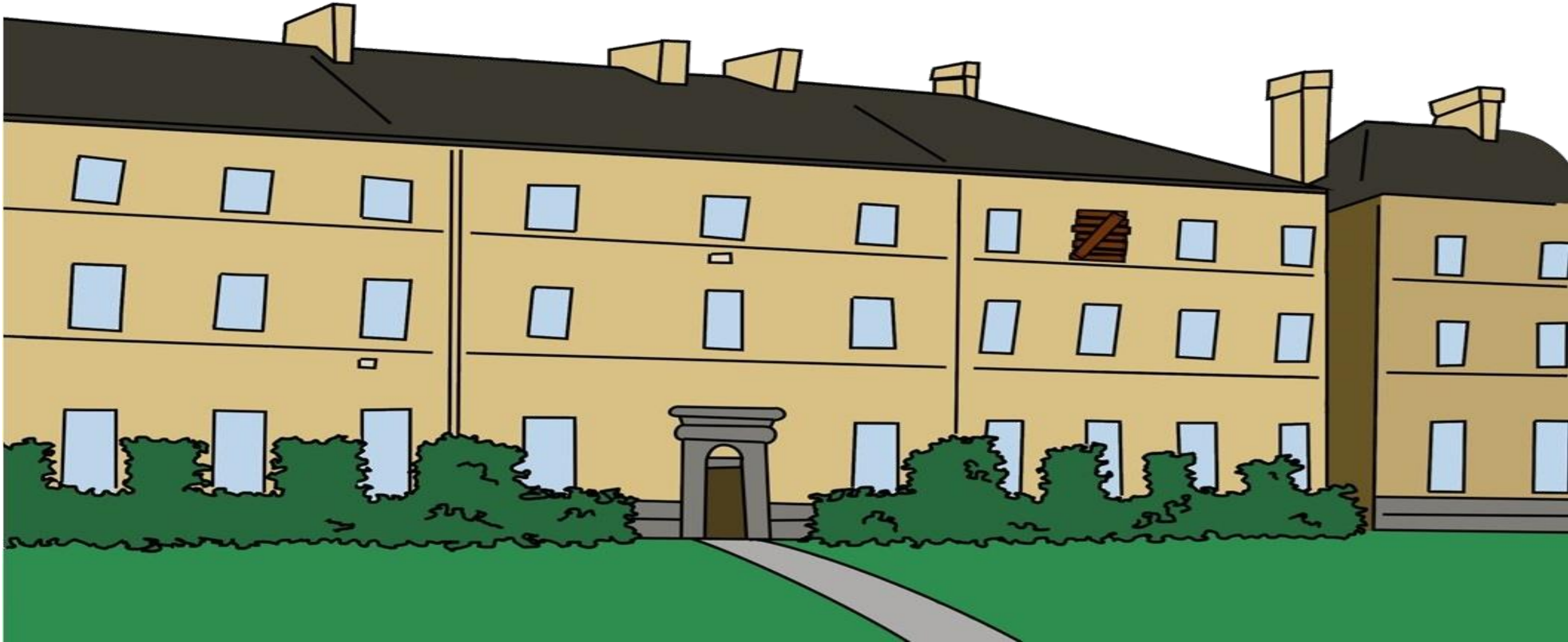


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PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A011 -- THE SECOND ANGLO-AFGHAN WAR -- JANUARY, 2022





*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 011... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT THE SECOND ANGLO-AFGHAN WAR.*





WHEN YOU ARE FIRST INTRODUCED IN A STUDY IN SCARLET, YOU NOTED YOUR RECENT RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN, WHERE YOU WERE WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE AT MAIWAND IN JULY 1880.



**THIS CLASH REPRESENTED THE WORST DISASTER
FOR THE BRITISH DURING WHAT WAS LATER
REFERRED TO AS THE SECOND ANGLO-AFGHAN WAR.**



**IT PLAYED, HOWEVER, NO SMALL PART IN THE
EMPIRE'S FINAL VICTORY FOLLOWING LORD
ROBERTS' MARCH TO KANDAHAR, CREATING A HERO
OF THIS COMMANDER OF THE KABUL AND
KANDAHAR FIELD FORCES.**





DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD, INDIA PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY.



**IT WAS CONSIDERED THE MOST VALUABLE
POSSESSION IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE, AND MAJOR
MILITARY EFFORTS WERE EMPLOYED TO ENSURE
ITS BORDERS AND PREVENT INTRUSION,
PARTICULARLY FROM THE RUSSIANS.**





AFGHANISTAN SERVED AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS, AND AS A RESULT, THE COUNTRY'S EMIR FACED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURES FROM BOTH SIDES IN WHAT WAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS 'THE GREAT GAME.'



IN 1877, RUSSIA INVADED TURKEY AND PLANNED TO ATTACK THE BRITISH IN INDIA BY MARCHING THROUGH AFGHANISTAN.



