Chapter II

Afghanistan's Resources

Introduction:

"Afghanistan is a land whose spectacular scenery contains a stark and dynamic geology. The frequent earthquakes and floods, dust storms and avalanches, are merely surface indicators of long eons of intense mineral resources generation below the surface. To see this land as geologist is to know that beleaguered, backward Afghanistan does not have to remain war torn and economically devastated for long; the rich resource-base there could contribute to rapid development and economic growth."  

Sitting at the heart of Asia, Afghanistan has huge and vital natural resources like berylliums, uranium, gemstones, petroleum, natural gas, etc. It is assumed that it presents best opportunities to International investors. Afghanistan is a land that is rich in natural resources. There are numerous mineral and precious stone deposits, as well as natural gas and yet untapped petroleum reserves. All of the mineral resources are owned by the state. Some of these resources have been exploited, while others have remained potentially unexploited. The following discussion is focused on the mineral resources that can be found in Afghanistan.

A complete survey of the country’s mineral wealth has not been carried out. Commercial mining has so far been confined to coal, salt and lapis lazuli. Coal reserves may run as high as several hundred million tons. They have taken on much greater potential importance with the discovery of a major iron ore deposits exceeding 10 billion tons and possibly the largest deposits of copper.  

Exploratory drilling located oil in the northern provinces and the search for oil has been
tended to the southern parts of the country. There are natural gas reserves near Mazar-
Sharif. Lapis Lazuli, the only major mine in the world is a distinctive product of
Afghanistan, located in the northeastern Badakhshan province. This semi precious stone
has been exported from the region since perhaps as early as 2500 BC. Recent mineral
exploration has produced additional discoveries of gold, zinc, lead, barite, mica,
pyrrhotium and beryl. Some of these may prove to be economically exploitable.3

Afghanistan is situated in the mineral belt that contains 61 percent of the world's proved
minerals excepting coal. This belt extends from central and south Africa, Afghanistan,
Kazakhstan and Yakutia.

Before we touch upon the inventory of mineral resources in Afghanistan, it is important
note that western powers have responded cautiously to Afghan situation being
certain of political stability in Kabul and fearful of Soviets adventures towards Persian
Gulf and Indian Ocean. They continuously ignored the significance of resources in
Afghanistan until a copy of 1977 mineral resources inventory confirmed the presence of
that had long been suspected in some western circles.4

The background of Afghanistan’s resources and related developmental strategies were
discussed in the preceding chapter. To cover the mineral resource of Afghanistan, the mineral
resource inventory will be discussed and important minerals will be covered in the course

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Centre, 15th July, 1986.
discussion. Water and Hydroelectric resources in the three drainages, Turkestan Drainage of Panj River, Wuzhu Darya(Oxus River), Indus River Drainages and Plateau Drainages of the Helmand will follow the discussion of mineral resources.

In order to make full use of the resources and to the end land disclose Potentials of Afghanistan followed by manufacturing sector and to the end land resources and medicated plants will be discussed briefly.

Mineral Resource Inventory 1077:
This document contains the detailed and optimistic resource inventory in Afghanistan in 9 pages. It was first disclosed in 1977 and it includes a 48 pages discussion of the principle geological features and 22 pages about metallogenetic features of Afghanistan.

In its parts II this inventory summarizes 1432 mineral resources, classified in three categories:

- Deposits
- Occurrences
- Showings

In addition this report broadly defines 306 areas where mineralogical holes occur that suggest potential occurrences of particular minerals.

In III of this inventory describes various ground water aquifers strati-graphically and specific water localities. It also includes 112 mineralized waters and 86 fresh water wells and springs in desert regions. The report contains eleven significant maps, some of which are:
Geological Map (1: 2500,000)
Tectonic Map (1: 2,500,000)
Magnetic Complexes (1:2,000,000)
Metological Zones (1: 5,000,000)
Mineral Deposits
Occurrences and Showings (1:2,000,000)
Maps Showing:
   a. Fuel minerals & ferrous metals
   b. Non ferrous metals
   c. Tungsten & tin
   d. Rare and precious metals
   e. None metallic minerals
   f. Hydrologic maps.
   g. Fresh and mineral waters

These maps are based on international standards and convey large and accurate information. Map (a) and Map (b) defines locations containing metallic and non-metallic minerals.

The five mineral deposits and mineral occurrence maps indicate the following:

Fifty Eight solid combustible materials such as coal, lignite, Peat and Shale
898 Metallic minerals such as ferrous metals, iron, manganese, chromium, copper, lead and zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, tin, bismuth, mercury, cadmium, beryllium, uranium, cesium, tantalum, niobium, etc.
114 Rare metals such as lode gold, placer gold and silver.

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Four Radio active elements that includes Uranium, Thorium and rare earth in the following areas:

Helmand Province, in Khhan Neshin.

Heart Province, in Kohe Daud

Kandahar Province, in Khak Raiz

Kabul the Capital, in the north part.

21 Precious and semiprecious stones.

Twenty-three electronic and optical minerals such as Quartz and Calcite.

Sixty-Nine industrial material such as Limestone, Dolomite, Marble quarries.

A Canadian team, in 1974-76 carried out a survey of these deposits, indicating that some of these deposits are world class, i.e., the deposits are so important and significant in quantity that if brought on stream could affect the world price of the particular resource.

