Teaching Beyond September 11th
Module 1

The Origins of US Involvement in Afghanistan
Hard or \(\text{Soft}\) Power?

1. Carrying out air strikes with the purpose of dropping bombs on known targets.
2. Imposing an arms embargo including the prohibition of receiving military weapons, training, and advice.
3. Ensuring that educational institutions welcome foreign students to study in their degree programs.
4. Invading through the use of military force.
5. Exercising economic pressure such as limiting foreign investment in a country’s industries.
6. Creating technological innovations that contribute to the greater good.
7. Providing humanitarian aid such as food and health care.
Definition of Hard and Soft Power

Notice the different types of artifacts provided.

Examine what they are showing or symbolizing.

As you examine these artifacts, consider the following:

1. Identify the foreign powers involved in Afghanistan during period in question. Explain what motivated their interest in Afghanistan.

2. What are examples of how these foreign countries exerted their soft power or hard power over Afghanistan to fulfill their own agenda?
Selling the Afghan War by ‘Saving’ Afghan Women

Module 1, Lesson 3
1) Describe these photos.
2) Caption the photos and describe the scene as if they were being displayed in a gallery.
Definitions

**Generalized language:** Broad statements that might be partially true, but not entirely true. Therefore applying generalizations to a group of people can be misleading because it does not capture complex realities and lived experiences.

**Us/Them language:** The binary division of people into two groups: one that is similar, familiar, ideologically aligned, and therefore welcomed (“us”) and one that is foreign, peculiar, ideologically different, and therefore threatening (“them”).

**Conflated language:** Statements that combine two or more sets of information or ideas suggesting that they are connected, but they are actually being mixed up or confused and require separation.
Discussion Questions

Why is it problematic to frame the U.S.’s involvement in Afghanistan in terms of saving Afghan women?

How effective is it to frame the Global War on Terror as a mission to support Afghan women? Who might find this messaging appealing?

Why shouldn’t wearing a veil be associated with a lack of agency?
Laura Bush
Radio Address

November 17, 2001

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31a-oLJ2N2s
Debrief Questions

How does drawing attention to Afghan women help “sell” the Global War on Terror to the American Public?

In what ways is framing the war in these terms hypocritical?
Why is it problematic to frame the U.S.’s involvement in Afghanistan in terms of saving Afghan/Muslim women?

How effective is it to frame the Global War on Terror as a mission to support Afghan women? Who might find this messaging appealing?

Why shouldn’t wearing a veil be associated with a lack of agency?