

**AFGHANISTAN AND THE AFGHANS:  
BEING A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE HISTORY  
OF THE COUNTRY, AND ACCOUNT OF  
ITS PEOPLE, WITH A SPECIAL REFERENCE  
TO THE PRESENT CRISIS AND WAR WITH  
THE AMIR SHER ALI KHAN**

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**H. W. BELLEW**

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# Afghanistan and the Afghans:

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SPECIAL REFERENCE

TO

THE PRESENT CRISIS AND WAR WITH THE  
AMIR SHER ALI KHAN.

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"The Indus to the Tigris;" "Kashmir and Kashghar;" "Dictionary and Grammar  
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SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,  
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1879.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. The text notes that such records serve as a critical tool for monitoring performance, identifying inefficiencies, and ensuring that resources are used effectively and ethically.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with implementing robust record-keeping systems. It highlights the need for standardized procedures, adequate training for staff, and the use of modern technology to streamline data collection and storage. The text also points out that consistent updates and regular audits are necessary to ensure the reliability and integrity of the records over time.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the legal and ethical implications of record-keeping. It discusses the importance of protecting sensitive information and ensuring that data is handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The text stresses that maintaining accurate records is not only a legal requirement but also a moral obligation to the public, as it ensures that government actions are subject to scrutiny and oversight.

4. The fourth part of the document provides practical recommendations for improving record-keeping practices. It suggests that organizations should establish clear policies and procedures, invest in reliable hardware and software, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability. The text also recommends that regular training and updates be provided to staff to ensure they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain accurate records.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by reiterating the significance of accurate record-keeping for the success of any organization, particularly in the public sector. It emphasizes that while the process may be challenging, the benefits of having reliable and accessible records far outweigh the costs. The text ends with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to commit to high standards of record-keeping to ensure the long-term effectiveness and integrity of their operations.

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## PREFACE.

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THE final rupture between our Government and the Amir of Kabul, which has been impending at any time during the past four or five years—and which assumed a more threatening aspect after his contemptuous treatment of the Viceroy's polite invitation to the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, by which act he signalized himself as the only independent ruler in diplomatic relations with the Government of India who refused to be represented at that august ceremony—has all of a sudden been brought prominently before the British people by the warlike action of Government

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to resent the premeditated and unprovoked insult of a spoiled and petted barbarian neighbour who has mistaken conciliation for fear, and forbearance for weakness. And the circumstance has naturally led to the public discussion of the causes which have brought about this crisis in the relations heretofore subsisting between that Ruler and ourselves.

In the course of this discussion, as it is represented in the periodicals of the day by the utterances of those who are the guides of public opinion at home, one sees the subject treated piecemeal from different points of view, based upon an isolated occurrence, according to the information and bias of the author or speaker, but nowhere with a comprehensive grasp of the whole case; thus leaving the people to form their opinions upon incomplete premises.



Convinced as I am of the very great importance to our national interests of the thorough comprehension by the nation of the character of our previous relations, and of the nature of our final rupture with the Amir of Kabul, and assured as I am of our power to safeguard our own rights over the whole country which we have assisted him to hold as the frontier province of our own Empire in India, I have ventured to put together for submission to the consideration and inquiry of the nation a very brief account of the country and people ruled by the Amir with whom we are now at war.

The account is in the form of a connected summary of the principal events in the history of the country from the time it came into existence as an independent state, to the time of Sher Ali's defiance, and the march of our troops into his

territory; and it concludes with a short account of the main divisions of the country and the several races inhabiting it.

I have attempted to show from its past history, and the heterogeneous character of its population, how utterly unable the country is to maintain its independence as a friendly neighbour without our support, especially in face of the aggressive and disturbing policy pursued by Russia in Central Asia. For we must not lose sight of the fact that Russia is more than ever active in this quarter, and, despite the most solemn and reassuring promises made at St. Petersburg, does not for a moment cease from intrigue and aggression at Tashkand.

It is not a trivial occurrence that Russian officers should, by the Amir's order, find a welcome all over the country, and a Russian

Mission be entertained with unwonted distinction and hospitality at the capital for days before we in India became aware of even their intention to enter the country—an act in direct violation of the solemn pledges of the Russian Government to the contrary. And it becomes a decidedly serious occurrence when, with this friendly treatment offered to the stranger, we, the friends and neighbours of the Amir, and the benefactors to his dynasty, should be jealously excluded, and when our Government asks for the reception of its own Mission, the British Envoy should be threatened with violence, and unceremoniously repelled.

I have attempted to show that with Russia on the border—especially since this infringement of her engagements—the time has come when we can no longer trust to