




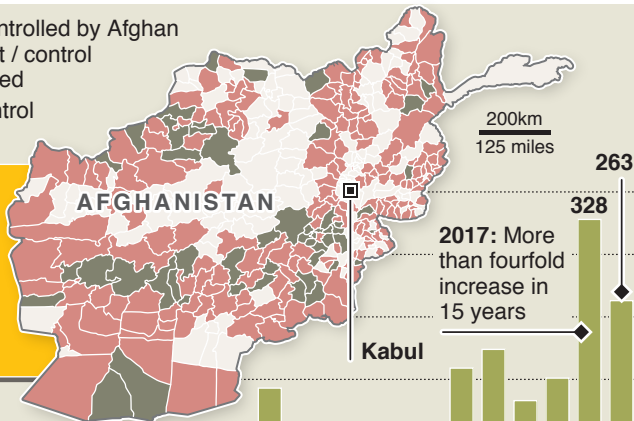
# Afghanistan's poppy-growing boom

Cheap solar panels are boosting the Afghan poppy crop, with cultivation close to its highest level since United Nations monitoring began in 1994

 Districts controlled by Afghan government / control undetermined  
 Taliban control  
 Contested

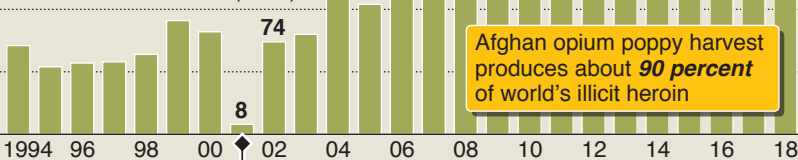
## Southwestern Afghanistan

3,600 sq km of land reclaimed for cultivation from desert between 2002 and 2018



## How Afghan opium poppy farming has grown

Cultivation in hectares (000s)



2001: Drop due to Taliban ban before U.S.-led invasion

Solar panels allow groundwater to be pumped up to irrigate otherwise useless land

