

Last Afghan king

● **Oct 15, 1914:**
Mohammad Zahir Shah born into long line of ethnic Pashtun rulers

● **1933:** Ascends throne following assassination of his father, **Nadir Shah**

● **1939-45:**
Safeguards country's neutrality during World War II

● **1964:** Oversees new constitution which ushers in free elections, civil rights, female emancipation and universal suffrage

● **1973:** Deposed by cousin **Prince Daoud** in bloodless coup that led to three decades of Soviet occupation, civil war and hardline rule of Taliban

● **2002:** Returns home after 28-year exile in Italy. Given title of **Father of the Nation** – largely ceremonial role

● **Jul 23, 2007: Dies aged 92**