**TO USE THE COUNTRY AS A STAGING GROUND, THE
TSAR SENT A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO KABUL TO
PRESSURE THE EMIR SHER ALI INTO ALLOWING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMBASSY THERE.**





BECAUSE THE BRITISH PROVIDED THE EMIR WITH AN ANNUAL PENSION TO REJECT THE ADVANCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY WERE OUTRAGED BY THE BETRAYAL AND PREPARED TO INVADE THE COUNTRY, BUT ONLY AFTER THEY SENT THEIR OWN DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE EMIR TO ESTABLISH A BRITISH EMBASSY IN KABUL



BEING CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THESE TWO POWERHOUSES, THE EMIR ORDER AFGHAN TROOPS TO REBUFF THE BRITISH MISSION AT THE BORDER.



KEEP ME FROM MY FRIENDS



**IN RESPONSE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WARNED
THE EMIR TO ACCEPT THEIR AMBASSADOR OR
SUFFER INVASION.**



WHEN THE EMIR DIDN'T RESPOND, BRITISH AND INDIAN TROOPS ENTERED THE COUNTRY... BY MAY, 1879, SHER ALI'S SON YAKUB KHAN HAD REPLACED HIS FATHER AND NOW SUED THE BRITISH FOR PEACE, ACCEPTING THEIR PERMANENT EMBASSY IN KABUL



UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE REST OF HIS MEN ARRIVED, THEY WERE SLAUGHTERED, AND LORD ROBERTS WAS ORDERED TO ADVANCE ON THE CITY IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S ASSIGNATION.



*UPON RETAKING KABUL IN OCTOBER, HE FORCED
YAKUB KHAN TO ABDICATE AND ROBERTS BECAME
THE CITY'S GOVERNOR.*





WHILE THE BRITISH NEGOTIATED WITH ABDUR RAHMAN, A NEPHEW OF SHER ALI'S AND THE SOON-TO-BE EMIR IN KABUL, YAKUB KHAN'S BROTHER AYUB KHAN DECLARED HIMSELF EMIR AND ADVANCED ON KANDAHAR WITH 7,500 MEN.





LT. GEN. J.M. PRIMROSE, THEN IN CHARGE OF KANDAHAR, SENT 2,734 SOLDIERS TO STOP THEIR ADVANCE NEAR MAIWAND.



AFTER MORE THAN FOUR HOURS OF INTENSE FIGHTING IN SEVERE HEAT, THE BRITISH FELL. ONLY 1,595 MADE IT BACK TO THE KANDAHAR.



*WHEN WORD OF THE MASSACRE AND SUBSEQUENT
SIEGE OF KANDAHAR REACHED KABUL, ROBERTS
WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF 9,900 MEN..*



*...WHOM HE RACED THROUGH THE COUNTRY,
REACHING KANDAHAR, A DISTANCE OF 313 MILES,
IN 21 DAYS.*



THE SOLDIERS BATTLED HEAT DURING THE DAY,
FREEZING TEMPERATURES AT NIGHT, AND THIRST
FOR THE ENTIRE MARCH, BUT STILL ARRIVED
READY FOR A FIGHT, AND QUICKLY DEFEATED AYUB
KHAN AND HIS ARMY.



*FOR HIS EFFORTS, ROBERTS WAS ADVANCED TO
KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH.*





**THE AFGHAN PEOPLE ACCEPTED ABDUR RAHMAN AS
THEIR RULER AND THE BRITISH WITHDREW FROM
KABUL AND KANDAHAR.**





THE NEW EMIR RETAINED HIS CONTROL OF FOREIGN POLICY AND CONTINUED TO REJECT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE AS HE HAD PROMISED DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH.



WHILE IT MIGHT BE ARGUED THAT IN THE END,
THE WAR CREATED A MORE STABLE COUNTRY TO
THE NORTH LITTLE TERRITORIAL SHIFT OCCURRED
AS A RESULT AND THE FINAL POLITICAL
SITUATION REMAINED AS IT HAD UNDER SHER
ALI, MAKING THIS ONE OF THE MOST
CONTROVERSIAL CONFLICTS IN THE REGION.



**THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE WAR, INCLUDING THE
DEFEAT AT MAIWAND AND LORD ROBERTS'
SUBSEQUENT VICTORIES, MADE BOTH WELL-KNOWN
BACK IN BRITAIN.**



MY REFERENCE TO MY OWN INVOLVEMENT IN THE BATTLE AT MAIWAND WOULD HAVE RECALLED THE DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CONFLICT AND MARKED ME AS A MAN WITH THE COURAGE AND RESILIENCE TO SERVE AS YOUR ASSOCIATE.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 011 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 012, WE WILL LOOK AT GENTLEMEN CLUBS WHICH THRIVED IN THE VICTORIAN ERA.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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