



# Report on National Image of Afghanistan in 2019

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# Abstract

1. The research of the national image is based on the public awareness and focuses on the survey and description of the overall image of the country.

2. .Report on the National Image of Afghanistan 2019 is based on surveys in 9 provinces of Afghanistan, covering its main regions and ethnic groups.

3. The national image of Afghanistan is based on the views of its people: Afghanistan is the state which its people are proud of. It is friendly to other countries and contributes to maintaining world peace. Moreover, it fully devotes itself to the development of world in history and in modern times. It, however, neither serves as a leader regionally nor globally.

4. The national image of other states in the eyes of Afghan people: The main friendly neighbors are China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, yet these countries are not well-recognized by the public; Pakistan is the most aggressive neighbor to Afghanistan; China, Pakistan and Iran are the main regional leaders among its neighbors; The United States is the most important country for peace in the region and for world peace, the country that has contributed most to the world, historically and currently, but also the world leader and the most aggressive country; India, China, Uzbekistan, the United States and Iran, by contrast, are trustworthy countries, but recognition is generally low.



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## 1. Research Overview

National image research is based on subjective cognition of a nation's citizens to their own country, neighboring states and others. Currently, there exists only a few similar studies, which were conducted by some international organizations and universities and were based on objective facts or only targeted at one aspect. Such as:

a. Research on Crime and Security, Citizen Security in Latin America: Facts and Figures, Igarape Institute. Website: <http://igarape.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Citizen-Security-in-Latin-America-Facts-and-Figures.pdf> )

b. Democracy Index, aimed to evaluate democratic situation in 167 states and areas, in which 164 of 166 sovereign states are members of United Nation. Source: The British Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Website: <https://www.eiu.com/n/democracy-index-2018/>

(Note: The understanding of democracy and its realization is distinct.)

c. Poverty Headcount Ratio at National Poverty Line (% of population), based on \$1.9 per day, PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) in 2011. Source: World Bank. Website: <https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC/1ff4a498/Popular-Indicators#divMapRegion>

d. U.S. Defense Spending Vs. Global Defense Spending. Source: Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Website: <https://armscontrolcenter.org/u-s-defense-spending-vs-global-defense-spending/>

e. Research and development expenditure (% of GDP). Source: World Bank. Website: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS>

f. World Economy, Country's Economic Situation. Is the country's economic situation good or bad? Source: Global Indicators Database, Global Attitudes & Trends, Pew Research Center. Website: <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/database/indicator/5>

g. Global Image of the United States and China, July 18, 2013. Source: Global Attitudes & Trends, Pew Research Center. Website: <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2013/07/18/global-image-of-the-united-states-and-china/>

h. 2018 world leadership poll. Source: Gallup. Website: <https://www.gallup.com/search/default.aspx?q=2018+world+leadership+poll>

i. 2019 Global Diplomacy Index. Source: Lowy Institute, Sydney, Australia.

Website: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/2019-global-diplomacy-index>

On the one hand, all the studies are illuminating so that we can view a country or countries around the world from different perspectives, or simply one facet of a government such as economy, poverty ratio and bilateral relations. On the other hand, these researches only provide us a fragmented national image rather than a concrete and complete one.

So, we take the national image in people's mind, a specific and complete image, as our research goal to design the investigation.

There are two sections in this survey:

The first part is people's view on their own state (Afghanistan in this survey). It includes nine items:

- 1.1 I am proud of my country (Afghanistan);
- 1.2 I have great confidence in Afghanistan's future;
- 1.3 I think Afghanistan is friendly to other countries;
- 1.4 I think Afghanistan is aggressive to other countries;
- 1.5 I think Afghanistan contributes to the maintenance of world peace;
- 1.6 I think Afghanistan has contributed to the world development in history;
- 1.7 I think Afghanistan contributes to the modern world;
- 1.8 I think Afghanistan is a regional leading country;
- 1.9 I think Afghanistan is a global leading country;

The first two questions are related to people's proudness and confidence of their country. They also reflect people's recognition to the nation. Questions 3–4 are about whether their own country is friendly or aggressive. Question 5 is about the national contribution to world's peace-keeping career. Questions 6–7 focus on people's understanding of their country's contribution to the world. Questions 8–9 are the public view on their country's leadership at regional and global level.

From the survey we can depict a national image of the country (Afghanistan in this survey) based on its people's opinions: Whether Afghanistan is a state which its people are proud of or not and are confident about or not; whether it is friendly or not and aggressive or not; whether it contributes to keeping world peace or not, whether it contributes to the world in history or not and still does or not; and whether it is a regional leader or not and a global leader or not.

The second section reflects public views on neighboring countries of Afghanistan and leading countries of the world. It includes 10 questions:



- 2.1 Which neighboring state is the friendliest to Afghanistan;
- 2.2 Which neighboring state is the most aggressive to Afghanistan;
- 2.3 Which neighboring state is a leading state at the regional level;
- 2.4 Which state is the most important state in maintaining regional peace;
- 2.5 Which state is the most important state in maintaining world peace;
- 2.6 Which state has contributed most to the world in history;
- 2.7 Which state contributes most to global development currently;
- 2.8 Which state is the most aggressive in the world;
- 2.9 Which state is one of the leaders at the global level;
- 2.10 Which state is the most trustable among neighboring states and others;

In this section, the first three questions are related to the view on neighboring countries of Afghanistan. Questions 2.1 and 2.2 explore the friendliest country and the most aggressive one in the neighborhood; Question 2.3 is the view on the leading state in the region.

The following 7 questions are about the public perception of influential states across the globe. The questions 2.4–2.5 are related to the view on who the most important states are in terms of maintaining peace regionally and globally. The questions 2.6–2.7 are related to the view on who represents the most contributive states to the world in history and in modern times. The question 2.8 is about the view on who stands for the most aggressive state in the world. The question 2.9 is about the view on who serves as the leading state globally. The question 2.10 is about the view on the most trustable state.

