

THE KITE RUNNER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By: Magi, Sahir, Hayley, Liam

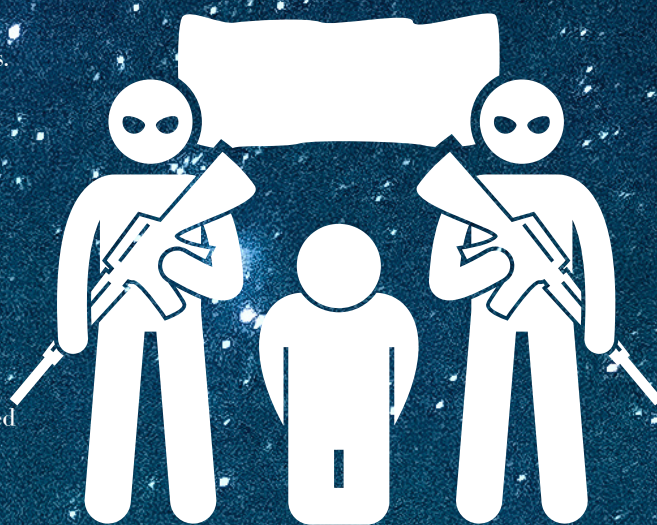
FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Khaled Hosseini

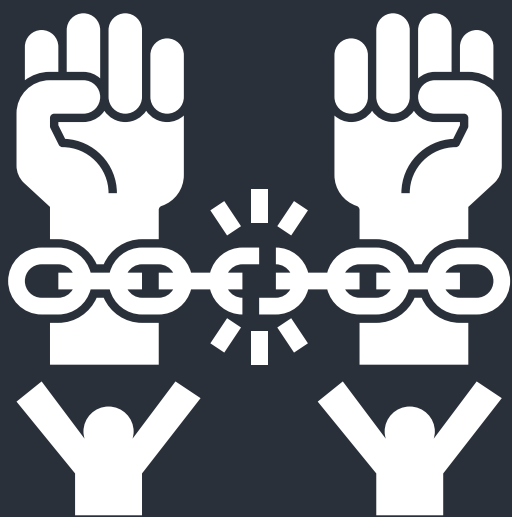
- Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965
- In 1976, his whole family moved to Paris for his father's job at the foreign ministry and had been relocated
- He moved to San Jose, USA, where they were granted political asylum in 1980 due to the communist coup and invasion of the Soviets in Afghanistan while they were in Paris
- He is a founder of a nonprofit organization for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan
- Hosseini went to University of California, San Diego to get his medical degree in 1993. While he was an intern between 1996 - 2004.
- He started writing his novel in 2001 and got it published in 2003

THE TALIBAN AND THE LIFE UNDER THEIR RULE

- The Taliban is a group of terrorists that the members mostly consist of young Pashtun men whose families had fled to Pakistan during the war against the Soviets. They've overthrown the warlords in Kandahar and took over with the city.
- Living under the Taliban felt like prison for many
- Kabul City spent four years in a civil war where many lives were lost and city was destroyed, and a lot of citizens were sent into exile.
- Taliban imposed lots of rules and restrictions such as no music, no shaving of beards.
- Particularly women are largely restricted where they have no jobs aside from being a housewife, they can't leave the house without a male chaperone, girls were barred from school.
- Women are also required to wear burqa and covered up. Women are not allowed to wear makeup.
- Kite-flying isn't allowed as well.



LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN PRIOR TO THE SOVIET INVASION



- Life in Afghanistan before the Soviet Invasion was peaceful and evolving at a steady rate.
- There was a lot of modern architecture and new technologies being made by influence of the US and Soviet Union.
- There were many old mud traditional buildings and modern buildings being built in the same areas which shows the advancement of Afghanistan.
- With the financial aid from US and technologies donated by the Soviet Union, the people in Afghanistan were thriving and modernizing as time went on.
- Along with the modernization of the cities, women were also granted more freedom. They could leave their houses more and start working.
- People began to adapt with the new circumstances and new people in government and accepted the changes with grace.

DIFFICULTIES FOR IMMIGRANTS TO LIVE IN A NEW COUNTRY

- Not all countries accept or welcome immigrants or refugees.
- For those that do., there is an entry quota or lottery limit in various categories to control the number of immigrants per year. Some categories are highly competitive.
- Unfair immigration restrictions (e.g. bans, taxes) can come up from time to time.
- Family immigration sponsorship is limited to immediate family members, which lead to family separation.
- Even those in line are subject to long backlogs and waits
- Immigrant apprehension (language, employment opportunities, loss of social networks, discrimination, etc.)
- Illegal entry is a criminal offense in many countries (imprison, deport, etc.)



CHALLENGES THAT NEW IMMIGRANTS FACE IN THEIR NEW COUNTRY



- Language barriers make communication difficult.
- Employment opportunities are lower especially if language skills do not match the market needs.
- Access to social services is limited. The systems in the new country (e.g. health care) can be foreign to the immigrants.
- Cultural differences make it difficult to integration with the mainstream population.
- Cultural clashes for children can cause family conflicts.
- Isolation due to lack of support of friends and family.
- Prejudice and racism are common.
- Difficulties in adapting to different climate and weather .
- Credentials in home country may not be recognized.