

AP U.S. History Term Paper
9/11: The Most Important Turning Point in Modern U.S. History



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On September 11, 2001 two planes crashed into each of the world trade centers, another into the Pentagon, and a fourth into a Pennsylvania field, many believing its target to have been the White House. It is an understatement to say that these vicious acts of terror did not change America; because they did. On September 11, 2001 America was completely turned upside down. American foreign policy became more Middle Eastern and Afghan centric. American politics have been concentrated on the war on terror and the Middle East for the past 20 years. The U.S. armed forces have been in a war in Afghanistan for almost 20 years. Acts in Congress strengthened the power of the federal government and its ability to spy on Americans. American culture saw an increase in Islamophobia and anti-foreigner hate which can still be strongly seen today. Airport security became more of a nuisance. Americans were scared to travel after the attacks and many airline companies were forced to merge, creating conglomerates which have a stronger connection to our economy and still affect it today. America was scarred after 9/11 and many of those scars have yet to be healed. 9/11 was a turning point in US history because the attacks on September 11 changed American society, altered American politics, and brought America into its longest war. 9/11 was the most important turning point in modern U.S. history because it caused: a major change in American politics, for America to get involved in two wars, a rise in the federal government's power, an increase in anti-Muslim hate, and a substantial shift to the economy. Many of these still impact us today.

At 8:45 a.m. on September 11, 2001., an American Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. As it happened many people saw it as an accident, a lone event that wouldn't be repeated. But it was no freak accident, 18 minutes later a second Boeing 767 crashed into the south tower. And that is when America knew it was under attack. Later that day at 9:45 a.m. American Airlines flight 77 crashed into the west side of the Pentagon and its jet fuel was set ablaze creating an inferno. One other flight was hijacked from Newark airport, but the passengers had heard the horrendous attacks that were happening and understood their fate. They took down the plane and countless lives from this fourth terror attack. The plane later crashed in a Pennsylvania field, killing only the passengers on board. 2,996 people died as a result of these attacks, 2,763 were from the attack on the Twin Towers. The terrorists were able to sneak box cutters and small knives through the lax airport security. But these were only the immediate deaths, as many more died during the cleanup of the debris.¹ These attacks were orchestrated by the Saudi Arabian national Osama Bin Laden, who founded and ran the radical, Islamist terror organization Al-Qaeda. Osama Bin-Laden grew up as the son of an extremely wealthy and religious construction mogul. He grew up in Saudi Arabia and when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan he was inspired to join the fight and aid the Mujahideen with his financial and construction abilities. After the U.S. invaded Kuwait he saw America as an anti-Muslim, irreligious regime and the enemy of Allah. He despised their support of Israel and began plotting ways to fight the U.S. He attacked some American military assets overseas, but wanted something grander and he began planning the September 11 attacks.² As a result of these attacks America began an invasion of Afghanistan that lasts till this day. Originally a manhunt to find and capture Bin-Laden, it quickly evolved to be a mission to fight the Taliban, the Afghan terrorist organization who sheltered Al-Qaeda, and to create and maintain a pro-Western government in Afghanistan.³ The 9/11 attacks were a horrible event, but its aftermath is almost as bad as the attacks themselves.

Foreign Policy pre-9/11 was focused on maintaining global dominance over legitimate nations like China and Russia, but after the attacks America focused on fighting terrorism from organizations, not countries. In his speech on September 20 President George W. Bush said to the frightened nation, "Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." The "war on terror" isn't just referring to a physical war against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, but a mentality that America was fighting terrorists and there would be zero tolerance for terror attacks. This greatly impacted American foreign policy, with the increase of troops around the globe and America becoming more involved in regional conflicts, fearing they could spark terror attacks. America began sticking its hand in conflicts such as: Yemen's civil war, Afghanistan's civil war, Syria's civil war, and many others. American foreign policy became more

focused on fighting terrorism, rather than fighting global powers.⁴ This shift in foreign policy was only possible with such an event as 9/11. Before the attacks America was seen as an untouchable global super power. But after the attacks things were seen differently, as now America was vulnerable and able to be attacked by nothing but an organization. This caused for an increased budget on the military to keep America safe from foreign terrorist groups, rather than foreign nations. But foreign policy wasn't the only focus, as the terrorists trained from inside the U.S.

