

LECTURE SERIES - AFGHAN HISTORY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Benjamin D. Hopkins is a specialist in modern South Asian history, in particular that of Afghanistan, as well as British imperialism. His research focuses on the role of the colonial state in creating the modern states inhabiting the region. His first book, *The Making of Modern Afghanistan*, examined the efforts of the British East India Company to construct an Afghan state in the early part of the nineteenth century and provides a corrective to the history of the so-called 'Great Game.' His second book, *Fragments of the Afghan Frontier*, co-authored with anthropologist Magnus Marsden, pairs a complex historical narrative with rich ethnographic detail to conceptualize the Afghan frontier as a collection of discrete fragments which create continually evolving collage of meaning. He has additionally co-edited *Beyond Swat: History, Society and Economy along the Afghanistan-Pakistan Frontier* with Magnus Marsden. Professor Hopkins regularly teaches courses on South Asian history, the geopolitics of South and Central Asia, as well as World history.

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