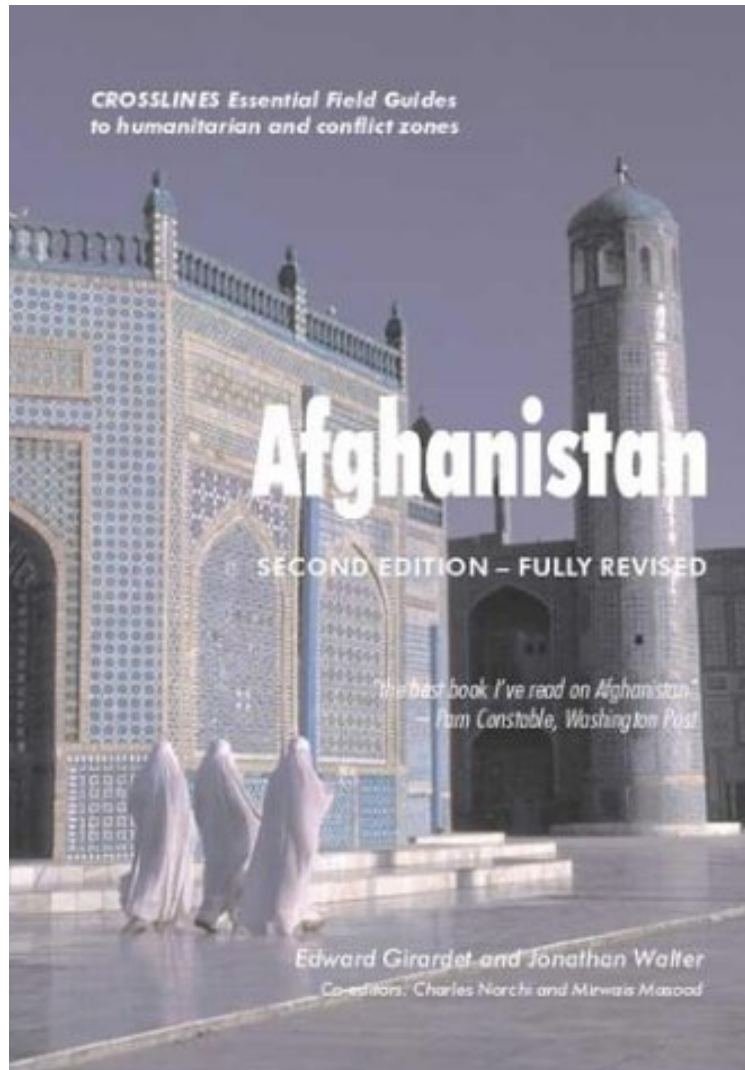


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Edward Girardet, Jonathan Walter
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Afghanistan, I would recommend the Essential Field Guide as a must to all US and Coalition soldiers and peacekeepers. It could save their lives and US policy. The guide provides exactly the sort of quick understanding with excellent overviews and infobriefs on culture, economies, health, environment, ethnic groups etc. that would prove more than useful through a more thorough understanding of this country and its people. Edward Girardet, who has written for the Christian Science Monitor and National Geographic, is also one of the top experts on the country since first reporting it at the beginning of the Soviet invasion. Apart from its information, the guide is simply a joy - and incredibly interesting - to read. Anyone serious about Afghanistan - aid worker, journalist, diplomat, academic, traveller, human rights advocate...should have a copy if not in their pocket then certainly on their bookshelves. Political science and journalism students should also study this as a must. It beats most other books on Afghanistan. Girardet and Walter and the Crosslines publishers should definitely do other books on humanitarian and conflict zones elsewhere. If they can do the same for Africa or the Middle East as they have with Afghanistan, they are doing an incredible service to all concerned.

Updated to reflect recent events, this guidebook provides a unique and indispensable tool for anyone working and traveling in Afghanistan. Specially commissioned articles from leading experts in the field examine Afghanistans historical legacy and contemporary milieu, covering everything from the security situation and the resurgence of the Taliban to two decades of human rights abuses and the current situation of women. Street maps for all major cities, practical advice on daily survival, important contacts, and a list of key phrases make this an essential practical resource for any visitor to Afghanistan. Detailed information and statistics on key political and humanitarian sectors are included.

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About the Author
Edward Girardet has written and edited several books, including Afghanistan: The Soviet War. As a foreign correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor and US News and World Report, he first began covering Afghanistan several months prior to the Soviet invasion in 1979. He is currently the editor of Crosslines. Jonathan Walter is the editor of the World Disasters Report, published by the international Red Cross and author of The End of Development. He served for five years as an officer in the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas. Charles Norchi is a fellow at Yale University's International Security Studies program, is a director of the Policy Sciences Center, Inc., and has served as executive director of the International League for Human Rights and the Afghanistan War Crimes Project. He has published articles on international affairs in several books and publications, including The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The International Herald Tribune, Crosslines, The Yale Journal of World Affairs, and The Harvard Law . Mirwais Masood began his career teaching English for Afghan refugees in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 1996. Originally from Kabul, he has reported for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and researched for National Geographic.