A general location of some of these metallic and non-metallic minerals in the country, refer to map (1) and map (2). 6

Map of Metallic Minerals in Afghanistan

Deposit Type
1. Aluminum
2. Chrome
3. Copper
4. Iron
5. Gold
6. Barite, Lead and Zinc
7. Copper, Lead and Zinc
8. Lead and Zinc
9. Rare Metal Pegmatites
10. Tin

Deposit Size
- Small
- Medium and Large

### Chart (2.2-1) Mineral Resource Inventory compiled by Afghan Soviet Geologists as of 1977

| Total Number of Deposits and Showings of Metallic and non-Metallic Minerals | Total number of each variety. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Solid Combustible Materials:** | Coal | Lignite | Peat | shale |
| 45 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| **Ferrous Metals** | Iron | Manganese | Chromium | Copper | Lead & Zinc |
| 85 | 69 | 2 | 14 | 241 | 92 |
| Aluminu | Molybdenum | tungsten | Tin | Bismuth | Mercury |
| 7 | 4 | 136 | 174 | 12 | 141 |
| **Cadmium** | Beryllium | Lithium | Cesium & Rubidium | Tantalum & Niobium |
| 1 | 27 | 44 | 11 |
| **Radioactive elements deposits:** | Uranium | Thorium | Rare earths |
| **Precious metals:** | Lode gold | Placer gold | Silver |
| 95 | 5 | 5 |
| **118 non-metallic minerals, including 36 chemical raw materials:** | Sulphur | Fluorite | Barite | Celestite | Borosilicate |
| 8 | 7 | 17 | 2 | 2 |
| **General fertilizers:** | Muscovite | Asbestos | Talc | Magnesite | Graphite | Gypsum |
| 22 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 17 |
| **Precious and semi-precious stones:** | Ruby | Emerald | Kunzite | Garnet | Lazurite | Serpentine |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Tourmaline | 5 |
| **Electronic and optical minerals:** | Quartz | Calcite |
| 18 | 5 |
| **Industrial materials:** | Limestone, dolomite and marble quarries; | Facing & ornamental quarries; | Sand & gravel quarries; | Cement raw materials; | Limestone & dolomite quarries; | Limestone & dolomite fluxes; |
| 5 | 20 | 15 | 29 | 8 | 4 |
| Refractory clays; | Clays for brick, roofing tile, etc. | Porcelain and pottery; | Glass raw material and siliceous sandstones. |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 |

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Despite the revelation of resource inventory, the precise characteristics of the major sources are not fully known. The detailed reports were kept as state secret with Soviets Afghan Government, if they had any access to them. However, with the disclosure of inventory, it is now possible to define important deposits through historical analysis details of the exploration. The available space and the framework of this thesis do not allow us to review each of the resources and look into the importance and their applications in the economy of the country and that of the world market. Therefore, in order to crystallize our understanding of Afghan Resources we briefly look into some of these resources in the coming part of our discussions.

7. Chart (2.2-2) Status of Some of The Natural Resources In Afghanistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount Extracted</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Situation in 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>Shiberghan</td>
<td>2.8 milliard cm</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>The flow of gas is stopped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>Pul-e-Khumri and Dar-e-Soof</td>
<td>30,000 tons</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>The exploitation is halted at present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barite</td>
<td>Heart-Sanglakh, Kunar</td>
<td>52,000 tons as well as in small quantity by traditional means by local people.</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The exploitation is halted at present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talc</td>
<td>Mamakhel-Ningarhar, Acheen-Ningarhar</td>
<td>7,300 tons</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapis Lazuli</td>
<td>Badakhshan</td>
<td>108 Kgs.</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The production in a small scale is going on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>Taluqan, Qal-e-Nau, Ghor, Kulangar (Logar), Balkh, Andkhoi, Herat</td>
<td>60,000 tons</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The production is going on in a small scale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In F. Shroder, Jr. and Abdul Tawab Assifi, Afghan Resources and Soviet Exploitation, 1990.
### Continued status of Natural Resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount Extracted</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Situation in 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Aink-Logar</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Since 1958 the survey for the exploitation of copper has started. After the invasion Russian experts carried out the survey. The exploitation work is stopped now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Jigdalak-Kabul</td>
<td>In small quantity by local people and traditional means Until 1978 security forces guarded the mine.</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The production is going on in small scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>Panjisher</td>
<td>Extracted in small quantity by traditional means by local people.</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The production has stopped now.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Some of the resources have been exploited to certain scale as mentioned in the introduction of this chapter; however, a glance in chart Table (2.2-2) will illustrate the present situation and progress in the development of these resources as of 1999.

### Natural Gas:

Initially the hydrocarbon exploration focused on natural gas and Khwaja Gugirak was the first site near Sheberghan a province in the north Afghanistan, where natural gas was discovered. Soon, thereafter several large natural gas fields with an estimated capacity of 12 trillion cubic feet as of 1974 were discovered. As a pattern of their involvement, Soviets were active in the exploration of these fields and their prime purpose was to extract this resource to their own use, denying them to the Afghans. Soviets built a sixty-six miles long and large pipeline carrying the natural gas to USSR in 1967 and it was operative in 1968.

