



**Province: Ghazni**

**Governor: Mohammad Musa Khan Ahmadzai**

**Provincial Police Chief: Brig. Gen. Khyal Baz Sherzai**

<b>Population Estimate:</b> 914,800 <sup>1</sup> [931,800] <sup>2</sup> -1,400,000	Urban: 47,400- 47,700	Rural: 867,400- 992,400	
Area in Square Kilometers: 22,915		Capital: Ghazni	
Names of Districts:	Ghazni (Provincial Center), Zana Khan, Deh Yak, Khwaja Omri, Nawur, Jaghatu, Bahrami Shahid, Jaghori, Malestan, Qara agh, Maqor, Jandda, Ab Band, Andar, Geru, Nawa, and possibly Ajristan and Khugiyani		
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun: 48.9%, Hazara: 45.9%, Tajik: 4.7%, Hindu/Sikh: 0.4%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni Pashtuns & Tajiks/ Shiite Hazaras	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Ghilzai & Kuchi Pashtuns
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture, remittances, animal husbandry, day labor	Minor: opium (poppy) trade	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Wheat, alfalfa, melons, almonds	Cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, etc.	
Literacy Rate Total:	22.7% <sup>3</sup>		
Number of Educational Institutions: 336	<u>Schools:</u> 336 Primary: 177 Secondary: 52	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> 0	
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: <sup>4</sup> 67	January: 4 February: 2	March: 12 April: 20	May: 14 June: 15
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: Very low	<u>2006:</u> 0 ha	<u>2007:</u> Very little (primarily in Andar)	
NGOs Active in Province:	NAC, ICRC, ARCS, MSF, IBN-E-SEENA, WHO, DACAAR, SCA, OI, DCA, DTC, Ibn Sina, UNICEF, COAR, Care, FAO, Shuhada, WFP, FAO		
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> <sup>5</sup> Total Projects: 1202 Planned Cost: \$12,268,090.00 Total Spent: \$10,243,844.00	Total PRT Projects: 31 Planned Cost: \$3,377,050.00 Total Spent: \$3,065,550.00	Other Aid Projects: 1171 Planned Cost: \$8,891,040.00 Total Spent: \$7,178,294.00	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Kabul-Kandahar Highway (through Jaghatu, Ghazni, Andar, Qarabagh, Ab Band, Muqur, and Gelan districts)		
Electricity:	Little access to electricity outside of Ghazni City, most electricity private	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 56%	
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 5 (one is for TB only)	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 42	

<sup>1</sup> Afghan Information Management Services, *2003-2004 Population Statistics – 388 Districts*, available from [http://www.aims.org.af/services/mapping/datasets/cso\\_03\\_04\\_pop\\_stat\\_388\\_dist.xls](http://www.aims.org.af/services/mapping/datasets/cso_03_04_pop_stat_388_dist.xls) (accessed September 17, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> USAID, *Ghazni Province*, September 15, 2007, available at <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov/en/Province.9.aspx> (accessed September 17, 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Afghan Information Management Services, *Ghazni Districts*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=372> (accessed September 7, 2007).

<sup>4</sup> BBC Monitoring. Limited to incidents reported in the press. Not inclusive of all incidents occurring, but provides an excellent cross-section of events.

<sup>5</sup> ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

Primary Sources/Availability of Potable Water:	Karezes, shallow wells, rivers, springs	48.6%
Rivers	Arghandab, Tarnak, and Ghazni Rivers	
Significant Topographic Features	Arid and level towards the Southeast, more mountainous and wet towards the Northwest. Two significant lakes, Nawur in the North and Nawa in the South.	

**Political Landscape:**

***Political Leaders:***

**Governor (retired) General Mohammad Musa Khan Ahmadzai**



Mohammad Musa Khan Ahmadzai assumed power as Ghazi’s Governor on May 13, 2010 following the departure of Governor Osman Osmai. Gen. Musa Khan is a retired general who first served during the time of the Daud Khan administration in the 1970s and then joined the Islamic Union for the Liberation of Afghanistan to defeat the communist regime and the Soviets. He is a Pashtun from the Ahmadzai tribe. He has promised to make security, anti-corruption and education a priority for his office. He has also vowed to meet with village and tribal leaders on a monthly basis to keep communication strong.

