The political culture of Afghanistan is an infusion of religious and traditional elements, divided subcultures and mutually reinforcing fissures. Social structures and political culture of Afghanistan differs from region to region, from one nationality to the other, encompassing a heterogeneous ethnicity, religion and language. Cultural Assimilation. The modern nation-state of Afghanistan has formed as a result of two main factors: The colonial rivalry between Russia and the British in Central Asia, and internal subjugation of different nations and ethnicities by the rulers of Afghanistan. The roots of the war and conflict in Afghanistan are results of the lack of power sharing and institutional mechanism for accommodation of different factions. The war in Afghanistan has deep roots in regional and international history. Learn about the history of American’s longest-running conflict. Amy Zalman, Ph.D. has been writing about terrorism and political violence, and their role in global politics and culture, since the late 1990s. The mujahideen battled the Soviets in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush Mountains. Wikipedia. The U.S.-funded Afghan insurgents were called mujahideen, an Arabic word that means "strugglers" or "strivers."