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The use of this first developed resource for Afghans was limited to a subsidiary pipeline feeding gas to thermal power plant with a capacity of 36000 KW in Maza-e-sharif and a fertilizer plant producing 100,000 tons of fertilizer per year. This plant was using only 40 million cubic meters per year. Aside from these tow projects, Soviets did not allow use of natural inside Afghanistan.9

Kennedy Nahas a development expert from the United Nations team in Kabul gave a proposal for the construction of a new pipeline towards south to Kabul. The proposal was intended to enable the use gas in thermal generation of electricity and its transmission by power lines to all parts of the country needing power. This project was handed over to Engineer Salah the Afghan Deputy Minister of Mines and Industries. Fortunately this integrated energy project was suppressed and never came to light, particularly after the communists, April Coup when the Soviets Finalized a lot of agreements with new communist regime on minerals, gas and oil.10

A group 200 Soviets geologist announced the discovery of another gas bearing zone capable of producing one quarter million cubic meter per day, in 1979 in north Afghanistan. Increasing number of Soviets experts appeared in Afghanistan to increase production of gas by 65 percent. The annual export of natural gas to USSR was 2.5 on cubic meter, the revenue from the sale of which were never returned to Afghans, however, they were applied as repayment for Soviets loans and the interest on those

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In 1980 the Afghans have been forced to pay with their natural gas and other resources for the brutal invasion and occupation of their country and the destruction of their own people, termed by the UN special Rapporteur as genocide.\textsuperscript{11}

As of 1979 according to reports 70 to 105 billion cubic feet gas have been going to Soviet Union annually as payment for the military occupation. In 1982 the international petroleum encyclopedia announced 158 billion cubic feet production and subsequent transfer to USSR.

The large number of anticlines and other possible sedimentologic traps at the southern edge of the great Kopet Dagh tough in Afghanistan indicates further potentials for presence of natural gas in the country.\textsuperscript{12}

Oil:

Afghanistan totally depends on supplies of oil (gasoline, diesel and kerosene) from Iran and CIS countries, costing it much of its actual and potential foreign currency.

The history of exploration of oil in Afghanistan goes back to 1925. A 25-year exclusive concession was given to Texaco and Seaboard, an American Company for the purpose of exploration in 1937. This contract was terminated abruptly due to the commencement of World War II.\textsuperscript{13}


\textsuperscript{12}M. Siddiq Noorzoy, Soviet Economic Interests and Policies in Afghanistan, 1990.

After the war, Swedes located oil finds in Angol areas of Saripul. But as indicated above the Viets intervened with their massive credits and took over the exploration of hydrocarbons, diverting attention from oil to gas.\(^{14}\)

During the second tenure of Daud in 1973 renewed efforts to find oil were launched. Russians showed little interest in the exploration of oil and Afghan engineers, geologists and technical personal took over the responsibility for finding oil reserves. They succeeded in finding oil reserves one after the other. The following sites were located during this onslaught:

1. Aq-Darya reserve at estimated capacity of 2 million metric tones.
2. Qashqari Reserves of a capacity of 12 million tones. This reserve was found a year later and had superior quality compare to that of Aq-Darya.
3. Bazar Kami and Bland Ghore sites located close to Sheberghan Area.
4. Ali Gul Reserve approximately 200 kilometer west of Saripul that opened the possibility of further and larger strikes in the Area.\(^{15}\)

Referring to the geological history at the region it becomes evident that there are possibilities of major reserves in Afghanistan. The five major sedimentary basins with hydrocarbon exploration interest occur in Afghanistan of the southeast and of the main Dagh basin. The present production is in the Karakum Basin and the Afghan Tajik in to the northeast is petroliferous and has many un-drilled salt domes in likely areas. Other 3o large anticlines and other geological structures of considerable interest are present in both of these tow basins.

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Afghanistan was interested in major strikes not only for export papooeses but to meet domestic needs; a purpose that could be served by smaller strikes. Afghans themselves continued to work on Katawaz Oil Reserves and in 1976 British Tri-Central took up the exploration in Western province of Farah. The American Cities Services started to plan for the development of Dasht-e-Margo and Registan area of the southwest. Both British and American had to abandon their projects due to communist coup in 1978.\textsuperscript{16}

The few thousand tones of oil production in the north rose steadily by about 20 percent each year till 1970. The oil reserves of Afghanistan have never been thoroughly surveyed. Despite that the oil finds are enough for domestic consumption. Afghanistan planned to build a 500,000-tone refiner in 1979, but the war began and the work for the construction of this refinery never commenced.

1.5 Coal:

There are vast coal reserves in Afghanistan and barely exploited. There are about 100 million tons in high grade proven reserves and another 400 million tons in the same category in a different location. There are major deposits of coal across north Afghanistan, stretched from Heart to Badakhshan in 36 occurrences. Coal mining is considered as the oldest established modern fuel industry in Afghanistan that began after Second World War. The coal production was at 17000 tons in 1954, 80000 tons in 1965. From 1965 to the present day the production volume has fluctuated intermittently due to war and management problems. A hopeless manpower situation brought about by

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Profound low pay scales for such a laborious work has drastically lowered the production of coal in the country. Generally coal is used in the production of cement, textile and in cotton mills, sugar refinery and government bakeries. Coal is also used in the compressed coal dust form for domestic use. The government planed extensive development of coal deposits in 1970 and six-briquette manufacturing firms were planed for this purpose. Bulgarians, and Czechs arrived in Afghanistan in 1978 and the production of coal tripled in a period of tow years. Data indicated that the production reached 190,000 tons in 1979.17

Coal production as a labor intensive industry that provides essential fuel for other industry and domestic use is extremely significant, in particular in the absence of other forms of source of energy.

