
Historical Dimensions of the 9/11 Attacks in America

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Abstract

The causes of the September eleven attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—the financial and military powers of the United States of America respectively—have been manifold. The inquiry into the historical veracities demonstrates that political, cultural and ideological have been the primary foundations of the conflict between the Americans and the perpetrators of the horrific incidents that took lives of many and left uncountable number of people traumatized. This paper investigates into the potential causes of the tragedy based on the secondary data from different scholarly writings of the post-9/11 attacks. The findings exhibit whatever the reasons have been of the attacks is traumatic and can trigger the clash between Western and Islamic civilizations at any momentum. Since the origin of divergence between the Western countries and the Middle Eastern nations lies in the political history that draws the line between these two civilizations which have collided against each other at different phases. The 9/11 attacks on the icons of American economy and militarism have not taken place in vacuum. Rather there have been diverse factors that led both Osama bin Laden—the commander-in-chief of Al-Qaeda and the Americans in general and the mainstream Americans in particular. The tragedy was the apex of their clash as perceived in the history of human civilization.

Key Words: Al-Qaeda, Fundamentalism, Militarism, Terrorism, Violence.

Introduction

The world was shocked when the icons of American economy and militarism were devastated by the perpetrators who had been with the Muslim background. However, their attacks took lives of innocent people indiscriminately. Douglas Kellner (2004) in his research article narrates the incident that the 9/11 assaults on the World Exchange Center in New York and on the Pentagon close Washington, DC were stunning worldwide media occasions that overwhelmed open deliberation and incited reams of talk, reflection, and composing. These media exhibitions were planning to terrorize the US, to attack typical targets, and to unfold a fear exhibition Jihad against the West, as well as to weaken the US and worldwide economy. The World Trade Center is an able image of worldwide capitalism within the heart of the New York monetary area, whereas the Pentagon stands as a symbol and center of US military control. Kellner connects the tragedy with the history of the clash between the United States of America and the Al-Qaeda by presenting the quantifiable data of different incidents that had taken place before the 9/11 attacks.

Kellner (2004) asserts that in 1993, the World Trade Center was ambushed in New York by Islamist radicals connected to Osama bin Laden, giving a sight of the more fabulous September 11 attack. In 1995, an American-born mental aggressive Timothy McVeigh bombarded the Alfred P. Murrah Government Building in Oklahoma City, slaughtering 168 and injuring more than 500. Besides, the container loaded bunch attacked US international safe havens in Africa in 1998 and a US destroyer harbored in Yemen in 2000. Subsequently fear exhibition may be a pivotal portion of the dangerous amusement or modern legislative issues and the bin Laden loaded gather had professionally utilized display of fear to advance its agenda. Nevertheless, the 9/11 fear exhibition was the foremost excessive strike on US targets in its history and the primary isolated assault on the mainland US since the war of 1812. The history reveals the fear shaped and imparted to the Americans through the 9/11 attacks. The tragedy did not only affect Americans actually but also left indelible scars on their minds.

Discussion

The 9/11 became a point of discussion and the topic of elaboration in its aftermath. The writers, media personnel, photographers, filmmakers and other professionals used the horrific event as the source of content to achieve their professional targets. They manipulated and represented the attacks as per their interests by tuning the melody of the audience. However, the critics and scholars have undertaken the representations seriously and have endeavored to investigate into the portrayals. One of the criticisms by a popular scholar goes, “The September 11 terror attacks in New York were claimed to be the most documented event in history in a May 2002 HBO film *In Memoriam* which itself provided a collage of images assembled from professional news crews, documentary filmmakers, and amateur videographers and photographers who in some cases risked their lives to document the event” (Kellner, 2004). From 9/11 to the starting of the United States of America bombing of Afghanistan in October, the United States of America commercial media heightens war fever and there was a blow out of patriotism such as the nation had not seen since the Second World War.