Before 9/11 there were over 20 federal agencies involved in maintaining American security, but there was weak communication between them and little coordination. Leads from the FBI and CIA may have been able to prevent the attacks, but the weak communication between the two agencies hindered their ability to stop them. The Homeland Security Act changed all of these problems by creating a new department that oversaw the various agencies of the federal government, The Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As it says in the Homeland Security Act in section 101-D, "[the department will] carry out all functions of entities transferred to the Department, including by acting as a focal point regarding natural and manmade crises and emergency planning;" The job of this new department would be to organize the jobs of the various federal agencies and to manage communications between them. Before 9/11 these agencies were loosely connected under the federal government, but 9/11 was a turning point in the creation of the DHS. It united the various federal agencies under one department which allowed for easier communication and a better network for stopping terrorism and other threats.⁵

After 9/11 American politics and policy became focused around keeping Americans safe from terror attacks. As George Bush put it we were at war with the terrorist ideology, not one specific group. This can be seen remaining true as America fought ISIS in the Middle East because of the threat they posed to American safety. Without a major attack like 9/11 the U.S. would never have gotten so involved in fighting global terror and fighting the Islamic State. 9/11 was a turning point in U.S. politics since before 9/11 terrorism was not considered a major threat, but afterwards it became a focal point of U.S. politics.⁴ This can be seen in the invasion of Iraq. It was seen at the time as a necessary invasion in order to keep the U.S. and its allies safe. The Bush administration convinced Congress, the U.N., and many Americans that Saddam Hussein, dictator of Iraq, was in possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMD's) and that he supported Al-Qaeda. Neither of these claims ended up being true and the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003 and were able to topple the regime three weeks later.⁶ This all follows the political mindset of a "war on terror" and fighting America's perceived enemies no matter the cost. This invasion led to the de-stabilization of Iraq and led to the rise of ISIS and other radical groups. We can still see it affecting U.S. politics five years later in 2008 in the second debate between Barack Obama and John McCain, in which then Senator Barack Obama retorts a question by saying, "I don't understand how we ended up invading a country [Iraq] that had nothing to do with 9/11, while Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda are setting up base camps and safe havens to train terrorists to attack us." American politics as can be seen in this presidential debate became focused on fighting terrorism and maintaining American security. 9/11 was a turning point in U.S. politics since before the attacks American politics were not nearly as focused on American safety from terrorism.

After the attacks on 9/11 America needed a quick and strong response. Al-Qaeda was being protected by another terrorist organization, the Taliban. The Taliban had a strong grip on Afghanistan ever since the Soviet Union retreated the country in 1989. The Taliban rose out of the chaos and evolved out of the former Mujahedeen who fought the Russians. The U.S. was on a manhunt for the man responsible for these horrible attacks, Osama Bin-Ladin. He had been in Afghanistan for the attacks and planned it with the hijackers, who trained in the U.S.³ On September 18 President George W. Bush signed the joint resolution allowing for use of force against those responsible for the attacks, which stated, "authorized the use of United States Armed Forces against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States." In October of 2001 the U.S. with the support of Britain began a bombing campaign against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. On October 29th the U.S. deployed

its first ground troops in Afghanistan, a small group of Special Forces. These Special Forces helped guide the bombing of Taliban locations and advise the Northern Alliance (who were losing a civil war to the Taliban forces) in fighting the Taliban.⁷ After the capture of Mazar-e-Sharif on November 9 the Taliban government began to collapse and loses major cities, including its capital at Kabul. The goal of this mission was to overthrow the Taliban and find Bin-Ladin, but at the battle of Tora Bora, an ancient cave network, Bin-Ladin escaped into Pakistan with help from Pakistani intelligence agencies. The U.S. beat the Taliban government, but its fighters retreated into the mountains of the Pashtun and began fighting using guerrilla warfare, where they avoided direct confrontations. The U.S. soon increased the amount of troops from a small team of Special Forces to thousands of soldiers in an effort to fight the remaining Taliban and try rebuild the country of Afghanistan. This would not be an easy task as the Taliban were gone from the cities, they were still extremely powerful in the Pashtun mountains and in the rural regions, where they grew poppy to manufacture opium.³ The U.S. war effort became more focused on rebuilding a nation that has seen war for over 20 years rather than hunting down Al-Qaeda who committed the terrorist attacks on 9/11. And in 2020, 19 years after the attack, the U.S. is still in Afghanistan, even though Osama Bin-Ladin and those who planned the attacks have been killed or captured. In the political cartoon in appendix figure F titled, Peloton War by Christopher Weyant, a U.S. soldier is seen running on a treadmill titled 'Afghanistan' and with an exit sign hanging over him. This signifies how the end to America's longest war always seems near, but is never attainable. Talks are canceled, treaties broken, and attacks from the Taliban all delay peace negotiations and extend the war in Afghanistan. For almost 20 years America has been fighting in Afghanistan with no end in sight. The original mission had been completed, but peace is not close. Before 9/11 America's longest war was in Vietnam, but this only lasted 8 years for America. The 9/11 attacks changed America by bringing it into a conflict with no near end in sight. 9/11 was a turning point in U.S. History by bringing the U.S. into a war which has lasted almost 20 years, something that had never been seen in America before.⁶

