

2023: A Year in Review at the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)

Events 2023:

[Online Roundtable Discussion on Chasing Unicorn: Norway's Taliban Diplomacy](#)

Friday, January 20, 2023

Norway's recent efforts, including mediation secret talks between the former authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban, and subsequently Norway's hosting of Taliban leaders in January 2022 have raised many questions regarding Norway's foreign policy and its engagement with the Taliban. In order to answer these questions, the Institute of Strategic Studies of Afghanistan held a...



[In-person Roundtable Discussion on Digital Mullahs: Understanding Taliban's Online Strategy & Policy Responses](#)

Friday, February 10, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) in partnership with the Conflict and Civil Society Research Unit of the LSE held an in-person roundtable discussion on Taliban's Online Strategy. The Taliban's victory was facilitated by many factors, including Taliban's masterful utilisation of modern social media platforms. The Taliban did not "out-fight" their formidable military foes, but they outsmarted them; as they did not win any major military battles prior to July 2021...



Online Roundtable Discussion on Reimagining UNAMA: From Powerbroker to Principle- Centric

Monday, February 20, 2023

The role of the UNAMA has been sensitive and contentious for more than 2 decades. Since the return of the Taliban to power on August 2, 2021, UNAMA's role has arguably now become even more important than ever, serving as a bridge for Afghanistan's people to the outside world, and as a conduit from the Western world. As part of its ongoing online discussion series, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies - UK (AISS-UK) organized an online discussion yesterday, the 20th of February 2023 to discuss UNAMA's role in Afghanistan and its engagement...



Celebration of International Mother Language Day and Cherishing Farsi in London

Sunday, February 26, 2023

The 8th commemorating of celebrating the International Mother Language Day and cherishing Farsi was held on Sunday, February 26, in London. This ceremony was held with the support and coordination of eight academic, Think Thanks, and community institutions, including the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Farsi Action Foundation, Mosaic Afghanistan, the Glasgow Afghan United, Awesta (Real action for a better world), Dastyar Cultural Association, Ariana Association of Afghanistan Community Association, and Amu TV...



[AISS DG, Dr. Davood Moradian spoke at the UK House of Lords on Taliban's Gender Apartheid!](#)

Monday, February 27, 2023

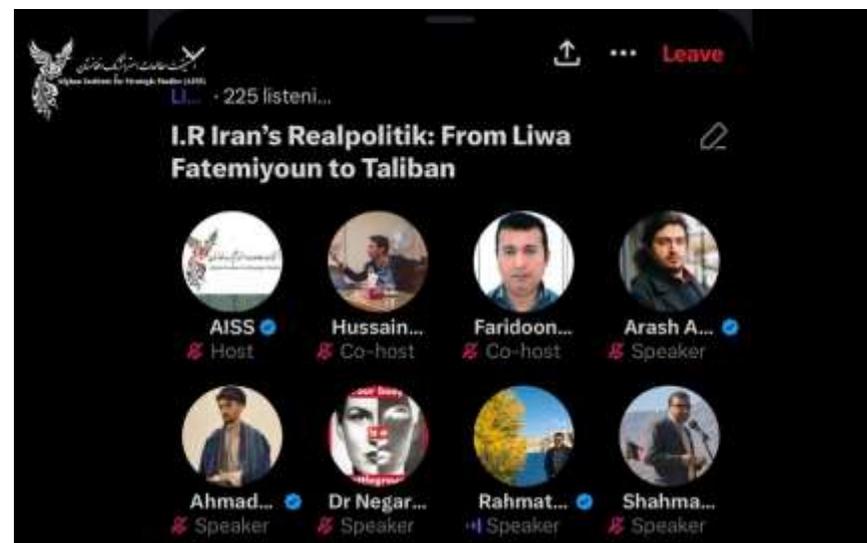
On the Annual Lecture of Rahela Trust, the UK House of Lords hosted a discussion on 'How can women access education and work in Afghanistan today?' yesterday February 27, 2023 to discuss the current issues and barriers surrounding Afghan women and education. Dr. Davood Moradian talked about #Taliban's Gender Apartheid and the responsibility of the British government as a country that has a rich history in confronting early apartheid and fascist regimes...



