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# Afghanistan: Between Hope And Fear (Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture)



## Synopsis

The Afghan people are standing at a crucial crossroads in history. Can their fragile democratic institutions survive the drawdown of US military support? Will Afghan women and girls be stripped of their modest gains in freedom and opportunity as the West loses interest in their plight? While the media have largely moved on from these stories, Paula Bronstein remains passionately committed to bearing witness to the lives of the Afghan people. In this powerful photo essay, she goes beyond war coverage to reveal the full complexity of daily life in what may be the world's most reported on yet least known country. *Afghanistan: Between Hope and Fear* presents a photographic portrait of this war-torn country's people across more than a decade. With empathy born of the challenges of being an American female photojournalist working in a conservative Islamic country, Bronstein gives voice to those Afghans, particularly women and children, rendered silent during the violent Taliban regime. She documents everything from the grave trials facing the country's "human rights abuses against women, poverty and the aftermath of war, and heroin addiction, among them" to the stirrings of new hope, including elections, girls' education, and work and recreation. Fellow award-winning journalist Christina Lamb describes the gains that Afghan women have made since the overthrow of the Taliban, as well as the daunting obstacles they still face. An eloquent portrait of everyday life, *Afghanistan: Between Hope and Fear* is the most complete visual narrative history of the country currently in print.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is just an extraordinary book. Ms. Bronstein spent nearly 15 years in the country and the images reflect her sensitivity and understanding of the issues. But more important, she has an incredible eye for what makes a great image...the color, the composition, the sequencing.... Even the pictures of the results of the awful violence still pop, which add context to the social commentary implicit in the image. This is not the first book on Afghanistan's beauty and horrors, but it is one of the top two or maybe three of all the photo books covering the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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