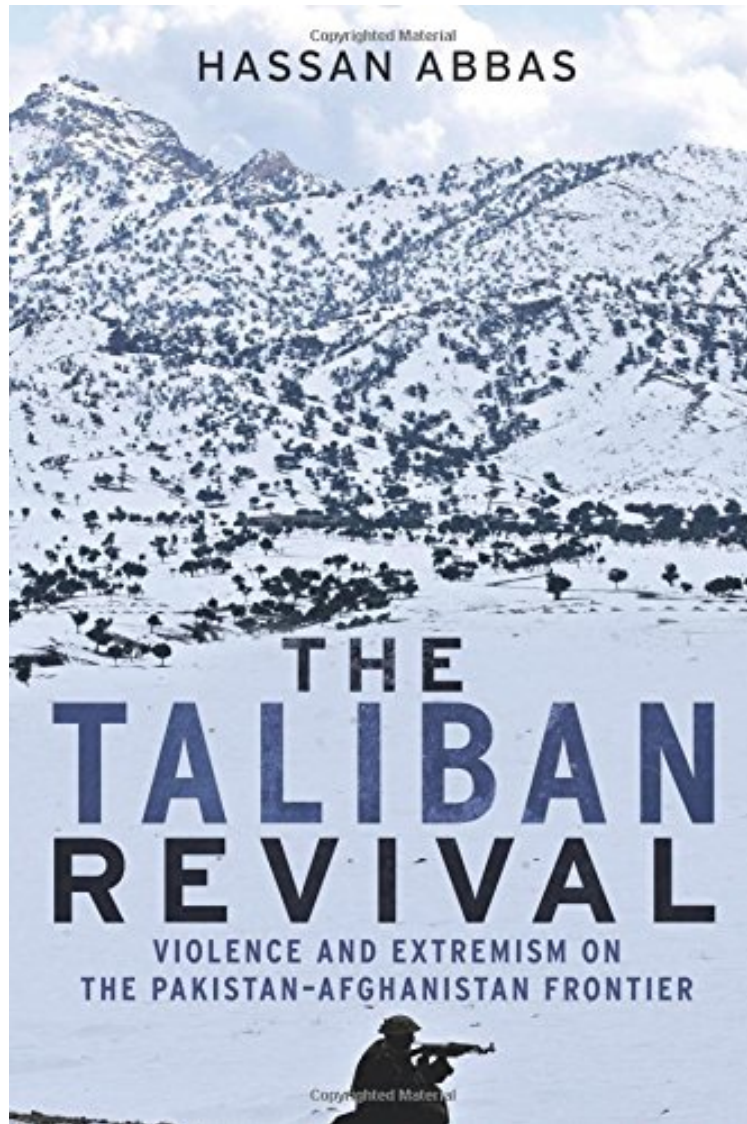


The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier

Hassan Abbas

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Hassan Abbas : The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A National Security Treasure By Bing West A National Security Treasure For those interested in security matters in Afghanistan and Pakistan - and that should include our Pentagon,

State Department and White House - Dr. Abbas is a national security treasure. While I do not know him personally, his book about the Taliban revival is that rare combination of deep geopolitical expertise and clear English narrative. For the reader, he begins by posing a mystery: how could the Taliban, thoroughly defeated physically and psychologically in 2001, regain power and fight to a standstill in American military that invested hundreds of billions of dollars and 100,000 well-trained troops? Dr. Abbas then proceeds, chapter by chapter, to solve the mystery by educating the reader in the complicated post-1960s histories of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This book is a credit to the National Defense University for employing Dr. Abbas and encouraging research and writing that positively contributes to a deeper understanding of a critical and complex subject. Yale University Press is also to be congratulated for editing and publishing a clear and expert contribution to our geopolitical knowledge. - Bing West 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book by a great author on the Taliban By Dan Wilson Great book by a great author on the Taliban. A must for anyone who wants to understand more about the issues in this part of the world and how it affects the U.S. It also reveals the failures of the U.S. on many levels which is also necessary for understanding this region and its people. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A different take on the subject! certainly a must buy! By Aakash Tolani This one is different to what is usually out there! However, it is well argued, balanced and gives new dimensions to the subject. I for one, particularly enjoyed reading the book. Abbas adds humor in it, which lightens ones mood while reading on such a serious issue. The language and tone of book keeps the reader interested. Chapters are linked pretty well. One does not have to look back and forth to revise basics, as Abbas has given information on many sub-topics and critical issues repeatedly. This certainly gets the message to the reader loud and clear. I do not place this book in the 'Pakistan is perpetrator of all crimes' camp, nor do I put it in the "Pakistan is a victim from all corners" camp. From my own readings, I conclude it is a well-balanced account of things. The personal insights of the author are indeed thought provoking. I suggest if one is buying books authored by usual western names out there, this one ought to be bought to at least have another or rather Pakistani security (not defense!) personnel's perspective to the issue.

The true story of the Taliban's remarkable resurgence in Pakistan and war-torn Afghanistan more than a decade after the U.S. military's post-9/11 incursion. In autumn 2001, U.S. and NATO troops were deployed to Afghanistan to unseat the Taliban rulers, repressive Islamic fundamentalists who had lent active support to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda jihadists. The NATO forces defeated and dismantled the Taliban government, scattering its remnants across the country. But despite a more than decade-long attempt to eradicate them, the Taliban endured regrouping and reestablishing themselves as a significant insurgent movement. Gradually they have regained control of large portions of Afghanistan even as U.S. troops are preparing to depart from the region. In his authoritative and highly readable account, author Hassan Abbas examines how the Taliban not only survived but adapted to their situation in order to regain power and political advantage. Abbas traces the roots of religious extremism in the area and analyzes the Taliban's support base within Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas. In addition, he explores the roles that Western policies and military decision making not to mention corruption and incompetence in Kabul have played in enabling the Taliban's resurgence.

In this highly readable new book, Hassan Abbas offers a detailed examination of how and why the Taliban not only survived, but were able to regain power and advantage. . . . Abbas' account is both nuanced and highly knowledgeable, reflecting his experiences as a young police officer in the Pashtun areas through the lens of an experienced academic. Christina Hellmich, Times Higher Education Supplement