



The U.S. & The World SS.7.CG.4.4
The Significance of September 11th, 2001
VIDEO SCRIPT



BENCHMARK CLARIFICATION TWO: GLOBAL RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

1. 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. In this video, we will spend some time exploring those steps.
2. After watching this video, you will be able to:
 - ◆ Describe the global response to terrorism following the events of September 11th, 2001.So let's get started.
3. As a reminder, let's look again at our definition of terrorism. Terrorism uses extreme fear and violence to try to achieve a political or ideological goal. This is often against civilian targets. And global terrorism often involves some sort of network that allows different groups of people in different countries or regions to work together to instill violence and fear in target populations.
4. One of the most important responses to the events of 9/11 was the creation of a global coalition against terrorism. Following the horrific attacks on that day, U.S. President George W. Bush said that "The attack took place on American soil, but it was an attack on the heart and soul of the civilized world. And the world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and we hope the only one, of the 21st century. A war against all those who seek to export terror, and a war against those governments that support or shelter them." This was, at its heart, a call for unity in the face of terror, a coalition that would find ways to ensure the security of citizens across the world as much as possible.
5. 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.
6. In October of 2001, the United States, with the support of Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Germany, and local Afghan forces launched Operation Enduring Freedom and invaded the country of Afghanistan.
7. Afghanistan, led by a fundamentalist Islamic organization known as the Taliban, had provided a safe haven for al Qaeda and refused to turn bin Laden and other leaders over for

justice. Ultimately, the United States would spend 20 years in Afghanistan, working to stabilize the country and suppress terrorist organizations. This was unfortunately not always successful.

8. On the positive side, however, justice was served to Osama bin Laden. On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed in his compound in the country of Pakistan. This was a military and intelligence effort primarily led by the U.S.' Central Intelligence Agency and units of the United States' special forces. However, while bin Laden was killed, al Qaeda continues to exist to this day.

9. Let's check in, try to answer the following questions in your own words. What was Operation Enduring Freedom?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

10. What was the relationship between the Taliban and al Qaeda?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

11. As the threat of terror grew, the global coalition also worked together to try and disrupt terror networks across the globe through military action, secret intelligence, and diplomacy.

12. In March of 2003, for example, the U.S. and its coalition partners invaded the country of Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein, who was an important state sponsor of terrorism.

13. The diplomacy used by the coalition 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. This was done for countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in an effort to try and reduce the chance that people would find the promises of terror groups appealing.

14. But how could people find these groups appealing? Well, many of them would function as governments in areas where the national or local government was weak and the people were desperate. Al Qaeda, for example, would provide food and jobs to people where it operated. The Islamic terrorist organization Hezbollah would do the same in the Palestinian territories it controlled in its fight against Israel. Of course, they also imposed terror on those same people! Governments opposed to terrorism seek ways to ensure that no one has a reason to turn to these groups.

15. 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 so that they could not access their funds. At the same time, the United Nations Security Council passed resolutions supporting the fight against terrorism.

16. 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. If you have ever flown on a plane, you are likely familiar with some of these measures. This includes better screening of passengers and new screening requirements to get on a plane.
17. For example, before 9/11, you sometimes did not have to show your ID to fly, and you could keep your shoes on and large bottles of liquid when you went through security.
18. Because the terrorists who seized the planes on 9/11 learned to fly in the United States, the government also imposed new requirements to even go to flight school! This includes such things as proving your citizenship and undergoing a deep background check to make sure that you aren't a terrorist.
19. National governments also passed laws that increased surveillance on citizens and made it easier to arrest and prosecute terrorists and limit their funding. For example, in the United States, we passed the PATRIOT Act, which you will learn more about later.
20. Let's check in, try to answer the following questions in your own words. What was the goal of diplomacy used by the global coalition against terrorism?
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION
21. What are at least two diplomatic measures the countries took to fight against terrorism?
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION
22. 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.
23. Be sure to watch the other videos in this series to learn more about the significance and impact of the events of September 11th, 2001.