Copper:

Copper is one of the ancient minerals found and used in Afghanistan. Its use goes back to the Bronze Age, and in fact some scholars have recorded the inception of Bronze in ancient Afghanistan. Copper has been mined in Afghanistan as long as 4000 years ago and it was used in coins, spears, cocking utensils and other objects. A mention of famous Chakhmakh Copper deposit appears in the Chinese manuscripts of the third and fourth century AD.18

Chakhmak is the largest copper mine in Afghanistan and the planing began for the exploitation of this mine in 1970. Originally the capacity of Chakhmak copper deposit was

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not known. Russians had surveyed this mine but the data and information was kept secret
from the media and Afghan authorities as well. In an interesting development, Soviet
document captured by Afghans resistance (Mujahidin) revealed the tremendous
production capability of Ainak copper mine. These documents disclosed fact indicates
that Ainak is capable of producing 11.5 million tons of copper.

In size, richness and copper content this deposit appear to be the largest in the world. It is
worth mentioning that the world largest open pit mine, located in Bingham Canyon Pit in
Utah, produced about 9 million tons through out it production life. Dzhezkazga copper
deposit in Kazakhstan the largest in that country contains only one quarter to one third of
Ainak copper deposit.19

In terms of content and quality the Ainak deposit is large enough to warrant large-scale
investment.

5.7 Iron:
The most prominent iron deposit in Afghanistan is the Hajigak iron ore reserve in the
central mountainous part of the country. It was discovered more than 150 years ago but
its location was not suitable, being at the eastern end of the Koh-e-Baba Mountain range,
discouraged interest in its exploitation.

Geologic reports available, though insufficient survey of iron deposits have been carried
out, shows 5 deposits 52 occurrences and 12 showings of iron in Afghanistan. Most of
the investigations have been carried out mainly by Soviets. According to these surveys
the Hajigak iron deposit is largely high grade, directly shippable pyrite magnetite having unusually high grade of 67 percent iron. Its measured reserves are about 111 million tones and according to reasonable geologic inferences its capacity reaches to more then two billion tones. Therefore, Hajigak is the third largest known iron ore in the world. The significant aspect of Hajigak is the presence of Dolomite limestone required in the preparation of industrial iron, cooking coal and natural gas in its vicinity.20

International market showed considerable interest in the development of Hajigak, provided the issue of accessibility is dealt with. The construction of steel mill in Karachi of Pakistan has further enhanced the significance of this deposit. With the assistance from a France-German company the development plan for Hajigak was prepared according to which the iron ore from Hajigak, after concentration process should have been transported to Doab (30 Mile to the north of Hajigak) where the blast furnace was to be brought from Shah Bashek and Dara-I-Suf area northwest of Doab. 21

When Daud and other Afghan rulers decided to reduce Afghan economic dependency on the Soviets Union economic aids in 1975-76, they looked to other sources of aid and assistance. Iran agreed to assist in construction of Railroad that would have cost almost one billion dollars. A French company SOFRERAII carried the survey and design of the railroad that was supposed to be extended from Heart to Kandahar and Kabul along the present roads. The Hajigak was to be connected to the railroad network and all three borders points to Iran, Pakistan and Soviets (present CIS Countries) were to be brought in one line. The iron bellets were intended for export to Iran, Pakistan Soviet Union and

other possible world markets. Advanced and newer techniques were to be used for the production of sponge iron inline with utilization of Afghan natural gas in place of coke.  

Soviets had already participated in early planning and earmarked funds for it. But the Russians aid in developing the Hajigak failed to materialize as the Seven Year Plan of the country progressed. There was a clear conflict in the perception of Hajigak development Afghan authorities and that of Soviets. Soviets had planed to mine the ore in Afghanistan and the production of iron and steel would be done entirely in Soviet Union. In the contrary Afghan authorities had planed to develop the iron deposit and process the ore to iron and steal inside Afghanistan. The Russian intentions came to light more and more after the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet forces in Dec 1978 and their arrangements for the implementations of their design in mining iron from Hajigak and processing it inside USSR.  

Cement:

Large supplies of limestone and coal in the country facilitate the plentiful production of cement. Afghans began the production of cement for the first time in 1958 in demand for the development of their country. The annual production rose to 158 tons in 1966 and by 1977 eight quarries and two plants were in operation at Pule Khumri and near Kandahar. For the purpose of export two major plants one in Heart with a capacity of 1,000 tons per year and the second in Kandahar with a capacity of 840,000 tons per year were planed.  

