

# SECTION 4 The War on Terrorism

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

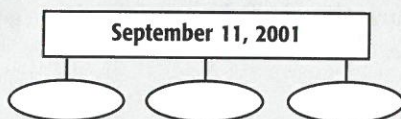
After suffering the worst terrorist attack in its history, the United States launched an effort to fight international terrorism.

### Key Terms

counter-terrorism

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** As you read about America's war on terrorism, complete a diagram like the one below to explain how Americans responded to the events of September 11, 2001.



### Read to Learn

- how Americans responded to terrorism.
- what actions the government took to fight terrorism.

### Section Theme

**Global Connections** The United States called for a worldwide coalition to fight against terrorism.

### Preview of Events



## AN American Story

The first airliner hit the World Trade Center's north tower in New York City at about 8:45 in the morning. Eighteen minutes later, a second plane hit the south tower. Those who died on the airplanes were the first victims. Fire and falling wreckage from the twin towers of the World Trade Center killed thousands more, and hundreds of rescuers—fire fighters, police officers, and volunteers—themselves became victims. "The smoke was so bad, I was suffocating. When the buildings toppled, it was like a volcano," one survivor noted. "We have a lot of heroes," said one firefighter, "and we lost a lot of good people."

The crash of two passenger airplanes into the World Trade Center was not an accident. Early on the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorist hijackers had seized control of the planes, then deliberately flew them into the buildings. Terrorists took control of a third plane and crashed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the nation's Department of Defense. Hijackers also seized a fourth airplane, but passengers heroically attacked the hijackers, causing that plane to crash in Pennsylvania. In all, thousands of people died.





*Terrorist attacks destroyed the World Trade Center (left), one of the nation's economic centers. Three New York City firefighters (right) raise the American flag amid the rubble.*

Many New York City rescue workers who went to help also lost their lives when the towers collapsed. Hundreds of firefighters, police officers, and volunteers gave their lives in the line of duty trying to save others. Among those who died were Fire Department chaplain Mychal Judge and first deputy commissioner William Feehan, a 42-year veteran of the fire department. The largest number of New York City firefighters to have died in a single disaster before the terrorist attack was 12.

## The Terrorist Threat

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were acts of terrorism. Terrorism is the use of violence by groups against civilians to achieve a political goal.

### Who Was Responsible?

Intelligence sources and FBI investigators quickly identified **Osama bin Laden** as the prime suspect. Like most people in the Middle East, bin Laden is a **Muslim**—someone who believes in and practices the religion of Islam. Although the vast majority of the 1 billion Muslims worldwide believe Islam rejects terrorism, militant **fundamentalists** like bin Laden do not. They believe that any action is justified to drive American influence out of the Arab world.

Bin Laden believed that Western ideas had harmed Muslim society. His experience in Afghanistan convinced him that superpowers could be beaten.

### War in Afghanistan

In 1979 the Soviet Union had invaded the nation of **Afghanistan**, in Southwest Asia, to support that nation's pro-communist government.

Muslims from across the Middle East went to Afghanistan to fight against the Soviets. Among them was bin Laden, who came from one of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest families. In 1988, he founded an organization called **al-Qaeda** (al KY•duh), or "the Base." Al-Qaeda recruited Muslims to fight against the Soviets and bought arms for the Afghanistan soldiers. After Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan, bin Laden became a hero to many fundamentalists.

### Terrorist Acts

Operating first from Sudan and then from Afghanistan—then under the control of Muslim fundamentalists known as the **Taliban**—bin Laden led al-Qaeda on a mission to drive Americans and other non-Muslims out of the Middle East. In 1998 terrorist truck bombs exploded at the American embassies in the African countries of **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. The bombs killed more than 200 people, including 12 Americans, and injured over 4,500.



In late 1999, terrorists linked to al-Qaeda were arrested trying to smuggle explosives into the United States in an attempt to bomb targets in Seattle, Washington. In October 2000, terrorists backed by al-Qaeda crashed a boat loaded with explosives into the **USS Cole**, an American warship, while it was refueling in Yemen.

**✓ Reading Check Describing** How did Osama bin Laden become so influential in Afghanistan?

## A New War Begins

Then on September 11, 2001, terrorists struck on an even greater scale. The shock was felt across the nation, and thousands of people sought a way to help.

## The Spirit of America

From coast to coast, thousands attended prayer services and vigils. Across the nation, Americans lined up to donate blood. Others raised money and collected food, blankets, and other supplies for the victims and rescue workers. Firefighters and medical workers from many cities headed to New York to help.

Using a combination of imagination and hard work, young people throughout the nation volunteered to help. Students in Western Springs, a village near Chicago, Illinois, encouraged their entire community to take part in a toys, books, and games garage sale to raise money. Students at a school in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started a project called Working for America. The students worked by doing chores for family and neighbors

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

## Terrorism Against Americans, 1970–2002





## AMERICA'S HEROES



*New York City Fire Department chaplain Mychal Judge, shown here in prayer, was killed while administering last rites to a firefighter.*

*New York City firefighter Tony James salutes during a funeral service.*

*Jessica Malone, who comes from a large family of firefighters, went to New York City to help.*

and donated money they earned to the Red Cross. The South Bronx Job Corps Center put together canine care packages for search and rescue dogs at the World Trade Center site.

