Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

YUSUFZAI TRIBE
AKA: YOUSEFZAI

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The Yusufzai live north of Peshawar in Swat, Bunar\(^1\) and the Mardan\(^2\) and Malakand districts of the North-West Frontier Province.\(^3\)

**KEY TERRAIN FEATURES**
- **Valleys:** Indus, Swat, Panjkora
- **Plains:** Yusufzai Plains
- **Mountains:** Kuh-e Sefid
- **Rivers:** Indus, Swat, Panjkora
- **Dams:** Maulana Dam, Zeran Dam, Kot Ragha Dam Malikhel

The Kurram Agency is divided into three sub-divisions: Upper, Lower, and Central Kurram. The upper and lower divisions have long been administered and are subject to the Frontier Crimes Regulation, Kohat Pact, and tribal law. The central division, however, is still largely inaccessible, and development in this region lags behind the other two. Though each of the three divisions are headed by Assistant Political Agents, administration of Central Kurram is headed by tribal elders.\(^4\)

**WEATHER**
Average temperatures in the Peshawar valley range from the mid- to upper-60s in the winter and between mid-90s to 105 in the summer. It averages about 18 inches of rain per year with the majority falling between February and April.

**RELIGION/SECT**
The Yusufzai are of the Sunni Sect of Islam.

**FEUDS**
The Yusufzai have a history of feuding with the Mohmand tribe primarily over land rights.\(^5\)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
The Yusufzai population was estimated at 500,000 in 1965.\(^6\) They have special recognition for two of their tribal leaders: Wali of Swat and the Mir of Dir.\(^7\) These are ancestors of Yusufzai tribesman who led the tribe when it first conquered the

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\(^{6}\) Fletcher, 296.

area in which it currently resides. They joined the British and owned irrigated lands and cultivated cash crops by the early 20th century.

The Yusufzai are divided into two sections, the Mandar and the Yusuf which act as separate tribes and have divided Swat and Mardan between them. Of interest is the fact that they periodically re-distribute land in an effort to maintain equality among its people.

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10 Akbar S. Ahmed, Pakhtun Economy and Society, 61.