**(Former) Governor Muhammad Osmani Osmani**



Governor Osmani replaced Sher Mohammad Khosti in June of 2008. Osmani, an Alokozai tribesman from Kandahar, is fluent in English and is also thought to be close with President Karzai. In April 2009, the Ghazni provincial council recommended Osmani be permanently suspended for his alleged involvement in corruption and abuse of power.<sup>6</sup> According to media reports, the provincial council has accused Osmani of facilitating the smuggling of chromite; the theft of gasoline tankers; the sale of passports for \$300; the sale of government jobs; and the support of illegal armed militias. The charges failed to materialize into Osmani’s removal and he currently still holds his position as Governor. In the summer of 2009, Osmani participated in ribbon cutting ceremony inaugurating the 17-km road project that links Ghazni city center to the Kwaji Omari district center. He relinquished his post on May 13, 2010.

**Deputy Governor Muhammad Kazim Allahyar (AKA Ali Yar, Hajji Allahyar)**



The Pashtun Muhammad Kazim Allahyar was appointed Deputy Governor in July 2005 when his predecessor was transferred to Day Kundi Province. In December 2005, Allahyar helped the Governor mediate a dispute over leadership positions in the Provincial Council between the Hazaras and Pashtuns. He has been overtly compliant with the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration program, turning over weapons and ammunition in January 2006. In May 2006, while in Wardak Province, Allahyar's vehicle was attacked by gunmen. Allahyar was not in the vehicle and one of his bodyguards was wounded. He suspected that the Taliban (TB) were involved but did not give a reason why the attack may have occurred. Allahyar's activities before early 2002 are unknown. However, he apparently served as a field commander with the Northern Alliance in the late 1990's, and may have had a hand in liberating Ghazni from the Taliban in late 2001.

<sup>6</sup> “Afghan Lawmakers Accuse a Governor of Graft,” *New York Times*, April 15, 2009.

**Chief of Police Brig. Gen. Khyal Baz Sherzai**



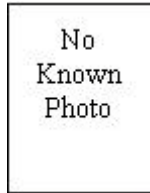
Brig. Gen. Khyal Baz Sherzai has served as the Chief of Police for Ghazni province since at least the fall of 2009. *More information pending.*

**(Former) Chief of Police Ali Shah Ahmadzai**



General Ali Shah Ahmadzai was appointed in late January 2007, as part of a mass rank and reform that occurred throughout Afghanistan. The Chief of Police (CoP) in Ghazni province, General Ali Ahmadzai continues his efforts to address police corruption and incompetence. Reform must unfold quickly in order to be effective. He also believes that Andar district is the center of Taliban activity in Ghazni. However, a lack of funding is hindering effective policing. Ahmadzai would like to improve cooperation with security forces in neighboring Paktika province.

**National Directorate of Security Chief Lunai (AKA Lornai, Luni)**







Born Waghez District, Ghazni Province, Lunai formerly was the NDS Chief in Maydan Wardak Province, and had worked for the NDS in Laghman and Ghazni provinces before. He was appointed in October 2006 after the previous NDS Chief, Muhammad Samadsayed, was fired. According to a PRT report, Muhammad Samadsayed, the former NDS chief of Ghazni, was fired In October 2006.