Based on the survey, we obtained the public views of one country on the national image of its neighbors and leading countries in the world: the identity of the most friendly and aggressive neighbors, regional leaders in the neighborhood, the most important state for peace-keeping in the region and globe, the most contributive state to the world in history and in modern times, and the most aggressive and trustable state in the world.

There are rare measures to figure out the exact answer of most preceding questions. However, to some of them, such as the answer of the most aggressive state and the contributive state to peace-keeping, the researchers could lay the basis on the times of launching or joining wars at the national level, or the times of inducing, contributing to, maintaining and solving peace problems nationally. In addition, the answers could be given if people's subjective view and perspective, which exactly stand for the content of the survey, were taken into consideration. The

survey could arrive at the conclusive description of national image with research data.

In our view, the most distinctive part of the research will be the comparison between the citizen's view on one's own country and the view on the country from other countries' citizens. And the comparison will be carried out after the completion of surveys in related countries. The discrepancy between the two views, which we named as Image Variances (IV), can be measured by Index of IV, which equals to the IV of its own citizens minus IV of people of neighboring and other countries.

**Corollary 1:**

Because of people's surge of patriotism, Image Variance is common.

**Corollary 2:**

The higher the Index of Image Variance is, the more subjective the citizen's view on its own country will become. That is, the further the view of the state's people breaks away from reality.

**Implication of the research:**

To society, the positive influence is that it will push people to reflect on the reality of their state and make it progress and prosper; for the negative influence, it could hurt people's national confidence.

To national policy, it is helpful for the government to make more objective and practical policies.

## 2. Survey Data from Afghanistan

This was a self-administered survey on nine provinces in Afghanistan, including Samangan, Balkh, Bamian, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Takhar, Badakhshan and Kabul. 810 questionnaires were sent out and 733 valid ones returned, with an effective rate of 90.49%.

### 1<sup>st</sup> section: View on Afghanistan

#### 1.1 I'm proud of Afghanistan

Strongly agree: 241, 32.88%; Agree: 340, 46.39%; In total: 581, 79.26%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 54, 7.37%.

Disagree: 37, 5.05%; Strongly disagree: 47, 6.41%; In total: 84, 11.46%.

Invalid answer: 6, 0.82%; No choice: 8, 1.09%; In total: 1.91%.

**Conclusion:** The majority (around 79%) of people are proud of their country, while over one tenth of interviewees (around 12%) are on the opposite, with no state-identification.



#### 1.2 I have great confidence in Afghanistan's future

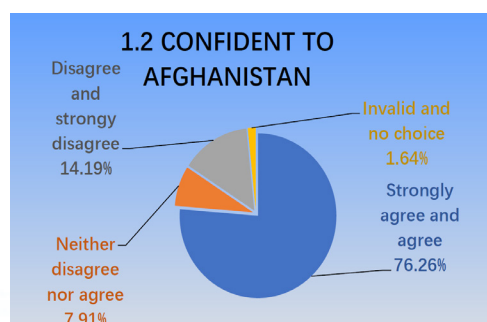
Strongly agree: 210, 28.65%; Agree: 349, 47.61%; In total: 559, 76.26%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 58, 7.91%.

Disagree: 66, 9.00%; Strongly disagree: 38, 5.18%; In total: 104, 14.19%.

Invalid answer: 9, 1.23%; No choice: 3, 0.41%; In total: 1.64%.

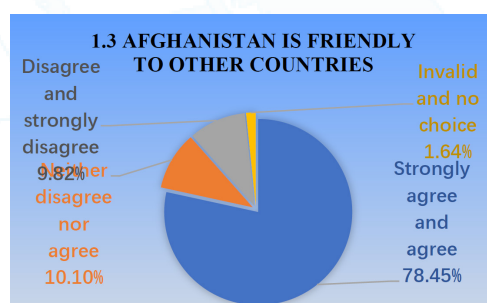
**Conclusion:** The majority (around 76%) of people are confident and optimistic about the future of their country.



#### 1.3 I think Afghanistan is friendly to other countries

Strongly agree: 258, 35.20%; Agree: 317, 43.25%; In total: 575, 78.45%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 74, 10.10%.

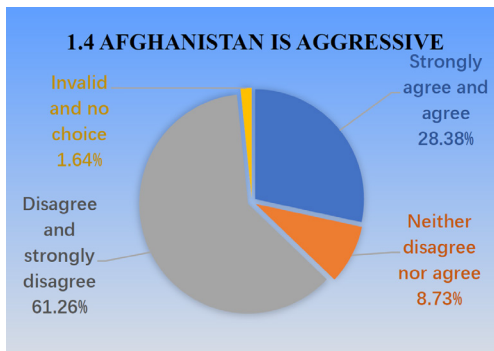


Disagree: 48, 6.55%; Strongly disagree: 24, 3.27%; In total: 72, 9.82%.

Invalid answer: 6, 0.82%; No choice: 6, 0.82%; In total: 1.64%.

**Conclusion:** The majority (around 79%) of people believe Afghanistan is friendly to foreign countries.

#### 1.4 I think Afghanistan is aggressive to other countries



Strongly agree: 97, 13.23%; Agree: 111, 15.14%; In total: 208, 28.38%.

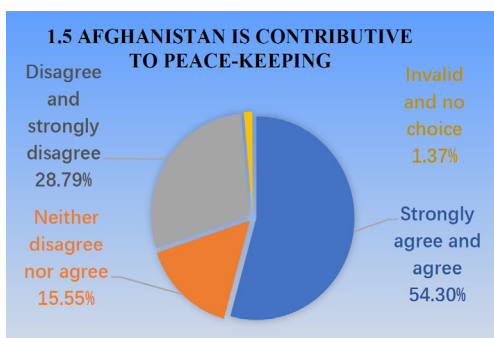
Neither disagree nor agree: 64, 8.73%.

Disagree: 195, 26.60%; Strongly disagree: 254, 34.65%; In total: 449, 61.26%.

