

# Defeat or Victory? The War on Afghanistan (2001-2021)

By [Michael Welch](#), [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), [Prof. John Ryan](#), and [Prof Rodrigue Tremblay](#)

Global Research, October 06, 2022

Region: [China](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [South Asia](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#), [History](#), [Media Disinformation](#), [Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the “Translate Website” drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

Visit and follow us on Instagram at [@crg\\_globalresearch](#).

First published on by Global Research on October 8 2021

\*\*\*

*“But again, the thing to emphasize here is that we’re not eager to have the United States come in and become an occupying power in Afghanistan... At the same time, we want to see to it that what is left behind gives the Afghan people the opportunity to develop a strong representative government, a government that can guarantee that in the future, no terrorists will once again find sanctuary or safe harbor in Afghanistan.”*

- U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney (December 9, 2001)[1]

## LISTEN TO THE SHOW

[Click to download the audio \(MP3 format\)](#)

On October 7, 2001 military strikes over Afghanistan were launched by U.S. and British forces - the long awaited other shoe to drop following the 9/11 terrorism attacks. [2]

NATO was also involved, responding to the Article Five call to retaliate collectively against an attack by the country in question ([which was never proven](#).) Over time, the Taliban was routed from power and a new supposedly democratic government put in place. [3][4][5]

It was the starting pistol marking the war “which would not end in our lifetimes.”

Ten years later, **Osama Bin Laden**, the lead man behind the 9/11 attacks (though his involvement was never actually established) was allegedly found, killed and thrown into the sea - truly a testament to the dedication of legality and due process! Yet it would be another ten years before the forces dispatched to the West Asian country would finally be withdrawn.[6]

And what was upshot of two decades of occupation, nearly a trillion dollars in military power and the deaths and injuries of over 100,000 civilians? Afghanistan is once again in the hands of the Taliban![7]

The sad factor is that this tragedy started not with the September 11 attacks, but more than twenty years previously to that when it was a secular country already exciting much of the populace with reforms and constitutional change, including more equal rights for women! U.S. actions initiated the violent measures that essentially created the Taliban and all the other Mujahedin fighters determined to replace progressive developers with brutal killers.

On this sad anniversary week, the Global Research News Hour intends to reflect on the origins behind the chaos which seems to be as remote now as it was back in 2001 when the venture against terror was established. We'll also look to the future of the country with the U.S. and company hi-tailing it away from there.

Our first guest, **Professor John Ryan**, looks at Afghanistan's history by examining his own visit in November 1978 and the sequence of U.S. covert operations which led to the downfall of the Afghan of a progressive government and the rise of Islamic jihadists. He is followed by **Professor Rodrigue Tremblay** who reflects on the reasons why the U.S. essentially lost the war, and what this decision enacted under President Biden would mean in the foreseeable elections. Our final guest, **Professor Michel Chossudovsky** expresses the informed viewpoint that the U.S. withdrawal was in fact a victory with respect to some of the real reasons for attacking the country in the first place.

*John Ryan is a retired Professor of Geography and Senior Scholar of Geography at the University of Winnipeg. He is also a long-time socialist. He was one of the few Western academics to visit and report on his experiences in Afghanistan in a unique period in the late 1970s.*

*Rodrigue Tremblay is an International economist, is the author of the book about morals "[The code for Global Ethics, Ten Humanist Principles](#)" of the book about geopolitics "[The New American Empire](#)", and the recent book , in French, "[La régression tranquille du Québec, 1980-2018](#)". He holds a Ph.D. in international finance from Stanford University. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization.*

*Michel Chossudovsky is Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization in, Montreal, and Editor of Global Research. He is Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, and award winning author of 11 books including The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity (2015) .*

**(Global Research News Hour Episode 327)**

**LISTEN TO THE SHOW**

**[Click to download the audio \(MP3 format\)](#)**

The [Global Research News Hour](#) airs every Friday at 1pm CT on [CKUW 95.9FM](#) out of the University of Winnipeg. The programme is also podcast at [globalresearch.ca](#) .

Other stations airing the show:

CIXX 106.9 FM, broadcasting from Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. It airs Sundays at 6am.

WZBC 90.3 FM in Newton Massachusetts is Boston College Radio and broadcasts to the greater Boston area. The Global Research News Hour airs during Truth and Justice Radio which starts Sunday at 6am.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](#) in Saint John, N.B. airs the Global Research News Hour Fridays at 7pm.

CJMP 90.1 FM, Powell River Community Radio, airs the Global Research News Hour every Saturday at 8am.

Caper Radio CJBW 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday afternoon from 3-4pm.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 9am pacific time.

#### Notes:

1. NBC News Transcripts SHOW: Meet the Press - NBC December 9, 2001 ; [http://www.leadingtowar.com/PDFsources\\_claims\\_atta/2001\\_12\\_09\\_NBCmtp.pdf](http://www.leadingtowar.com/PDFsources_claims_atta/2001_12_09_NBCmtp.pdf)
2. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/1556588.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/1556588.stm)
3. Great Britain: Parliament: House of Commons: Defence Committee (2006). The UK Deployment to Afghanistan: Fifth Report of Session 2005-06; Report, Together with Formal Minutes, Oral and Written Evidence. The Stationery Office. p. 39
4. <https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/natos-lessons-afghanistan>
5. Press for Conversion Issue #59, (September 2006), p. 5, 'The New Face of Terror in Afghanistan: How so-called "Democracy" Empowered our Allies: the Fundamentalists, Warlords and Drug Barons'
6. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2012/11/22/secret-details-of-bin-laden-burial-revealed>
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-47391821>

The original source of this article is Global Research

Copyright © [Michael Welch](#), [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), [Prof. John Ryan](#), and [Prof Rodrigue Tremblay](#), Global Research, 2022

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Michael Welch](#),  
[Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), [Prof. John Ryan](#), and [Prof Rodrigue Tremblay](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)