

Module 11: The End of the Cold War

Topic 4 Content: 9/11 Attacks

Introduction



View the events that unfolded on September 11, 2001. Click the **NEXT** button to begin.

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Events Unfolding



The events that unfolded on 9/11 were funded by the terrorist organization, Al Qaeda.

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Al Qaeda



At the time, Osama bin Laden led Al Qaeda toward achieving its goal of eliminating Western influence from Muslim countries, and replacing it with extremist regimes, often through acts of violence.

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Militants



On this infamous day, nineteen militants from Saudi Arabia and various other Arab countries affiliated with Al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes in the United States.

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World Trade Center and Pentagon



The terrorists flew two planes into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and one plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

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Crash in Pennsylvania



A final plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers became aware of the suicide mission and rebelled against the militants before the plane could reach its intended target.

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Al Qaeda's Rebellion



Analysts believe Al Qaeda's intentions on this day highlighted a rebellion against the United States' support for Israel, the country's participation in the Persian Gulf War, and its current presence in the Middle East.

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Death Toll



Due to these terrorist attacks, more than three thousand people were killed, including more than four hundred police officers and firefighters who came to help during the aftermath.

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Targets



The chosen targets for the attacks all represented important symbols to Americans.

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Symbols of Globalization



For example, the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center demonstrated globalization and the strength of the United States in a global economy.

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Symbols of Military Power



The Pentagon symbolizes America's military power as the headquarters of the United States' Department of Defense.

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Fate of the Final Plane

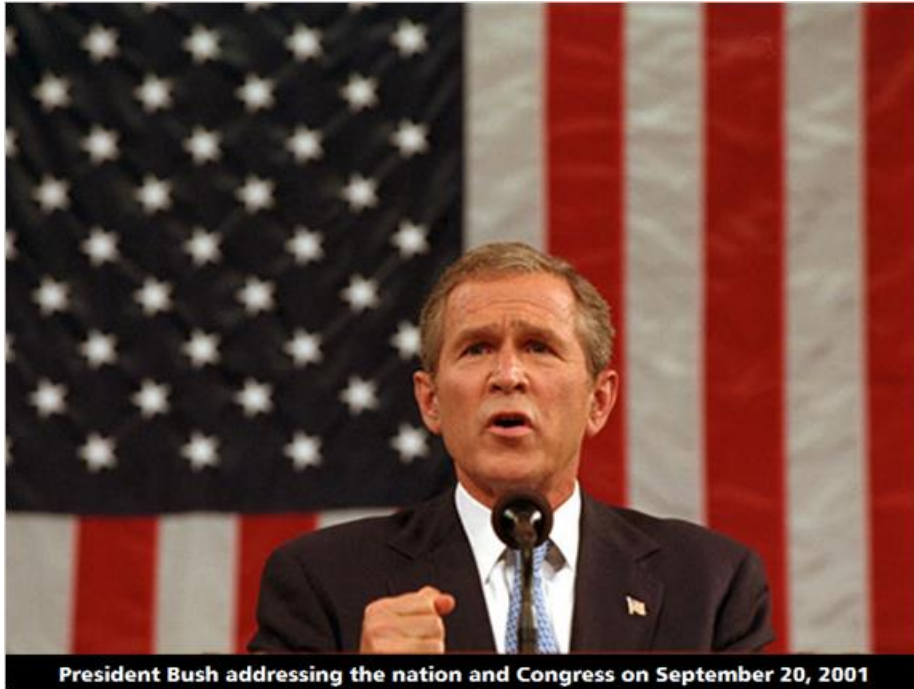


Although no one can be certain where the last plane was heading since all of the passengers and hijackers died, people speculate it was toward the U.S. Capitol building, the White House, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, or a nuclear power plant on the east coast.

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Speculation



In response to the horrors that happened on 9/11, President George W. Bush announced:

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Bush's Pronouncement



Mother carrying a photo of her daughter during a 2007 memorial service for 9/11

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."