

WORKSHEET ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – SECURITY

Definition: After a conflict, a state needs to ensure its citizens' safety from internal and external threats. There must be a level of security sufficient to allow the recovery of the economy and society. The state must reestablish the rule of law, provide an effective police force, protect its borders, carry out disarmament, safeguard the infrastructure, dismantle repressive government institutions, respond to emergencies, and suppress internal conflicts and armed rogue groups.

1. What groups are possible *internal* threats to Afghanistan's security, and what groups work to help improve security? Does Afghanistan have any *external* enemies (other countries)? (Are there any border issues?) Are there other countries trying to help Afghanistan?
2. What are the major population groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? How would you ensure that all groups are treated fairly in establishing a police force and a military force, carrying out disarmament, and suppressing internal dissent?
3. What has the international community done in reestablishing security after the conflict in Afghanistan? What specific policies have been implemented? What foreign countries and which international organizations have been involved?
4. How successful do you think reconstruction efforts have been in the area of security? What factors contribute to or limit their success?
5. Why is security important? What effect does security have on other elements of reconstruction (governance, rebuilding the infrastructure, humanitarian aid, etc.)?
6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (political, financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:

- Short video/talk (Indiana Univ.): www.youtube.com/watch?v=9v5JTe8DE8w
- Long report (but well-indexed, so scroll down to the relevant sections):
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf>
- Long document (It has headings, so scroll down to relevant parts.):
<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA490415&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>
- NY Times article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/12/world/asia/12afghan.html>
- article on new Afghan security forces: <http://www.cfr.org/afghanistan/security-transition-afghanistan/p24456>
- preparations to hand over security responsibilities to Afghans:
<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/afghanistan-unveils-security-handover-plan-20110322-1c52t.html>
- relationship of economy and security: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/30/AR2009063002811.html>