[I.R Iran's Realpolitik: From Liwa Fatemiyoun to Taliban](#)

Saturday, March 04, 2023

The presence of experts from Afghanistan and Iran. The program featured Dr. Negar Partow, Professor of MENA and Security at Massey University, New Zealand, Dr. Arash Azizi, Writer and Historian from New York University, Shah Mahmoud Miakhil, former Acting Defense Minister, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Rahmatullah Nabil, former DIR of National Directorate Security (NDS) and Hussain Ehsani, researcher, Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies. Explaining the security policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Negar Partow provided an overview of the Iran's security institutions relations and Afghanistan's internal affairs...



Webinar Discussion on Taliban’ Gender Apartheid: Moving Beyond Condemnation

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Since the Taliban’s return to power in August 2021, all the progress of the last two decades for women and girls has been erased. The Taliban are again imposing a regime of gender apartheid in Afghanistan in violation of international law, as they did back in the 1990s. The term gender apartheid refers to the systematic discrimination and segregation of women and men, and may also systematically exclude women from public spaces and spheres. Sadly, this is a reality for women and girls in Afghanistan...



AISS representative spoke at the Centre for Dialogue & Progress-Geneva (CDP-G) Conference

Thursday, March 16, 2023

The second round of Center for Dialogue & Progress-Geneva (CDP-G) conference on “National Dialogue, Role of Civil Society, & the Future of Democratic Forces in Afghanistan,” was held in Antalya, Türkiye in partnership with the Akadeniz University on 16-17 of March 2023. Talking about the Aid Delivery, Inclusivity & Women, Khandan Danish said socioeconomic well-being is severely worsening, with 28.3 million Afghans living in poverty. She added that the Taliban’s policies such as banning women from working in the humanitarian assistance sector have exacerbated the crisis and affected the humanitarian aid delivery...



Celebrating Nowruz in London; Commemorating the Ancient Cultural Heritage of Our Ancestors & Cvilisation

Sunday, March 19, 2023

The celebration of the Year 1402 Nowruz was held on Sunday, March 19 in London for cherishing and commemorating of the ancient cultural heritage of our civilization. This ceremony was held with the support and coordination of a group of social, cultural, academic, and community institutions, including the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Farsi Action Foundation, Mosaic Afghanistan, the Glasgow Afghan United, Awesta (Real action for a better world), Dastyar Cultural Association, and Ariana Association of Afghanistan...



Twitter Space Discussion LGBT Discourse in Afghanistan: Power; Identity & Equality

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

LGBT people in Afghanistan face many problems due to social, cultural/traditional and legal problems. In the Afghan society, LGBT community are held captive by Sharia laws and are forced to keep their gender identity and sexual orientation secret, in fear of harassment, intimidation, persecution, violence, and death penalty. The religious nature of the country has limited opportunity for public discussion, with any mention of homosexuality and related terms deemed taboo not only in Afghanistan but also in the majority of the Islamic society. However, what is the situation of these people under the rule of the Taliban?...



University of Sussex Afghan Community Eid

Monday, April 24, 2023

As part of its engagement plan with the Afghan scholars/researchers and academic society in diaspora, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies organized a gathering with the Afghan community (alumni and students) University Sussex on Monday 24th of April on the occasion of Eid. The objective was to introduce AISS's activities to the newly displaced Afghan scholars and engage with Afghanistan's displaced/dispersed academic/research community. Dr Moradian, AISS DG said that AISS aims to contribute in creating "Afghanistan Knowledge Hub" by organizing, empowering and integrating Afghan research and academic community...