Invalid answer: 1, 0.14%; No choice: 11, 1.50%; In total: 1.64%.

**Conclusion:** Over half of people (around 61%) hold that Afghanistan is not aggressive, while nearly one third (around 28%) hold an opposite view.

#### 1.5 I think Afghanistan contributes to the maintenance of the world peace



Strongly agree: 122, 16.64%; Agree: 276, 37.65%; In total: 398, 54.30%.

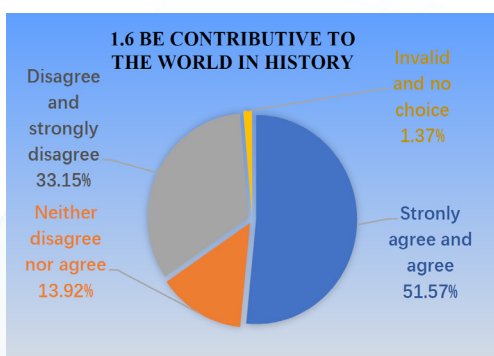
Neither disagree nor agree: 114, 15.55%.

Disagree: 133, 18.15%; Strongly disagree: 78, 10.64%; In total: 211, 28.79%.

Invalid answer: 4, 0.55%; No choice: 6, 0.82%; In total: 1.37%.

**Conclusion:** Over half of people (around 54%) maintain that Afghanistan contributes to the maintenance of the world peace, while near one third (around 29%) are against this view.

#### 1.6 I think Afghanistan has contributed to the world development in history



Strongly agree: 104, 14.19%; Agree: 274, 37.38%; In total: 378, 51.57%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 102, 13.92%.

Disagree: 143, 19.51%; Strongly disagree: 100, 13.64%; In total: 243, 33.15%.

Invalid answer: 4, 0.55%; No choice: 6, 0.82%; In total: 1.37%.

**Conclusion:** More than half of people (around 52%) think that Afghanistan has

contributed to the world development in history, while over one third (around 33%) disagreed.

### 1.7 I think Afghanistan contributes to the modern world

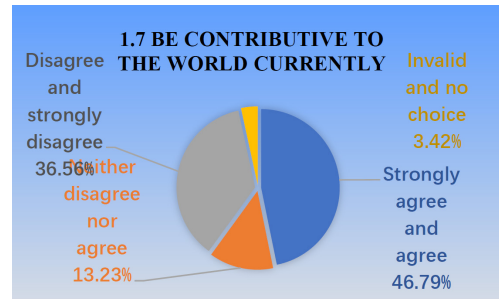
Strongly agree: 93, 12.69%; Agree: 250, 34.11%; In total: 343, 46.79%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 97, 13.23%.

Disagree: 181, 24.69%; Strongly disagree: 87, 11.87%; In total: 268, 36.56%.

Invalid answer: 4, 0.55%; No choice: 21, 2.87%; In total: 3.42%.

**Conclusion:** Near half of people (around 46%) hold that Afghanistan contributes to the modern world, while over one third (around 37%) are on the opposite.



### 1.8 I think Afghanistan is a regional leading country

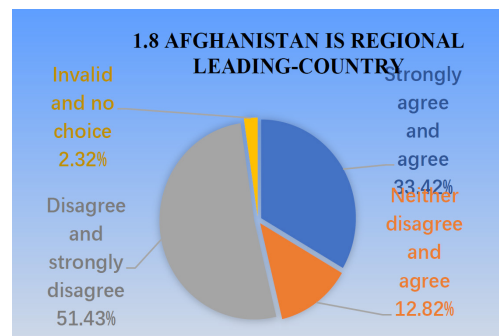
Strongly agree: 51, 6.96%; Agree: 194, 26.47%; In total: 245, 33.42%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 94, 12.82%.

Disagree: 252, 34.38%; Strongly disagree: 125, 17.05%; In total: 377, 51.43%.

Invalid answer: 1, 0.14%; No choice: 16, 2.18%; In total: 2.32%.

**Conclusion:** Around half of people (about 51%) think that Afghanistan is not a regional leading country, while over one third (around 33%) think it is.



### 1.9 I think Afghanistan is a global leading country

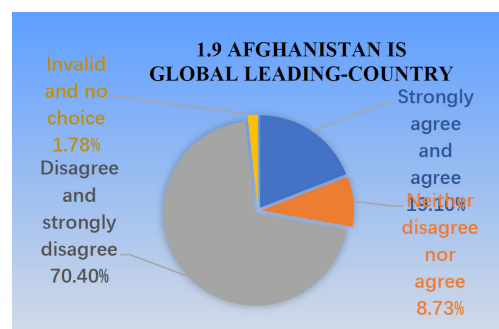
Strongly agree: 26, 3.55%; Agree: 114, 15.56%; In total: 140, 19.10%.

Neither disagree nor agree: 64, 8.73%.

Disagree: 279, 38.06%; Strongly disagree: 237, 32.33%; In total: 516, 70.40%.

Invalid answer: 1, 0.14%; No choice: 12, 1.64%; In total: 1.78%.

**Conclusion:** The majority of people (around 70%) believe that Afghanistan is not a global leading country, while around one fifth (around 19%) think it is.





## Section 2 View on Neighboring States and Leading Countries of the World

There are 6 neighboring states around Afghanistan: Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China.

Eight leading countries of the world include: Germany, Russia, France, Japan, America, India, Britain and China.

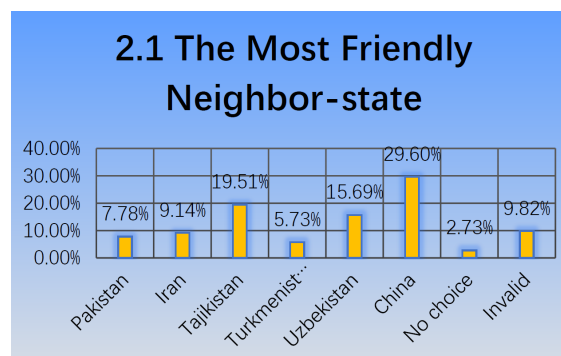
### 2.1 Which neighboring state is the friendliest to Afghanistan

- ☐ China      ☐ Iran      ☐ Pakistan      ☐ Tajikistan  
☐ Turkmenistan      ☐ Uzbekistan

The answers are:

1. China: 217, 29.60%;
2. Tajikistan: 143, 19.51%;
3. Uzbekistan: 115, 15.69%;
4. Iran: 67, 9.14%;
5. Pakistan: 57, 7.78%;
6. Turkmenistan: 42, 5.73%.

