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Read Robert Crews's contribution to a New York Times "Room for Debate" forum, "Is America Responsible for Afghan Refugees?" At Foreign Policy, read Crews's argument that, after a half-century of meddling within Afghanistan's borders, the United States must accept responsibility for Afghan refugees.

Crews and Amin Tarzi. Harvard University Press, , pp. The Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan editors Robert Crews and Amin Tarzi gather a diverse set of perspectives regarding the rise, decline, and rebirth of the Taliban movement. The seven selected works provide both complementary and contradictory views by experts in the field. Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia. Understanding Iran in the Global Context. The editors identify three themes that drove their selection of authors and topics. First, the Taliban movement is a uniquely Afghan development that was nonetheless heavily influenced by external actors. Second, all Afghan governments have struggled to impose central state power throughout the country. The Taliban were not immune to these difficulties, which affect the Karzai government today. Third, diverse Afghan communities, particularly the Pashtuns, have contended with state power in different ways. The chapters are highly effective at illuminating these themes. Neamtollah Nojumi updates the information from his widely read book, *The Rise of the Taliban*, to provide a succinct and readable account of the movement until He highlights the role of foreign powers, particularly Pakistan and Iran, in supporting Islamist leaders at the expense of more liberal Afghans. In an interesting contrast, Abulkader Sinno argues that foreign intervention alone cannot explain the success of the movement. He points out that neither Gulbuddin Hekmatyar nor Hamid Karzai were able to consolidate power as effectively as the Taliban, in spite of generous external assistance. Instead, Sinno contends, the Taliban were unsurpassed in their ability to manipulate Pashtun tribal politics. Adding to this argument, M. Nazif Shahrani explains how the Pashtuns have not only played an essential role in the formation of each government, but have consistently worked to ensure a Pashtun-dominated state. The most informative and timely chapters are those contributed by the editors. Crews investigates the historical record and argues that there was a moderate element within the Taliban government consisting of those concerned about organizing governmental structures. This group was distinct from the pure Islamists who only focused on the imposition of Sharia law in Afghan society. This cleavage was partially responsible for the sudden collapse of the Taliban government in and provided the few Taliban elements that have accommodated with Karzai. In the last chapter, Tarzi describes the neo-Taliban that has risen since He demonstrates that this organization is extremely heterogeneous and fragmented, with some elements focusing on local agendas while others pursue international Islamist goals. Intermixed within these illuminating chapters, however, are several that offer less. Lutz Rzehak contributes a chapter on Afghan oral communication through narratives, poems, and songs. It is of only limited value to understanding the complex political problems in Afghanistan, particularly as his research was confined to only one Afghan locale. Canfield argues that religion has now replaced the tribe and state as a structure by which Afghans organize their perceptions of power, intercommunal relations, and history. However, other chapters highlight the diversity of perspectives that Afghans hold on these issues. *The Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan* is an important resource, particularly for the reader already familiar with the Taliban who is looking for greater depth. As the editors readily admit, these perspectives sometime conflict, yet provide a sophisticated view of this complex movement. Readers less interested in this depth can obtain a succinct profile of the past and present Taliban by reading the excellent introduction and epilogue. On the other hand, those looking for concise answers to the Afghan dilemma will not find them here. Nonetheless, Crews, Tarzi, and their contributors provide valuable insights for anyone wrestling with the enigma of Afghanistan. Lt Col John G.

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*The Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan [Robert D. Crews, Amin Tarzi] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The Taliban remain one of the most elusive forces in modern history.*

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Get this from a library! The Taliban and the crisis of Afghanistan. [Robert D Crews; Amin Tarzi;] -- [This book] explores how has a seemingly anachronistic band of religious zealots managed to retain a tenacious foothold in the struggle for Afghanistan's future.