### Fair Treatment

Realizing that many people might turn their anger against Muslims in the United States, President Bush visited the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. There he issued a statement explaining that Islam is a peaceful religion. He urged all Americans to uphold the nation's values and treat Muslim Americans fairly.

President Bush created a special fund to help the children of Afghanistan. Many of the children in Afghanistan are orphans and do not have enough to eat. The president asked the

children of the United States to send \$1—or whatever they could—to America's Fund for Afghan Children.

### New Threats

Concern over the use of biological and chemical weapons grew in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. Letters containing deadly anthrax spores were mailed to several political leaders and the news media. **Anthrax** is an animal disease that has existed for tens of thousands of years.

Law enforcement investigated to determine the identity and the motives of the attackers, but so far, no suspects have been identified. Officials do not think al-Qaeda sent the anthrax.

*“In the face of all this evil, we remain strong and united, one nation under God.”* —President George W. Bush



## Protecting America

President Bush and his advisers began planning a response to the terrorist attacks. The president placed the armed forces on high alert. Fighter aircraft began patrolling the skies over major cities. Security at airports was increased, and the FBI began a massive investigation. The president created a new cabinet-level post, **Homeland Security**, to coordinate **counter-terrorism** efforts. Counter-terrorism involves military or political activities intended to combat terrorism. He named Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge as head of the department. 📖 (See pages 978–979 of the Appendix for President Bush’s address to Congress after the attacks.)

The Office of Homeland Security had trouble coordinating counter-terrorism efforts. In June 2002, President Bush asked Congress to combine all of the agencies responsible for the public’s safety into a new department to be called the Department of Homeland Security.

In late October 2001, Congress passed and the president signed into law new measures to combat terrorism. The **USA Patriot Act of 2001** gave federal prosecutors and FBI agents new powers to investigate those who plot or carry out acts of terrorism. The law expanded the power of federal agents to tap telephones and track Internet usage in the hunt for terrorists. It also permits agents to conduct secret searches of a suspect’s home or office without giving prior notice to the owner of the property.

Attorney General **John Ashcroft** promised that government agents would waste no time putting the new tools to use in the hunt for terrorists. Although both houses of Congress passed the bill overwhelmingly, some critics expressed concern that measures could be used not only against suspected terrorists, but people and organizations engaged in lawful activity. To make sure civil liberties were not compromised by the new law, many of its powers will expire in late 2005, unless extended by Congress.

## Building a Coalition

The death and devastation caused by the terrorism affected not only Americans, but also people around the world. World leaders responded with statements of sympathy and outrage. NATO members promised to support the

United States as did other nations including Pakistan, India, Turkey, and Israel. Some Muslim nations, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt, offered more limited support because they feared widespread protests from their people.

## On the Trail of Terrorism

The war against terrorism first concentrated on Afghanistan where bin Laden was reported to be in hiding. The Taliban controlled most of Afghanistan and imposed their religious views on the Afghan people. Taliban leaders had come under criticism for discriminating against women and being intolerant of other religions. Since 1996, when the Taliban captured the Afghan capital, **Kabul**, the main opposition force, the **Northern Alliance**, had battled the Taliban but had made little headway.

President Bush demanded that the Taliban in Afghanistan turn over bin Laden and his supporters. After the Taliban refused, on October 7 the U.S. military attacked Taliban and al-Qaeda forces. Cargo jets also dropped food, medicine, and supplies to the Afghan people.

The air strikes by U.S. warplanes allowed the Northern Alliance to quickly take control of the country. After the Taliban fell from power, the United States and its allies worked with Afghan leaders to create an interim—or temporary—government to run the country. Nations around the world pledged a total of more than four billion dollars to help Afghanistan.

Although the war in Afghanistan was going well, terrorist attacks in South Asia and the Middle East created new problems. In December 2001, terrorists from Kashmir—a region in northern India—attacked India’s parliament. India has fought many wars with Pakistan over Kashmir. India’s leaders blamed Pakistan for the attack on the parliament, and began mobilizing India’s army.

By June 2002, the two nations were ready to go to war. The situation was very dangerous because both sides had nuclear weapons. Although India and Pakistan eventually stepped back from the threat of nuclear war, neither side showed signs of setting aside their arms.

