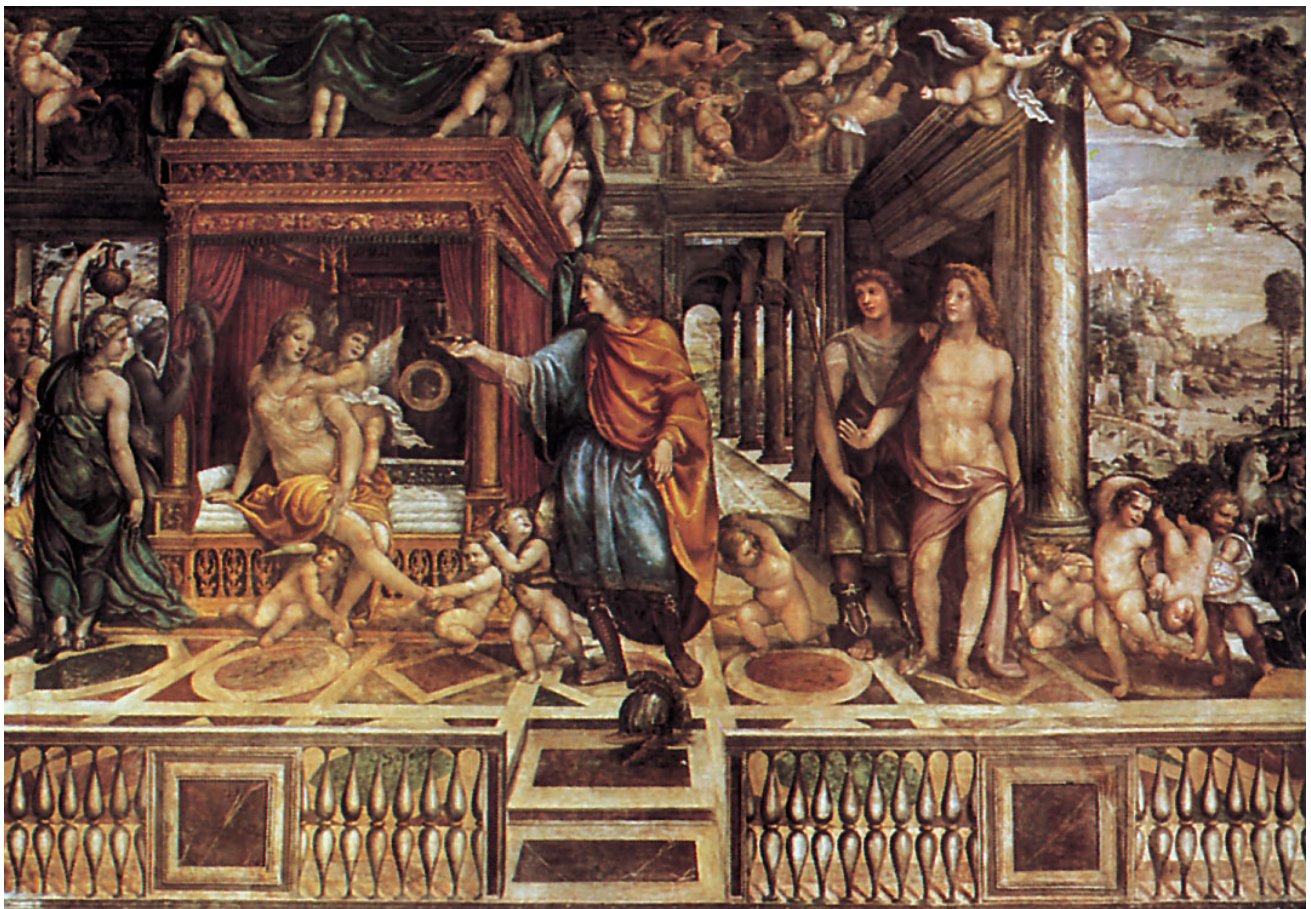


# Historically, Afghanistan Not the 'Graveyard of Empires,' but Site of Horrific Shambles Today

by Conrad Black



The marriage of Alexander and Roxane

**In addition to innumerable** other untruths, obfuscations, instantly retracted briefing information, and implausible apologia for the horrifying shambles in [Joe Biden](#) said on the weekend that history would ratify his judgment. His guess deserves the same hearing as anyone's, but it is impossible to agree with it.

There was no need to withdraw the NATO forces, three quarters

of them from countries other than the U.S., the war had reached a stasis with the Taliban in which NATO and its Afghan collaborators ruled the cities while the Taliban clearly had preponderant strength in much of the rural areas. Hostilities had settled down to a minimum and in the last 18 months in which the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan had not sustained a single fatality, the cities of America endured approximately 2000 deaths from gunfire.

If Biden was determined simply to leave, and had accordingly advised the allies whom he has been assuring that the United States "is back," an evacuation of all personnel starting with the most vulnerable and ending with the strongest military units, which would have coordinated and covered the entire operation could have been executed. The president would have had trouble defending the evacuation as a strategic step but would at least have spared himself the terminal embarrassment of the chaos, cowardice, and desertion that he has inflicted upon himself and his administration.

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