



Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

**UTMANZAI WAZIR TRIBE**  
***AKA: UTMANZAI***

**The Program for Culture & Conflict Studies**  
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Monterey, CA

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## PRIMARY LOCATION

The Utmanzai live Khaisora Valley, Razmak, Dossali, Datta Khel, Spin Wam, Shawal, and in the North Waziristan Agency.<sup>1</sup>

## KEY TERRAIN FEATURES

Valleys: Khaisora Valley, Tochi Valley

Plains: Ramzak, Sheratalla, Dande, Lakka, Sham

Mountains: Hills of NWA are separate from the Koh-e Sefid and Sulaiman ranges

Rivers: Tochi, Kurram, Kaitu, Khaisor, and Shaktue

Geographically, the North Waziristan Agency and the South Waziristan Agency make up a single unit. It is a land with high hills and rugged terrain and divide Pakistan from Afghanistan. They range in height from 1,500 to 2,500 meters above sea level.<sup>2</sup>

The Tochi Pass connects Ghazni, Afghanistan with Bannu, Pakistan and is an historical pass for armies and trade moving between central Asia and the Indian Sub-Continent.<sup>3</sup>

## WEATHER

North Waziristan Agency's average high temperatures range from 18 to 31 degrees Fahrenheit during the hottest month (June) and the average lows range between -2 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the coldest month (January).<sup>4</sup>

## RELIGION/SECT

The Utmanzai are of the Sunni Sect of Islam.

## MIGRATORY PATTERNS

The Utmanzai historically migrate between the mountains in the summer and the valleys in the winter within their tribal area.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Wazir (Uthmanzai),"

<http://waziristanhills.com/NorthWaziristanAgency/MainTribes/WazirUthmanzai/tabid/91/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> "Historical and Administrative Profile of the North Waziristan Agency," Government of Pakistan, <http://www.fata.gov.pk/subpages/nwa.php>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "North Waziristan Agency," Global Security.Org, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/pakistan/fata-north-waziristan.htm>

<sup>5</sup> H.C. Wylly, *From the Black Mountain to Waziristan*, Lahore: Sang-e Meel Publications, 1912); H.A. Rose, *A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes, 1919*, (Reprinted: New Delhi: Amar Prakashan, 1979), 498.

## **ALLIANCES**

The Utmanzia are related to the Ahmedzai Wazirs and have periodically allied with them. Administrative boundaries have hindered this alliance.<sup>6</sup> As of 2009, NWA TTP, under the leadership of Hafiz Gul Baradur, allied with the Ahmedzai TTP of South Waziristan.

## **FEUDS**

The Utmanzai have historical animosity with the Mehsud tribe of South Waziristan Agency.<sup>7</sup>

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Utmanzai are primarily a pastoral society but are often mentioned along with the Mehsud tribe as “perhaps the most powerful and aggressive of the border Pushtoons.”<sup>8</sup>

## **UNITY & SECURITY**

The Utmanzai are currently under a ceasefire agreement and are reportedly pro-government which means they will not attack Pakistani security forces or government property.<sup>9</sup>

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH TALIBAN/AL-QAEDA**

Hafiz Gul Bahadur, an Utmanzai Wazir, is the supreme commander of the TTP operating in North Waziristan Agency (NWA). He has successfully united the Utmanzai Wazir and Daur TTP members under his leadership. His relationship with the TTP has been sporadic since its creation in 2007. He was initially second-in-command to Baitullah Mehsud but then distanced himself from the TTP as Mullah Omar asked TTP to focus its efforts on Afghanistan rather than attacking Pakistani security forces.<sup>10</sup> In February of 2009, he set aside his differences with Baitullah Mehsud and they, along with Maulvi Nazir of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe formed an alliance under the name Shura Ittihad-ul-Mujahideen (Council for United Holy Warriors). This was done in order to coordinate actions in Afghanistan in light of increasing international focus on Afghanistan and the group is reported

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<sup>6</sup> Akbar S. Ahmed, *Religion and Politics in Muslim Society*, (London: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 146.