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To understand the excellent quality of Afghan cement, we quote the comment of the American geologist who is an expert on Afghan resources. "In 1981, a peculiar trade protocol for cement was signed between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Agreement to exchange each other's cements production ton for ton. This odd arrangement can be understood when it is realized that Soviet cement is of inferior quality and can not be sold in the world market, whereas Afghan cement is manufactured according to international standards and can be sold in world markets to the hard currency, benefits of the soviets."^{25}

9 Chromium:

Throughout this chapter we have been referring to fact that Afghan resources have not been surveyed to full extend and what ever information we have is either partially sealed from highly classified Soviet exploration and survey work or they have been acquired from some minor or isolated western companies involved in the exploration of Afghan resources for a short period. The only chromium deposit so far known in Afghanistan has a capacity of 180,000 tons, which contains 42 percent ore. Another sort from German geologist put the capacity of this reserve to 350,000 tons. Though reserve is comparatively small, but it presence is of some interest for outside world, primarily it is a strategic mineral needed in the manufacturing of high grade steel for military purposes and it is the largest chromium deposit in the region. West and United States are not having significant of chromium reserves and they acquire their needed entity from South Africa and occasionally from Russian Federation. Therefore, this deposit in Logar Province in the vicinity of Capital is of great importance. It is worth
mentioning that Soviet did plan to explore this deposit with an aim not to support its
teriorating Chromium deposits but their aim in confining the information to themselves
and deny the use of this strategic reserve to west and United States. 26

10 Precious Stones:

Gemstones are found in Afghanistan in large quantity that include emerald, ruby, lapis
lazuli, kunzite, tourmaline, aquamarine and garnet. Some of the deposits are of
considerable significance. The price of some of these gemstones put on display in Kabul
reached to US$60 million. It is relevant to highlight the economic importance of these
gemstones in the Afghan national resistance against Russian invasion. Afghan resistance
(juji) were relying on the benefit derived from the trade and business of these
precious stones, to fund their operations against the occupying force of the Soviet Union,
while the deposits were mainly in areas controlled by them.

These high quality rarity of many of these stones in particular lapis lazuli and emerald is
now a currency revenue source. Traditionally explosives are used in extraction and mining
of Afghanistan which severely damages the rare precious stones. This process has
affected the quality of Afghan’s precious stones in the world market. If these deposits are
mined carefully and marketed properly, they can represent a potentially significant
economic resource for Afghanistan. 27

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John F. Shroder. Jr and Abdul Tawab Assifi, Afghan Resources and Soviet Exploitation, Freedom House,


Russian by G.B.M. Bezulov.
2.11 Other Strategic Minerals:

There are many other important minerals in Afghanistan that could be of great importance in Afghan development or its balance of payment. They are lead, zinc, molybdenum, tin, beryllium, cesium, rubidium, lithium, tantalum, barite, celestite, asbestos, magnesite, muscovite, silver and gold. They all look potentially attractive for investment. The most important of all these minerals are uranium deposits that are strategic and difficult to assess their size and quality accurately. The Khanneshin volcanic complex situated in lower Helmand contains rich uranium and other rare earths. Their quantities are not known and accurate documents and maps have not been exposed to outside world. Soviets have tried to loot some of these uranium deposits since their invasion and data either classified or unclassified are unavailable.28

2.12 Water and Hydroelectric Power:

Three main drainages (basins) begins in Afghanistan:

2.12.1 Turkestan Drainage of Amu Darya (Oxus River) and other small surrounding drainages all of which flow north towards CIS Countries.

2.12.2 Indus River Drainages of the Kabul Kurrum and Gumal Rivers flowing east and southward.

2.12.3 Plateau Drainages of the Helmand close to Iran Border flowing westward to Seistan Depression

The above three drainages are of great significance to Afghanistan and its neighbors. Most of the development attention has been given to the northern drainage of Amu Darya (Jaxus River), that too due to Soviets aids and interest, affecting the territories under the then USSR. Afghans have never been allowed to use much of the river water both by Marxist and the then Soviets Regimes. The amount of water in Amu Darya, where it turns north into the Central Asian Countries is 1,742,000 cubic meters per second, very similar that of the Nile in Egypt. Soviets have funded many hydroelectric and irrigation schemes in north Afghanistan, some of which have been completed and some under construction and some never completed.29

The Kelagay dam on Kunduz River produces 60 MW electricity and irrigates 90,000 hectares of Afghan land. It was planned by Soviets to build a cascade of dams on Kunduz River after the invasion of Afghanistan, but it did not materialized due to the great scale national resistance by Afghan Mujahidin, who fought bravely to deny Russians the exploitation of these resources to their benefit.

Heart, a 40 MW dam was constructed on Hari Road River that irrigates 73,000 hectares of land and Yugoslavs too planned to construct dams on Murghab, Kaisar and J-e-Pul Rivers that irrigate about 250,000 hectares of land.

