

# Khaled Hosseini & *The Kite Runner*

A tale of the choices we make and the  
consequences we face



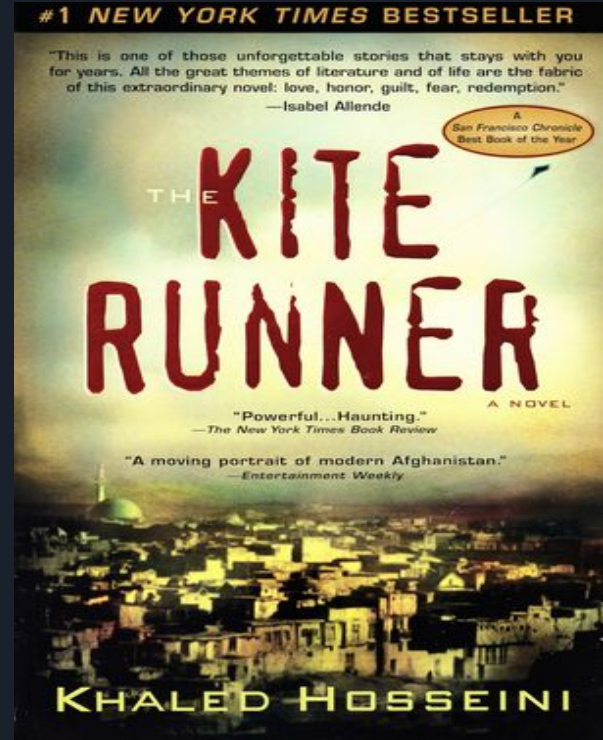
# Khaled Hosseini

- Born 1965 in Afghanistan
- American refugee
- Doctor then writer
- 4 published novels
- Goodwill Envoy to United Nations Refugee Agency



# *The Kite Runner*

- Published in 2003
- Semi-autobiographical
- Began as a short story
- Translated into 42 languages
- Published in 38 countries





# *The Kite Runner*

- Important Ideas
  - Forgiveness
  - Family
  - Betrayal
  - Admiration
  - Masculinity
  - Cycles
  - Choices
  - The power of words

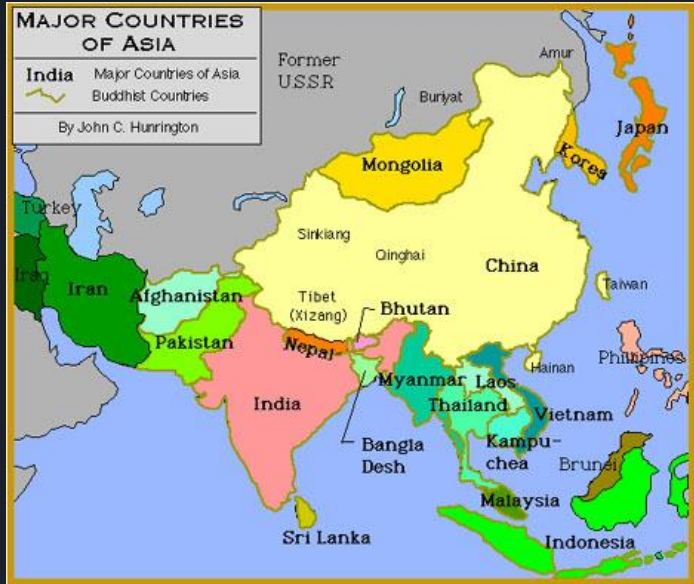


# An Important Note

- *The Kite Runner* is an adult book
  - It has adult language
  - It has a very adult scene
    - We will have to talk about it
- *The Kite Runner* will probably make you feel
  - Angry
  - Horrified
  - Disgusted
  - Devastated
  - Hopeful