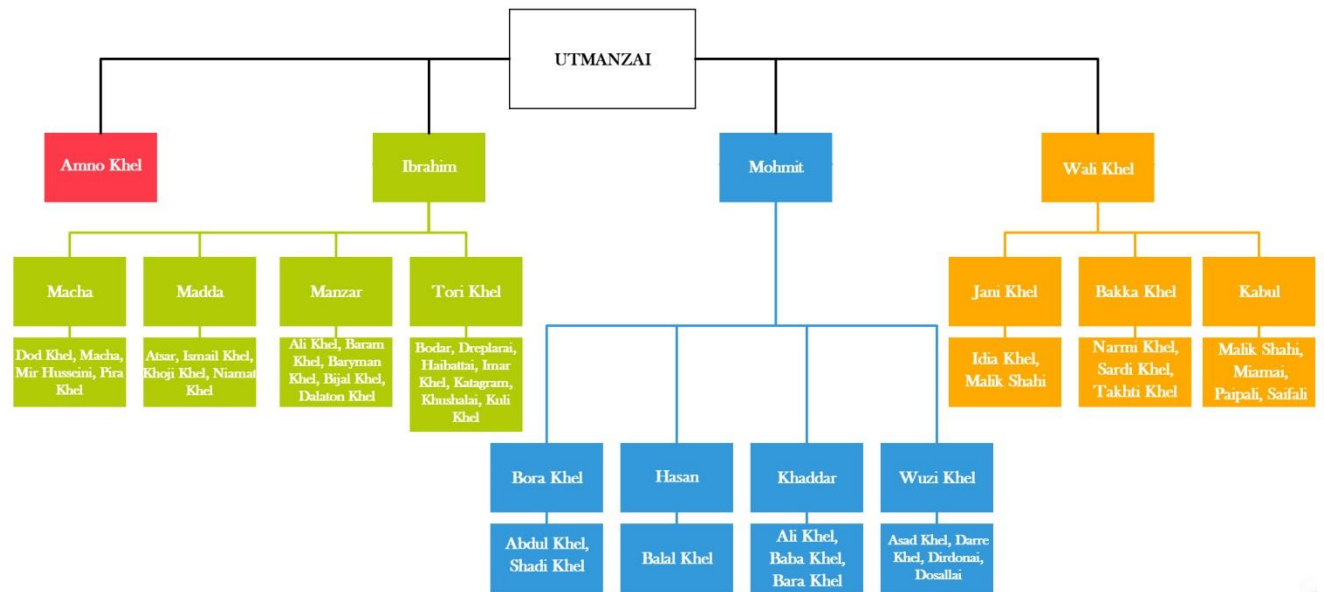
<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Arnold Fletcher, *Afghanistan: Highway of Conquest*, (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1965), 296.

<sup>9</sup> Sadia Sulaiman, “Hafiz Gul Bahadur: A Profile of the Leader of the North Waziristan Taliban,” Terrorism Monitor, [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=34839&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=412&no\\_cache=1](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34839&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=412&no_cache=1)

<sup>10</sup> Syed Saleem Shahzad, “Taliban Wield the Ax Ahead fo New Battle,” Asia Times Online, January 24, 2008, [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/archive/1\\_24\\_2008.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/archive/1_24_2008.html)

to claim Mullah Omar as its supreme leader.<sup>11</sup> Bahadur has brokered several peace deals with the Pakistani government and is believed to be pro-government as he does not government facilities or personnel in FATA.<sup>12</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Yousaf Ali, "Taliban Form New Alliance in Waziristan," The News, February 23, 2009, [http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=20512](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=20512)

<sup>12</sup> Sadia Sulaiman, "Hafiz Gul Bahadur: A Profile of the Leader of the North Waziristan Taliban," Terrorism Monitor, [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=34839&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=412&no\\_cache=1](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34839&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=412&no_cache=1)