

**THE RACES OF AFGHANISTAN:
BEING A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONS
INHABITING THAT COUNTRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649685912

The Races of Afghanistan: Being a Brief Account of the Principal Nations Inhabiting That Country by H. W. Bellew

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. W. BELLEW

**THE RACES OF AFGHANISTAN:
BEING A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONS
INHABITING THAT COUNTRY**

THE
RACES OF AFGHANISTAN,

BEING

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONS
INHABITING THAT COUNTRY.

BY

SURGEON-MAJOR H. W. BELLEW, C.S.I.,

LATE ON SPECIAL POLITICAL DUTY AT KABUL.

CALCUTTA :

THACKER, SPINK, AND CO.

LONDON: TRUBNER AND CO.; W. THACKER AND CO.

MDCCCLXXX.

[All rights reserved.]

Ind 3270.5
✓



CALCUTTA:
PRINTED BY THACKER, SPINK, AND CO.

PREFACE.

THE manuscript of the following brief account of the races of Afghanistan was written at Kabul, for the most part, after the duties of the day were over, and at odd intervals of leisure from official business, with the view to its transmission to England for publication; but falling ill as it drew to a close, and being obliged on that account to leave Kabul for India on sick leave, my purpose could not be carried out.

And now, on arrival in India, finding myself unable to revise the text, or enlarge it, as I should wish to do, by the introduction of much useful and interesting matter which is available, I have thought it advisable to bring the work to the notice of the public without further delay, rather than indefinitely postpone its appearance to an uncertain future. And likewise, fully sensible as I am of the incompleteness of the work and its shortcomings, still, as events are progressing with rapid strides in the country with whose peoples it deals, and it is of importance that the subject should be early brought to the notice of the thinking public, I have deemed it preferable to let the book go forth in its incompleteness, in the hope that it may direct attention and further enquiry and

research into the national peculiarities of the several races treated of ; since I believe that, for the peace and security of our Indian Empire, they must, ere very long, be enrolled among the list of its various subjects ; and this, by the force of impelling and unavoidable circumstances. For, to know the history, interests, and aspirations of a people, is half the battle gained in converting them to loyal, contented, and peaceable subjects, to willing participators and active protectors of the welfare of the Empire towards which, from position and self-interest, they naturally gravitate.

H. W. B.

LAHORE ;
29th January, 1880.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTION	9
CHAPTER II.	
THE AFGHAN	15
CHAPTER III.	
HISTORY OF THE AFGHANS	28
CHAPTER IV.	
BRITISH RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN... ..	41
CHAPTER V.	
SHER ALI	47
CHAPTER VI.	
THE PATHAN	56
CHAPTER VII.	
THE YUSUPZAI	67
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE AFRIDI	77
CHAPTER IX.	
THE KHATTAK	85
CHAPTER X.	
THE DADICÆ	90
CHAPTER XI.	
THE GHILJI	97
CHAPTER XII.	
THE TAJIK	109
CHAPTER XIII.	
THE HAZARAH	113

THE RACES OF AFGHANISTAN.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

Now that our armies are in possession of Kandahar and Kabul—the earlier and later capitals, respectively, of the lapsed Durrani Empire, and, as regards the latter, the seat of government of the succeeding Durrani Rulers, that is to say, the capitals of the Saddozai Shahs and Barakzai Amirs—the question arises, what are we to do with the country heretofore governed from these seats of authority, and latterly in the possession of the Ruler seated at Kabul.

The question is one which must before very long be answered by the logic of accomplished facts, consequent on the stern demands of necessity more than of mere policy. For having, as we have now done, completely destroyed the authority and government of the tyrannous and treacherous Durrani Rulers, whose power it has been our policy to maintain and strengthen during the past quarter of a century, it is now incredible that we shall deliberately abandon the vantage ground gained, ignore the great danger we have now thereby staved off, and leave the country a prey to internal anarchy, and a prize to the first external adventurer. It is equally incomprehensible that we should again commit the folly of restoring the destroyed government of the Amirs—

of rulers who have successively proved themselves faithless to their engagements, treacherous in their dealings, and hostile in their conduct towards the British Government. The other alternative is to administer the country ourselves, either directly, or through the medium of native agency under our own supervision. And in the belief that this is the responsibility which we must sooner or later take upon ourselves, I venture to offer to the notice of the public the following brief account of the principal nations inhabiting Afghanistan, by way of a small contribution towards properly understanding their several tribes and their diverse national interests and political tendencies.

The political measures initiated at Simla before our avenging army crossed the border on its righteous errand, and which brought the Durrani Amir into the British camp and placed his capital in the hands of the British General—and this without opposition; for the demonstration made at Charasya on the 6th October by a hastily collected rabble is not to be seriously considered in the light of an effort to defend the city—put us in possession, without serious resistance, of not only the person of the Amir, but of his vast stores of military munitions—guns by the hundred, rifles by the thousand, cartridges by the million, and powder by the ton. In fact, by our unopposed march to Kabul we knocked down what we had built up—the power of the Amir over a consolidated kingdom; and we destroyed what we had helped to create—vast stores of war material.

And all this not a moment too soon. For we now know for a certainty, what was only suspected before, that the one was nurtured in the deepest treachery to his publicly pledged alliance and friendship, and that the other was diligently increased from day to day for the opportunity to be expended against us. But it is not my object in these pages to discuss this subject, nor yet the conduct of our operations in Afghanistan. These topics can be more conveniently and