The Crossroad of Asia

AFGHANISTAN AS A PLACE OF CONFLICT AND REGIONAL COOPERATION
Ancient Afghanistan
The Silk Road
SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS!

"IF AT THIS MOMENT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO INVADE THE Ameer's TERRITORY, WE ARE ACTING IN PURSUANCE OF A POLICY WHICH IN ITS INTENTION HAS BEEN UNIFORMELY FRIENDLY TO AFGHANISTAN."—Times, Nov. 21.
Soviet Invasion
Soviet Withdrawal and Civil War
Taliban and Al-Qaeda (Pakistani support)

- Friendly government in Afghanistan
- Counter Indian influence
- Kashmiri training camps
- Al-Qaeda training camps
9/11 and U.S. in Afghanistan

- Longest U.S. war
- A new Afghan democracy
- Better infrastructure
- A better but still struggling Afghanistan
- National Unity Government-Elections of 2014
- Taliban still strong
- ISIS is emerging
- Regional Proxies
  - Pakistan
  - Iran
  - Russia
  - India
Insurgency in Afghanistan: August, 2016

The Taliban now operates in more territory in Afghanistan than it has since 2001. Taliban gains and Islamic State activity in the region will continue to necessitate U.S. and foreign partner assistance in order to combat the mounting insecurity.
What are we doing there?

Time to get out?
NO, Because.....

- Iran
- Russia-Central Asia
- Nuclear and populated Pakistan
- India-U.S. ally
- The only friendly country
- Sunk investment?
- Back to 90s?
  - Al-Qaeda
  - Taliban
  - 9/11
- Spillover
A Stronger Afghanistan is in our favor

- Diminishing returns on proxy wars
- Regional Stability
- A U.S. friendly country
- Regional Economic Hub-Transit and Regional Trade
  - CASA-Power Transmission line
  - TAPI-Gas pipeline
  - TUTAP-Power Transmission Line
  - Lapis Lazuli corridor-Trade route to Caucasus and E-Europe
  - Silk Road-China to Middle East
Questions?