

OIL/VIOLENCE TIMELINE SUMMARY - AFGHANISTAN -

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The Soviet Union collapsed in **December 1991**, allowing previously held Caspian Sea area people to form independent nations, each hungry for income. As those new countries sat atop an enormous oil cache, the US and other countries have been more than interested in lending them a hand.

By **1995**, several international oil giants (UNOCAL in particular) worked to develop a pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Afghanistan to Arabian Sea ports in Pakistan. By **1997**, Taliban representatives were repeatedly flown to Unocal's corporate headquarters in Sugarland, Texas, and to Washington, DC where they discussed the project with Unocal, and with Clinton administration representatives.

But as the Taliban failed to move forward, and with civil unrest present in Afghanistan, the project was put on hold. This prompted John Mareska, VP of International Relations for Unocal Oil, to testify before the US House of Representatives in **Feb. 1998**, stating that the Taliban government should be removed and should be replaced by a government acceptable to lenders, to the US government, and to the Unocal corporation. He argued for the creation of a Halliburton constructed 42 inch pipeline to carry one-million barrels of oil per day, for sale to energy hungry China, with a calculated increase in Western profits of five-hundred percent by 2015.

The following year (**April 30, 1999**), excluding US interests, the Taliban formally said "no" to the pipeline deal, and instead signed an agreement with Turkmenistan and Pakistan for their own jointly controlled Caspian pipeline project. This was followed nine weeks later (**July 7, 1999**) by Clinton freezing US held Taliban assets and prohibiting trade with them, officially in response to the existence of terrorists camps functioning in Afghanistan.

One year later, (**Oct. 12, 2000**), the USS Cole was attacked by al-Qaeda operatives while it was ported in the Yemeni port of Aden.

Three months later, (**Jan. 2001**), the Bush administration came into office with the new government very heavily involved in oil:

- Dick Cheney, VP: CEO, Halliburton through 2000.
- Condoleezza Rice, NSA: Chevron Oil Manager and Kazakhstan representative through 2000.
- Donald Evans, Sec. of Commerce: former CEO, Tom Brown Oil, Inc.
- Spencer Abraham, Sec. of Energy: received more oil and gas money than all but three other senators over 1997-2000
- Thomas White, Sec. of the Army: former Enron Vice Chairman (and a large shareholder in that company).

Five months after taking office (**May 15, 2001**), the Bush administration presented Taliban representatives with an ultimatum via the Pakistani delegation: "Either you accept our offer of a carpet of gold, or we bury you under a carpet of bombs." [*Forbidden Truth* by Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie] Two weeks later, in June, as the ultimatum was being considered, US Ambassador to Yemen, Barbara Bodine, forbade FBI Deputy Director (and counter-terrorism specialist), John O'Neill from entering Yemen to investigate the Cole bombing. Mr. O'Neill responded several weeks later by resigning his high paying and long held FBI position, complaining that the Bush administration was interfering with counter-terrorism efforts.

One final **August 2, 2001**, meeting was held in Islamabad, Pakistan between Christina Rocca (US Central Asian affairs) and Taliban representatives. The topic of oil was raised one last time. Two weeks later, on **Sept. 11, 2001**, John O'Neill, who had just resigned his top FBI position, died of injuries incurred in his new position as World Trade Center chief of security.

What followed in short order was the **Oct. 7, 2001**, aerial bombardment of Afghanistan, the **Dec., 2001**, placement of Hamid Karzai (former Unocal Oil Corp advisor) with former Zalmay Khalilzad (also former Unocal consultant) acting as the US special envoy to Afghanistan. Four months later the trans-Afghanistan pipeline project was again in the works, and by **May 30, 2002**, the agreement to build the pipeline was signed with the most likely builder: Halliburton, under Unocal management.

To be noted:

October 31, 2001: Mr. Bush drafted an unprecedented executive order sealing presidential records, including those of former administrations

January 29, 2002: Mr. Bush asked then Senate Majority Leader, Tom Daschle to limit the scope of congressional investigations into the events surrounding Sept. 11, 2001.