

Land of the Unconquerable



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The Lives of Contemporary Afghan Women

EDITED BY

Jennifer Heath and
Ashraf Zahedi



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*To Nazi Etemadi, Judy Hussie-Taylor,
and Soraya Omar*

—JKH

To Ashok Mehta

—AZ

*And for the women of Afghanistan.
May you soon have peace and justice.*

Humanity does not gradually progress from combat to combat until it arrives at universal reciprocity, where the rule of law finally replaces warfare; humanity installs each of its violences in a system of rules and thus proceeds from domination to domination.

—Michel Foucault

You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it. You must learn to see the world anew.

—Albert Einstein

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. . . . The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

—Howard Zinn