Media outlines moved from America beneath Assault to America Strikes Back and America's Modern Year—even some time recently any military activity was embraced, as in the event that the media outlines were to summon the military reaction that inevitably taken after. Since September 11 to and through the Afghan Dread War, the systems have created heightening fear and mania requesting a military reaction, whereas the representatives of the military-industrial complex requested military activity with small genuine reflection on its results broadcast on the TV systems (Kellner, 2004). Similarly, the collision of the conflict between Iraq and the United States goaded the relationship between the Middle East and the Western world that had forcibly taken over the Iraqi armies led Saddam Hussein. When Iraq attacked Kuwait in Admirable 1990, Bush mobilized a universal synthesis to wage war to remove the Iraqis from its neighboring oil emirate, demonizing Hussein as “another Hitler” and a major risk to world peace and the worldwide economy. Bush denied genuine discretionary endeavors to initiate Iraq to take off Kuwait, continually insulting the Iraqi

pioneer instead of seeking after discretionary intercession. In step, Bush showed up to want a war to extend US control within the locale, to advance US military influence as the prevailing worldwide police constrain, to spare his possess falling flat political fortunes, and to apply more US impact over oil supplies and approaches (Kellner, 2004). How the US dealt with Muslim World gradually demonstrates its political hegemony that distanced Muslims from the Americans.

The reading of David G. Kibble (2002) has shown that the cooperation of the Western world received by Kuwait during the Gulf War did not only help to defeat Saddam Hussein but also aggravated the perspectives of the Muslims at the wider scale towards the West especially the Americans. Kibble states that in 1990 Iraq attacked Kuwait and so started the Inlet War. A fusion of Muslim Center Eastern and American, British, and other countries joined together to drive out Saddam Hussein's armed force. For a few Middle Easterner Muslims, container Loaded included, this period was classed as *al azma*, the emergency. It was an emergency for at slightest two reasons: to begin with, it included Muslim Middle easterners battling other Muslim Middle easterners; moment, it included American and other non-Arab powers entering Saudi region. To get it why this moment reason was seen as risky, one should get it that for a Muslim the Saudi city of Mecca, the birthplace of the prophet Muhammad, could be a sacred city. Without a doubt, it is so sacred that non-Muslims are not permitted to enter it. There has been a long connection of the Al-Qaeda with the Gulf War. The war that went between Saddam Hussein and the American militarism implanted the seed of bin Laden's aggression against the economy and militarism of the United States. Bin Laden's hatred was because of the support extended to Israel to fight against the innocent Palestinians (Kibble, 2002). These two causes have been pivotal in building ground for the 9/11 attacks when analyzed the event historically. The role of a catalyst the United States of America had played in waging the war between Iraq and Kuwait was deep-rooted in the minds of the Muslim youths. Their anger against the American economy and militarism was expressed in the 9/11 event. Joe Ilardi Gaetano (2009) has asserted in this regard:

The driving force behind the 9/11 operation was Kuwait-born Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (hereafter "Khalid"). By the time Khalid presented his ideas to the Al Qaeda leadership for what would ultimately become the 9/11 operation (known within Al Qaeda as the "planes operation"), and prior to his membership of the organization, he had already demonstrated a keen interest in the use of aircraft for terrorist attacks. In the most well-known and ambitious of these plans, the "Bojinka" plot, Khalid and others planned to bomb twelve U.S. commercial aircraft over the Pacific during a two-day period. Working with his nephew and principal plotter behind the 1993 attacks on the World Trade Center, Ramzi Yousef, Khalid played an active role in this, his first terrorist operation.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed cooperated with the team of Al Qaeda in order to smarten the attack strategy. The credit of the accomplishment of the Jihad against the United States of America must go to Khalid. His experience in bombing the aircrafts and planes propelled

the operation of 9/11. This operation shook the foundation of state establishment in general and the White House in particular. The fear was intensified and the traumatic events led the Americans to generalizing Muslims at home and abroad and judging them through the lens of the perpetrators like Khalid.

Bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda had first developed the strategy by meeting different technocrats competent and mentally prepared in revenging on the United States. In that course, he met Ramzi Binalshibh, operations facilitator. In May 2001, his visit with Ramzi Binalshibh affirmed that Atta caught on that container Laden's proclivity was for the hub of the United States—the White House—over the Capitol. Atta clearly had issues with canister Laden's proceeded inclination for the White House. Atta educated Binallshibh on at slightest two isolated events that he considered the White House as well troublesome a target (Gaetano, 2009). Al Qaeda's ill will toward the Joined Together States and its want to carry out an assault on United States. The soil was well known earlier to 11 September. The organization of the perpetrators had pronounced in 1998 that it had been in a state of war with the States. Bin Laden's 1998 fatwa in which he inclinations jihad against Americans is unambiguous, pronouncing that the slaughtering of the Americans and their allies—civilian and military—is a person obligation for each Muslim who can do it in any nation in which it is conceivable to do it. . . . The capture of Ahmed Ressam on the U.S.—Canadian border in December 1999 was a clear sign of Al Qaeda's purposeful of bringing its war to the United States of America (Gaetano, 2009). Concurring to Khalid, the little estimate of the White House made it troublesome to see from the discussion, whereas the solid resistances encompassing the building made it a less appealing target than the Capitol. In spite of these challenges, Atta educated Binalshibh that he had entrusted Hazmi and Hanjour to conduct surveillance on the White House to assess the possibility of an assault, and was clearly anticipating their reply at the time of Atta's assembly with Binalshibh. The collective endeavors of the allies of bin Laden helped the success of the 9/11 operation. Khalid, Atta, Binalshibh and many others were some of the key perpetrators of the attacks.

The segregated efforts of the Al Qaeda members can be seen in their preparation for the operation of the attacks. Inside months of accepting consent to continue with the assault, Khalid stepped militarily in gathering the insights that attacked. Depending on flexible source insights, Khalid combined information from Western flying magazines, phone registries for U.S. cities, aircraft timetables, and conducted Web looks on United States flight schools. This insight was supplemented by flight test system program and data gathered from motion pictures delineating hijackings (Gaetano, 2009). The role of both technologies and technocrats was crucial in the accomplishment of the 9/11 attacks and the perpetrators had benefited from the technological advancement done by the western people. The freedom fighters used the western technologies to kill the innocent who lost their lives collectively. Even the Muslims from different nations lost their lives in the attacks perpetrated by extremists.

The next cause of the anger among the Islamic extremists was the representation of Muslims in Hollywood movies. The portrayal of Arabs and Middle Easterners nagged the rigid

Muslims who operated the 9/11 attacks to pacify their anger by taking revenge on the Westerners. Sulaiman Arti (2007) has stated:

From the earliest days of Hollywood, filmmakers have portrayed Arabs and Middle Easterners in exotic ethnic terms. This has served as the perfect backdrop for film industry productions in which they have played the villain opposite American ‘good guys’ and so created a stereotypical image of Otherness. Many attempts have been made to analyze this negative Arab stereotype by showing how American cultural fears, which stem from challenges to national ideologies and myths, have led to the creation of the dangerous ‘Arab Other’.

