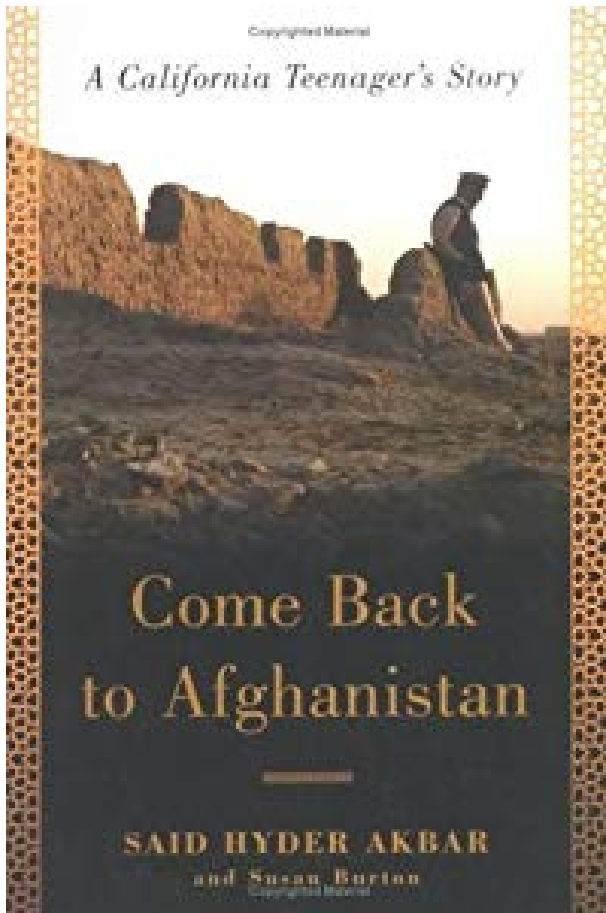


# Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story



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<b>Genre:</b>	Nonfiction
<b>ISBN13:</b>	9781582345208
<b>Goodreads Rating:</b>	3.83
<b>Published:</b>	October 13th 2005 by Bloomsbury Publishing
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Pages:</b>	339
<b>ISBN10:</b>	1582345201

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[Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story.epub](#)

The intimate and riveting chronicle of an extraordinarily courageous Afghan-American teenager coming of age in post-9/11 Afghanistan. Building on two acclaimed radio documentaries aired on This American Life, Hyder Akbar tells how his ordinary suburban California life was turned upside-down after 9/11. Hyder's father, a scion of an Afghan political family, sold his business—a hip-hop clothing store in Oakland—and left for Afghanistan, where he became President Hamid Karzai's chief spokesman and later, the governor of Kunar, a rural province.

Obsessed since youth with a country he had never even visited, seventeen-year-old Hyder convinced his father to let him join him on three successive summers. Working alongside his father at the presidential palace and in Kunar has given Hyder a rare front-row seat at the creation of a democratic government in Afghanistan. In *Come Back to Afghanistan*, Hyder interweaves his personal journey—a teenager struggling with his identity in his parents' homeland—with a dramatic behind-the-scenes account of political and civilian life in post-Taliban Afghanistan. Uncommonly wise and insightful, Hyder travels from palaces to prisons and from Kabul to the borderlands, revealing Afghanistan as readers have never seen or understood it before.