But as mentioned before, the United States didn't only start a war in Afghanistan, but also one in Iraq. The Bush Administration feared that Saddam Hussein, long time dictator and enemy of America, was harboring weapons of mass destruction and had the capability to produce them in 'mobile chemical factories.' On February 5, 2003 Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the United Nations Security Council. He told the U.N., "We know that Iraq has at least seven of these mobile biological agent factories. The truck-mounted ones have at least two or three trucks each. That means that the mobile production facilities are very few, perhaps 18 trucks that we know of-there may be more-but perhaps 18 that we know of. Just imagine trying to find 18 trucks among the thousands and thousands of trucks that travel the roads of Iraq every single day." He claimed Iraq had the capability of producing Anthrax in mobile production facilities, but almost all of these claims were from faulty sources and false. Before 9/11 more questions would've been asked regarding the U.S. decision to invade Iraq, but since the attacks startled the world so much the U.N. believed these baseless claims and allowed for the U.S. led invasion of Iraq. The war was built on lies and Saddam was overthrown in a span of three weeks. WMD's were never discovered and these mobile weapon facilities were never uncovered. The U.S. toppled the Baathist regime, but this destabilized the region and led to the rise of radical groups, like ISIS, which filled the power void. If 9/11 weren't to have happened then the U.S. wouldn't have invaded Iraq on faulty claims and wouldn't have destabilized the Middle East and allow ISIS to gain power. Originally ISIS was an offshoot of Al-Qaeda, but came to their own in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion. 9/11 changed the world, it allowed the U.S. to invade Iraq under the premise of 'global security.' Previously before the attacks on 9/11 the U.S. would have seen fiercer resistance to this war and wouldn't have received the support it had gotten. The Iraq war was a mistake and was able to happen as a result of 9/11.⁷ 9/11 allowed for a war built on lies to occur because of how fearful America became about national security.

It was discovered that the terrorists had learned to fly and trained in the United States. This cause for the federal government began to fear what may be hiding within its very own borders. 45 days after 9/11 Congress passed the Patriot Act which gave the federal government much more of an ability to spy

on U.S. citizens. It allowed for anybody living inside the U.S. to be spied on the web, phone records, bank records, internet history, and many other ways. It says in section 105 of the Patriot Act, "The Director of the United States Secret Service shall take appropriate actions to develop a national network of electronic crime task forces, based on the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force model, throughout the United States, for the purpose of preventing, detecting, and investigating various forms of electronic crimes, including potential terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure and financial payment systems." 9/11 changed America in that the federal government became involved in spying on its own citizens. As can be seen here with the Patriot Act that it created infrastructure that could stop potential terrorist attacks, but this came at a cost to American citizens. Now the federal government had easy access to the private information of its citizens. This included the ability to obtain wiretaps on Americans citizens much more easily. People today are still concerned with the federal government's ability to spy on us and feel that it is a violation of their privacy. The act also created FISA, which approves spying on foreign terrorist targets. 9/11 allowed for the federal government to gain the ability to spy on its own citizens with little stopping them from abusing this and looking at American citizens private information.⁸ 9/11 turned the federal government into a more powerful force with the ability to spy on Americans.