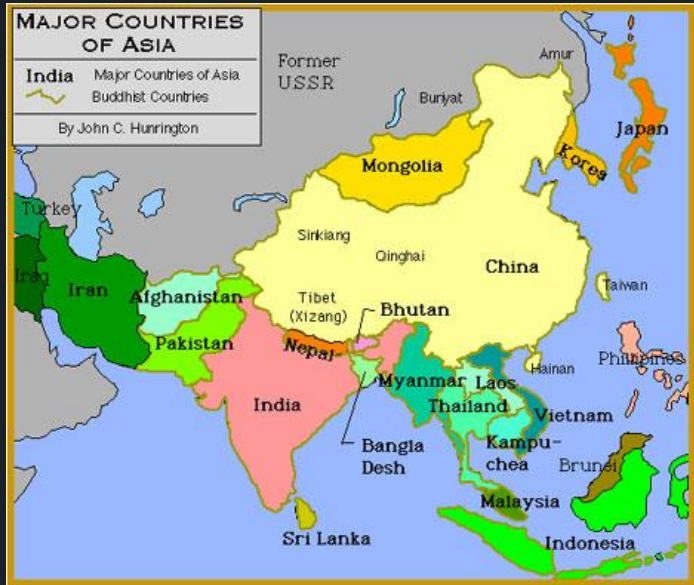
# Locations

## Kabul, Afghanistan



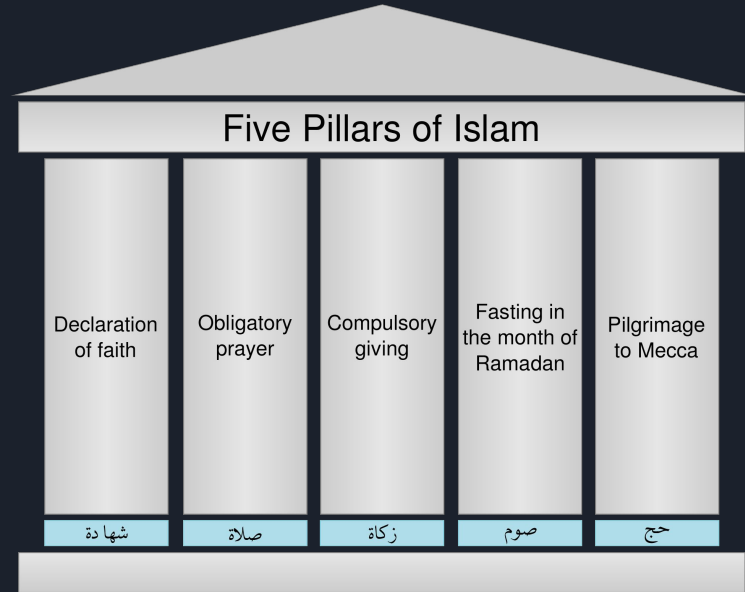
# Locations

## Peshawar, Pakistan



# Islam

- Same God, different prophets
- Quran = holy book
- Five Pillars
- Sunni vs. Shi'a
  - Succession after Muhammad's death
  - Fighting





# Race

- Pashtun
  - Eastern Iranian
  - Pashawali
    - Self-respect, independence, hospitality, love, forgiveness, revenge, tolerance toward all
  - Sunni Islam
- Hazara
  - Eastern Eurasian
  - Discrimination
    - Sold into slavery
  - Shi'a Islam



# Afghanistan

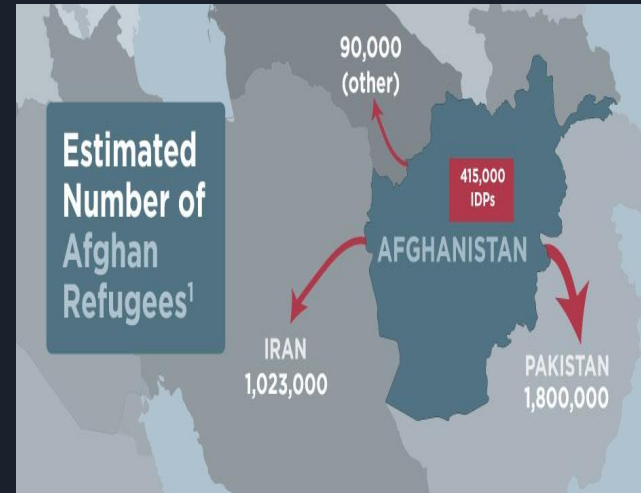
- Kingdom of Afghanistan
  - Constitutional monarchy est. 1926
  - Fighting & rebellion
  - Last king = Mohammad Zahir Shah
- Republic of Afghanistan
  - Non-violent coup
  - Allied with U.S.





# Afghanistan

- The Taliban
  - Extremist group
  - Anti-Shi'a
    - "The Hazaras are not Muslims and now we have to kill Hazaras. You must either accept to be Muslims or leave Afghanistan. Wherever you go, we will catch you. If you go up we will pull you down by your feet; if you hide below, we will pull you up by your hair."



# Kite Fighting

- Considered a sport for men and boys
- Kite strings coated with glue and broken glass
  - Fighters get sliced fingers
- Goal: cut the string of opponents' kites to be the last kite in the air
- Kite runners chase after cut kites and claim them as trophies





# Language

- **Honorifics**
  - -Jan: A term of endearment
  - -Agha: A respectful title (like Mister or Sir)
  - -Agha Sahib: A very respectful title (like Master or Lord)
- **Other terms**
  - Baba: A term of endearment meaning “Father”
  - Kaka: A term of endearment meaning “Uncle”
  - Mashallah or Inshallah: “God willing”
  - Bismillah: “In the name of God”
  - Salaam: “Hello”