

THE MIDDLE EAST EXPLAINED

A project of the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies

STUDENT VIEWING GUIDE

Video: The Aftermath of 9/11

Key Terms

Al-Qaeda: An international militant Islamic organization organized in the 1980s by Osama Bin Laden to spark revolutions in Muslim-majority countries and establish theocratic states that would enforce its understanding of Islam. Al-Qaeda and its affiliates have organized terrorist attacks on civilian and military targets in many Muslim-majority countries, and in Western countries that oppose their revolutionary goals.

Extremism: A political or religious ideology that is far from mainstream views.

Terrorism: The illegal use of violence or threats, especially against civilians, in an attempt to achieve political goals.

Non-State Actor: A non-governmental organization that has significant power to influence and cause political change.

Afghanistan: Officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, a medium-sized mountainous country in Central Asia that has historically been home to many empires and peoples. Much of Al-Qaeda's leadership was located in Afghanistan from the 1980s until 2001.

Taliban: An extremist Islamic group that took control over Afghanistan in 1996. The Taliban has been condemned for their harsh interpretation of Islamic law and treatment of women. The Taliban were overthrown by a coalition of US-led forces and Afghan groups in 2001 after the September 11 attacks. The group continues its armed uprising to re-take control of Afghanistan.

Global War on Terror: President George W. Bush's campaign against Al-Qaeda and other Islamic revolutionary organizations. Announced after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Global War on Terror aimed to end terrorism through military, covert, and judicial operations, in conjunction with the United States' allies.

Transportation Security Agency (TSA): Created in response to the 9/11 attacks, the TSA is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is responsible for the security of public travel in the United States, including increased security screenings in airports.

USA PATRIOT Act: Signed into law by President Bush, the full title of this act is "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001". This act gives the government more authority in gathering intelligence, such as intercepting communications and investigating financial transactions.

Timeline

September 11, 2011: Four airliners were hijacked by members of Al-Qaeda. Two crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, one into the Pentagon in Virginia, and one into a field in Pennsylvania.

October 2001: A United States-led military coalition begins military action against the Taliban.

October 2001: The USA PATRIOT Act is signed into law by President Bush.

November 2001: The Taliban government is removed from power in Afghanistan; however, the group continues to operate in the country. United States and allied troops remain to train, advise, and assist Afghan forces.

December 2001: The Transportation Security Agency is created.

2017: The Taliban movement continues its revolutionary campaign to regain power in Afghanistan. About 10,000 American troops remain in the country.

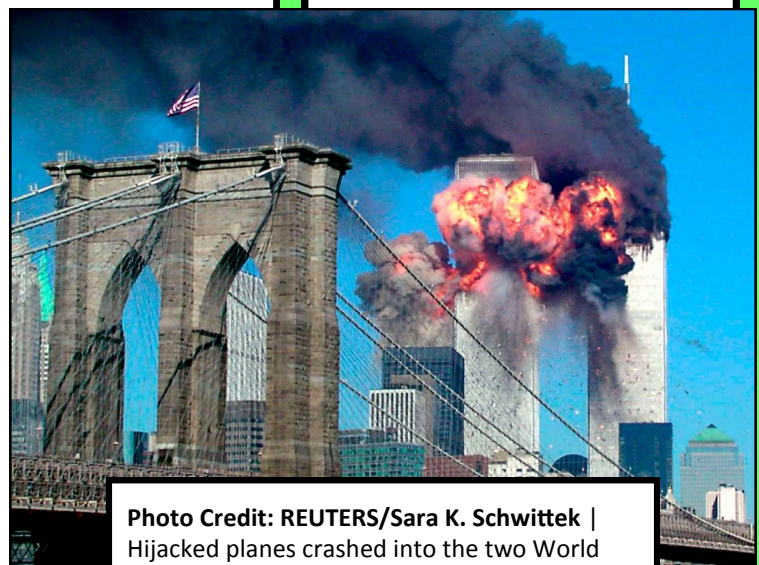


Photo Credit: REUTERS/Sara K. Schwittek | Hijacked planes crashed into the two World Trade Center towers in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Comprehension Questions: The Aftermath of 9/11

1. What are the beliefs of Al-Qaeda? How has this organization expressed its beliefs?

2. Following the attacks of 9/11, why did the United States invade Afghanistan?

3. List two ways that have nations have collaborated together to fight against terrorism:

4. Why was the Transportation Security Agency created?

5. What is the role of the Patriot Act? Why do some people consider it to be controversial?

6. How have American Muslims been impacted by the events of 9/11?