

The US Debacle in Afghanistan: Resources

Historians for Peace and Democracy

Rusti Eisenberg and Jim O'Brien of [Historians for Peace and Democracy \(H-PAD\)](#) compiled the following digest of articles responding to the US debacle in Afghanistan with the reflections of historians and journalists critical of the twenty year US war for the H-PAD Blog. We share the list for your reference. Please visit the [H-PAD website](#) for more.

Gordon Adams, [Afghanistan only the latest US war to be driven by deceit and delusion](#), *The Conversation*, posted August 17

Tariq Ali, [Debacle in Afghanistan](#), *New Left Review* (Sidecar), posted 16 August 2021.

Andrew Bacevich, [Through its Misuse of Military Power the United States has Made a Terrible Mess in Afghanistan](#), *Responsible Statecraft*, posted August 16

Patrick Cockburn, [The US and UK got things so wrong in Afghanistan because they do not understand the Afghan way of war](#), *Yahoo News*, posted August 17

Juan Cole, [Biden Doctrine and Afghanistan: Lean Counter-Terrorism and the](#)

[End of Bloated Nation-Building](#), *Informed Comment* blog, posted August 17

Juan Cole, [Déjà vu All Over Again: The Last Time Mazar-i-Sharif Fell to the Taliban There Were Massacres](#), *Informed Comment* blog, posted August 15

Anatol Lieven, [The Generals Lied and the Fantasies Died](#), *Responsible Statecraft*, posted August 16

Anatol Lieven, [Why Afghan Forces So Quickly Laid Down Their Arms](#), *Politico*, posted August 16

Samuel Moyn, [Biden Pulled Troops Out of Afghanistan. He didn't End the Forever War](#), *Responsible Statecraft*, posted August 17

Paul Pillar, [Taliban and Al Qaeda: If there is no war, there won't be an alliance](#), *Responsible Statecraft*, posted August 19

Vijay Prashad, [The Return of the Taliban 20 Years Later](#), *CounterPunch.org*, posted August 19

David Rothkopf, *America's Catastrophic Afghanistan Exit Has Many Fathers*, *The Daily Beast*, posted August 13

Very Helpful Primary Sources, See especially:

Nick Turse, *The Fall of Kabul*, Reader Supported News, posted August 16

Special Inspector General Report, *What We Need to Learn: Lessons from Twenty Years of Afghanistan Reconstruction*

Katrina vanden Heuvel, *Rather than Focus on How the US Got out of Afghanistan, Focus on How It Got In*, *Washington Post*, posted August 17

National Security Archive, *Afghanistan 20/20: the 20-Year War in 20 Documents*, posted August 19

Robert Wright, *How the Afghanistan War Really Started: And how seeing its origins in Cold War geopolitics can help us avoid future disasters*, *Nonzero Newsletter*, posted August 16