



*The U.S. and the World:*  
SS.7.CG.4.4  
**September 11, 2001**  
**READING #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SS.7.CG.4.4 Benchmark Clarification 2:** Students will describe the global response to terrorism following the events of September 11, 2001.

After terrorists from **al Qaeda's** global terror network crashed hijacked planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania on September 11th, 2001, the United States and the world took several steps in response. These steps included military action, domestic security reforms, and diplomatic efforts, among others.

One of the most important responses to the events of 9/11 was the creation of a global **coalition** against terrorism. This coalition made up of countries from all over the world, works to combat terrorism across the globe. It was this coalition that worked to bring justice to al Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden. In October of 2001, the United States, with the support of some of its coalition partners, launched **Operation Enduring Freedom** and invaded the country of Afghanistan. Afghanistan had provided a **safe haven** for al Qaeda and refused to turn bin Laden and other leaders over for justice. This coalition also worked together to try and disrupt terror networks across the globe through military action, secret intelligence, and diplomacy.

This **diplomacy** was very comprehensive and worked to try and address some of the root causes of terrorism by providing financial aid to address poverty, support education, and limit political and religious extremism. Diplomatic measures were also taken by countries around the world to try and cut off funding for terror networks by implementing new regulations on banks and **freezing the assets** of supporters of terror groups. At the same time, the **United Nations Security Council** passed resolutions supporting the fight against terrorism.

Outside of directly challenging al Qaeda and other terrorist networks, many countries also responded to the threat of global terrorism by implementing new security measures at airports. This includes better screening of passengers and new screening requirements to get on a plane or even a license to fly. National governments also passed laws that increased surveillance on citizens and made it easier to arrest and prosecute terrorists and limit their funding.

Ultimately, the global response to terrorism following the events of September 11th, 2001, took a variety of forms. This includes changes in domestic and foreign policies to try and limit terrorist funding and improve security, military action to bring members of al Qaeda to justice and break up its terror network, and diplomatic action to develop coalitions against terror and work to limit political and religious extremism.

**al Qaeda** - extremist Islamic terror group responsible for multiple global terror attacks against Western targets, including the events of September 11th, 2001

**coalition** - a group of countries working together for a common cause

**Operation Enduring Freedom** - the U.S. and coalition invasion of Afghanistan in an effort to bring al Qaeda to justice and remove the Taliban from power, Lasted from 2001-2021

**safe haven** - when the government of a country guarantees the safety or security of a person or group

**diplomacy** - the work of keeping good relations between the governments of different countries

**freezing the assets** - blocking the ability of a person or group to access their financial resources

**United Nations Security Council** - 15 member council of the United Nations that has multiple responsibilities, including establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action