

# Urban Geography of *Kabul*

Changing Face of the  
Central and Western parts  
of Kabul City

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Kabul, as an ancient historic town is the heart of our country. It has been a cross-road in the course of history. Its location as a basin inside mountains causes to have pleasant weather during four seasons. Kabul, the hub of world cultures has turned as a cradle of the Afghan rich culture, reflecting living style of our nationalities as well as the identities of those who had come here during different periods of history. The historic walls on top of Asmayee and Sherdarwaza mountains together with dozens of forts (Qala) inside and around the Kabul city are its specifications. Some of these architects standing in and around the city are reflecting Kabulis living style generation after generations. They loved their town, land and freedom so such sentiments have come up with forts and walls stretching over the city, as security measures.

A book entitles "The Geography of Kabul" was published recently by joint efforts of two Afghan and German scholars. It clearly shows the "Changing face of the central and western parts of Kabul city" in 245

pages with hard cover.

A German scholar, Prof. Dr. Andreas Dittmann, a member of Department of Geography, Giessen University in Germany, in the first chapter of this book detailed about the Old Kabul. Prof. Ghulam Jailani Arez, former vice president of KU, advisor to dept of geography, Ministry of Education has given fresh information about forts inside and outside this city. The information is unique because it was completed based on a direct observation. The reader can find the detailed information about present situation of each fort and its residence, public parks and main historic booths. This book is printed in four chapters with

maps and photos.

In the preface, "one can read about forts (Qalas) in developing countries were demolished and replayed by squatter hamlets. Suva Polo in Brazil and Kabul in Afghanistan are precise examples. However, many skyscrapers and modern buildings have been constructed according to the master plan but many illegal houses and squatters are also built contrary without any engineering design beyond the legacy and heritage." It reflects how Kabul historical city was victims of civil war and expansion without any plan.

This book is a good source for those who are interested about our capital and its present situation.

