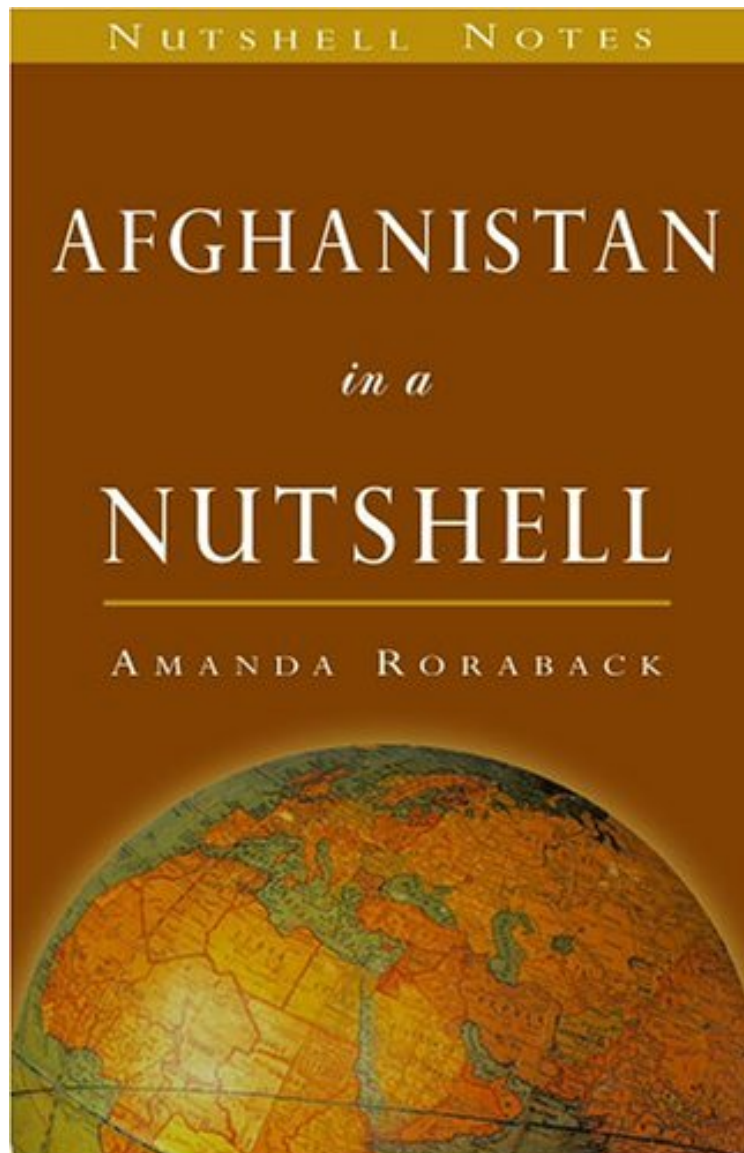


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## Afghanistan in a Nutshell (Nutshell Notes Series)

*Amanda Roraback*

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**Amanda Roraback : Afghanistan in a Nutshell (Nutshell Notes Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Afghanistan in a Nutshell (Nutshell Notes Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good overviewBy Deborah VThis 2004 book gives you a good overview of this enigmatic country that no one yet has been able to conquer let alone change through wars and interventions.I picked this up at a library book sale due to the title--Afghanistan in a Nutshell. I didn't want to read a lengthy tome on the country, but wanted some background. And since the book was written in 2004 and it is now

2013, obviously some things have changed. What you will find in the book are brief rundowns of the facts and figures, people and policies, background of the country, ancient history and modern history. You'll find outdated information on the Taliban and bin Laden, but still interesting to read (and easy too since this is a nutshell remember). There is also a section on foreign relations with Pakistan and the US. You probably could skip that since nothing is as it was! The issues section discusses opium, women and Al Qaeda. There is a section on culture and religion which will give you an understanding of the militant approach to Islamic law (combined with the section on history). There are maps, an illustration and some nice timelines. One of the sections I found most interesting was the one on Issues. I knew that Afghanistan grew heroin, but didn't realize that in 2004 they supplied 86 percent of the world's heroin. I was interested enough to look up some figures that are more current--and in May of 2012, Reuters stated that the country supplied some 90 percent of the world's opium (from which heroin is made) and much of the money/profit lines the pockets of the insurgents at around \$100 million a year and the traffickers earn over a billion dollars. Scary stuff! If you want to take a quick look at Afghanistan--this book is a nice place to start even as outdated as some of the information is!

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. This IS Afghanistan in a nutshell By William A great guide for anyone who wants background information on a volatile country ... This book is a well-rounded assembly of facts, timelines, definitions, and general information that covers an array of topics from the origin of Muslim influence in Afghanistan, to the current state of the Taliban rule and its affects on its people. We also get background information on Osama Bin Laden leading up to and following his declaration of war on the United States. Overall, I give this book a very high rating. It both summarized what I've already learned about Afghanistan..., and has also given me a broader understanding of the region and its history.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Helpful overview By landour wallah I found the book to be a useful overview of Afghanistan history in under 100 pages. Because any book is slightly outdated when it is published, some figures might be better downloaded from the internet, such as current population estimates. The historical background was very helpful in understanding recent events, and trends over the years.

The first edition of "Afghanistan in a Nutshell" was introduced in October 2001 -- only a month after the terrorist attack on U.S. cities. It was listed on the LA Times bestseller list soon after -- kicking off the growing Nutshell Notes book series (which also includes titles on Pakistan, Islam, Iraq and Israel-Palestine). A year later, a second edition was printed that included information on Hamid Karzai, the appointed head of Afghanistan's interim government, and other updated information. In 2004, the 3rd edition of "Afghanistan in a Nutshell" was published with short, easy-to-read chapters on the Taliban, Islam, Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan's foreign relations (with Pakistan, Iran and the United States). The book also answers some of the basic questions about terrorism, opium, Afghan women, refugees, mines, oil, art and al Qaeda and navigates through Afghanistan's recovery after the 2001 war with the United States.

Political and social shifts are what Roraback is counting on to make her Nutshell books a hit. -- Bob Pool, LA Times, April 7, 2003

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About the Author Amanda Roraback is a high-in-demand historian, writer and speaker specializing in worldwide events, international relations and differing cultures and ideologies. She holds both a BA and an MA in history and has been involved in advanced study related to the History PhD program at UCLA. Amanda's writing includes the World in a Nutshell series (Afghanistan in a Nutshell, Iraq in a Nutshell [both LA Times Bestsellers], Pakistan in a Nutshell, Islam in a Nutshell and Israel-Palestine in a Nutshell), as well as papers, articles and technical reviews.