**Haqqani network**

Haqqani network, [Pashtun](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Pashtun/58636) militant network based in eastern Afghanistan and northwest Pakistan. The Haqqani network originated during the [Afghan War](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Afghan-War/3923) (1978–92), and, since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, it has participated in an insurgency against U.S. and NATO forces and the Afghan government.

The founder of the Haqqani network, Jalaluddin Haqqani, rose to prominence as a guerrilla leader in the 1970s and ’80s. A member of the Pashtun Jadran tribe from Afghanistan’s Paktiyā province, Haqqani was educated in religious schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After participating in an unsuccessful Islamist guerrilla campaign against the government of Afghan Pres. [Mohammad Daud Khan](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Mohammad-Daud-Khan/384571) in 1975, Haqqani built his reputation as a shrewd and determined commander during the [Afghan War](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Afghan-War/3923), in which Islamist guerrilla fighters known as mujahideen (from Arabic *mujāhidūn*, “those engaged in jihad”) battled the communist government of Afghanistan and the Soviet force that invaded the country in 1979 to defend the government. Haqqani marshalled a large militant network based on tribal and ideological bonds in the strategically important region of eastern Afghanistan known as Lōyah Paktiyā, which comprises the modern provinces of Paktiyā, Paktīkā, and Khōst. The mujahideen received extensive covert support from the United States and other countries opposed to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan; Haqqani worked closely with the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the CIA, launching attacks and facilitating the flow of fighters and supplies into Afghanistan from Pakistan. He also sought to enlist the wider Islamic world in the fight in Afghanistan, cooperating with networks of foreign Muslim militants traveling to Afghanistan and sending representatives to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf to raise funds. During those years, Haqqani developed close ties to foreign militant financiers and leaders, including [Osama bin Laden](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Osama-bin-Laden/343571), the future head of [al-Qaeda](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/al-Qaeda/394919).

Following the capture of the Afghan capital, [Kabul](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Kabul/44257), by the mujahideen in 1992, Haqqani served as minister of justice in the interim cabinet formed by mujahideen leaders. In 1995 he allied with the [Taliban](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Taliban/383768) movement, which captured the capital from the mujahideen the following year. He served as minister of tribal affairs under the Taliban government.

In 2001 a U.S.-led [invasion](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Afghanistan-War/488369#292842.toc) forced the Taliban from power. Leaders of the Haqqani network took shelter in the tribal regions of Pakistan and soon joined the reconstituted Taliban’s insurgency against international forces and the government of Afghan Pres. [Hamid Karzai](http://school.ebonline.com/levels/high/article/Hamid-Karzai/399876). Responsibility for directing the operations of the network was transferred from Haqqani, aging and reportedly ill, to his son Sirajuddin. The network has been blamed for a number of high-profile attacks, including bombings, assassinations, and commando-style raids on important sites in Kabul.

The Haqqani network has been a source of tension between the governments of the United States and Pakistan. U.S. officials have accused the Pakistani government of abetting the network in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan, a charge that Pakistani officials have fervently denied. An estimate in 2011 placed the number of fighters in the Haqqani network between 10,000 and 15,000.