**Wolesi Jirga Members:<sup>9</sup>**

	Sayed Mohmood Hasamuddeen AL-GAILANI	Pashtun male	Grandson of Pir Gailani. Born Kabul. His family has no residence in Ghazni, but has strong support in the Pashtun districts in the southeast of Ghazni province.
	Ali Akbar QASIMI	Hazara male	He went through Disarmament, Demobilizaiton, and Reintegration (DDR) last year. General - former commander of 14th Division in Ghazni.
	Mohammad Daud SULTANZOY	Ghilzai Pashtun male	United Airlines pilot, fluent English -- Ran on a "get out the vote - esp. women" campaign in Ghazni. USC.
	Hajji Niyaz Mohammad AMIRI	Pashtun male	Former local commander. Brother of Ghazni/Dih Yak district governor Shah Mohammad and cousin of Ghazni/Qarabagh district governor Hajji Fazell (an important security contact for Ghazni PRT and maneuver battalion). Extended family owns a large construction company which operates mostly in the south and west.
	Al-Haj Khyal Mohammad HUSAINI	Pashtun male	Former Commander; former Governor of Zabul, former provincial revenues department chief under Taliban regime. Former HIG. LJ delegate. V. anti-Shia.
	Al-Haj Mamur Abdul Jabar SHULGARI	Pashtun male	From Andar district. LJ delegate. Former local commander
	Doctor Abdul Qayyum SAJJADI	Hazara male	LJ delegate. Edits science journal. Speaks English (2)

<sup>9</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

	Eng. Khyal Mohammad Mohammad KHAN	Pashtun male	Won by two votes. Head of finance for Hezb-e Islami.
	Shah Gul REZAI	Hazara female	Teacher from Jaghoray district. Teacher training seminars in Pakistan and India
	Hajji Zahera Ahmadyar MAWLAYEE	Hazara female	Former head of Ghazni women's shura. Lecturer in physics & math at medical faculty. Worked with NGOs. Established Ghazni family.
	Rahila Bibi Kobra ALAMSHAHI	Hazara female	Teacher and journalist. Refugee in Iran for 28 years, married to Iranian refugee.

#### **Meshrano Jirga Members:<sup>10</sup>**

<b>No Photo</b>	Abdul Baqi Baryal	Pashtun male	Disabled. Poet and editor of "Bright Heart" Magazine, founder of disabled organization in Pakistan. Lost vision, one leg in rocket attack early in Soviet invasion. PT Germany 83 for treatment. Refugee in Pakistan until 2002.
<b>No Photo</b>	Sohaila Sharifi	Qizilbash female	She represents Afghan refugees in Iran. She was a refugee in Iran for 15 years until her appointment to the MJ (1370-1384). She ran an NGO there called Afghan Refugee Association. Married, 2 kids (age 10/13)
	Doctor Abdul Ahmad Zahedi Niqala	Hazara male	Middle-aged; worked for some time for a clinic run by the Swedish committee then opened own practice in Qarabaqh district. Ally of mujahedin; refugee in Iran under Taliban
	Hajji Shah Nawaz Khan	Pashtun male	

#### **Provincial Council Members:<sup>11</sup>**

	Engineer Nafisa Azimi		Ustad Karimi
	Engineer Abdul Kabir		Doctor Abaas Ali Ramozi
	Ustad Habiburrahman		Sahib Shah Qazi
	Ahmad Ali Nasiri		Mohammad Hasan Yaqubi
	Hajji Tai Mohammad Mosa		Doctor Mohammad Ghani
	Malim Mohammad Rahim Taraki		Mohammad Ismael Momin
	Arifa Madadi		Ali Yawar Hussain Zada
	Marzyah Rahimi		Zholina Faizi

<sup>10</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

	Abdul Nabi Khan Lakankhel		Bakht Bibi Rahimi
	Hajji Usman Ghani		

**Primary Political Parties:**

**Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):**

The party of former Mujahed and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, HiG was famous for its shifting loyalties, and was the favorite party of Pakistan’s ISI until the rise of the Taliban. Former members continue to wield considerable influence in the province. Faizanullah Faizan, former Ghazni governor from September 2007 to March 2008, was a HiG commander during the civil war.

**Harakat-e Islami (NUF):**

A Shi’a party originally led by Muhammad Asif Muhsini, the Harakat-e Islami fought the Soviets with support from Tehran. Known for having many Hazara as well as non-Hazara members, this Shiite party refused to join the Hazara coalition Hizb-e Wahdat in the ensuing civil war. Since 2005 they have been led by Hojjatolislam Seyyed Muhammad Ali Jawed, a minister in Karzai’s first cabinet.