South Asia was not the only region where terrorism created problems. In the Middle East, Palestinian terrorists sent suicide bombers into Israel. These bombers concealed explosives under their





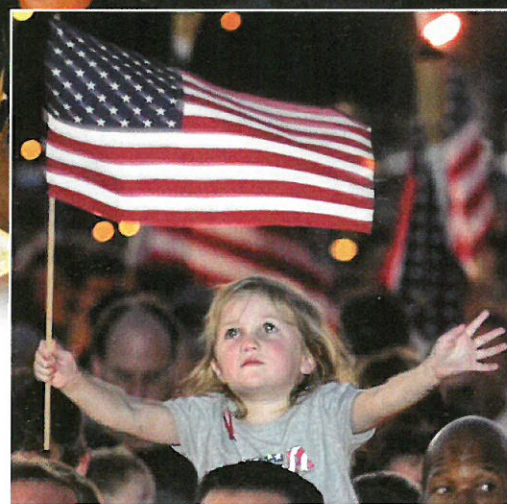
*Americans gathered at parks, churches, and fire stations across the nation to express not only their grief but their patriotism.*

clothing. They detonated the bombs in Israeli restaurants, shops, and buses, killing dozens of other people. After several suicide bombings took place in Israel, the Israeli army invaded several Palestinian cities where they believed the terrorist groups were based.

In response to the violence in the Middle East, President Bush outlined a plan for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He announced his support for the creation of a Palestinian state living in peace beside Israel. He asked Israel to stop raiding Palestinian cities. At the same time, he demanded Palestinian leaders stop terrorist attacks and reform their government to make it more democratic and less corrupt.

### **Continuing the War on Terrorism**

President Bush made it clear that while the war on terrorism would start by targeting al-Qaeda, it would not end there. "It will not end," the president announced, "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." He also warned that the United States would regard "any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism" as an enemy.



The war against terrorism, President Bush warned Americans, would not end quickly, but it was a war the people of the United States were now called to fight:

“Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment. . . . We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.”

### **Widening the War on Terror**

The attacks of September 11, 2001, raised fears that al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups might acquire nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. These **weapons of mass destruction** could kill tens of thousands of people all at once.

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President Bush said his goal was "to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends with weapons of mass destruction." He singled out Iraq, Iran, and North Korea, claiming these



states “and their terrorist allies constitute an axis of evil arming to threaten the peace of the world.”

In October 2002, North Korea, announced that it had restarted its nuclear weapons program. The Bush administration used diplomatic pressure to persuade the North Koreans to stop. However, North Korea warned the U.S. that it would continue to build its nuclear power.

### Confronting Iraq

Iraq’s dictator Saddam Hussein had already ordered the use of chemical weapons twice, once in Iraq’s war against Iran in the 1980s and again against the Kurds, an ethnic minority in northern Iraq who had rebelled against Hussein. After the Gulf War in 1991, UN inspectors found evidence that Iraq had developed biological weapons and was working on a nuclear bomb.

In the summer of 2002, President Bush increased pressure on Iraq. On September 12, he asked the UN to pass a new resolution demanding that Iraq give up its weapons of mass destruction. The president made it clear that the United States would act with or without UN support.

In mid-October, Congress voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq. Then, in early November, the United Nations set a deadline for Iraq to readmit weapons inspectors. It required Iraq to declare all of its weapons of mass destruction, to stop supporting terrorism, and to stop oppressing its people. The resolution threatened Iraq with “serious consequences” if it did not cooperate.

Iraq agreed to allow UN inspectors into the country, but questions arose over whether Iraqi officials were cooperating as they had promised. President Bush argued that the Iraqis were still hiding weapons of mass destruction. The Bush administrations asked the UN Security Council to pass a resolution calling for the use of force in Iraq. When Council members France and Russia said they would veto a resolution, the United States prepared for war.

On March 20, the American military, aided by soldiers from Great Britain, attacked. Over the next six weeks, much of Iraq’s army fell into disarray. American troops quickly seized control of the country. On May 1, President Bush declared the end of major combat operations. About 140 Americans, and several thousand Iraqis, had died.

The controversy over Iraq and the fighting, though, continued. While many Iraqis welcomed the fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime, others did not. U.S. and British troops faced continued attacks. By the fall of 2003, more Americans had died after May 1 than had died in the six weeks of major combat. As American deaths and expenses mounted, President Bush began to seek support from the UN and other countries to rebuild Iraq. Despite the capture of Saddam Hussein in December 2003, the path toward a free and stable Iraq appeared to be long and difficult.

**✓ Reading Check Analyzing** Why did President Bush call for military action against Saddam Hussein’s regime?

## SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

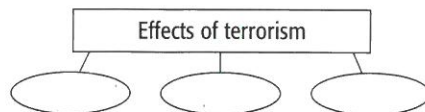
- 1. Key Terms** Define: **counter-terrorism**.
- 2. Reviewing Facts** What happened to the USS *Cole* when it was refueling in Yemen?

### Reviewing Themes

- 3. Global Connections** Do you think the dangers of terrorism require global cooperation? Explain and support your point of view with reasons.

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think President Bush specifically chose to visit the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C.?
- 5. Organizing Information** Use a diagram like the one below to identify what you think are the three major effects of terrorism on Americans.



### Analyzing Visuals

- 6. Geography Skills** Examine the map on terrorism on page 947. How many Americans were taken hostage in Iran? What events on the map took place in the 1990s?

### Interdisciplinary Activity

**Expository Writing** How will world events affect your future? Write an essay entitled “The World’s Future and My Own” identifying important issues and explaining how events could affect your life.