Webinar Discussion on Fighting Cancer with Cancer: Demystifying Taliban's ISIL-K Drama

Monday, May 01, 2023

Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, ISIL-K is believed to have grown even larger in size and stronger in operational capability, due in part to the end of the Afghan/NATO military operations against it, as well as the savvy tactical adjustments by the group's new leader, Shahab al Muhajir. ISIL-K is now estimated to command a fighting force of 4,000 to 6,000, operating across Afghanistan through a cell-based structure, poised to expand its operations across the region and beyond...



Twitter Space Discussion Immigration & Mental Health: The Psychological Consequences of Immigration & Remedies

Monday, May 22, 2023

As part of its ongoing online discussion series, the Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies held a Twitter space on May 22, 2023, under the title "Immigration and Mental Health: Psychological Consequences of Immigration & Remedies". Dr. Ruhullah Amin, psychologist and former professor of the American University of Afghanistan, Dr. Batool Haidari, Psychologist and University lecturer, and Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Sakha, Psychiatrist in England, were the speakers in this program. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Khushal Nabizadeh, the former head of Public Health Directorate in Kabul...



Book Launching of Messengers Under the Hum of Bullets

Friday, May 26, 2023

Afghanistan Institute of Strategic Studies launched the book "The Messenger Under the Hum of Bullets" translated by Hussain Ehsani, AISS research fellow on the public library of Toronto, Canada, on Friday, May 26, 2023. The event was held with the presence of Afghan civil society, scholars, researchers and civil activists living in Toronto and with the participation of speakers including Ms. Nargis Nahan, women's rights activist and former head of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Mr. Lotfullah Najafzadeh, head of Amu TV, Mr. Shoaib Rahim, head of the American University of Afghanistan's Faculty of Commerce, and civil society activist Reza Kateb...



Webinar Discussion on The Taliban conundrum: What's next for EU in Afghanistan?

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

The joint zoom webinar 'The Taliban conundrum: What's next for EU in Afghanistan?' between Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies-AISS & EU Watch took place.

The webinar has been moderated by Marika Theros, Senior Fellow at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Non-residential Senior Fellow at the South Asia Centre, Atlantic Council.

After seizing power, the Taliban has severely restricted civic space, reinstated gender apartheid and rejected international efforts to construct a nominally inclusive political order.



Winners of 2022 “Avicenna International Award for Intercultural Cooperation for Peace-IV”

Monday, June 26, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies organized the fourth round of Avicenna Peace Award ceremony in London. This year’s winners were Jewish non-governmental organisations that helped with the evacuation of Afghans after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021. The organisation’s honoured at this year’s event were: Jewish Federations of North America HIAS + JCOREIsraAID World Jewish Relief. AISS was also joined by distinguished speakers and guests, including Ms. Fawzia Koofi, Ambassador Sayed Taib Jawad, former ambassador of Afghanistan to Moscow, Dr Sahraa Karimi, and representatives from the Jewish organisations...



International Conference ‘Reimagining Afghanistan: Ways Forward’

Friday, July 21, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies-AISS held one day conference at King's College London, on July 20th, 2023. The International Conference 'Reimagining Afghanistan: Ways Forward' brought together a selected number of experts, officials and analysts to exchange views on the sustainable settlement of Afghanistan's decades-old conflict. Mr. John F. Sopko, USA Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) was the “Special Guest” alongside other distinguished guests...



AISS Presents: Book Signing & Launch "The Pashtun Tribes in Afghanistan"

Friday, July 21, 2023

In part of the International Conference 'Reimagining Afghanistan: Ways Forward' on July 20th, 2023@KingsCollegeLon. @AISS launched 'The Pashtun Tribes in Afghanistan' book authored by Ben Acheson, Former Political Adviser to #EU and #NATO Special Representatives in Afghanistan. Framed by his first-hand experience, Ben Acheson provided a brief presentation of his book which is an exploration of the Pashtun tribes in Afghanistan, providing the knowledge needed to navigate a complex tribal environment. It explores the Pashtun way of life still enshrined in the ancient “Pashtunwali” honour code. It explains the tribal structure, tribal territories...



