report, *What We Need to Learn: Lessons from Twenty Years of Afghanistan Reconstruction*