



NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

June 2022

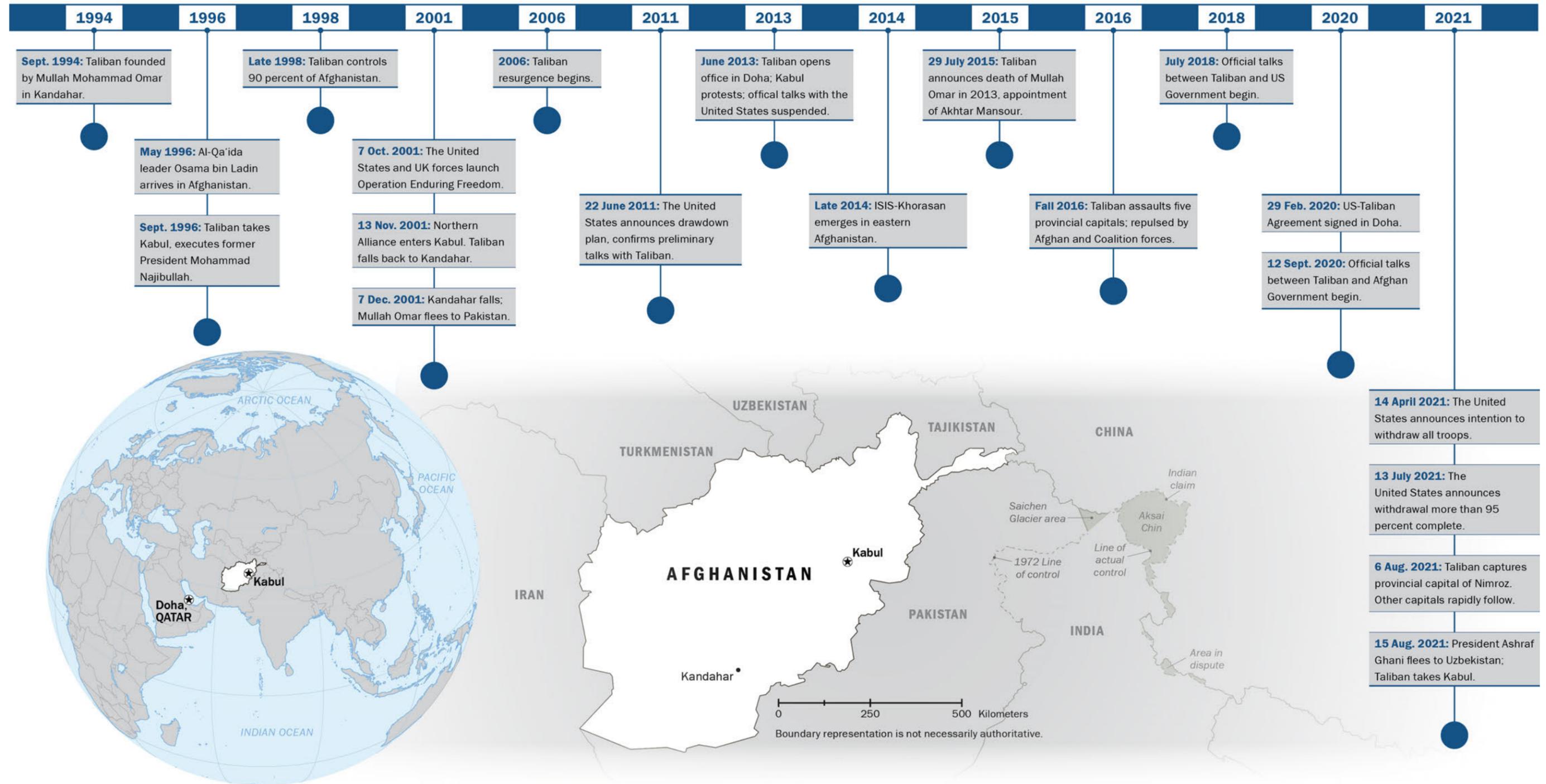
NIE 2022-06369-A

[REDACTED]

Afghanistan: Implications of Taliban Rule

(U) Key Developments in Taliban History

(U) This timeline and map are UNCLASSIFIED.





(U) Key Takeaway

[REDACTED] We assess that through 2025, the Taliban regime will depend on international aid to prevent humanitarian catastrophe and use harsh tactics to maintain control of the population. Although the Taliban almost certainly will be more engaged internationally than it was during its previous rule, the regime probably will remain on the periphery of the global community and will largely ignore external pressure to alter its fundamental governing approach. It probably will try to restrain terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan.

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Key Judgment 1: Taliban Rule Repressive, Secure:** The Taliban regime will prioritize enforcement of theocratic rule over building a modern state. It will remain cohesive and broadly in control of the country, even as it alienates portions of the population. The formal economy will become weaker, and the Taliban almost certainly will roll back much of the last two decades' social and civic liberalization.

[REDACTED] **Key Judgment 2: Persistent Humanitarian Crisis:** Most Afghans will face dire humanitarian conditions, including acute food insecurity that could reach famine proportions. Humanitarian conditions will drive high levels of internal population displacement; Taliban and regional permissiveness, and Afghans' access to cash and aid will largely determine the scale and direction of external migration.

[REDACTED] **Key Judgment 3: Regional Focus on Risk-Management:** Afghanistan's level of regional integration will remain low under Taliban rule. The difficulties of working with the Taliban are likely to drive regional actors to minimize their involvement in Afghanistan and narrow their interests largely to keeping problems contained within the country.

[REDACTED] **Key Judgment 4: Taliban Actions and Will Key to External Terrorist Threat:** The Taliban's capability and willingness will largely determine the terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan. ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) will pose the most pressing threat to the region, including fighting the Taliban, and will take advantage of opportunities to threaten the West, whereas al-Qa'ida elements will need an extended period of restructuring before they will be capable of threatening the region and the West from Afghanistan.

