

THE RULE OF LAW IN AFGHANISTAN

Missing in Inaction

How, despite the enormous investment of blood and treasure, has the West's ten-year intervention left Afghanistan so lawless and insecure? The answer is more insidious than any conspiracy, for it begins with a profound lack of understanding of the rule of law, the very thing that most dramatically separates Western societies from the benighted ones in which they increasingly intervene.

This volume of essays argues that the rule of law is not a set of institutions that can be exported lock, stock and barrel to lawless lands, but a state of affairs under which ordinary people and officials of the state itself feel it makes sense to act within the law. Where such a state of affairs is absent, as in Afghanistan today, brute force, not law, will continue to rule.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-107-00319-4 — The Rule of Law in Afghanistan
 Edited by Whit Mason
 Excerpt
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107003194

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First published 2011

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

The rule of law in Afghanistan: missing in inaction / edited by Whit Mason.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-00319-4 – ISBN 978-0-521-17668-2 (pbk.) 1. Rule of law – Afghanistan.

2. Justice, Administration of – Afghanistan. 3. Afghan War, 2001– I. Mason, Whit.

KNF2020.R85 2011

958.104'71 – dc22 2010041670

ISBN 978-1-107-00319-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-17668-2 Paperback

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