[Book Launch “Afghan Napoleon: The Life of Ahmad Shah Massoud”](#)

Wednesday, September 06, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies held the unveiling of the book titled "Napoleon of Afghanistan" in the hall of the Center for Linear Heritage of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan in the city of Dushanbe on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. A large number of civil activists, researchers, and university professors were present at this meeting. The book "Napoleon of Afghanistan" was written by British author Sandy Gall. It details the life of Ahmad Shah Massoud. This book was translated into Persian by Zubair Sohail and was published by Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies...



[Webinar Discussion on White Taliban: Inverted Orientalism; Useful Idiots & Great Game](#)

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

On September 20, 2023, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies hosted a webinar titled "White Taliban: Inverted Orientalism; Useful Idiots and the Great Game." The speakers for this webinar were Dr. Christian Fair, a professor at Georgetown University, Shaira Karimi, a researcher at the Tony Blair Institute, and Scott Richards, founder of the Presidium network. The program was hosted by Ms. Peymana Assad, the founder and head of the foreign policy group of the UK Labour Party.

During the webinar, the speakers addressed the following questions:...



The 2nd Annual Global Friends of Afghanistan's Conference

Tuesday, October 03, 2023

The 2nd annual Global Friends of Afghanistan's Conference was organized by Global Friends of Afghanistan in collaboration and partnership of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies under the theme of "Human Rights and Pathways to Afghanistan's Stability" from October 1st to October 3rd, 2023, in Virginia, USA.

The main objective of this conference was to provide assistance to recently arrived Afghan immigrants in the United States. The three day's conference focused on enhancing the integration of Afghan immigrants into the United States,



AISS Launched the Farsi translation of Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan

Thursday, October 12, 2023

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies launched the Farsi translation of Professor Karima Bennoune's treatise on "Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan" in University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy in Toronto, Canada. Karima Bennoune is an international law expert who teaches at the University of California, Davis. She specializes in public international law and international human rights law, including issues related to culture, extremism and terrorism, and women's human rights. The book was translated by Mohammad Mukhtari...



[From Democracy to Gender Apartheid: Canada's Foreign Policy and the Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan](#)

Thursday, October 12, 2023

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies held a panel discussion titled “From Democracy to Gender Apartheid: Canada's Foreign Policy and the Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan” at Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. The event was co-sponsored by Munk Schools's Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, and Munk School’s Asian Studies. The panel discussion was moderated by Shoab Rahim,...



[The 11th Annual Herat Security Dialogue \(HSD-XI\)](#)

Monday, November 27, 2023

The 11th Herat Security Dialogue, held in Dushanbe on November 27 and 28, 2023, concluded after two days of extensive discussions focused on "Reimagining Afghanistan: Ways Forward." This event brought together global experts, politicians, and representatives to deliberate on Afghanistan's future. The conference featured seven insightful panels. Panel 1, "Security Black Hole: Theme Park of Tragedies & Threats," examined the region's security dynamics, highlighting Afghanistan's role as a haven for terrorist groups. Panel 2, "Gender Apartheid: Rhetorical Solidarity; Effective Mechanism," focused on gender disparities and women's rights in Afghanistan...



[Arab Women with Afghan Women](#)

Sunday, December 03, 2023

Morocco, The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, in collaboration with the Arab Center For Research, launched the "Arab Women with Afghan Women". This initiative aims to foster stronger connections and mutual support among political and social activists women from Afghanistan and seven Arab countries. Over 30 activists from Afghanistan and various Arab nations participated in the event. Their primary objective was to conduct in-depth analyses of the situation of women in Afghanistan and advocate for their fundamental rights in regional and international forums. Additionally, the program focused on enhancing bilateral understanding and empowering women through academic and institutional activities...



