

Massive deployment of US and allied troops in Afghanistan

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)
Global Research, February 19, 2009
19 February 2009

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)
In-depth Report: [AFGHANISTAN](#)

The Obama administration is committed to a massive deployment of US and allied troops in Afghanistan. The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, had requested 30,000 troops. So far the president has authorized 17,000 troops "and the Pentagon identified 12,000 to send."

NATO troops are facing fierce resistance. NATO countries have been called upon by the US to increase their troops in Afghanistan officially to combat the "war on terrorism".

Afghanistan is a strategic geopolitical hub in Central Asia bordering on China and the former Soviet Union. It is at the crossroads of strategic oil and gas pipelines.

It also supplies more than 90 percent of the world's supply of heroin. Retail sales worldwide of Afghan heroin are of the order of 200 billion dollars a year. It is worth noting these multibillion proceeds of the Afghan drug trade, deposited in Western banks, constitute, at a time of crisis, a financial safety net for the Western banking system.

In recent developments, Germany is to contribute to the surge in Afghanistan.

"Chancellor Angela Merkel says Germany will send 600 extra troops to Afghanistan in the run-up to elections there later this year.

Germany currently has more than 3,500 troops in the NATO-led force in Afghanistan. They serve under a mandate from parliament that allows the deployment of a maximum 4,500 soldiers."

Canada has stated that it will pull out its 2,500 combat troops in Afghanistan by 2011. Barack Obama will be on an official visit to Canada on February 19th. Pressure has been put to bear on Ottawa not to proceed with troop withdrawals.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), Global Research, 2009

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **Prof Michel Chossudovsky**

About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order (2003), America's "War on Terrorism" (2005), The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity (2015). He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

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

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