9/11 didn't just change American military and politics, it also changed its culture. Sadly after 9/11 anti-Muslim sentiment rose like never before. Americans feared that Muslims were out to cause terror, which is completely untrue. The day after 9/11 a Sikh man was murdered in his own gas station as revenge for the terrorist attacks of the previous day, even though he is not Muslim and even if he was he wouldn't be involved in any way whatsoever. Another hate crime occurred in Dallas when a man was fatally shot inside his own grocery store with the money left in the register. Before 9/11 Islamophobia was not nearly as high as after the attacks. People saw themselves as avenging those who perished in the attacks, when in reality they were creating hate for people who were as American as they were. President Bush took notice of the rising anti-Muslim hate and on September 17 he gave his famous "Islam is Peace" speech in which he said, "The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace. These terrorists don't represent peace. They represent evil and war." President Bush stepped up to the task of facing a hate for Muslims that had never been seen before. This hate for Muslims continues to this day. In appendix figure A which shows a spike in anti-Muslim hate crimes post 9/11 and it continuing to rise in recent years. There is also a major spike in 2016 corresponding to the election President Trump. This can be traced to many comments and his political agenda which often targets Muslims. Sadly some people don't understand how hate causes problems for people who have nothing to do with these attacks. As at the time presidential candidate Donald Trump said in the wake of terrorist attacks in Paris that on 9/11 he saw, "There were people that were cheering on the other side of New Jersey, where you have large Arab populations. They were cheering as the World Trade Center came down." These claims were found to be completely false and they only bolstered Islamophobia as there was a significant rise in 2016. Before 9/11 this level of hate towards Muslims was unheard of, but after the attacks Muslim hate skyrocketed due to the baseless fear that they were involved or even 'pro' terror, which they are not. Sadly 9/11 changed America by beginning a new chapter of hate and anti-Muslim sentiment, which had never been seen before.⁹

9/11 turned airport security from something that could be ignored, to a main state of any flight. Before the 9/11 attacks airport security was not a major concern for any passenger, but after the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 everything changed. The act established new security measures to stop future terrorist attacks and created the TSA to assume the role of travel security.¹⁰ Before 9/11 travel was much easier with private companies and airports overseeing security. This allowed for the terrorists to smuggle weapons aboard the flights and take control of the planes. Small blades were technically still allowed to be brought on planes when security was administered by the airports and airlines. But after 9/11 TSA became the standard for airport security, and ever since they took the role of airport security there has been a major decrease of terror attacks involving planes.¹¹ But this new security came at cost. Once common items were no longer able to be brought on planes, this angered many airline

customers to this day, as it seems ridiculous that you are unable to bring common items like shampoo and water bottles onto flights. The TSA has also caused an inconvenience on the wait time of flights. As is depicted in the cartoon by Dan Wasserman in appendix item B which shows how long it feels to be waiting on an airport security line. He compares the wait on line to waiting for a political rally. 9/11 was a turning point in the way Americans travel by creating TSA and bringing with it a major inconvenience which we still deal with today.¹²

9/11 also had major economic impacts. Following the attacks the stock market fell and the airline industry took a major hit, which it didn't recover from until 2005. There was an economic recession, but this was short lasting as there was an increase in government spending due to the rise in military conflicts.¹³ But the longest lasting impact of the attacks was on the airline industry. The week after 9/11 congress put together \$10 billion to help the airline industry, but it was already too late. United Airlines and U.S. Airways filed for bankruptcy along with many other smaller airline companies. The smaller airline companies were absorbed into the larger ones creating the airline conglomerates that we have today. Companies like Delta and American Airlines dominate today's market with little major competition. Before 9/11 there were many airlines which allowed for natural competition, but after 9/11 many companies were forced to merge and form conglomerates which take advantage of the loose government regulation. 9/11 turned the American airline industry from once being filled with smaller companies, to now being controlled by a few conglomerates. Still today during the Covid-19 pandemic the airline industry has taken a major hit, not seen since 9/11, and it is unclear what the industry will look like post pandemic.¹⁴ 9/11 was a turning point for the U.S. airline industry, since now it is being dominated by large conglomerates who control the market and have a much greater impact on the overall economy.

