

The long beard,
Traditional Afghan attire,
Fiery speeches reminiscent of a medieval mindset
living in war-torn countries with no facilities
all paint the picture of Osama as a person removed from modernity.
Yet the Reality is Different!
Beneath this exterior was an Oxford-educated individual who had majored in Economics and
Business Administration.
A man who, amidst his readings on jihad, also delved into the works of Field Marshal Bernard
Montgomery and Charles de Gaulle.

Why would a person with such a modern upbringing chart a course that would inevitably
provoke the world's most powerful nation? Was September 11 more of a psychological
maneuver than a direct assault? And did bin Laden strategically tap into vulnerable minds—both
Afghans and Americans, to cause the greatest economic damage to the United States?

By doing So “Has Osama Won the Battle?” [talk slowly in an epic way]

1989: End of the Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan

Osama bin Laden first emerged on the global stage as a wealthy Saudi, deeply connected in the
Middle East, aiding the Afghans in their battle against the Soviets. Far from the comforts of his
education in Saudi Arabia, he found himself at the heart of a historical conflict. Instrumental in
mobilizing troops and strategizing attacks, Osama cultivated connections with several
intelligence units, notably the Saudi intelligence, Pakistan's ISI and even the CIA. Rather than a
foot soldier, Osama positioned himself as a strategist with a deep understanding of the
dynamics of warfare.

By 1989, after a decade-long brutal conflict with the Afghans, the Soviets withdrew. While many
believe it was the relentless guerrilla warfare by the Mujahideen that forced them out, but it was
their faltering economy that made them. In 1979, the Soviet Union was a financially robust
powerhouse. In fact, it was this financial and military strength that led them to invade
Afghanistan. However, by 1989, the staggering costs of sustained warfare had severely
weakened them. At the end of the war, the Soviet Union had lost nearly 120 billion dollars in
today's value, a significant strain that destabilized their economy and contributed to their
eventual dissolution. Drawing from this, Osama might have seen a trend: when a rich country
fights a poorer one, the rich country suffers more. Understanding these dynamics may have
been foundational to the 9/11 attacks – a move designed to provoke the Rich - The United
States!

1990: The Gulf War

Upon the conclusion of the Soviet-Afghan war, Osama returned to Saudi Arabia to a Hero's
Welcome. He began to view himself increasingly as a defender of Islam. But geopolitics were
shifting. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait alarmed Saudi Arabia, prompting them to seek

U.S. assistance amid fears of being the next target.

Bin Laden, with his strong Islamic convictions, felt that U.S. forces inside Saudi Arabia is a disgrace to Islam and wanted to remove them from his nation. He even met King Fahd along with Saudi Defense Minister Sultan and proposed that the kingdom rely on his seasoned Arab legion rather depending on a non-Muslim nation - the United States. When Sultan asked how bin Laden would defend the fighters if Saddam used Iraqi chemical and biological weapons against them he replied "We will fight him with faith." Clearly he was over ambitious because of his recent success in Afghanistan. Bin Laden's offer was rebuffed, and the Saudi monarchy invited the deployment of US forces in Saudi territory. For bin Laden, it was a great insult. Igniting the inception of his profound animosity towards the United States. He realized that a direct confrontation with America is impossible. This is where witnessing the Soviet Union's downfall post-Afghanistan would have helped him craft a strategy: Why Not Bleed the Americans Economically? Bin Laden's underlying objective may have been to strategically deplete the United States' financial and military resources. By luring America into a unwanted, costly conflict similar to the Soviet-Afghan war. A weakened America would mean a diminished U.S. dollar, reducing the country's ability to exert influence in oil-rich Islamic nations. In essence, bin Laden may have been playing a long game aimed at not just damaging but also eroding America's global standing.

To execute such a plan, he required loyal fighters and a compelling tale.

Picture this: U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, the very land that cradles Mecca and Medina. That narrative alone is electrifying! Frame it as "non-Muslims invading the holy land," and you've got a story that resonates, provoking deep emotions in the Muslim world. This Along with the American Support for Israel set a powerful narrative. "Jihad against America".

To gain the attention of United States, Bin Laden and his Arab Legion started their evil planning and the first incident that sparked the fire for 9/11 was the Assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1990. Rabbi Kahane, a provocative American-Israeli figure, met his end in Manhattan at the hands of Egyptian-American, El Sayyid Nosair. While this signaled the rise of radical Islamism on U.S. turf, connections later surfaced between Nosair and Al Qaeda.