Other than Suroobi and Daruntah Dams no major hydroelectric project have been planned north of Hindu Kush Ranges (Indus River Drainage). Table (2.12-1) shows the total number of Hydroelectric Stations in the country.30

29 Amiate Islami Afghanistan, Publication Department, Development In Afghanistan, 1979.
### Chart (2.12-1) Power Stations in the country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Estb. Year</th>
<th>Tech. Assistance</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Situation In 1985</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jabal Saeraj</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>An English CO.</td>
<td>1500 KW</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chak Wardak</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>W. Germany</td>
<td>3360 kWh</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pule Khumri</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>9,000 kWh</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ningrahah</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>12,000 kw</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saroobi</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>W. Germany</td>
<td>22,000 kw</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helmand</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahiper</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>W. Germany</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naghlu</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
<td>Function full capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajak</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>12,000 KW</td>
<td>Difficulties in Functioning</td>
<td>Difficulties in Functioning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Including Badakshan massive canyons, estimated hydroelectricity potential of Afghanistan is 2500 MW. Being a mountainous country with many large rivers and their tributaries, Afghanistan has great potential in producing hydroelectric power, but the investment and financing have always been the major obstacle in exploring these promising opportunities.
3 Manufacturing:

Though the foundations of industrial production were laid during the enlightened Amani
period, which took Afghanistan out of the handicraft age, however, industrial
development was greatly retarded by lack of directives and mismanagement that
characterized subsequent regimes. Consequently the contribution of industry to the gross
domestic product today is small, less than 10 percent. Handicrafts particularly hand-
loom carpets contribute more to the GDP than modern industry. Even the oldest
established and largest industry, textile, is not yet able to satisfy domestic demand.\(^{31}\)

Private businessmen established the first industrial manufacturing plants in Afghanistan.
Later on, they received support from both the Bank-i-Milli (National Bank), and the
government. However, it wasn't until the 1960's and 1970's, that manufacturing greatly
increased. Foreign investors helped jumpstart many small industries by supplying the
needed capital.

For example, in 1965, a large West German built wool mill opened, and the amount of
wool produced and exported doubled. Besides this modernization of industry,
Afghanistan still enjoys the benefits of the cottage industry system, in which rug weaving
handicrafts are bringing in a good amount of money.
### Chart (2.13-1) Industrial Plants Prior To 1964.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Workers in 1980</th>
<th>No. of Shifts since 1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match Factory</td>
<td>Dar-ul-Aman (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jangalak Hardware &amp; Furniture</td>
<td>Jangalak (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakar Earthware Plant</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>About 200</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture &amp; Carpentry</td>
<td>Kahwaja Mulla (Kabul)</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pashun Co. Ltd. (Ice Manufacturers)</td>
<td>Kandahar City</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order since 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risin Processing Plant</td>
<td>Kandahar</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order in 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Corp Ltd</td>
<td>Kandahar City</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order since 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible Oil Plant</td>
<td>Helmand (Lashkargah)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order in 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marble Sculpture Plant</td>
<td>Helmand (Lashkargah)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order in 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture &amp; Carpentry</td>
<td>Helmand (Lashkargah)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order in 1985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Chart (2.13-2) Industrial Plants Established After 1984.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Workers in 1980</th>
<th>No. of Shifts Since 1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edible Oil Plant</td>
<td>Helmand (Grishk)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order in 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinzer Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>Kunduz</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagrami Textile</td>
<td>Bagrami (Kabul)</td>
<td>4200/2600</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Processing Corp.</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taufiq Industrial Corp.</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk Work Plant</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karim Sweater Plant</td>
<td>Chaman-e-Huzoori (Kabul)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feroz Textile Corp.</td>
<td>Jad-e-Nader Pashtun (Kabul)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table (2.13-2) Continues...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Workers in 1980</th>
<th>No. of Shifts since 1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hussainzada</td>
<td>Jad-e-Nader Pashtun (Kabul)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sayed Textile Corp.</td>
<td>Shah Shahid (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>One shifted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Barikot Cement Pre-Fabricated Construction Material Plant</td>
<td>Zinda Banan (Kabul)</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Steel Work Furniture Plant</td>
<td>Guzargah (Kabul)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Linen Plant</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ahu Shoe Plant</td>
<td>Pul-e-Mahmud Khan (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Work suspended, only installation kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Kabul Plastic Plant</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Raisin Processing Plant</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Chart (2.13-3) Industrial Establishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Workers in 1980</th>
<th>No. of Shifts since 1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wool Work Factory</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>710/380</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Umed Textile Corp.</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ariana Bicycle Mfg.</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Barikot Sculpture Plant</td>
<td>Barikot (Kabul)</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Buyad Textile Plant</td>
<td>Shishdarak (Kabul)</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bus Corp. Workshop</td>
<td>Microrayan (Kabul)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>One shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mirror Mfg.</td>
<td>Industrial Zone (Kabul)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Out of order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part (2.13-4) Major Textile Plants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Est. Date</th>
<th>Annual Capacity</th>
<th>Situation in 1985</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gulbahar</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>54 million meters</td>
<td>Production and labour force reduced to 1/3 of former</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pul-e-Khumri</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>30 million meters</td>
<td>Still functioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jabul Saraj</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1 million meters</td>
<td>Still functioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>12 million meters</td>
<td>Out of order due to lack of raw material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>1938-41</td>
<td>10 million meters</td>
<td>Out of order due to lack of raw material.</td>
<td>Production reduced due to lack of raw material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ningarhar-Samarkhel</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 4 Trade

Historically Afghanistan was an ancient civilizations, strategically and geopolitically situated in one of the most economically and politically sensitive areas of the world.