No single event changed modern America more than 9/11. Every year we honor those who died during the attacks, but a lot of the damage came as a result of the aftermath. America is still fighting a war with the Taliban 20 years later, where thousands of American soldiers and Afghani civilians have died. Islamophobia is still a major threat to America's Muslim community as a result of the attacks. And American politics haven't been the same since 9/11, with a major focus being stopping terrorism. When do we say enough is enough and move on? The man responsible has been killed and his organization almost forgotten. And yet we still focus on Muslim extremism and not much else, ignoring the growing white supremacist attacks in America. The U.S. was scarred after 9/11 and many of those scars have yet to be healed. 9/11 was a turning point in US history because the attacks on September 11 changed American society, altered American politics, and brought America into its longest war. 9/11 was the most important turning point in modern U.S. history because: it caused a major change in American politics, for America to get involved in two wars, a rise in the federal government's power, an increase in anti-Muslim hate, and a substantial shift to the economy. Though 9/11 was almost two decades ago it still impacts us today.

Endnotes

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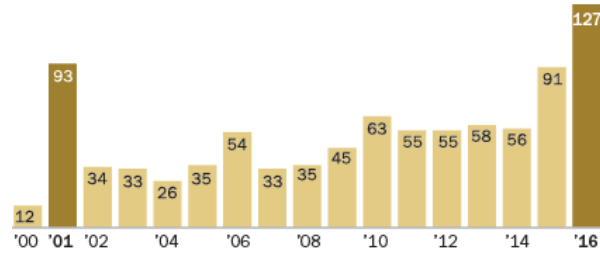
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Appendix

Anti-Muslim assaults exceed 2001 total

Anti-Muslim assaults in U.S. reported to the FBI



Note: Includes simple and aggravated assaults.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Figure A: Pew Research Center Anti-Muslim Assaults Chart, 2016

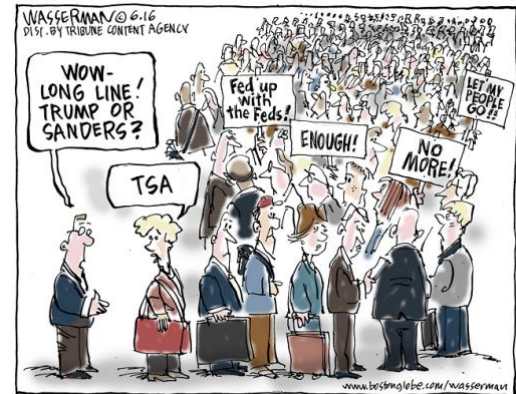


Figure B: Dan Wasserman TSA's long lines political cartoon, 2016

This is historical material, "frozen in time." The web site is no longer updated and links to external web sites and some internal pages will not work.

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
September 17, 2001

"Islam is Peace" Says President

Remarks by the President at Islamic Center of Washington, D.C.
Washington, D.C.

[Click on attack response](#)

[View the President's Remarks](#)
[Listen to the President's Remarks](#)

3:12 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much for your hospitality. We've just had a -- wide-ranging discussions on the matter at hand. Like the good folks standing with me, the American people were appalled and outraged at last Tuesday's attacks. And so were Muslims all across the world. Both Americans and Muslim friends and citizens, tax-paying citizens, and Muslims in nations were just appalled and could not believe what we saw on our TV screens.

These acts of violence against innocents violate the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith. And it's important for my fellow Americans to understand that.

The English translation is not as eloquent as the original Arabic, but let me quote from the Koran, itself. In the long run, evil in the extreme will be the end of those who do evil. For that they rejected the signs of Allah and held them up to ridicule.

The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace. These terrorists don't represent peace. They represent evil and war.

When we think of Islam we think of a faith that brings comfort to a billion people around the world. Billions of people find comfort and solace and peace. And that's made brothers and sisters out of every race -- out of every race.

America counts millions of Muslims amongst our citizens, and Muslims make an incredibly valuable contribution to our country. Muslims are doctors, lawyers, law professors, members of the military, entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, moms and dads. And they need to be treated with respect. In our anger and emotion, our fellow Americans must treat each other with respect.

Women who cover their heads in this country must feel comfortable going outside their homes. Moms who wear cover must be not intimidated in America. That's not the America I know. That's not the America I value.

