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Definition:

"The Great Game" was a term used to describe the competition between the empires of Britain and Russia in the 19th century, which was often focused on military and diplomatic maneuvers in Afghanistan.

Leaders of the British Empire generally believed that Russia had plans to move southward and seize Britain's prize possession, India, which was known as [The Raj](#). And the British invaded Afghanistan twice in the 1800s to prevent Russian encroachment in Afghanistan and any threat to British dominance in the region.

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The First Anglo-Afghan War was fought in 1841-42, and ended with the disastrous [retreat from Kabul](#) in 1842, in which only one British soldier survived.

The [Second Anglo-Afghan War](#) was fought in 1878-80.

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [The Great Game](#)
- [War in Afghanistan](#)
- [Imperialism](#)
- [History of Afghanistan](#)

The phrase "The Great Game" was first used to describe the confrontations in southern and central Asia in the early 1840s. The term was popularized by Rudyard Kipling in the novel *Kim*, which first appeared in serial form in 1900.