Afghan Frontier: the substance of a speech not delievered[[1]](#footnote-1) (1879) George Campbell Sir

*Sir George Campbell var medlem af det britiske parlament 1875-1892, og havde tidligere været viceguvernør i Bengal i Indien[[2]](#footnote-2) 1871-1874. Han skrev bogen under den 2. britisk-afghanske krig[[3]](#footnote-3).*

… we know by painful experience that the Afghans are a people of a totally different character – turbulent bred from infancy to the use of arms - and with a passion for independence in which they are exceeded by no people in this world. This love of independence is such as to make them intolerant, not only of foreign rule, but almost of any national, tribal or family rule.

…

Experience has shown, too, that these traits are not of a passing kind; the Afghans are not to be, tamed by subjection and peace; nothing induces them to surrender that love of independence which seems to be the essence of their nature. That being the character of the people occupying so difficult and inaccessible a country, I have thought that the difficulties and expense of any attempt to meddle with that country far outweigh the advantages.

…

To sum up. My view is very decidedly that we cannot without great complication and disturbance hold our present position in Afghanistan;

1. Titlen på bogen henviser til at han havde tænkt sig at holde en tale i det britiske parlament, men i stedet endte med at skrive bogen [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Indien bestod dengang af både Indien, Pakistan og Bangladesh [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 1878-1880 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)