Barely had the echoes of this event faded when the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing took place. A truck bomb exploded in the Center's parking garage. The brainchild Ramzi Yousef was financially backed by Khaled Sheikh Mohammed - the same man who financed 911 attacks and this is the first time bin Laden was linked to the attack.

The same year, the peril grew with the exposure of the 1993 New York City Landmark Bomb Plot. Orchestrated by "The Blind Sheikh," Omar Abdel Rahman, the plan was to attack multiple targets, the UN headquarters, the Lincoln Tunnel, the Holland Tunnel, the George Washington Bridge, the St. Regis, the UN Plaza Hotels, and the FBI's main New York office.

By 1996, these threats had a global resonance, underscored brutally by the Khobar Towers Bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. A truck bomb annihilated a part of this housing complex, a

residence for many U.S. military personnel, claiming 19 American lives. The U.S. later brands bin Laden as a prime suspect.

The expanding reach of terror became unmistakably clear in 1998 with the U.S. Embassy Bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Al-Qaeda, in a brazen display of its growing global footprint, orchestrated this tragedy, leaving 224 dead and thousands more injured. Two weeks later, U.S. President Bill Clinton names bin Laden Washington's biggest enemy and launches cruise missiles at sites in Afghanistan and Sudan. Slowly, America was falling into Osama's trap, spending vast resources and unintentionally turning the Afghans against them.

To add salt to the wound, bin Laden launched a direct assault on American military, the year 2000 witnessed the USS Cole Bombing in Aden, Yemen. Al-Qaeda militants targeted the U.S. Navy destroyer, killing 17 American sailors, demonstrating not just their intent but also their ability to strike at the heart of American military might.

In the shadow of these events, the groundwork for 9/11 was being laid, each incident adding a new layer to the looming threat.

Finally, the 9/11 attacks occurred: four planes were hijacked in a meticulously coordinated effort, with almost all hitting their intended targets.,

The tragedy not only shook the nation but also provoked a global outcry. Unlike previous attacks against the U.S., the scale and devastation of this event left America with no choice but to respond. The U.S.'s response was precisely what bin Laden hoped for: a costly, drawn-out conflict that he believed would weaken the U.S. economically and politically, akin to the Soviet experience in Afghanistan and so the "War On Terror" Started. And the playground Afghanistan!

Was Afghanistan used as a pawn?

When Osama bin Laden orchestrated the 9/11 attacks, he surely anticipated the aftershocks: The United States would relentlessly hunt him, and by staying in Afghanistan, a nation for which bin Laden once fought for would also be under the line of fire for sheltering him.

Wait a minute? Could it be that bin Laden intentionally used the Afghan people, the very mujahideen he once championed, as pawns in a grander strategy? Probably Yes! What better place than Afghanistan, a war-torn country which hosted fighters willing to resist foreign occupation fiercely. He manipulated the largely uneducated Taliban tribes to champion his cause, while simultaneously drawing the technologically advanced Americans into unfamiliar terrain. The outcome? Devastation. Over two hundred thousand lives lost, including more than 3,500 American soldiers — a toll exceeding that of the 9/11 attacks. While the Afghan mujahideen grappled with American forces, bin Laden, quietly left the scene. Osama was not in the rough terrains of Afghanistan, but rather in a fortified compound in Pakistan, alarmingly close to a Pakistani military base in Abbottabad, living alongside his family.

It took the U.S. a decade to find and eliminate bin Laden and Another decade passed before they withdrew from Afghanistan, only to see the Taliban reclaim power.

The Cost?

A staggering \$6.4 trillion, [<https://www.brown.edu/news/2019-11-13/costsofwar>]

over a quarter of the United States' \$23.32 trillion GDP.

In contrast, orchestrating the 9/11 attacks is estimated to have cost bin Laden merely half a million dollars. The disparity is mind-boggling: a half-million-dollar investment leading to a \$6.4 trillion in loss.

Today, the United States' growing debt has been largely fueled by its unchecked spending in the War on Terror. The total national debt exceeds 30 trillion dollars, whereas the GDP is estimated at around 23.4 trillion. Of this debt, a staggering 6.4 trillion can be attributed to war spending. One could only imagine the advancements the U.S. might have made had this 6.4 trillion been channeled into sectors like technology, education, or welfare.

The twist in the tale? Saudi Arabia, the very nation U.S protected has been considering closer ties with BRICS nations and consider alternate currencies for oil trade, the impact on the U.S. dollar could be profound.

Did the “War on Terror” went in favour of bin Laden?

Has Osama Really Won the battle?