This book *Statebuilding and Justice Reform: Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Afghanistan* offers readers an interesting view on current justice sector reforms and statebuilding in this Central Asian country badly damaged by a long conflict.

The author of the book is Matteo Tondini, a researcher and legal advisor who served as a project advisor to the Embassy of Italy in Kabul, Afghanistan. Dr. Tondini aims to offer an update view of the reform of justice sector since 2001, the role of international actor and actions in these legal and judicial reforms as well as the factors influencing it success. He combines a multi-disciplinary approach to provide an in-depth analysis of these topics: Islamic, constitutional and international law, international relations, cooperation for development.

The books analyses the system of justice before the US military intervention of 2001, and helps the reader to understand Islamic law, the influence of Islamic law in the Afghan justice system, the Taliban period (1996-2001) and the institutional reforms in the aftermath of 9/11. The justice system reforms are divided in two phases, the first phase, implemented under the approach of the “lead nation approach”, going from the initial days of the international intervention in Afghanistan (2001) to the opening of the London Conference on Afghanistan (January, 2006). The second phase of the justice reforms included a wider participation of Afghan authorise in the process. It started with the 2006 London Conference.

Furthermore it discusses reforms in the justice sector in countries recovering from conflicts: the dilemma between a neo-colonial or consent-based approach, transitional justice as well as common features of justice reform in countries recovering from war conflict. It offers an overview of theories and methods applied to justice system reform in countries recovering from conflicts.

Students, academics, politicians and people interested in Afghanistan current affairs will find this book of great value.

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The book *A Beginner’s Guide to Tajiki* offers students of Tajiki resources to learn grammar, phonetics, morphology, and vocabulary. It also offers readers brief insights on Tajikistan, a beautiful country strategically located in Central Asia.

This language belongs to the family of Indo-European languages. For many centuries and until the 1920, Tajiki used the Farsi script, based on the Arabic alphabet. In 1929 this script was exchanged for a Latin-based script and finally in 1940 a new script based on the Cyrillic script was adopted.

The book consists of 21 lessons that will help students of initial and intermediate level of Tajiki to master this language. In its more than 350 pages, it describes the Tajiki alphabet, the pronunciation of the letters and the transcription. Each chapter presents a topic (professions, houses, seasons and weather, countries and languages, tourism, celebrations and holidays, shops, markets, medicine and more) and explores specific grammar (from personal pronouns to present, past and future tenses, prepositions, active and passive verbs, subordinate clauses, direct and indirect speech and complex sentences). Each chapter has exercises for students.

Furthermore the book has appendices with interesting information on the country (cities and regions to Tajiki jokes and poetry selections), as well as models of official letters, invitations, congratulations and announcement. It also has specific appendices on phonetics and morphology. Finally the book offers a Tajiki-English dictionary.