

Afghanistan and Invasions

Since one of the topics debated in Washington, DC is the US presence in Afghanistan, I decided to see what other groups attempted to invade and what the results were. The US has been there since 2001 and it is the longest war in US history. In 1979 the former Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan. One of the results of that invasion was the US boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow by the US and other countries. The Soviets left in 1988. During the nineteenth century, Afghanistan was invaded twice with little success. The first Anglo-Afghan war (1838-42) was to limit the Russian influence in the country. Does this sound familiar? The Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-80) was a bit more successful ending with some British influence in the country. Following WWI, Afghanistan tried to break with the British but lost and saw an increased British influence in the country. Other invasions were by Tamerlane of the Timurid Empire and their influence was felt for many years. Genghis Khan invaded the country as did his son. During the ninth century, the most successful invasion occurred when Umar invaded and was responsible for the conversion to Islam. Of course, we can go back to Alexander the Great when he invaded most of the land in that part of the world. I've come to the conclusion that the Afghan people fight with themselves most of the time. However, when someone invades, they band together to repel the invaders and when they are gone, the tribes fight with each other again.

Executive Order 9981

On 26 July 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order abolishing racial discrimination in the US Armed Forces that led to the end of segregation in our military. The order reads "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale." President Dwight D. Eisenhower continued the policy by desegregating military schools, hospitals and bases. The last of the all-black units in the US military was abolished in September 1954. I think it is very ironic that on 26 July 2017, President Donald Trump issued the following tweets "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." This attempts to put discrimination back into our military.