**Ittihad-e Islami (Sayyaf):**

This fundamental party is under the guidance of one Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, and has been since the anti-Soviet campaign. Despite ideological and cultural similarities with the Taliban, Sayyaf did not join them (for personal reasons) and went with the Northern Alliance. He follows strict Wahhabi interpretations of Islam, and is not known for tolerance. In the past this party has been known for its foreign supporters and followers; the former often Arab, the latter from places as diverse as the Southern Philippines, Chechnya, and Bosnia. In February 1993 government forces and members of the Ittihad-e Islami massacred over 700 Hazara in the Afshar district of West Kabul.

**Hizb-e Wahdat (Mohaqqeq):**

The Shiite umbrella party, Hizb-e Wahdat is composed of seven of the eight Shiite parties (minus the Harakat-e Islami) that existed in Afghanistan from the time of the anti-Soviet campaigns. Now led by Wolesi Jirga member (and former planning minister) Hajji Muhammad Mohaqqeq, the party continues to represent both Shiites and Hazaras. During the period of Taliban rule, the party held fast in the Hazarajat whilst the Taliban tried through blockade to bring the Hazaras to their knees through starvation.

**Pir Ishaq Gailani (Mahaz-e Melli):**

Primarily (but not exclusively) a Pashtun party, followers of the Sufi holy man Pir Gailani have a reputation for moderate thought and the traditional mystical and introspective religious currents that characterize Sufism in that sect.

***Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:***

- Most respected leaders in area: Mullah 54%, Shura/Elders 28%, & Malik 6%, according to Altai surveys.

**Human Terrain:**

***Hazara:***

The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan; they have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, “the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of



modern Afghanistan.”<sup>12</sup> As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result, there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is “centered on Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province.”<sup>13</sup> The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazar-e Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat.

#### ***Ghilzai:***

The largest single tribe of the Pashtun ethnicity, the Ghalji or Ghilzai, and in particular the Hotaki clan, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Long resentful of the power the Duranni tribe (of which Karzai and Zahir Shah are members), the Ghilzai are fiercely independent and often view themselves, as the largest grouping of Pashtuns in the country, as the rightful leaders of Afghanistan. That being said, they suffered much during the Soviet invasion, and must be included in any effort to secure and develop Ghazni Province.

#### ***Kuchi:***

Involved in a constant and centuries old range war with the Hazara, the Kuchi are Pashtun nomads. Drawn primarily from the Ghilzai tribe, the Kuchis have moved across Afghanistan and Pakistan for generations, and only since Pakistani independence were banned from Pakistani territory. Dispersed and well-traveled, they often receive news from distant relations in far-away provinces relatively quickly. The “leader” of the Kuchis is one Hashmat Ghani Ahmadzai. Partially settled by the king and the following socialist governments, they were strong supporters of the Taliban, both ideologically and pragmatically, as they came into possession of many Hazara lands thanks to the repression of the Shiite Hazara by the Taliban. There are estimated to be around three million Kuchi in Afghanistan, with at least 60% remaining fully nomadic.<sup>14</sup>

#### ***Hindus and Sikhs:***

Long parts of the commercial life of Afghanistan, Hindus and Sikhs have lived in the country for centuries as traders and money-lenders. During the time of the Taliban they were harassed and forced to wear identifying badges, and as a result many left the country. Since the beginning of OEF, however, many have returned to Afghanistan and their previous vocations.

#### **Security Landscape:**

***General Level of Security:*** On average, not good. Twelve out of eighteen districts report *themselves* as dangerous.

Moderate Risk: Ajristan, Jaghuri

Significant Risk: Malistan, Nawur, Jaghatu, Giro

High Risk: Nawa, Gelan, Muqur, Ab Band, Qarabagh, Andar, Bahrami Shahid, Ghazni (almost every province along the Kabul-Kandahar road), Dih Yak, and Zana Khan.

