

# Bilkent Historical Model United Nations 2019

## STUDY GUIDE



**Forum:** United Nations Security Council

**Issue:** 9/11 Attacks in New York City

**USG:** Ece Kadayıfçılar

## Introduction

The September 11 Attacks, also referred to as the 9/11 Attacks, are terror attacks to the United States of America, done by Al-Qaeda by hijacking 4 planes and crashing them, which resulted in 2996 casualties.

All 4 of the planes were hijacked in the morning of the 9th of September, 2001, shortly after they had taken off. There were 5 hijackers on the first 3 flights, which were crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, and 4 hijackers on the last flight which was crashed into a field right outside of Washington D.C.



The first plane was crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, followed by a second plane crashing into the South Tower. The South Tower collapsed 56 minutes after being hit, while the North Tower lasted 102 minutes. The World Trade Center attacks alone killed 2700+ people. The third flight, which crashed into the E wing of the Pentagon, killed 184 people. The last crash into the field killed 33 of the people on board.

George W. Bush, the interim President during this time, described the attacks as “terror attacks on our nation.” Although it is not declared a national holiday, the 9th of September is remembered and mourned by the nation.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Al-Qaeda:** An Islamist terrorist organization that is responsible for the 9/11 Attacks.

**Terrorist:** A person who uses unlawful violence to send political messages and terror.

**9/11:** September 11th of 2001, the day on which terrorist attacks killed 3000 people in the U.S.

**Hijacking:** Taking over a vehicle illegally by force.

**The World Trade Center:** A complex of 7 buildings located in lower Manhattan, New York City.

**Twin Towers:** Two of the buildings of the World Trade Center.

## **Background Information**

### **The Hijacking of the Planes**

Two of the planes were American Airlines planes and two were United Airlines planes. All four of these planes were morning flights which took off between 7:59 am to 8:42 am on that day. 3 of the planes had 5 hijackers and the last plane that took off had 4 hijackers on board.

The planes were hijacked in air, shortly after take off. It was reported that the hijackers had knives.

### **The Crashes**

American Airlines Flight 11 was the first airplane to take off and first to get

hijacked of the 4. It was crashed into the 93th-99th floors of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York at 08:46. Hundreds of people die instantly and the tower burns.

United Airlines Flight 175 was crashed into the 77th-85th floors of the South Tower of the World Trade Center at 09:03, 17 minutes after the crash into the North



Tower. Many more people die as the tower wasn't evacuated since officials saw no reason to evacuate the South Tower.

American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed into the E wing of the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia at 09:37. All 59 of the people on board and 125 military personnel and civilians were killed.

Lastly, United Airlines Flight 93 was crashed at 10:03 into a field in Shanksville, Somerset County, Pennsylvania - about 20 minutes away from Washington D.C. The impact killed the 40 people on board but no one on ground was harmed. It was later learned that the intended target of this plane was the United States Capitol or Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The pilots on the plane disabled autopilot to confuse the hijackers and people on board who had been informed of the attacks to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attempted to hinder the attackers which caused the plane to crash during the dispute. This plane was the only one to not reach its target during the 9/11 Attacks.

## The Collapses

The South Tower was the first building to crash of the 3 buildings that were hit. It burned for 46



minutes after being hit by Flight 175 and collapsed at 9:59, 4 minutes before the last hijacked plane was crashed. The collapse killed more than 800 people who were either trapped in the building or out on the streets.

The E wing of the Pentagon collapsed at 10:15, 38 minutes after being hit by American Airlines Flight 77.

Contrary to being hit first, the North Tower collapsed last, at 10:28. It burned for 102 minutes before collapsing and killing approximately 1600 people.

## **Major Countries and Organisations Involved**

### **United States of America**

The United States of America is a More Economically Developed Country that is made up of 50 states. This nation suffered a chain of terrorist attacks on the 11th of September of 2002, known as 9/11. As the victim of 4 plane attacks, the United States lost around 3000 lives on that day. After the attacks, U.S.A. made it a priority to fight terrorist organizations, primarily Al-Qaeda which was responsible for the attacks. The U.S. government bombed Taliban and their other bases in Afghanistan, and captured thousands of terrorists including the person who planned the 9/11 Attacks.

### **Al-Qaeda**

Al-Qaeda is an Islamist terrorist organization found by Osama Bin Laden in 1988 as a Muslim Brotherhood for those fighting the Soviet Union. This organization claimed responsibility for the 9/11 Attacks and was therefore made a prime target of

the United States. Shortly after the U.S. bombings following the September 11th, the members who were alive went into hiding. On May 2nd 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by the U.S. military after being found by U.S. intelligence.

### New York Police Department

Right after Flight 11 hit the North Tower of the Twin Towers 800 police officers, 100 sergeants and 22 lieutenants were sent to the World Trade Center to evacuate people. 23 officers died during the response.

### New York City Fire Department

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) responded to the attacks to the Twin Towers and pursued search for trapped people in the debris. While in pursuit of saving citizens and fighting the fires in the towers, 343 firefighters died.

### Timeline of Events

The events for which an hour is given are specific events that happened on September 11th, 2001. Dates are given for all other events.

05:45	The terrorists passed through security measures in Portland, Maine.
07:59	The American Airlines Boeing 767 Flight 11 took off from Boston Logan International Airport to Los Angeles with 92 people on board.
08:14	United Airlines Boeing 767 Flight 175 took off from Boston to Los Angeles with 65 people on board.
08:19	Flight 11 crew members notify the ground personnel that the plane is hijacked and American Airlines contact the FBI.
08:20	American Airlines Boeing 757 Flight 77 took off from Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles with 64 people on board.