No choice: 20, 2.73%; Invalid answer: 72, 9.82%.



### Conclusion:

The first three friendliest states to Afghanistan are: China (around 30%), Tajikistan (around 20%), Uzbekistan (around 16%), but the highest rate is only around 30%, which indicates the degrees of approval is low. The rates of other neighbor-states are lower than 10%.

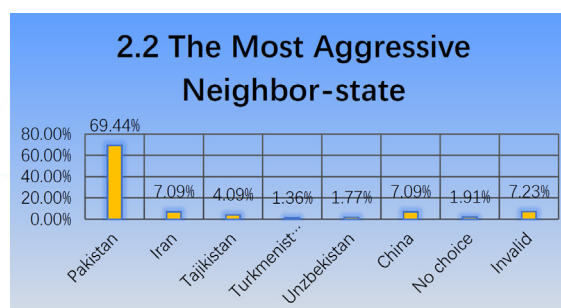
### 2.2 Which neighboring state is the most aggressive to Afghanistan

The answers are:

1. Pakistan: 509, 69.44%; 2-3. China and Iran: 52, 7.09%;

4. Tajikistan: 30, 4.09%;
5. Uzbekistan: 13, 1.77%;
6. Turkmenistan: 10, 1.36%.

No choice: 14, 1.91%; Invalid: 53, 7.23%.



### Conclusion:

The majority of interviewees (about 69%) maintain that Pakistan is the most aggressive state to Afghanistan, and its rate is high, which means people share the

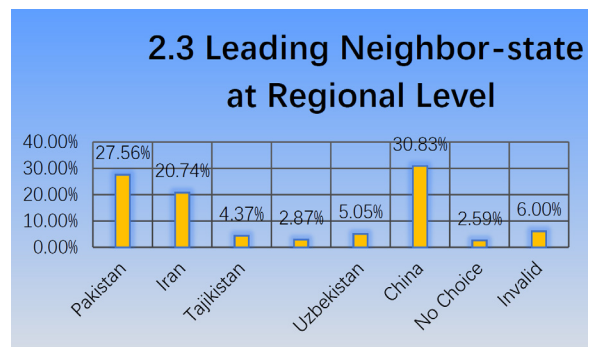
same point of view on this issue.

### 2.3 Which neighboring state is the leading state at regional level

The answers are as follow:

1.China: 226, 30.83%; 2. Pakistan: 202, 27.56%; 3. Iran: 152, 20.74%; 4. Uzbekistan: 37, 5.05%; 5. Tajikistan: 32, 4.37%; 6. Turkmenistan: 21, 2.87%.

No choice: 19, 2.59%; Invalid answer: 44, 6.00%.



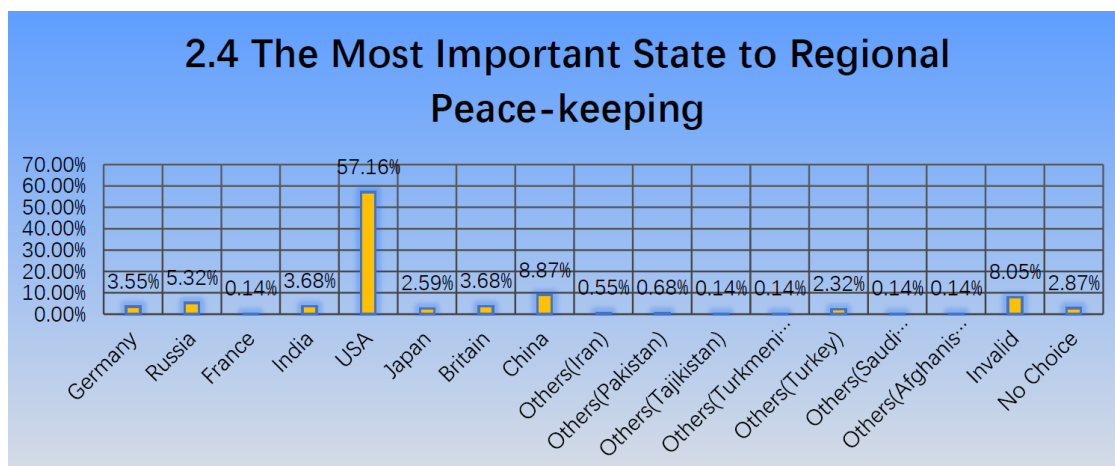
#### Conclusion:

The first 3 leading states at regional level are: China (around 31%), Pakistan (around 28%), Iran (around 21%), but the highest rate only registers one third, which means the degrees of approval is low.

### 2.4 Which state do you think plays the most important role in keeping regional peace?

- ☐ Britain    ☐ China    ☐ France    ☐ Germany    ☐ India  
☐ Japan    ☐ Russia    ☐ USA    ☐ Others

The answers are:



1.USA: 419, 57.16%; 2. China: 65, 8.87%; 3. Russia: 39, 5.32%; 4-5. India and Britain: equally 27, 3.68% ; 6. Germany: 6, 3.55%; 7. Japan: 19, 2.59%; 8. Turkey: 17, 2.32% (Turkey was chosen by interviewees); 9. Pakistan: 5, 0.68%; 10. Iran: 4, 0.55%; 11-15. France, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arab, Afghanistan: 1, 0.14% as equal (Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Saudi Arab, and Afghanistan were added by interviewees, and Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are neighboring states. Afghanistan is the interviewees' mother-state).