#### **The districts of primary concern are:**

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<sup>12</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>13</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>14</sup> “Afghan Nomads Say U.S. Bombing Killed Nine,” Associated Press, September 25, 2003

[http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925\\_221.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925_221.html) and Paul Garwood, “Poverty, violence put Afghanistan's fabled Kuchi nomads on a road to nowhere,” Associated Press, May 14, 2006, <http://www.rawa.org/nomad.htm/>.

Qarabagh: First and foremost Qarabagh is strategically vital to mission success in Ghazni Province. The most populous district, and lying astride the Kabul to Kandahar highway, Qarabagh has recently seen an upsurge in incidents. On a related note, according to a recent Altai survey, residents of Qarabagh viewed the ANA and ANP most negatively of all the districts (27% believe the ANP always or sometimes abuses their power vs. 19% provincial average). Taliban have also been most active in Qarabagh, where 37% of the populous reports seeing or hearing of them in the area (the provincial average is 27%)

Dih Yak: Like Qarabagh, surveys reveal Dih Yak has a very low opinion of the ANA and ANP (25% believe the ANP always or sometimes abuses their power and 10% believe the ANA does the same), and is susceptible to Taliban influence. Bordering both Paktika and Paktia provinces, Dih Yak is also the most likely to believe in Taliban messaging (40% vs. provincial average of 23%)

**Public attitudes toward security**: On average, 46% of the province reports never having seen the ANP (highest in Jaghuri District at 90%), and 51% reports having never seen the ANA (highest in Jaghuri District at 90%).

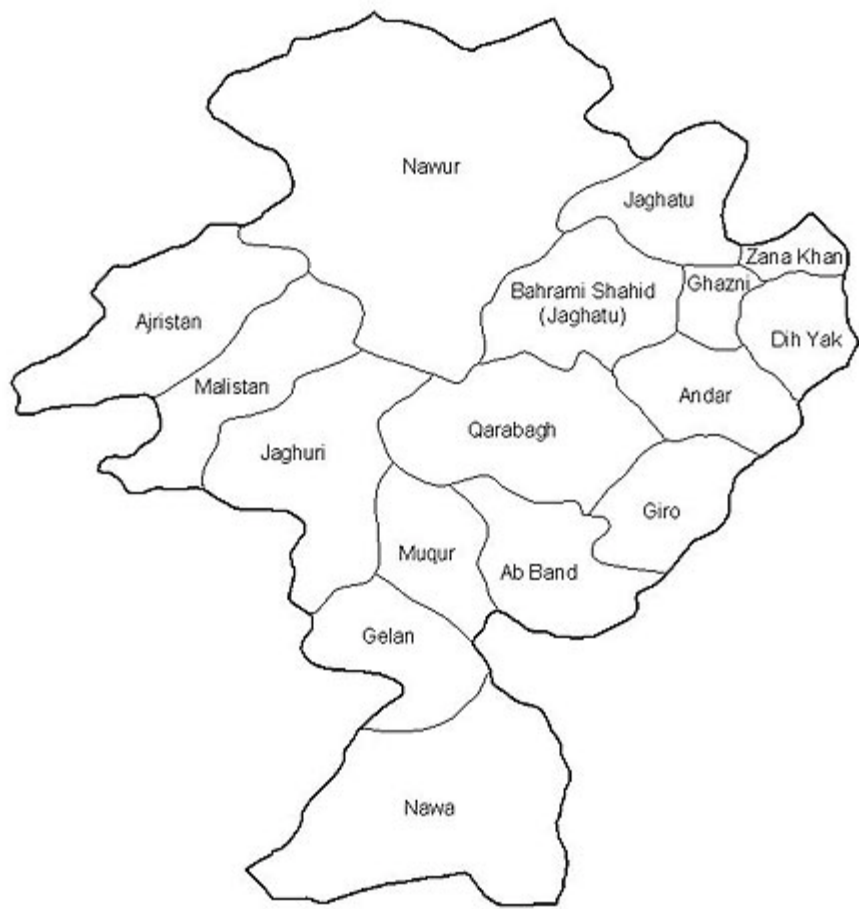
**Public attitudes toward FF**: 48% of the province believes foreign forces do not help the people, and 28% believe them incompetent. 11% further believe that the foreign forces do not bring peace, especially in unsafe areas (twelve of the eighteen districts).

