

## TRIBE: ZAIMUKHT AKA: ZAIMUSHT

### PRIMARY LOCATIONS:

The Zaimukht Tribe lives in the Kurram Agency of FATA in Sadda, the capitol of Lower Kurram. Several Pashtun tribes inhabit Kurram Agency: Turi, Bangash, Parachamkani, Massozai, Alisherzai, Zaimukht, Mangal, Kharotai, Ghalgi, and Hazara.<sup>i</sup> Zaimukhts live in the hills south of the Orakzai Tribe and between the valleys of Miranzai and Kurram.<sup>ii</sup>

### RELIGION/SECT:

The Zaimukht Tribe belongs to the Sunni branch of Islam.<sup>iii</sup>

### FEUDS:

Most of the Sunni Tribes in Kurram Agency, including the Zaimukhts, are involved in sporadic fighting with the Shiite Turi Tribe living in Upper Kurram.



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In late 2009 elders of the Zaimukht Tribe were in negotiations with the Pakistan Government regarding the reopening of a road in their region that had been closed for two years.<sup>iv</sup> The Thall-Parachinar Road has been closed since November 2007 due to Sunni-Shiite sectarian violence along the road. The Shiite Turi Tribe lives in Upper Kurram and has been virtually cut off from any food or medical provisions that would transit this road from Peshawar. Taliban forces have fanned the sectarian strife along this road, but both Sunnis and Shiites have suffered from the road closure and violent clashes.<sup>v</sup> In early 2010, the road has been opened sporadically with traffic being escorted by Frontier Corps security forces, then shut down due to militant attacks on travelers.

### **KEY TERRAIN FEATURES:**

Valleys: Kurram Valley, Daradar Valley

Plains: Parachinar Plateau

Mountains: Kuh-e Sefid

Rivers: Kurram River

Dams: Maulana Dam, Zeran Dam, Kot Ragma Dam Malikhel

The Kurram Agency is dividing into three sub-divisions: Upper, Lower, and Central Kurram. The upper and lower divisions have long been administered and are subject to the Frontier Crimes Regulation, Kohat Pact, and tribal law. The central division, however, is still largely inaccessible, and development in this region lags behind the other two. Though each of the three divisions is headed by Assistant Political Agents, administration in Central Kurram is headed by tribal elders.<sup>vi</sup>