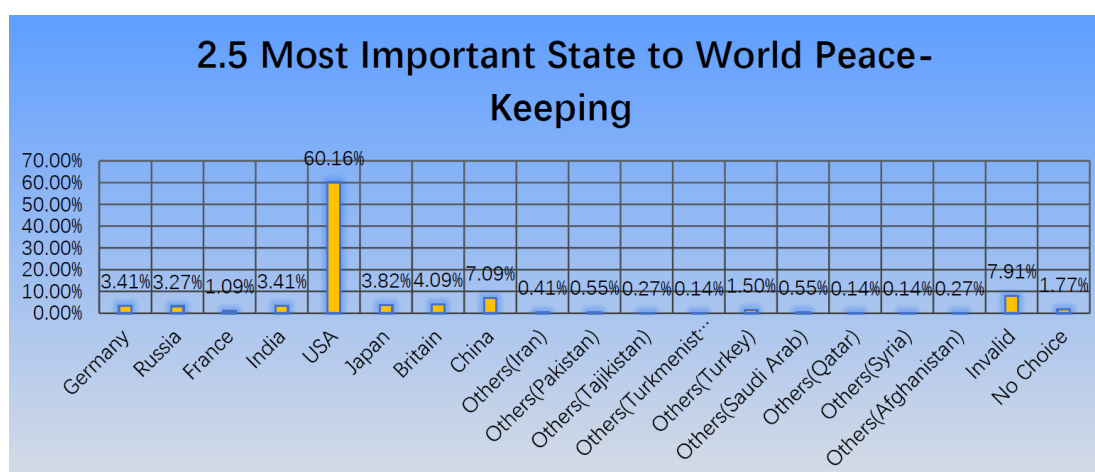
Invalid: 59, 8.05%; No choice: 21, 2.87%.

### Conclusion:

The majority of people (around 57%) think that the USA is the most important country in keeping peace in this region; other countries, such as China (around 9%), Russia (around 5%), India (around 4%), Britain (around 4%), Japan (around 3%), Turkey (around 2%), are all related to regional peacekeeping ,however, they all lag far behind the USA.

### 2.5 Which state do you think plays the most important role in maintaining world peace?

- ☐ Britain    ☐ China    ☐ France    ☐ Germany    ☐ India  
☐ Japan    ☐ Russia    ☐ USA    ☐ Others



The answers are as follow:

1.USA: 441, 60.16%; 2. China: 52, 7.09%; 3. Britain: 30, 4.09%; 4. Japan: 28, 3.82%; 5-6. Germany and India: 25, 3.41% as same; 7. Russia: 24, 3.27%; 8. Turkey: 11, 1.50%; 9. France: 8, 1.09%; 10-11Pakistan, Saudi Arab: 4, 0.55% as same; 12. Iran: 3, 0.41%; 13-14. Tajikistan, Afghanistan: 2, 0.27% as equal; 15-17. Turkmenistan, Qatar, Syria: 1, 0.14% as equal (Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Saudi Arab, Qatar, Syria, Afghanistan were added by interviewees. Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are neighboring states, Afghanistan is the mother-state).

Invalid: 58, 7.91%; No choice: 13, 1.77%.

### Conclusion:

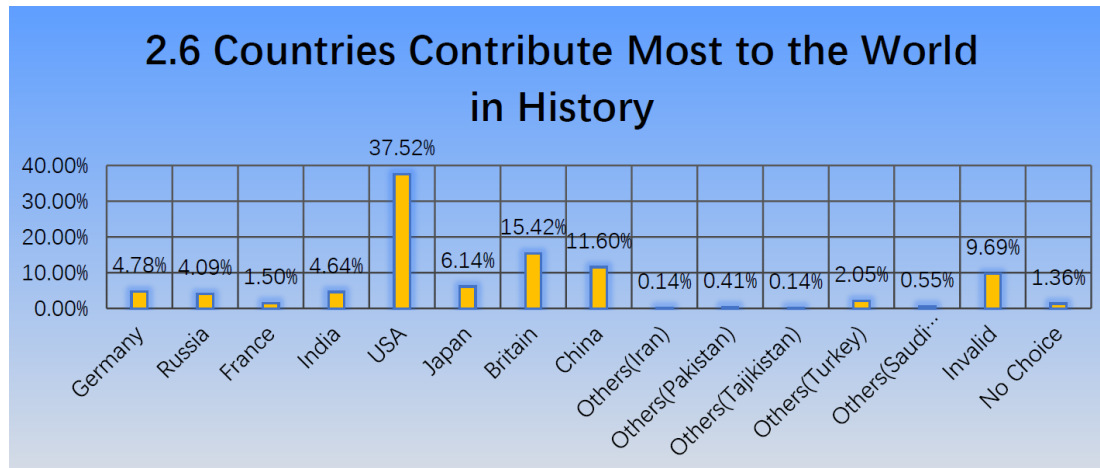
The majority of the people (around 60%) believe that the USA is the most important state in keeping world peace; other states such as China (around 7%), Britain (around 4%), Japan (around 4%), India (around 3%), Germany (around 3%), Russia (around 3%),however, are all far behind the USA.



## 2.6 Which state has contributed most to the world in history

- ☐ British    ☐ China    ☐ France    ☐ Germany    ☐ India  
☐ Japan    ☐ Russia    ☐ USA    ☐ Others

The answers are



1.USA: 275, 37.52%; 2. Britain: 113, 15.42%; 3. China: 85, 11.60%; 4. Japan: 45, 6.14%; 5. Germany: 35, 4.78%; 6. India: 34, 4.64%; 7. Russia: 30, 4.09%; 8. Turkey: 15, 2.05%; 9. France: 11, 1.50%; 10. Saudi Arab: 4, 0.55%; 11. Pakistan: 3, 0.41%; 12-13. Iran, Tajikistan: 1, 0.14% as equal (Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Saudi Arab were chosen by interviewees. Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan are neighboring states).

Invalid: 71, 9.69%; No choice: 10, 1.36%.