**Public attitudes towards the Taliban**: 27% report having seen or heard of Taliban activity in their area (highest in Qarabagh District at 37%), and 18% of the province has actually seen the Taliban (highest in Qarabagh District at 27%). After Kandahar, Helmand and Nuristan, Ghazni has the highest level of population believing in Taliban propaganda at 23% (highest in Dih Yak District at 40%), most often delivered via *Shabnamah* (“night letter”).

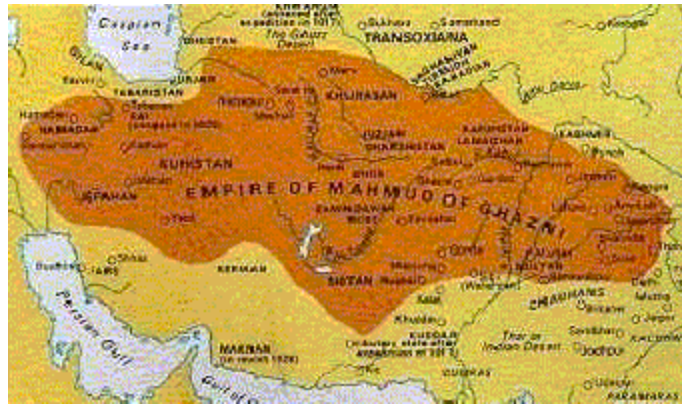
On the plus side, however, Ghazni has the third highest fear of the Taliban of all Afghan provinces at 89% (highest in Jaghuri District at 95%). Obviously, the Hazara areas are most hostile to the Taliban.

## GHAZNI DISTRICTS

Ghazi Province sixteen districts are Ghazni, Zana Khan, Deh Yak, Khwaja Omri, Nawur, Jaghatu, Jaghori, Malestan, Qara agh, Maqor, Jandda, Ab Band, Andar, Geru, and Nawa.







## HISTORY OF GHAZNI<sup>15</sup>

Ghazni's early history is obscure; it has probably existed at least since the 7th century. Early in the 11th century, under Mahmud of Ghazna, the town became the capital of the vast empire of the Ghaznavids, Afghanistan's first Muslim dynasty. The dynasty lost much of its power later in the same century, and Ghazni was sacked in 1150-51 by the Ghurids. The town was fought over by various peoples before the Mongols secured it by 1221. They ruled the area until Timur (Tamerlane), the Turkic conqueror, arrived in the 14th century, and his descendants ruled it until 1504, when the Mughals took Ghazni and Kabul. In 1747, under Ahmad Shah Durrani, Ghazni became part of the new Afghan kingdom.

The city is not mentioned by any narrator of Alexander's expedition, or by any ancient author so as to admit of positive recognition. But it is very possibly the Gazaca which Ptolemy places among the Paropamisadae, and this may not be inconsistent with Sir H. Rawlinson's identification of it with Gazos, an Indian city spoken of by two obscure Greek poets as an impregnable place of war. The name is probably connected with the Persian and Sanskrit ganj and ganja, a treasury (whence the Greek and Latin Gaza). We seem to have positive evidence of the existence of the city before the Mahommedan times (644) in the travels of the Chinese pilgrim, Hsuan Tsang, who speaks of Ho-si-na (i.e. probably Ghazni) as one of the capitals of Tsaukuta or Arachosia, a place of great strength. In early Mahommedan times the country adjoining Ghazni was called Zdbul. When the Mahommedans first invaded that region Ghazni was a wealthy entrepreneur of the Indian trade. Of the extent of this trade some idea is given by Ibn Haukal, who states that at Kabul, then a mart of the same trade there was sold yearly indigo to the value of two million dinars. The enterprise of Islam underwent several ebbs and flows over this region. The provinces on the Helmand and about Ghazni were invaded as early as the caliphate of Moaiya (662-680). The arms of Yaqub b. Laith swept over Kabul and Arachosia (Al-Rukhaj) about 871, and the people of the latter country were forcibly converted. Though the Hindu dynasty of Kabul held a part of the Valley of Kabul River till the time of Mahmud, it is probably to the period just mentioned that we must refer the permanent Muslim occupation of Ghazni. Indeed, the building of the fort and city is ascribed by a Muslim historian to Amir bin Laith, the brother and successor of Yakub (d. 901), though the facts already stated discredit this. In the latter part of the 9th century the family of the Samanid, sprung from Samarkand, reigned in splendor at Bokhara. Alptagin, originally a Turkish slave, and high in the service of the dynasty, about the middle of the 10th century, losing the favor of the court, wrested Ghazni from its chief (who is styled Abu Bakr Lawik, wali of Ghazni), and established himself there. His government was recognized from Bokhara, and held till his death. In 977 another Turk slave, Sabuktagin, who had married the daughter of his master Alptagin, obtained rule in Ghazni. He made himself lord of nearly all the present territory of Afghanistan and of the Punjab. In 997 Mahmud, son of Sabuktagin, succeeded to the government, and with his name Ghazni and the Ghaznevid dynasty have become perpetually associated.