Opinions:

[Resisting the Taliban's New Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan](#)

Friday, March 17, 2023

Co-Authored by Zalmay Neshat, AISS Research Fellow

[Iran, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban; Close Relations between Shiite and Sunni Fundamentalists: A Strategic Move or a Matter of Expediency?](#)

Thursday, March 23, 2023

By Rahmatullah Nabil

[Resisting the Shadow of Gender Apartheid: The Struggle for Women's Rights in Afghanistan](#)

Friday, March 31, 2023

By Fatima Faizi

[The Past, Present and Future of Afghanistan's LGBTQI+ Community](#)

Saturday, April 08, 2023

By Nemat Sadat

[Buried Beneath the Taliban: Women's Struggle for Freedom under Taliban's Gender Apartheid](#)

Thursday, April 13, 2023

By: Mujtaba Haris

[Extreme Poverty in Afghanistan: Selling Girls to Survive](#)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

By Zulikha Akrami

[Education Helped Me to Break the Strong Chains of Patriarchy](#)

Monday, April 24, 2023

By Ziauddin Yousafzai

[Speech of Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta at the Second Round of the Vienna Talks](#)

Friday, April 28, 2023

Speech of Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta

[Ending the United States' Afghan Agony: Put Up or Shut Up](#)

Saturday, April 29, 2023

By Dr. Davood Moradian

[Defending Diversity: Minorities under Taliban Rule](#)

Tuesday, May 02, 2023

By Sediqa Bakhtiari

[An Ongoing War Without Bombs Inside Afghanistan: The Radicalization of The Current Education System by The Taliban](#)

Saturday, May 06, 2023

By Zulikha Akrami

[Can Terrorists Become Counter-Terrorists?](#)

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

By Ambassador Edmund Fitton-Brown

[Breaking Down the Socio-Economic Barriers for Women's Empowerment](#)

Saturday, May 13, 2023

By Abdul Saboor Sitez

[Broken Promises: Afghanistan's Drugs Trade Thrives Despite the Taliban's Anti-Drugs Pledge](#)

Monday, May 29, 2023

By Mujtaba Haris

[Water Wars: Assessing the Stakes for Afghanistan in its Disputes with Iran](#)

Thursday, June 15, 2023

By Elham Kabir

[Afghanistan's Rural Economy: The Challenges & Key Development Strategies](#)

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

By Abdul Wafi Nayebzai

[Taliban and Extremism: A Leech on The Body of The Community](#)

Thursday, June 22, 2023

By Abdul Saboor Sitez

[Jews of Afghanistan: A History of Tolerance and Diversity](#)

Tuesday, July 04, 2023

By: Amb. Said Jawad

[The Taliban's Takeover of the government: Assessing the Crucial Implications for the People of Afghanistan](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

By Hassan Reza Rezaye

[A Contemplation on The Fundamentals of Legitimacy of The Taliban's Political System: Survival or Collapse?](#)

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

By Mohammad Ali Hussaini

[Flimsy Fortresses: A Reflection on The Collapse of Afghanistan's Political Systems During The Past Five Decades](#)

Monday, July 31, 2023

By Abdul Saboor Sitez

[Counting the Costs: Unveiling the Consequences of the War Economy on Afghanistan's Political Landscape from 2001-21](#)

Tuesday, August 08, 2023

By Elham Kabir

[The "New" Taliban: A Changing of Ideology or Strategy?](#)

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

By Shakiba Mahryaar

[A Profile on The Status of Women During the Decade and A Half of Reconstruction:](#)

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

By Abdul Saboor Sitez

[The First vs the Second Regimes of the Taliban Government in Afghanistan](#)

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

By Zulikha Akrami

[Dollars Deployed: How the Weaponization of the U.S. Financial System Contributed to Afghanistan's Collapse](#)

Friday, September 01, 2023

By Timor Sharan

[Tackling the Taliban: Civil Struggles vs. Armed Resistance](#)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

By Mohammad Noman Baber

[Afghanistan and the Growing Trend of Terrorist Thinking](#)

Saturday, September 23, 2023

By Abdul Saboor Sitez

[The Taliban Regime was Not Inevitable – Afghanistan’s Historical and Cultural Legacy and Efforts to Revive It](#)