### Conclusion:

Over one third but less than half of the people (around 40%) think that the USA contributes most to the world in history, with other states on its heels, including Britain (around 15%), China (around 12%), Japan, Germany, India, Russia, Turkey and France (around 6% – 2%). They are far behind America.

## 2.7 Which state contributes most to global development currently

- ☐ Britain    ☐ China    ☐ France    ☐ Germany    ☐ India    ☐ Japan  
☐ Russia    ☐ USA    ☐ Others

The answers are as follow:

- 1.USA420, 57.30%;
2. China 91, 12.42%;
- 3 – 4. Japan, Britain33, 4.50% as same;
- 5.Germany 26, 3.55%;
- 6.India 21, 2.87%;
- 7.Turkey 19, 2.59%;

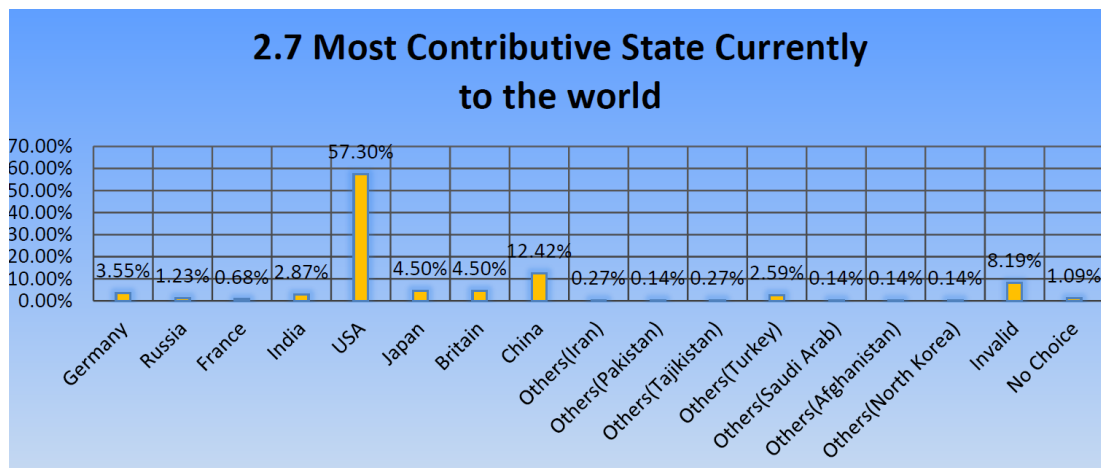
8. Russia 9, 1.23%;

9. France 5, 0.68%;

10 –11. Iran, Tajikistan 2, 0.27% as same;

12–15. Pakistan, Saudi Arab, Afghanistan, North Korea 1, 0.14%; (Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Saudi Arab, Afghanistan, North Korea were added by interviewees. Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan are neighboring states, Afghanistan is mother-state.)

Invalid 60, 8.19%; No choice 8, 1.09%.

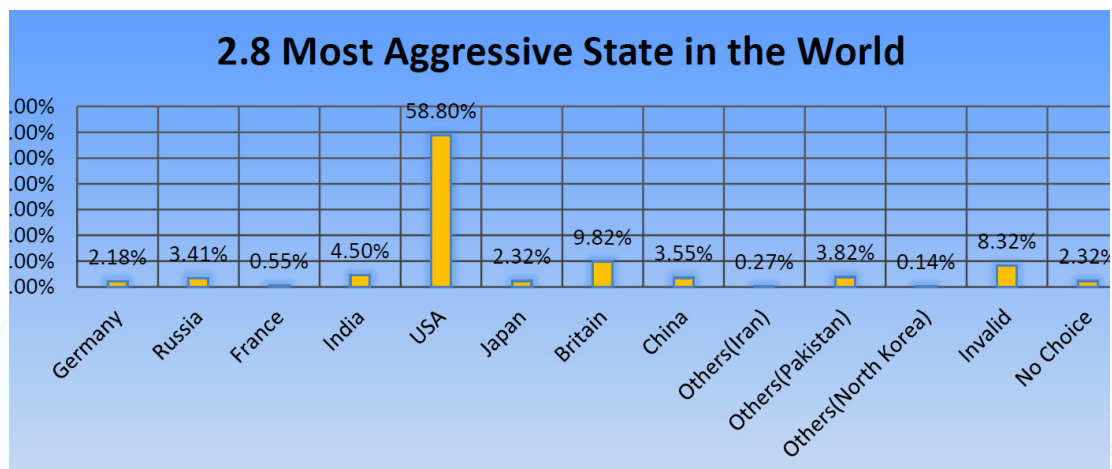


Conclusion:

The majority of the Afghanistan people (around 57%) think that the USA contributes the most to the world currently, while China (around 12%) is far behind and ratios for other states related are much lower.

## 2.8 Which state is the most aggressive in the world

- ☐ Britain    ☐ China    ☐ France    ☐ Germany    ☐ India  
☐ Japan    ☐ Russia    ☐ USA    ☐ Others



The answers are as follow:

1. USA 431, 58.80%;

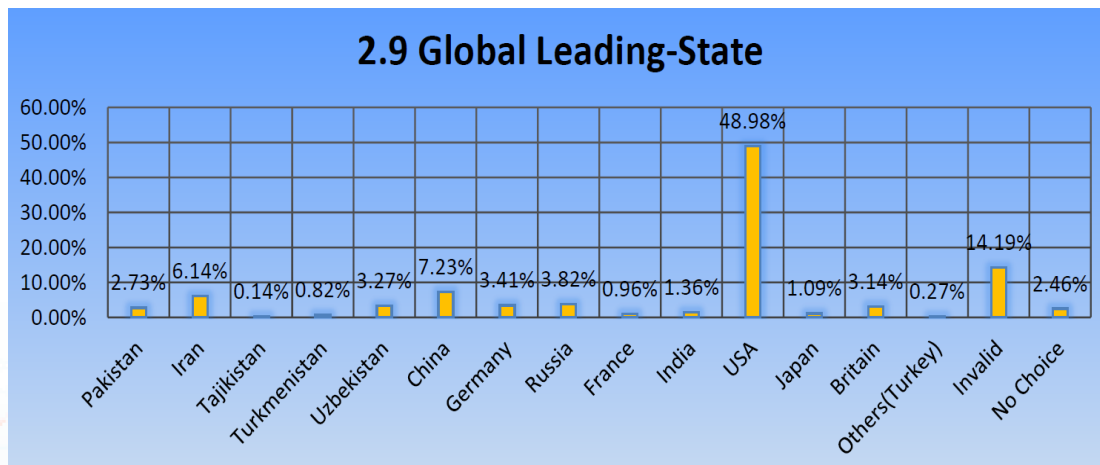
2. Britain 72, 9.82%;
  3. India 33, 4.50%;
  4. Pakistan 28, 3.82%;
  5. China 26, 3.55%;
  6. Russia 25, 3.41%;
  7. Japan 17, 2.32%;
  8. Germany 16, 2.18%;
  9. France 4, 0.55%;
  10. Iran 2, 0.27%;
  11. North Korea 1, 0.14%; (Iran, Pakistan, North Korea were added by interviewees. Iran and Pakistan are neighboring states).
- Invalid 61, 8.32%; No choice 17, 2.32%.

### Conclusion:

The majority of people (around 59%) think that USA is the most aggressive state around the world, while the rates for Britain (around 10%), India (around 5%), Pakistan (around 4%), China, (around 4%), Russia (around 3%), etc., are much lower.

### 2.9 Which state is one of the leaders at global level

- ☐ China      ☐ Iran      ☐ Pakistan      ☐ Tajikistan      ☐ Turkmenistan  
☐ Uzbekistan      ☐ British      ☐ France      ☐ Germany      ☐ India  
☐ Japan      ☐ Russia      ☐ USA      ☐ Others



The answers are as follow:

1. USA 359, 48.98%;
2. China 53, 7.23%;
3. Iran 45, 6.14%;
4. Russia 28, 3.82%;

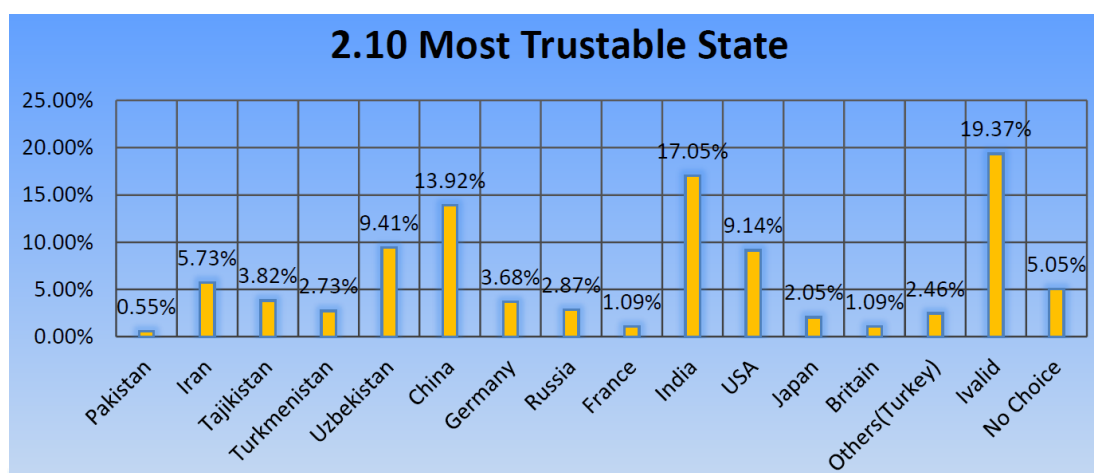
5. Germany 25, 3.41%;
  6. Uzbekistan 24, 3.27%;
  7. Britain 23, 3.14%;
  8. Pakistan 20, 2.73%;
  9. India 10, 1.36%;
  10. Japan 8, 1.09%;
  11. France 7, 0.96%;
  12. Turkmenistan 6, 0.82%;
  13. Turkey 2, 0.27%;
  14. Tajikistan 1, 0.14% (Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan were added by interviewees and Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan are neighboring states).
- Invalid 104, 14.19%; No choice 18, 2.46%.

### Conclusion:

About half of Afghans (around 49%) think that USA is a global leader; while the ratios for China (around 7%), Iran (around 6%), Russia (around 4%), Germany (around 3%), Uzbekistan (around 3%), Pakistan (around 3%), etc., are much lower.

### 2.10 Which state is the most trustable among neighboring states and others

- ☐ China      ☐ Iran      ☐ Pakistan      ☐ Tajikistan      ☐ Turkmenistan  
☐ Uzbekistan      ☐ British      ☐ France      ☐ Germany      ☐ India  
☐ Japan      ☐ Russia      ☐ USA      ☐ Others (Please name the state)



The answers are as follow:

1. India 125 (votes), 17.05%;
2. China 102, 13.92%;
3. Uzbekistan 69, 9.41%;
4. US 67, 9.14%;

- 5.Iran 42, 5.73%;
- 6.Tajikistan28, 3.82%;
- 7.Germany27, 3.68%;
- 8.Russia 21, 2.87%;
- 9. Turkmenistan20, 2.73%;
- 10.Turkey 18, 2.46%;
- 11. Japan15, 2.05%;
- 12-13. Britain, France 8, 1.09% as same;
- 14.Pakistan 4, 0.55%.
- Invalid 142, 19.37%; No choice 37, 5.05%.