I've been told that some fear to leave; some don't want to go shopping for their families; some don't want to go about their ordinary daily routines because, by wearing cover, they're afraid they'll be intimidated. That should not and that will not stand in America.

Figure C: George W. Bush "Islam is Peace" speech, 2001

November 22, 2015 at 5:31 p.m. EST

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: You raised some eyebrows yesterday with comments you made at your latest rally. I want to show them, relating to 9/11.

VIDEO CLIP OF DONALD TRUMP, IN WHICH HE SAYS: "Hey, I watched when the World Trade Center came tumbling down. And I watched in Jersey City, New Jersey, where thousands and thousands of people were cheering as that building was coming down. Thousands of people were cheering."

STEPHANOPOULOS: "You know, the police say that didn't happen and all those rumors have been on the Internet for some time. So did you misspeak yesterday?"

TRUMP: "It did happen. I saw it."

STEPHANOPOULOS: "You saw that..."

Figure D: Donald Trump's quote on Muslims in New Jersey on 9/11, 2015



Figure E: President Bush "War on Terror" speech to Congress, 2001

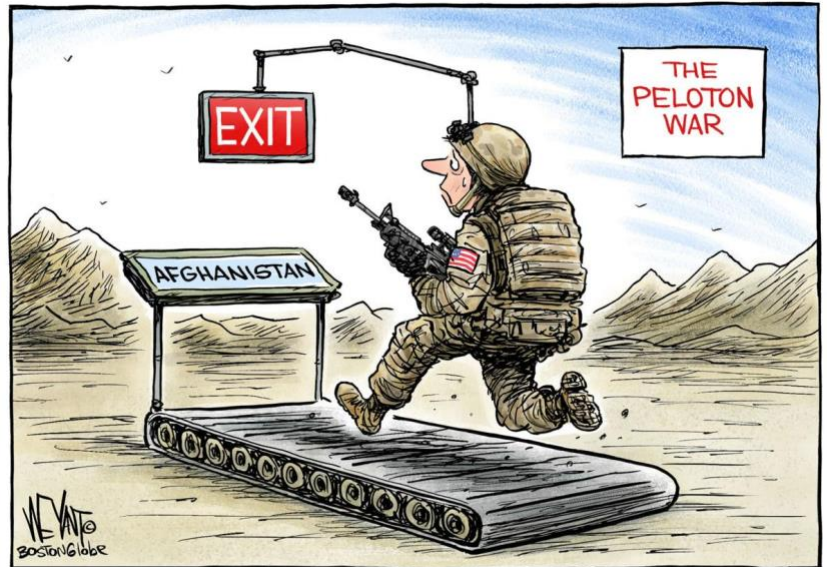


Figure F: Christopher Weyant's "The Peloton War" political cartoon, 2019

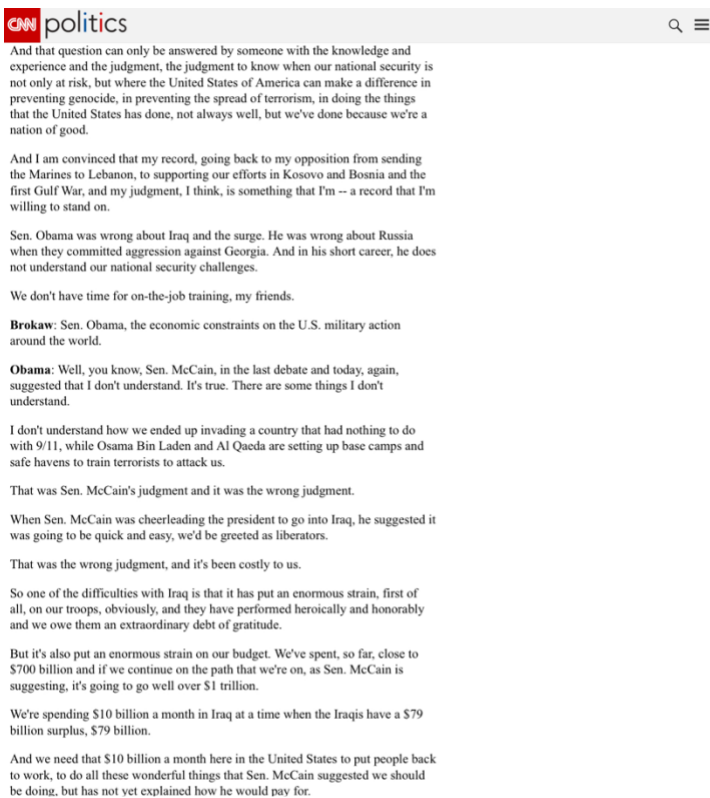


Figure G: Obama and McCain's second debate transcript, 2008

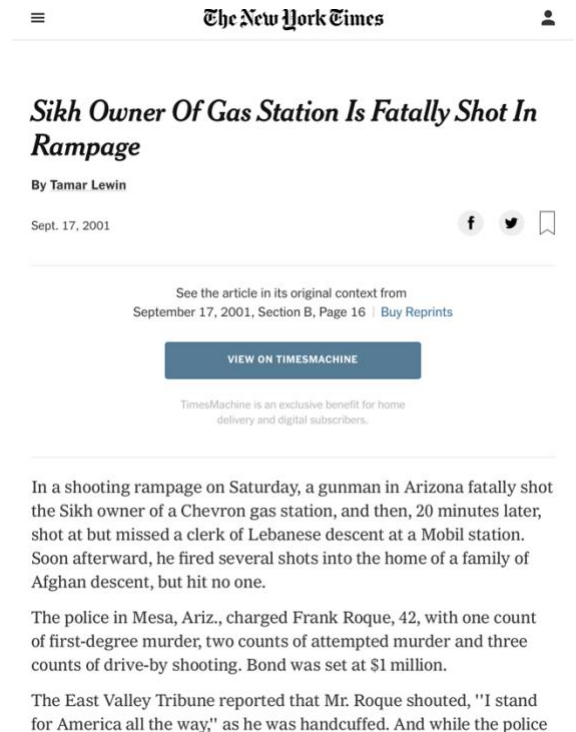


Figure H: New York Time's article about Sikh man killed as a result 9/11, 2001

SEC. 103. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTER AT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated for the Technical Support Center established in section 811 of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-132) to meet the demands for activities to combat terrorism and to enhance the technical support and tactical operations of the FBI, \$200,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

SEC. 104. REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ENFORCE PROHIBITION IN CERTAIN EMERGENCIES.

Section 2332e of title 18, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by striking “2332c” and inserting “2332a”; and
(2) by striking “chemical”.

SEC. 105. EXPANSION OF NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CRIME TASK FORCE INITIATIVE.