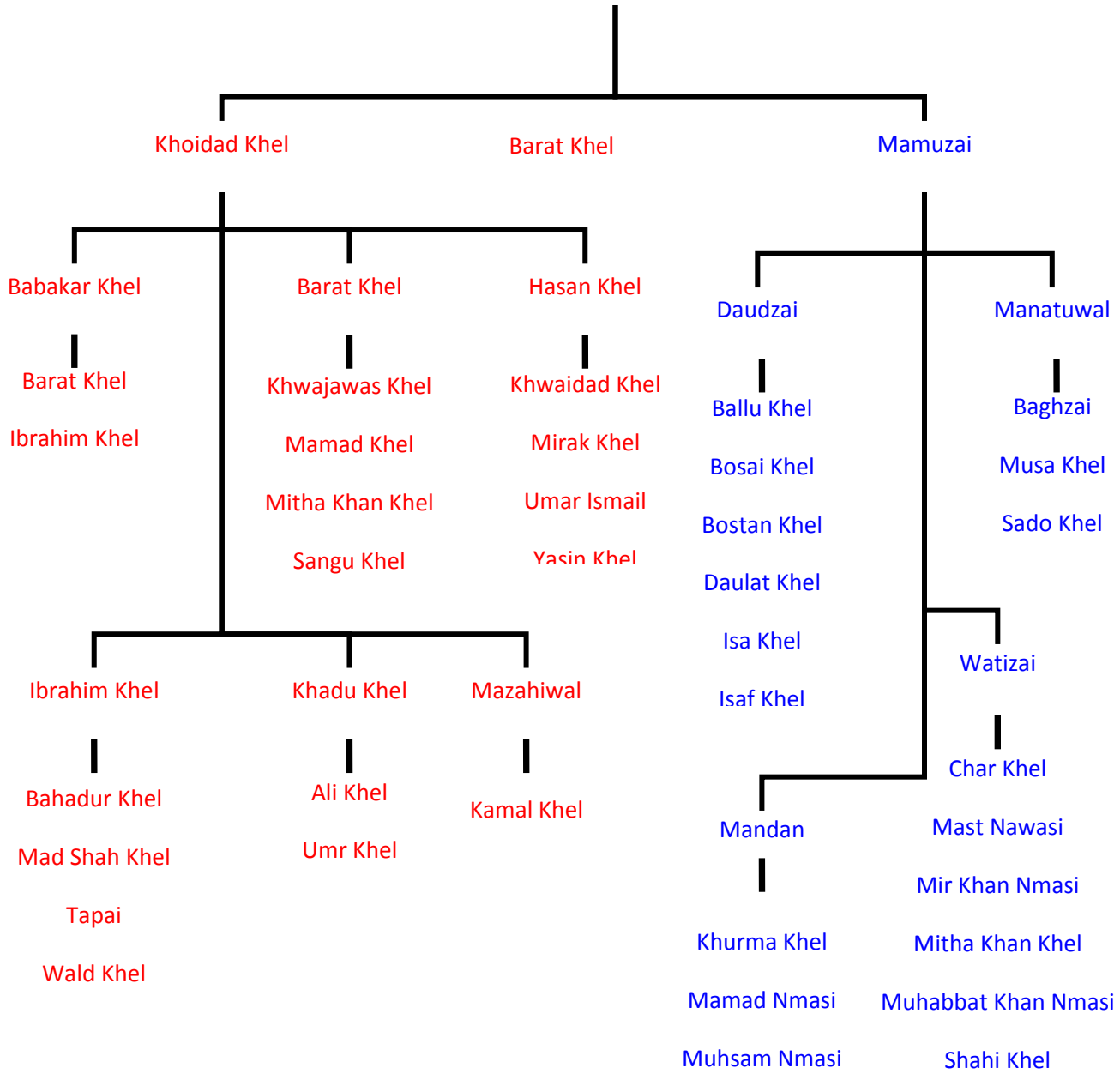
### **WEATHER:**

The climate in Kurram Agency is generally pleasant.<sup>vii</sup> Average winter low temperatures are the low 30s, while average summer high temperatures reach the high 80s. The agency may receive 30 inches of rain over a year, most falling during the spring.<sup>viii</sup>

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH TALIBAN/AL-QAEDA:**

There is no specific information to tie the Zaimukhts with Taliban, but there are indications that Taliban elements are present in the area where Zaimukhts live. The Taliban they stir up Sunni tribes in general to direct violence toward the Shiite Turi Tribe, which it considers apostate.

# ZAIMUKHT TRIBAL TREE



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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.fata.gov.pk/subpages/kurram.php>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Zaimukht>

<sup>iii</sup> A Dictionary of the Pathan Tribes on the North-west Frontier of India, Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, 1899.

<sup>iv</sup> "Kurram Tribe Denies Cooperation with Govt," The News, November 2, 2009,

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=206351](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=206351).

<sup>v</sup> Intikhab Amir, "Road Linking Parachinar to Peshawar Fraught with Danger," Central Asia Online, March 5, 2010,

[http://www.centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/mobile/en\\_GB/features/caii/features/pakistan/2010/03/05/feature-02](http://www.centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/mobile/en_GB/features/caii/features/pakistan/2010/03/05/feature-02).

<sup>vi</sup> <http://waziristanhills.com/FATA/AgenciesFRs/KurramAgency/tabid/80/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.fata.gov.pk/subpages/kurram.php>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.wunderground.com/NORMS/DisplayIntlNORMS.asp?CityCode=41560&Units=english>