The representation of Muslims as the savage and uncivilized ethnic group in the films by the Hollywood filmmakers politicized the art and intensified the tussle between the West and the East in general and the United States and Muslims in particular. The Muslims who could not fight against the Americans directly because of the superior technologies and high economic power of the United States of America that used to intervene in the Muslim countries expressed their aggression through the operation of 9/11. The attacks challenged the global superpower that has been central across the world for decades. Arti further argues, “Hollywood proceeded to represent Middle Easterners not only as villains but also as lacking in morals and honor as is obvious in movies like the *Hostage Series* (1986-1992), in which we see Arabs on a plane brutally raping and killing not only females but mothers and the elderly on board” (Sulaiman, 2007). The depiction of Muslims as immoral and dishonored in Hollywood movies exhibits the US prejudice and their civilizational superiority syndrome which became one of the causes of the 9/11 attacks. Arti brings about the representation of the Muslims in the Hollywood movies from the earlier period that dating from the most punctual days of the motion pictures to the period of the Cold War, the Middle easterner picture has been severely obscured, the picture of the Middle easterner had been shaped by enchantment light appears of different sagas and Campaigns against the killing heathen by the sultan of the Middle eastern Evenings and by the Sheik movies of Rudolph Valentino within the 1920s (Sulaiman, 2007). The evidence of the misrepresentation of the Muslim civilization adds to the number of the causes of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Besides movies, the 9/11 fiction demonstrate the fear and traumatized positions of the protagonists who represent the Americans. The study of Casey D Lanier (2017) presents the 9/11 novels that underscore the role of advanced technology used in the operation of the 9/11. The horrors and panics created by the attacks are known through the cell phonic conversations. Those who witnessed the attacks were traumatized as they were aware of their lives which were lurking towards the death. The repercussions of the tragedy have been both psychological and political. The world got divided in the line of the cultural differences primarily between the Westerners and the Muslims who seem to be juxtaposing against each other.

The event intensified anxiety of the Americans. The ultimate writing of the 11 September Commission came out on December 5, 2005 producing significant uneasiness in American

society. There were proposals on outside approach, open strategy, no-multiplication, all seen as influenced by the tragedy. There proposals on Country security and the Loyalist Act. There was an increment in security measures which were regularly meddlesome, anti-Islamic talk, jumpy doubt of colored foreigners, uncommon treatment for Muslims, a forceful drive to destroy fear monger systems by going after them, and a talk of war as stated by Mohan G. Ramanan (2010). The 9/11 changed lexicon in America. A volume of papers concentrated on the talk of war on fear and appeared how long-winded generation of personalities takes put, how philosophies and collective understandings in reaction to 9/11 decide how adversaries are characterized and distinguished, how lawmakers and citizens respond, how individuals of social orders get it their position within the world in connection to fear based oppression. The event fabricated a modern American patriotism which empowered the United States of America to see itself as guiltless in connection to the wicked other, but this was after all as it were a variety of the ancient topic of American exceptionalism. Ramanan's close reading presents the fictional representation of the 9/11 that parted the society into 'Us' and 'Other'. The Muslims got fictionalized as the Other, whereas the Americans were portrayed as 'Us'. This dichotomy widened the cleft between the West and the Muslim World.

The 9/11 attacks brought about a new mode to the global political scenario. Elizabeth Poole (2011) has narrated that 9/11 checked out as a noteworthy occasion within the present political and authentic setting in that it signaled a recognizable move to modern legislative issues grouped in particular 'western nations by the war on terror'. This spoke to a perpetuation of forms that got to be more visible taking after 9/11. Within the detailing of Islam within the United Kingdom, prior to 9/11, there was as of now significant proving of the media's part within the generation of political control. Talks about Muslim integration set in movement by the Rushdie Issue, 1989, proceeded apace while worldwide Islam in other "Western" settings counting Canada, the U.S., and Europe. The Rushdie case questioned the unity among Muslims at the global level. Instead of presenting Muslims truthful, this issue justified the representation of Muslims in Hollywood by the Western world. The West benefited from the fictional representation of Muslims especially the Prophet Muhammed by Rushdie in *the Satanic Verses*. The implications of the 9/11 attacks can be seen in the lives of the British Muslims as well. Poole (2011) has asserted:

The most significant shift in the coverage of British Muslims post-9/11 was in the association with terrorism. Whilst this was clearly the prevailing image of global Islam prior to 9.11, British Muslims were not directly attributed with this label. Rather it was Muslims in Britain; exiles, dissidents and asylum seekers, who were categorized as extremists. . . This shift occurred immediately following September 11th when coverage converged dramatically around three major topics: terrorism, counter terrorism measures and discrimination against Muslims.

