



Written by [Ilana Mercer](#) on September 20, 2021

Only Simpletons Think Afghanistan Is Simple

Fox News' Tucker Carlson appears in thrall to Lara Logan's political observations — to her "philosophical" meditations, too. Alas, Logan is no [Roger Scruton](#).

You might have [heard](#) Logan claim, recently and repetitively, that everything in the world is simple. "[Everything is simple](#)," she keeps intoning in her appearances on Fox News.

Applied to the fiasco in Afghanistan, Logan's Theory of Simple is that, considering that America is omnipotent, whatever occurs under its watch is always and everywhere planned and preventable.



Ilana Mercer

Ridiculous and wrong, yet Tucker, whom we all love to bits, giggles in delight.

"They want you to believe Afghanistan is complicated," [lectured](#) Logan. "Because if you complicate it, it is a tactic in information warfare called 'ambiguity increasing.'"

"So now we're talking about all the corruption and this and that," she further [vaporized](#). "But at its heart, every single thing in the world ... always comes down to *one or two things* ..."

Logan likely recently discovered Occam's Razor and is habitually applying this principle to anything and everything, with little evidence or geopolitical and historic understanding in support of her Theory of Simple.

Occam's Razor [posits](#) that, "the simplest explanation is preferable to one that is more complex," provided "simple" is "based on as much evidence as possible."

A nifty principle — and certainly not a philosophy — Occam's Razor was not meant to apply to everything under the sun.

Misapplied by Logan, why? Primarily because Logan's explanation for America's defeat in Afghanistan — that the United States threw the game — is hardly the simplest explanation, despite her assertion to the contrary.

The simplest explanation to the U.S. defeat in Afghanistan, based on as much information as is possible to gather, is that, wait for this: America was defeated fair and square. As this columnist had argued, [the U.S. was outsmarted and outmaneuvered, in a mission impossible in the first place](#).

Unlike Logan, who is convinced America could have won a war other superpowers had lost, [Mike Martin, a former British army officer in Helmand province, now at King's College, London](#), had this to say about the ragtag enemy:

This was "probably one of the best conceived and planned guerrilla campaigns ever. The Taliban went into every district and flipped all the local militias by doing deals along tribal lines."

What do you know? The *Economist* did not seek "simple" in its postmortem of "[American failure in Afghanistan](#)." Instead, the august magazine called on Henry Kissinger, a statesman with a sinewy



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intelligence, for his analysis.

Kissinger [said](#) what this writer had written in columns like, “[‘Just War’ For Dummies](#) (2003), “[Afghanistan: A War Obama Can Call His Own](#)” (2008) “[To P-e Or Not To P-e is Not the Question](#)” (2012), “[Grunts, Get In Touch With Your Inner-Muslim](#)” (2012), and others.

Tribal Afghanistan is thoroughly decentralized, always has been. Our indisputably brave soldiers had been ordered to, at once, woo and war against a primitive Pashtun population that disdained the central government we were dead set on strengthening. (“[Afghanistan: A War Obama Can Call His Own](#),” 2008)

Since *Baksheesh* (bribery) is in the political bone marrow of Afghanistan, American money and profligate spending habits only fed this proclivity for pelf and strengthened feudal fiefdoms and warlords.

And Afghans simply have more of an affinity for the Taliban than for the Wilsonians who were attempting to westernize them. Those we collaborated with are currently being called “our allies.” But it was not uncommon to hear of an Afghan policeman or soldier leading our men into an ambush, or opening fire on his American “[colleagues](#),” during a joint operation.

Now, all we hear from many a [Rambo Rescuer](#) is of the urgency of bringing these “Afghan allies” to America. But, [back in the day](#), it was curiously observed that the Afghani soldiers “fighting” alongside our men frequently suffered few casualties; Americans invariably paid the price. In 2009, [I quoted](#) Specialist Raquime Mercer, 20, whose close friend died in one of those attacks by an “ally.” He said: “You don’t trust anybody here.”

Now we consider them trustworthy — even eligible to take up residence in our neighborhoods.

[Wrote](#) Jim Sauer, a “retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major and combat veteran with over thirty years of service” (2009), about our Afghan allies:

The bulk of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) are not fighters, nor are they “true believers.” They are simply cowards — frauds — corrupt to the core by any standard and apostates to their own faith. They are slovenly, drug-addicted, dimwitted, and totally unreliable at any level.... They thrive on their petty powers and refuse to shoulder any burden or responsibility. Does this sound too harsh? Not for the Marines and Soldiers who have been killed by the treachery of ANA and ANP.

The Taliban does not speak for the small sector of Afghans groomed by America during the occupation. Widely supported by most Afghans, however, the Taliban [tried to tell us](#) that, “the presence of infidels in a Muslim country is a ... sin,” and that they would not tolerate the “accursed Western invasion, which [was] forcing itself upon us in the name of democracy.”

They didn’t.

Kissinger [agrees](#), speaking about the occupation as “a process so prolonged and obtrusive as to turn even non-jihadist Afghans against the entire effort. Afghanistan,” writes the elder statesman, “has never been a modern state. Statehood presupposes a sense of common obligation and centralization of authority. Afghan soil, rich in many elements, lacks these.”

Islam. Occupation. Tribalism. Traditionalism. *Baksheesh in the blood*. Only simpletons think failure in Afghanistan was simple.



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[Ilana Mercer](#) has been writing a weekly, paleolibertarian [think piece](#) since 1999. She's the author of [Into the Cannibal's Pot: Lessons for America From Post-Apartheid South Africa](#) (2011) & [The Trump Revolution: The Donald's Creative Destruction Deconstructed](#) (June, 2016). She's on Twitter, [Gab](#), [YouTube](#) & [LinkedIn](#); banned by [Facebook](#), and has a new [Podcast](#)



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