Wednesday, October 04, 2023

By Dr. Davood Moradian

[Taliban's Growing Restrictions on Women: A Sign of Nostalgia?](#)

Monday, October 09, 2023

By Mohammad Noman Baber

[Afghan Men's Moral Obligations Regarding the Taliban's Ban on Girls' Education](#)

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

By Mohammad Noman Baber

[Shifting Dynamics in Afghanistan's Diplomacy: Perspectives from the Herat Security Dialogue](#)

Tuesday, December 05, 2023

By General Asad Durrani

Mehr Brief

[The Impact of the Political Shift on the Afghan Economy: An Analysis of The Current State of Economic Activities, Foreign Aid, and Potential Prospects for Economic Growth](#)

Saturday, June 03, 2023

In its 7th volume, Mehr Brief published "The Impact of the Political Shift on the Afghan Economy: An Analysis of The Current State of Economic Activities, Foreign Aid, and Potential Prospects for Economic Growth", by Elham Kabir, Former Director General of Markets Management at Kabul Municipality.

[The Doha Peace Talks: Bringing Peace or Increasing the Conflict in Afghanistan?](#)

Tuesday, July 04, 2023

In its 8th volume, Mehr Brief published "The Doha Peace Talks: Bringing Peace or Increasing the Conflict in Afghanistan?", by Zulikha Akrami, SAS-APA Senior Case Manager at the Alliance, a non-profit organisation for refugees, migrants, and underserved residents. She holds an MA degree in International Relations and is a freelance researcher.

Publications

Books

[China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know](#)

Tuesday, February 07, 2023

The author of the book is Dr. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, this book has been translated into Farsi by the department of publications of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies. The book provides an essential guide for understanding how China has become a global superpower with unparalleled regional growth.

[Proceeding of the First International Symposium of Herat Security School](#)

Thursday, May 04, 2023

Proceeding of the First International Symposium of Herat Security School

[AISS Backs Translation: 'The Envoy Under the Barrage of Bullets' from Arabic to Persian](#)

Thursday, May 25, 2023

AISS supported the translation of Dr. Marwan Shahada's impactful book, "The Envoy Under the Barrage of Bullets," from Arabic to Persian by Hussain Ehsani. This collaboration aimed to bridge linguistic divides, ensuring broader accessibility to the profound narrative. This initiative reflects AISS's unwavering commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and enriching Persian-speaking audiences with the powerful story authored by Dr. Marwan Shahada.

[Farsi Translation of Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan](#)

Thursday, October 12, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies launched the Farsi translation of Professor Karima Bennoune's treatise on "Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan" in University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy in Toronto, Canada. Karima Bennoune is an international law expert who teaches at the University of California, Davis.

[AISS Facilitates Translation: 'Afghan Napoleon - Ahmad Shah Masood' by Sandy Gall into Persian by Zubair Sohail](#)

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

AISS supported the translation of Sandy Gall's book, "Afghan Napoleon" - Ahmad Shah Masood, from English to Persian by Zubair Sohail within a specific duration. This support ensured broader access to the profound insights of Masood's legacy, highlighting AISS's commitment to cultural exchange and dissemination.

Reports

[Typology of Active Political Trend at the Universities](#)

Tuesday, February 07, 2023

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies launched its research 'Typology of Active Political Trend at the Universities'. The research was launched via live discussion with researchers, Ramin Kamangar and Shahir Sirat, and critics of the research Dr Malik Sitez and Professor Nazif Shahrani and moderation by Sabera Aitabar.

[AISS Facilitates 'History of Herat' Translation to Persian by Mr. Mahmoudi](#)

AISS supported the translation of "History of Herat" from English to Persian by Mr. Mahmoudi, fostering broader access to this significant historical work. This collaborative effort ensured the faithful adaptation of the rich narrative, underscoring AISS's commitment to cultural accessibility and preservation.

The End