The British Muslims which constituted of exiles, dissidents, and asylum seekers have been considered as the extremists since the 9/11. The tragedy did not only affect Americans but also aggravated the lives of innocent British Muslims in its aftermath. Since then, they have

become the perpetual victims of the discriminations and counter-terrorism. Earlier to 9/11 this did not include as a point due to its conceptualization as world struggle zones as British Muslims were not embroiled in psychological militant movement overseas. It was overwhelmingly included of world news around Muslims in spite of the fact that numerous residential stories can be depicted as centering on the conflictual. Post-9/11 the thought that British Muslims were being radicalized overseas accumulated pace and has driven to expanded scope. The Iraq war was too a major theme of scope in connection to British Muslims in 2003 as they were welcomed to comment on occasions and their responses and challenges were detailed on (Poole, 2011). No other event beyond the 9/11 had affected the Muslims in the world as much as they had to suffer in its aftermath especially in terms of ethnic discriminations. The next cause for the aggression expressed in the 9/11 attacks has been the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The support that Israel received from the United States of America angered the Muslims across the world. The relentless military and financial assistance by the US government hurt the religious bond of the Muslims they had with the innocent citizens of Palestine. The suppressed anger was reflected in the 9/11 attacks. The observation of Gaby Semann (2014) is relevant here:

The Palestinian cause provided a unifying terrain for the differently oriented Arab Americans and so did the other events that took place in the Middle East such as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. However, Shain considered that the Palestinian Israeli agreements of the 1990s in addition to other political events that took place within the Arab countries, or between Israel and some Arab countries, have pulled the common rug from under these differently oriented groups and created a new challenge for Arab Americans in redefining their identity and agenda.

The Middle Easterner Israeli strife that begun in 1948 with what got to be known as the Palestinian Cause given a territory to join Middle easterners on one cause and to restore the national character of Middle Easterner Americans hence influenced their encounter Middle Easterner. Americans are still concerned approximately the Palestinian cause and the other occasions taking put within the Middle Easterner nations.

After the September 11, 2001 assaults on the United States, some tended to Middle Easterner American's life and encounters taking after the assaults. In October 2001, Zogby displayed the outcomes about of a survey of Middle Easterner Americans accomplished between October 8 and 10, 2001. The survey commissioned by the Middle Easterner American Organized Establishment (AAIF) had an edge of blunder of +4.5% and appeared that 60% of the 508 overviewed were stressed approximately the long-term impacts of separation against them since of the September 11 assaults (Semaan, 2014). In expansion, it looked as if it were 20% of those overviewed said that they had by and by experienced segregation since of their Middle East American Foundation, but 45% of the respondents stated that they knew somebody that tolerated segregation since the assaults since of Muslim American social background. The nearly half of the youthful Muslim Americans detailed that they had experienced separation since the 9/11.

Conclusion

The paper has explored the history of the edifying and political clash between the Americans and the Muslims. The conflict between these civilizations was intensified by the 9/11 attacks. The implications of the tragedy have been on the Muslims indiscriminately across the world. The clash between Islam and the West is seen as undermining since it is seen as being fueled by hegemonic strengths utilizing innovation as their weapon. In expansion to advanced innovation, the West keeps up financial mastery by having the strengths of globalization. Although the clash subsequently can aggravate the relationship between the Americans and the Muslims, it has provided opportunities to the writers, photographers, novelists and other professionals to represent the event in accordance with their thoughts and perspectives. The article has found out that the conflict between the West and the Muslim World has not been because of the 9/11 attacks only but also because of different political, social and economic interests the West has had for many centuries. Indeed, the 9/11 tragedy has been the visual evidence of the aggression expressed by the marginalized Muslims who could not fight against the West directly even if their nations were encroached and their cultures were demeaned. The clash has been between two different civilizations because of the financial control behind it.

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