The Director of the United States Secret Service shall take appropriate actions to develop a national network of electronic crime task forces, based on the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force model, throughout the United States, for the purpose of preventing, detecting, and investigating various forms of electronic crimes, including potential terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure and financial payment systems.

SEC. 106. PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.

Section 203 of the International Emergency Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) at the end of subparagraph (A) (flush to that subparagraph), by striking “; and” and inserting a comma and the following:

“by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “, block during the pendency of an investigation” after “investigate”; and

(ii) by striking “interest;” and inserting “interest by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; and”;

(C) by striking “by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;” and

(D) by inserting at the end the following:

Figure I: Patriot Act, 2001

This defector is currently hiding in another country with the certain knowledge that Saddam Hussein will kill him if he finds him. His eyewitness account of these mobile production facilities has been corroborated by other sources.

A second source, an Iraqi civil engineer in a position to know the details of the program, confirmed the existence of transportable facilities moving on trailers.

A third source, also in a position to know, reported in summer 2002 that Iraq had manufactured mobile production systems mounted on road trailer units and on rail cars.

Finally, a fourth source, an Iraqi major, who defected, confirmed that Iraq has mobile biological research laboratories, in addition to the production facilities I mentioned earlier. We have diagrammed what our sources reported about these mobile facilities. Here you see both truck and rail car-mounted mobile factories. The description our sources gave us of the technical features required by such facilities are highly detailed and extremely accurate. As these drawings based on their description show, we know what the fermenters look like, we know what the tanks, pumps, compressors and other parts look like. We know how they fit together. We know how they work. And we know a great deal about the platforms on which they are mounted.

As shown in this diagram, these factories can be concealed easily, either by moving ordinary-looking trucks and rail cars along Iraq's thousands of miles of highway or track, or by parking them in a garage or warehouse or somewhere in Iraq's extensive system of underground tunnels and bunkers.

