

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xv
Maps	xvii
Introduction: The Impact of Four Decades of War and Violence on Afghan Society and Political Culture / M. Nazif Shahrani	1
Part I: Technologies of Power—Competing Discourses on National Identity, Statehood, and State Stability	19
1. Afghanistan: A Turbulent State in Transition / Amin Saikal	21
2. Afghanistan's "Traditional" Islam in Transition: The Deep Roots of Taliban Extremism / Bashir Ahmad Ansari	37
3. Language, Poetry, and Identity in Afghanistan: Poetic Texts, Changing Contexts / Mohammad Omar Sharifi	56
4. Lineages of the Urban State: Locating Continuity and Change in Post-2001 Kabul / Khalid Homayun Nadiri and M. Farshid Alemi Hakimyar	77
5. Webs and Spiders: Four Decades of Violence, Intervention, and Statehood in Afghanistan (1978–2016) / Timor Sharan	102
6. Merchant-Warlords: Changing Forms of Leadership in Afghanistan's Unstable Political Economy / Noah Coburn	121
7. Borders, Access to Strategic Resources, and Challenges to State Stability / Ahmad Shayeq Qassem	133

8. Brought to You by Foreigners, Warlords, and Local Activists: TV and the Afghan Culture Wars / Wazhmah Osman	149
Part II: Personal and Collective Identities, Gender Relations, and the Trust Deficit	177
9. "The War Destroyed Our Society": Masculinity, Violence, and Shifting Cultural Idioms among Afghan Pashtuns / Andrea Chiovenda	179
10. Engendering the Taliban / Sonia Ahsan	200
11. Anticipating Discontinuous Change: Afghanistan in Retrospect and Prospect / Robert L. Canfield and Fahim Masoud	213
Part III: Adapting to a New Political Ecology of Uncertainties at the Margins	227
12. Badakhshanis since the Saur Revolution: Struggle, Triumph, Hope, and Uncertainty / M. Nazif Shahrani	229
13. Hazara Civil Society Activists and Local, National, and International Political Institutions / Melissa Kerr Chiovenda	251
14. Adapting to Three Decades of Uncertainty: The Flexibility of Social Institutions among Baloch Groups in Afghanistan / Just Boedeker	271
15. Party Institutionalization Meets Women's Empowerment? Acquiring Power and Influence in Afghanistan / Anna Larson	290
Part IV: Violence, Social Services Delivery, and the Rising Trust Deficit	311
16. Childbirth and Social Change in Afghanistan / Kylea Laina Liese	313
17. Signatures of Distrust in Contemporary Afghanistan: More Than a Decade of Development Effort for Vulnerable Groups: The Case of Disability / Parul Bakhshi and Jean-Francois Trani	327
Index	353