<sup>15</sup> "History of Ghazni," *Ghazni Province, Afghanistan*, Afghan Friends Network, 2003, available from: <http://www.afghanfriends.net/ghazni/history.html> (accessed October 5, 2007).

Issuing forth year after year from that capital, Mahmud (q.v.) carried fully seventeen expeditions of devastation through northern India and Gujarat, as well as others to the north and west. From the borders of Kurdistan to Samarkand, from the Caspian to the Ganges, his authority was acknowledged. The wealth brought back to Ghazni was enormous, and contemporary historians give glowing descriptions of the magnificence of the capital, as well as of the conquerors munificent support of literature. Mahmud died in 1030, and some fourteen kings of his house came after him; but though there was some revival of importance under Ibrahim (1059-1099), the empire never reached anything like the same splendor and power. It was overshadowed by the Seljuks of Persia, and by the rising rivalry of Ghowr (q.v.), the hostility of which it had repeatedly provoked. Bahram Shah (1118-1152) put to death Kutbuddin, one of the princes of Ghowr, called king of the Jibal or Hill country, who had withdrawn to Ghazni. This prince's brother, Saifuddin Sun, came to take vengeance, and drove out Bahram. But the latter recapturing the place (1149) paraded Saifuddin and his vizier ignominiously about the city, and then hanged them on the bridge. Ala-uddin of Ghowr, younger brother of the two slain princes, then gathered a great host, and came against Bahram, who met him on the Helmand. The Ghowri prince, after repeated victories, stormed Ghazni, and gave it over to fire and sword. The dead kings of the house of Mahmud, except the conqueror himself and two others, were torn from their graves and burnt, whilst the bodies of the princes of Ghowr were solemnly disinterred and carried to the distant tombs of their ancestors. It seems certain that Ghazni never recovered the splendor that perished then (1152). Ala-uddin, who from this deed became known in history as Jalal-uddin (Brihmonde), returned to Ghowr, and Bahram reoccupied Ghazni; he died in 1157. In the time of his son Khusru Shah, Ghazni was taken by the Turkish tribes called Ghuzz (generally believed to have been what are now called Turcomans). The king fled to Lahore, and the dynasty ended with his son. In 1173 the Ghuzz were expelled by Ghiyasuddin sultan of Ghowr (nephew of Ala-uddin Jalal-uddin), who made Ghazni over to his brother Muizuddin. This famous prince, whom the later historians call Mohammed Ghowri, shortly afterwards (1174-1175) invaded India, taking Multan and Uchh. This was the first of many successive inroads on western and northern India, in one of which Lahore was wrested from Khusru Malik, the last of Mahmud's house, who died a captive in the hills of Ghowr. In 1192 Prithvi Rai or Pithora (as the Moslem writers call him), the Chauhan king of Ajmere, being defeated and slain near Thanewar, the whole country from the Himalaya to Ajmere became subject to the Ghowri king of Ghazni. On the death of his brother Ghiyasuddin, with whose power he had been constantly associated, and of whose conquests he had been the chief instrument, Muizuddin became sole sovereign over Ghowr and Ghazni, and the latter place was then again for a brief period the seat of an empire nearly as extensive as that of Mahmud the son of Sabuktigin. Muizuddin crossed the Indus once more to put down a rebellion of the Khokhars in the Punjab, and on his way back was murdered by a band of them, or, as some say, by one of the Mulahidak or Assassins. The slave lieutenants of Muizuddin carried on the conquest of India, and as the rapidly succeeding events broke their dependence on any master, they established at Delhi that monarchy of which, after it had endured through many dynasties, and had culminated with the Mogul house of Baber, the shadow perished in 1857. The death of Muizuddin was followed by struggle and anarchy, ending for a time in the annexation of Ghazni to the empire of Khwarizm by Mahommed Shah, who conferred it on his famous son, Jelaluddin, and Ghazni became the headquarters of the latter. After Jenghiz Khan had extinguished the power of his family in Turkestan, Jelaluddin defeated the army sent against him by the Mongol at Parwan, north of Kabul. Jenghiz then advanced and drove Jelaluddin across the Indus, after which he sent Ogdai his son to besiege Ghazni. Henceforward Ghazni is much less prominent in Asiatic history. It continued subject to the Mongols, sometimes to the house of Hulagu in Persia, and sometimes to that of Jagatai in Turkestan. In 1326 after a battle between Amir Hosain, the viceroy of the former house in Khorasan, and Tarmashirin, the reigning khan of Jagatai, the former entered Ghazni and once more subjected it to devastation, and this time the tomb of Mahmud to desecration, Ibn Batuta (c. 1332) says the greater part of the city was in ruins, and only a small part continued to be a town. Timur seems never to have visited Ghazni, but we find him in 1401 bestowing the government of Kabul, Kandahar, and Ghazni on Pir Mahommed, the son of his son Jahangir. In the end of

