

# Afghanistan in the 20th & 21st centuries

1923  
absolute monarchy

1964  
constitutional monarchy

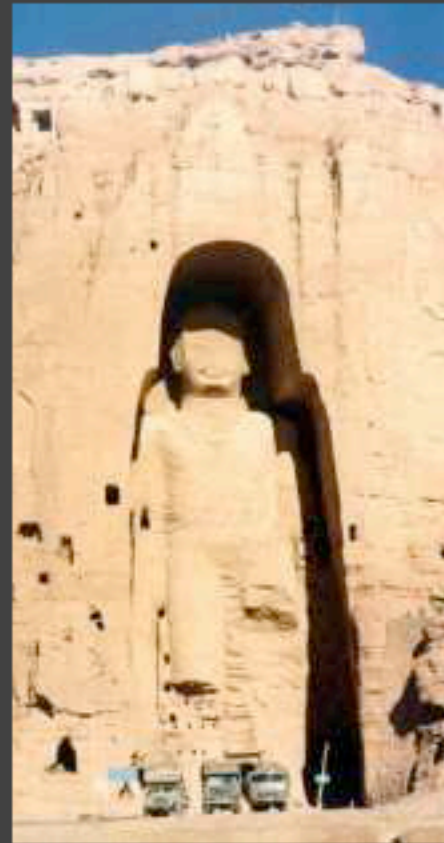
1973-1977  
republic

1978-1992  
soviet rule and communism

1996-2001  
taliban

2002  
transitional government

2003  
permanent constitution



Bamiyan Buddha statue in Afghanistan, before being destroyed by the Taliban

- Soviets take control after coupe
  - Constant fighting between Soviets and resistance fighters
  - Soviets leave in 1989, but leave a Communist regime
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- Harsh interpretation of Islamic law
  - Destroyed relics that were not Islamic
  - Fell when they did not give into the United States demands after September 11, 2001

# Afghanistan

# AFGHANISTAN

## Geography

- Mountainous
- Landlocked



## Country Facts

- Languages:  
Pahstu & Dari
- Major Cities:  
Kabul, Kandahar, Herat,  
Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz
- Population:  
21.7 million\*

\*Based on estimates  
from last population  
count in 1993

## Religion

- 99% Muslim:  
Sunni  
80-90%  
Shi'-ah  
10-20%



## Life

- 70 % farmers & herders
- Over 2 million nomads - *kochi*
- Life centers around family
- 1/8 pop. have access to safe drinking water