

**Activities**  
**1400-1500**

**Reference: 1.4.1:**

- What do you know about the Afghan History?

**Reference: 1.4.2:**

- Please review the following questions and we will discuss them after you watched the lesson.
  1. In your opinion, “Why has Afghanistan been at war for so long?”
  2. Why did the Russians invade Afghanistan, and what did they want to achieve?
  3. In your opinion what went wrong to cause the Russians to not succeed in their mission in Afghanistan?
  4. You learned from the lesson that warlords and warring factions were the major contributors to the sufferings of Afghans and the destruction of the country. However, some of those individuals are part of the current administration of President Karzai. What is your opinion on this? Do you see this as good or bad? And why?

**Reference 1.4.3:** Lesson-1, Slides (4-33): [www.DariCulture.com](http://www.DariCulture.com)

**Reference 1.4.4:** Now that you watched the lesson, let's discuss the followings:

1. In your opinion, "Why has Afghanistan been at war for so long?"
2. Why did the Russians invade Afghanistan, and what did they want to achieve?
3. In your opinion what went wrong to cause the Russians to not succeed in their mission in Afghanistan?
4. You learned from the lesson that warlords and warring factions were the major contributors to the sufferings of Afghans and the destruction of the country. However, some of those individuals are part of the current administration of President Karzai. What is your opinion on this? Do you see this as good or bad? And why?

## Teacher's Note:

Focus on:

- Relationship between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries
- Talk about relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Durand line)
- The Soviets sent troops into Afghanistan in 1979 for a number of reasons:
  - First, they wished to expand their influence in Asia.
  - Second, they also wanted to preserve the Communist government that had been established in the 1970s, which was collapsing because of its lack of support other than in the military.
  - Third, the Soviets wanted to protect their interests in Afghanistan from Iran and western nations.
  - Get close to warm water port (Pakistan & India)
- What went wrong with Russian mission
  - Change of the religion by force
  - Looked down on the culture (bride price went down)
  - High level of atrocities and killing of innocent people
  - Forcing landlords to keep small portion of the agricultural lands for themselves and donate the rest to farmers, especially to those who were supporting the central government
- Many warlords and communists, who were major contributors to the destruction of the country, presently sharing power with in the current administration. President Karzai's rationale behind this act was to refrain those warlords from disrupting peace and stability in the country. In addition, warlords were/are powerbrokers and their existence cannot be ignored.