08:24	Flight 11 hijacker Mohammed Atta accidentally contacts the ground personnel while trying to reach the plane's cabin. He makes another unintended transmission minutes later. This is picked up by Flight 175's pilot, shortly before being hijacked themselves.
08:30	Many people arrive at the World Trade Center.
08:37	Boston Air Traffic Control alerts the military of the overtake of Flight 11, Air National Guard jets are sent out in pursuit.
08:42	United Airlines Boeing 757 Flight 93 with 44 on board took off from Newark International Airport took off en route to San Francisco.
<b>08:46</b>	<b>Flight 11 is crashed into the 93th-99th floors of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Everyone on board and hundreds more die. Evacuation begins.</b>
08:47	NYPD and FDNY units are sent to the World Trade Center
08:50	President George W. Bush is alerted of the crash.
08:55	The South Tower is announced secure and tenants are not required to evacuate.
09:02	The Port Authority Police Department orders evacuation of both of the Twin Towers.
<b>09:03</b>	<b>Flight 175 is crashed into the 77th-85th floors of the South Tower. More people are killed.</b>
09:05	President George W. Bush is notified of the second crash.
09:08	The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) bans all planes from taking off to New York City or flying above the concerning area.
09:12	A flight attendant on Flight 77 calls her mother and informs her of the hijacking, and the mother alerts American Airlines.

09:30	The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management at the World Trade Center is evacuated.
09:31	President Bush addresses the situations as "an apparent terrorist attack on our country"
09:36	Vice President Dick Cheney evacuates his office and is escorted to the Presidential Emergency Operations Center in the White House.
<b>09:37</b>	<b>Flight 77 is crashed into the Pentagon. 59 on board and 125 military personnel and civilians are killed.</b>
09:42	The FAA orders all civilian planes to land immediately and bans further take offs.
09:45	Evacuation of the White House and U.S. Capitol building starts.
09:58	Passengers on Flight 93 call and reach 911
<b>09:59</b>	<b>The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses. More than 800 civilians and responders are killed.</b>
<b>10:03</b>	<b>Flight 93 is crashed into a field in Shanksville, Somerset County, Pennsylvania - about 20 minutes away from Washington, D.C. 40 people on board die.</b>
<b>10:15</b>	<b>The E Wing of the Pentagon collapses.</b>
<b>10:28</b>	<b>The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses. More than 1600 people die.</b>
11:02	The Mayor Rudolph Giuliani orders Lower Manhattan's evacuation.
12:06	The last flight in air in the United States lands.
12:30	14 survivors are located in the North Tower's Stairwell B
13:00	President Bush announces that the U.S. military forces are on high alert, from a U.S. Air Force Base in Louisiana



14:51	The U.S. Navy issues missile destroyers to New York City and Washington D.C.
15:00	FDNY rescues a survivor from the South Tower.
<b>17:20</b>	<b>The 7 World Trade Center collapses.</b>
18:58	President Bush returns to the White House.
20:30	President Bush addresses the Nation. "I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."
22:30	10 PAPD officers are rescued from the World Trade Center.
<b>1 2 t h            o f S e p t e m b e r , a f t e r n o o n</b>	<b>Genelle Guzman is rescued. She is the last person to ever be rescued from the 9/11 attack debris. Nearly 3000 people were killed as a result of these attacks.</b>
1 2 t h            o f September	New York City Department of Transportation and New York City Department of Sanitation work on clearing the streets around the World Trade Center.
28th of May, 2002	The last intact column from the Twin Towers is cut down.
30th of May, 2002	The Last Column Ceremony is held to mark the end of recovery from the 9/11 attacks.
March, 2006	Construction of the 9/11 memorial in place of the Twin Towers is initiated.
1 1 t h            o f September, 2011	Exactly 10 years after the 9/11 attacks, the 9/11 memorial is opened.

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

### The 9/11 Commission Report

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States was assembled to look into the U.S. counterterrorism policy leading up to the 9/11

Attacks. They released a 570 paged commission report evaluating the U.S. terrorism policy.

### Collective Defence - Article 5

This was invoked by NATO right after the 9/11 Attacks. The Article insinuates that an attack to an Ally is to be considered an attack to all Allies.

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

- A commission called the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States was assembled to investigate the U.S. counterterrorism policy until September 11th.
- The 9/11 Commission Report called for the assembly of 41 U.S. security agencies for counterterrorism.
- The “War on Terror” was launched by the U.S., specifically targeting Al-Qaeda at the time but became more global as other countries joined.

### Questions to Consider

- How/why weren't the hijacked planes taken down? (Note that the U.S. did and still has the most advanced air force and were informed of the hijackings.)
- How could a plane enter the airspace of the highly facilitated headquarters (Pentagon) of the world's strongest and most funded military?
- Why was there almost no debris from Flight 93's crash? (The debris was minimal and spread out over a great area, like the plane was disintegrated in air.)
- Why didn't the Air National Guard jets in pursuit of Flight 11 inform authorities of the terrorists' destinations.

- Why was the South Tower not evacuated when the tower right next to it had been hit and was burning?
- How did 2 towers collapse on their footwork after burning for so long? (The collapses were said to have been due to the fires and not the crashes, but no steel building has ever collapsed due to a fire. If the collapses were actually due to the crashes, then the floors above where the planes crashed into should've collapsed first and fallen.)
- Why was a fully throughout investigation never done or done but not released to the public?

## Useful Links

- <https://timeline.911memorial.org/#Timeline/2>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lKZqqSI9-s>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-42195513>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-14665953>

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- "September 11 Commission Fast Facts." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 3 Sept. 2018, <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/27/us/september-11th-commission-fast-facts/index.html>