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Quick Hits on Afghanistan

by [Joshua Foust](#) on [10/7/2009](#) · [2 comments](#)

Stuff probably not worth a full post, but defo worth highlighting.

- Hey, remember the time I [said](#), “Democratic elections usually rest on a few basic principles... Afghanistan doesn’t quite qualify for any of these.” Well, the UN [knew it all along](#), too, and Kai Eide is turning out to be a total jerk.
- The Taliban claim to have [raised a flag over Nuristan](#). Naturally, ISAF disagrees, but it’s tough to dispute that right now.
- From Kabul, Old Blue asks some [poignant questions](#) of the people wanting to whisk us out of Afghanistan.
- Dear Washington Policy Community: [why not read books](#) about *Afghanistan* to learn about the war in Afghanistan? I mean, hey, just a thought—[knowing the place](#) really does help.
- Dear CATO Institute: you lost me at “[Graveyard of Empires](#).” You made me stop watching when you spoke in the name of all Afghans and their thoughts and opinions. A video based on stereotype and assumption is not analysis, it is propaganda.
- Pentagon think tank examines Pentagon program, declares it a success and [wants more](#). Hrm. We must have visited different PRTs, for them to have such glowing recommendations. I’ll read this in full and report back sometime later.
- The Taliban say they’re [no threat to the west](#). Ignoring the obvious (and unfair, and problematic) comparison to a certain European ruler, this is like FEMA saying it’s okay, New Orleans, they’re here to help.

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[1](#) dennis 10/7/2009 at 11:35 pm

1.no threat to the west. yeah a closed fist Islam.
2.raised flag- could have a little flag somewhere.
but for me the tops was” Richard Engel” saying the Afghans are fed up with the US. “so no threat to west” just may fit in nicely.

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2 Mike 10/8/2009 at 7:18 am

Josh, thanks for pointing these out. I think the more interesting point about what Washington's reading was McCain's suggestion that there's a "better comparison" to be made, ie. not Vietnam and Afghanistan but Iraq and Afghanistan. What does that mean, anyway? Just plan silly, methinks.

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