

WORKSHEET ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – ECONOMY

Definition: Economic reconstruction is necessary to ensure that people have jobs and are able to provide for their families. A government must address the consequences of illegal or underground economic activities (black markets) as it reestablishes banks and other financial institutions.

1. What are the special postwar needs within Afghanistan? (What has been destroyed, and what is the human impact of the conflict?) In what areas has the destruction been worst?
2. What are the major groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? Have any of these groups suffered more than others because of the war (either because of their geographical location or because they were victims of persecution)? How would you make sure that rebuilding the economy proceeds fairly so that all groups of people and all geographic areas have equal access to new jobs?
3. What natural resources and traditional jobs does the country have? What kind of economic development should be encouraged? Are there any black market or illegal industries that should be eliminated? *Why* should some activities/crops be eliminated?
4. Which international organizations/countries have been involved in providing economic assistance to the country? What have they accomplished, and what still needs to be done?
5. Why is economic growth important for political growth, security, etc.? Why are security, governance, and the rebuilding of the infrastructure necessary for economic growth?
6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (political, financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:

- CIA fact book (click on the section on the Economy):

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

- Al-Jazeera/English article about the relationship of the economy and governance:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/04/2011424133532328115.html>

- Afghan economy and the opium poppy: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/0305/Can-Afghanistan-economy-thrive-without-poppy>

- relationship of economy and security: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/30/AR2009063002811.html>