It is also observed that in the race to reach the vast resources of C.I.S. Countries, Afghanistan provides the shortest and most economic route to the International trade and commerce. No doubt the entrance in the markets of Central Asia and the task of investment in Afghanistan would be more competitive in nature. Only those with efficient knowledge and enough technical information can dare to go in.

Most of the trade that goes on in Afghanistan is domestic. Foreign trade is indeed essential to the economic health of the country. The main Afghan exports are: Fruits, Cotton, Nuts, Rugs, and Natural Gas. Prior to the years of political turmoil and civil war,
Afghanistan used to carry out most of it's trading with the Federation of Russia and CIS countries, Pakistan, Great Britain, Germany, and India.  

There is no doubt that Afghanistan has extensive natural resources that should be developed. From the business viewpoint it is important to know that it is profitable to initiate business in Afghanistan International business and investment will bring in much needed revenue to the country, which will contribute towards funding the reconstruction of the cities, roads, water, electricity, damaged in the twenty years of fighting.

The international investment will certainly bring employment to the country and the copper and chromites deposits are just outside Kabul, the capital, which should help to bring employment close to the city.

A large number of foreign companies move into the countries of the former Soviet Union, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, etc, all of which have natural resources. Afghanistan could provide key access to these countries to export their resources to the rest of the world and in particular to East and South East Asia. The waste and huge markets of Central Asia would be opened to the finished products of Industrialized countries of South and South East Asia. The county has already seen the proposed IGC and Bridas multi-billion pipeline project through Afghanistan to Pakistan. Peace years to be returning to the country after 20 years of war and if only all of the groups again Afghanistan can work together to resolve their differences, it is that the country can an extraordinary opportunity to benefit from its location at the hub of central Asia. By

Professor Hamidullah Amin, A glance at Afghan External Trade, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Kabul University, 1971.
Early entrants into Afghanistan, when there are still many unknowns that not only investors can benefit, but that they can bring even greater benefits to the country.  

Exports were worth above $300 million a year before the war began in the country and main items are raw cotton, raisins, natural gas, carpets and rugs, dried fruits and edible nuts, fresh fruits, vegetables and Karakul skins. Imports, were around $320 million annually that included machinery, petroleum and petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and other consumer goods. Table (2.14-1) and (2.14-2) shows the direction of export-import and major commodities in 1980's.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direction of Trade</th>
<th>Total exports 313.4 million</th>
<th>Principal Commodities</th>
<th>In US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>117.4 mil.</td>
<td>Raw cotton</td>
<td>61.4 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>38.2 mil.</td>
<td>Raisins</td>
<td>39.5 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>37.9 mil.</td>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>39.5 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>23.9 mil.</td>
<td>Other dried fruits and nuts</td>
<td>26.2 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany, Fed. Rep.</td>
<td>17.4 mil.</td>
<td>Fresh fruits</td>
<td>23.5 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>14.4 mil.</td>
<td>Carpets and rugs</td>
<td>23.2 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>11.4 mil.</td>
<td>Karakul</td>
<td>20.8 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>8.8 mil.</td>
<td>Hides and skins</td>
<td>11.8 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>7.9 mil.</td>
<td>Medicinal herbs and spices</td>
<td>11.6 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China, People's Rep.</td>
<td>6.8 mil.</td>
<td>Oil seeds</td>
<td>10.2 mil.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2.15 Land and Resources

The Land: Afghanistan is known for its mountainous terrain. The huge Hindu Kush Mountains form a barrier between the Northern provinces and the rest of the country. This mountain range has also divided Afghanistan into three very different geographic regions known as: The Central Highlands, The Northern Plains, and the Southwestern Plateau. The altitude, climate, and soil conditions in Afghanistan vary greatly on where in the country you are.34

2.15.1 THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS:

The central highlands have an area of about 160,000 square miles. This region of Afghanistan has deep narrow valleys, as well as high mountains that have proven to be

Jamiati Islami Afghanistan, Publication Department, Development In Afghanistan, 1979.
Historically important to the defense of the country. One of the most famous routes to the Indian subcontinent, The Khyber Pass, is located in the mountain ranges of the central highlands. The climate in this part of Afghanistan is usually dry, with temperatures in the summer averaging around 80 degrees Fahrenheit, while the winters are very cold. The soil in this region ranges from desert-steppe, to meadow-steppe types.35

5.2 THE SOUTHERN PLATEAU:
This region of Afghanistan is made up of high plateaus and sandy deserts. The soil here is very infertile, except along the rivers in the southwest. This desolate region covers about 10,000 square miles, and is crossed by several large rivers including the Helmand. The average altitude of this area is about 3,000 feet. Kandahar, which lies at an elevation of about 3,500 feet, enjoys a dry, yet mild climate. Sand storms are not unusual in the deserts and barren plains of this region.36

5.3 THE NORTHERN PLAINS:
This region of Afghanistan covers about 40,000 square miles of extremely fertile foothills and plains. The Amu Drya (formerly known as the Oxus) runs through the edge of the foothills. The average elevation is about 2,000 feet. A tremendous amount of the country's agriculture thrives here. This region also possesses a vast amount of mineral deposits and natural gas.37

35, 36, 37. See: Namiate Islami Afghanistan, Publication Department, Development In Afghanistan, 1979.