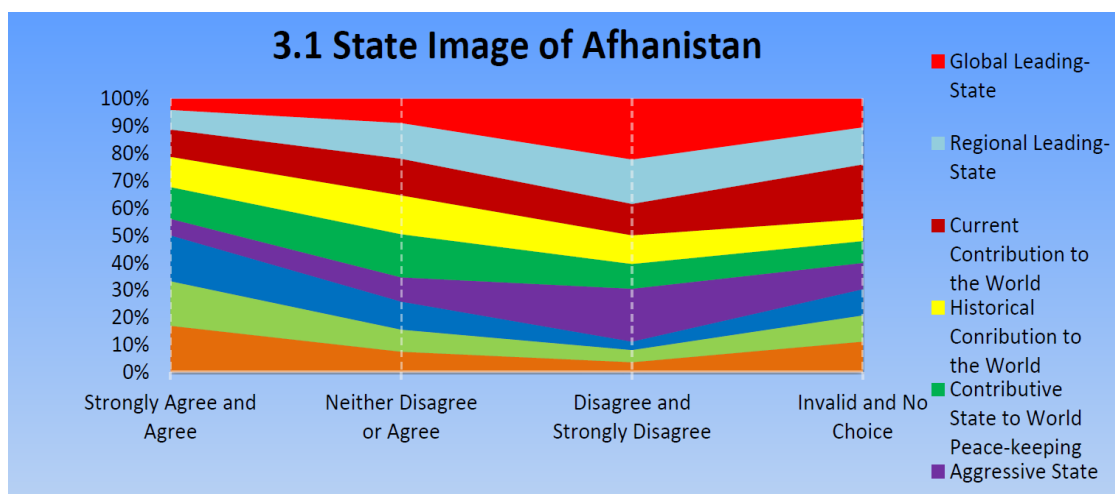
**Conclusion:**

Approximately one fifth of the Afghan people (around 17%) think that India is the most trustworthy state around the world, while the ratios for countries like China (around 14%), Uzbekistan (around 9%), USA (around 9%), Iran (around 6%), Tajikistan (around 4%), Germany (around 4%), etc., remain close to each other. It demonstrates that most Afghan people view none of these countries as particularly trustworthy

### 3. Descriptions of the State Image

#### 3.1 The State Image of Afghanistan in its People's Perception

The State Image of Afghanistan in its people's perception is described as follows (from the data of survey): Afghanistan is the state which its people are proud of, confident about and it's friendly to other countries. It contributes to the world peace and development, historically and contemporarily, but it is neither a regional nor global leader.



#### 3.2 The State Image of other countries in Afghan people's view

The State Image of other countries in Afghan people's view is described as follows: The main friendly neighbors of Afghanistan are China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; Pakistan is the most aggressive neighbor to Afghanistan; China, Pakistan, Iran are the regional leading states among its neighbors; the USA is the most important state to regional and global peace-keeping. It contributes the most to the world in both the past and contemporary times. Meanwhile, it plays a leading role across the globe and remains the most aggressive; India, China, Uzbekistan, the USA and Iran are relatively reliable, but the Afghan people's public recognition of these countries remain rather low. China acquires a certain amount of approval in the surveys, but still remains humble; In addition, Britain, Russia, and Japan have some degrees of acknowledgement in 1-2 surveys, which reflects their influence on Afghanistan; Some other states, like Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arab, etc., acquire public recognition in certain aspects, which reveals their influence on certain communities or aspects, though at a relatively low degree.

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Instruction of Cooperation Organizations:

1. The Center for Afghanistan Studies of Lanzhou University

CASLU is a comprehensive research center specializing Afghanistan studies. It became a national-level research platform that was registered under the Ministry of Education in June 2017 as the research center for country and regional studies.

The director of CASLU is Professor Yongbiao Zhu. Currently, there are 16 researchers, including 1 Cheung Kong Scholar as the chair professor and 8 distinguished experts from renowned colleges and universities in China.

Nowadays the CASLU has become an important domestic think tank engaging in the Afghanistan-specialized research and has published many Afghan-related monographs, academic papers, submitting dozens of special reports in recent years. Meanwhile, the center keeps close collaboration with many renowned academic institutes at home and abroad. The faculties have been invited to attend academic conferences and consultative sessions on enacting important policies for many times. Besides, the center has been entrusted by government ministries with many research programs.



Website of CASLU: [www.afuhan.org](http://www.afuhan.org); WeChat:

2. Silk Road Research Organization of Afghanistan (SRRO)

Established in October 2018, SSRO of Afghanistan is the only academic institute which focuses on the Belt and Road Initiative in Afghanistan.

The president of SRRO council is Mr. Hamidullah Farooqi, councilor of the president of Afghanistan and former Chancellor of Kabul University. The director of office is Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Rahnaward. He represents the dean of Chinese department and the executive director of Confucius Institute at Kabul University. SSRO's members include dignitaries and scholars in Afghanistan.

Since its establishment, SRRO has published loads of essays about the Belt and Road Initiative on main-stream newspapers of Afghanistan. In addition, SRRO has cooperated with many institutes within and beyond Afghanistan and kept extending its influence.

Email of SRRO: [srro\\_af@126.com](mailto:srro_af@126.com); [srro.af@gmail.com](mailto:srro.af@gmail.com)



### 3. Research Center for the Belt and Road of Lanzhou University

RCBRLU was reorganized and renamed from former “Research Center for Silk Road Economic Belt of Lanzhou University” on July 5, 2017. Being a research institute of Lanzhou University, it aims at promoting multi-disciplinary researches on the “Belt and Road” (B&R) Initiative. Moreover, with the assistance of academic researches, it pays much attention to policy studies. In this way, it offers its consultative and intellectual support for regional and national development.

The director of the Center is Professor Yongzhong Sha, vice president of Lanzhou University. The executive director of the Center is Professor Yongbiao Zhu. Currently, the Center has 15 full-time researchers at work.

Since its establishment, The Research Center for the Belt and Road of Lanzhou University has achieved many academic outcomes and played a significant role in policy formulation and consultation. Currently, it ranks 5th in the National Comprehensive Influence Ranking of ‘Belt and Road’ Think Tanks, with its decision-making influence 3rd, its media influence 3rd in China, and its academic influence 6th nationwide respectively.