We know that Iraq has at least seven of these mobile biological agent factories. The truck-mounted ones have at least two or three trucks each. That means that the mobile production facilities are very few, perhaps 18 trucks that we know of—there may be more—but perhaps 18 that we know of. Just imagine trying to find 18 trucks among the thousands and thousands of trucks that travel the roads of Iraq every single day.

It took the inspectors four years to find out that Iraq was making biological agents. How long do you think it will take the inspectors to find even one of these 18 trucks without Iraq coming forward, as they are supposed to, with the information about these kinds of capabilities?

Ladies and gentlemen, these are sophisticated facilities. For example, they can produce anthrax and botulinum toxin. In fact, they can produce enough dry biological agent in a single month to kill thousands upon thousands of people. And dry agent of this type is the most lethal form for human beings.

By 1998, U.N. experts agreed that the Iraqis had perfected drying techniques for their biological weapons programs. Now, Iraq has incorporated this drying expertise into these mobile production facilities.

We know from Iraq's past admissions that it has successfully weaponized not only anthrax, but also other biological agents, including botulinum toxin, aflatoxin and ricin.

But Iraq's research efforts did not stop there. Saddam Hussein has investigated dozens of biological agents causing diseases such as gas gangrene, plague, typhus (ph), tetanus, cholera, campylobacter and hemorrhagic fever, and he also has the wherewithal to develop smallpox.

The Iraqi regime has also developed ways to disperse lethal biological agents, widely and discriminately into the water supply, into the air. For example, Iraq had a program to modify aerial fuel tanks for Mirage jets. This video of an Iraqi test flight obtained by UNSCOM some years ago

[107th Congress Public Law 40]
[From the U.S. Government Printing Office]

Public Law 107-40
107th Congress
Joint Resolution

To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States. <NOTE: Sept. 18, 2001 - [S.J. Res. 23]>

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, acts of treacherous violence were committed against the United States and its citizens; and Whereas, such acts render it both necessary and appropriate that the United States exercise its rights to self-defense and to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad; and Whereas, in light of the threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by these grave acts of violence; and Whereas, such acts continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States; and Whereas, the President has authority under the Constitution to take action to deter and prevent acts of international terrorism against the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, <NOTE: Authorization for Use of Military Force, 50 USC 1541 note.>

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the “Authorization for Use of Military Force”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(a) <NOTE: President.> In General.—That the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.

(b) War Powers Resolution Requirements.—

(1) Specific statutory authorization.—Consistent with section 5(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution.

[[Page 115 STAT. 225]]

(2) Applicability of other requirements.—Nothing in this resolution supercedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

Approved September 18, 2001.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 23 (H.J. Res. 64):

Figure J: Joint Resolution allowing use of force against those responsible for 9/11 attacks, 2001

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

6 USC 111.

SEC. 101. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT; MISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Department of Homeland Security, as an executive department of the United States within the meaning of title 5, United States Code.

(b) MISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The primary mission of the Department is to—

(A) prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;

(B) reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism;

(C) minimize the damage, and assist in the recovery, from terrorist attacks that do occur within the United States;

(D) carry out all functions of entities transferred to the Department, including by acting as a focal point regarding natural and manmade crises and emergency planning;

(E) ensure that the functions of the agencies and subdivisions within the Department that are not related directly to securing the homeland are not diminished or neglected except by a specific explicit Act of Congress;

(F) ensure that the overall economic security of the United States is not diminished by efforts, activities, and programs aimed at securing the homeland; and

(G) monitor connections between illegal drug trafficking and terrorism, coordinate efforts to sever such connections, and otherwise contribute to efforts to interdict illegal drug trafficking.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING TERRORISM.—Except as specifically provided by law with respect to entities transferred to the Department under this Act, primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting acts of terrorism shall be vested not in the Department, but rather in Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the acts in question.

6 USC 112.

SEC. 102. SECRETARY; FUNCTIONS.

(a) SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of Homeland Security, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) HEAD OF DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary is the head of the Department and shall have direction, authority, and control over it.

Figure L: Homeland Security Act, 2001

Figure K: Collin Powell's speech to the U.N. Security Council calling for an invasion into Iraq, 2003