the century it was still in the hands of a descendant of Timur, Ulugh Beg Mirza, who was king of Kabul and Ghazni. The illustrious nephew of this prince, Baber, got peaceful possession of both cities in 1504, and has left notes on both in his own inimitable Memoirs. His account of Ghazni indicates how far it had now fallen. It is, he says, but a poor mean place and I have always wondered how its princes, who possessed also Hindustan and Khorasan, could have chosen such a wretched country for the seat of their government, in preference to Khorasan. He commends the fruit of its gardens, which still contribute largely to the markets of Kabul. Ghazni remained in the hands of Babers descendants, reigning at Delhi and Agra, till the invasion of Nadir Shah (1738), and became after Nadirs death a part of the new kingdom of the Afghans under Ahmad Shah Durani. We know of but two modern travelers who have recorded visits to the place previous to the war of 1839. George Forster passed as a disguised traveler with a qafila in 1783. Its slender existence, he says, is now maintained by some Hindu families, who support a small traffic, and supply the wants of the few Mahomedan residents. Vigne visited it in 1836, having reached it from Multan with a caravan of Lohani merchants, travelling by the Gomal pass. The historical name of Ghazni was brought back from the dead, as it were, by the news of its capture by the British army under Sir John Keane, 23rd July 1839. The siege artillery had been left behind at Kandahar; escalade was judged impracticable; but the project of the commanding engineer, Captain George Thomson, for blowing in the Kabul gate with powder in bags, was adopted, and carried out successfully, at the cost of 182 killed and wounded. Two years and a half later the Afghan outbreak against the British occupation found Ghazni garrisoned by a Bengal regiment of sepoys, but neither repaired nor provisioned. They held out under great hardships from the 16th of December 1841 to the 6th of March 1842, when they surrendered. In the autumn of the same year General Nott, advancing from Kandahar upon Kabul, reoccupied Ghazni, destroyed the defenses of the castle and part of the town, and carried away the famous gates of Somnath.