66
Agriculture:

Agriculture plays a major role in Afghanistan's economy, which is mainly pastoral and dependent on agricultural production. The mainstays of the economy and the chief earners of foreign exchange are Karakul skins, cotton, fresh and dried fruits, wool and hand-woven carpets. The major food crops produced are: Corn, Rice, Barley, Wheat, Vegetables, Fruits, and Nuts. Of the total land area of 64.7 million hectares only 22 percent is suitable for cultivation and where irrigation is possible good crops may be obtained. Some of the non-irrigated land is dry farmed (Lalam) but not all.\[^{38}\]

The low yields of wheat obtained in recent years are mainly due to a reduction in soil fertility, war side effects and primitive cultivation. Though self-sufficient in wheat production, Afghanistan depends on imports in the present time due to continuous military operations and political turmoil and at times due to natural catastrophes.

Cotton, another major crop, is grown in the northern provinces, but cultivation has also spread in the Helmand valley and Heart. Among Afghanistan’s other agricultural crops, sugar beet, sugar cane and vegetable oil seeds. At present none of these crops, with the exception of wheat and cotton, are produced in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the country so that substantial quantities of sugar and vegetable oils are being imported.\[^{39}\]

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\[^{38}\] Professor Hamidullah Amin, A glance at Afghan External Trade, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Kabul University, 1971.

\[^{39}\] Professor Hamidullah Amin, A glance at Afghan External Trade, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Kabul University, 1971.
The cultivation of fruit is also important and profitable, particularly in southern and eastern Afghanistan where grapes, oranges, melons, pomegranates, apricots, peaches and many other varieties of the highest quality are produced. Traditionally both fresh and dried fruits are exported to India and Pakistan, but shipments of dried fruits were also going to the then USSR and some European countries. The installation of modern facilities for cleaning and packing dried fruits, raisins in particular, should make it possible for Afghanistan to export to more distant markets.

Sheep farming is also extremely valuable. The major sheep product exports are wool, and highly prized Karakul skins. The main wealth of the country, however, is in its flocks and herds. Two of Afghanistan’s leading exports, Karakul pelts, hides, skins and wool depend on the raising of sheep. The sale of Karakul skins abroad alone accounted for a large part of the country’s foreign exchange earnings. Sheep, excluding Karakul, are the main source of meat for the country, and they produce sufficient wool for export. Hence, it is without question that the main source of income in Afghanistan is agriculture. During it's good years, Afghanistan produced enough food and food products to provide for the people as well as to create a surplus for export. Industry is also based on agriculture, and pastoral raw materials. The major industrial crops are: Cotton Tobacco, Opium, Castor, beans and Sugar beets.40

7 Domesticated Plants In Afghanistan:

7.1 Nuts and Fruits: like figs, walnuts, plums, almonds, bananas, dates, pears, cherries, apricots, mulberries, grapes, pomegranates, apples, quince, oranges, cherries, blueberries, pine nuts and tomatoes.

Professor Hamidullah Amin, A glance at Afghan External Trade, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Kabul University, 1971.

68
17.2 Cereals: rice, spring and winter rye, wheat, barley, maize, millet and castor oil plant.

17.3 Vegetables: beets, sesame, spinach, flax, radish, pumpkin, potatoes, salad greens, cabbage, garlic, leeks, turnips, asparagus, brussels sprouts, eggplants, squash, tulipflower, fennel, Zanzibar pea, garden pea, onions, cotton, oleaster, sugarcane, vetch, rape, alfalfa, tobacco, mustard, cucumbers, carrots, clover, lentils, opium poppy, chickpea, watermelons, Jerusalem, artichoke, broad bean, melons and sunflowers.\textsuperscript{41}

8 Conclusion:

The survey of Afghanistan’s potential resources have never been extensive and transparent, the recent of which dates back to 1978. Despite the old and obsolete Soviets stem and technology used in the survey and investigation of Afghanistan mineral resources and other economic potentials, one can sense the great potentials and an excellent future economic prospect for the country and the investors. The only dominant aim of Soviets with vicious aims and purposes were involved in the compilation of data, never reported the facts and figures in their true dimensions. The analysts believe that with the return of peace to Afghanistan and a complete and extensive survey and investigation of resources, many promising and new mineral and other economic potentials will be discovered.

Throughout the discussion of the process of resource development in Afghanistan, the Soviets in creating economic dependency and economic complementarities with their turn economy was repeatedly highlighted. Thus, they deliberately obstructed the

\textsuperscript{41} Professor Hamidullah Amin, A glance at Afghan External Trade, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Kabul University, 1971.
development of Afghanistan’s potential resources. Soviets monopolistic involvement in Afghanistan was part of their desire for world monopoly in various mineral resources of underdeveloped countries, exploiting them either to their own economic gains or denying the access to the West.

It is very important to note that the failure of resource development in Afghanistan has any internal reasons too. Lack of commitment on the part of country’s leaders, and absence of public support to most of these developmental projects due to the inapparentness of any clear benefit to the majority of population are another major factors. Institutional changes, as prerequisite for successful development, were not thought about.

Most of the projects were financed by foreign aid, which resulted in the demise of the majority of resource developmental plans in the country. In most cases Afghans had no control over the events in the development of their potential resources.