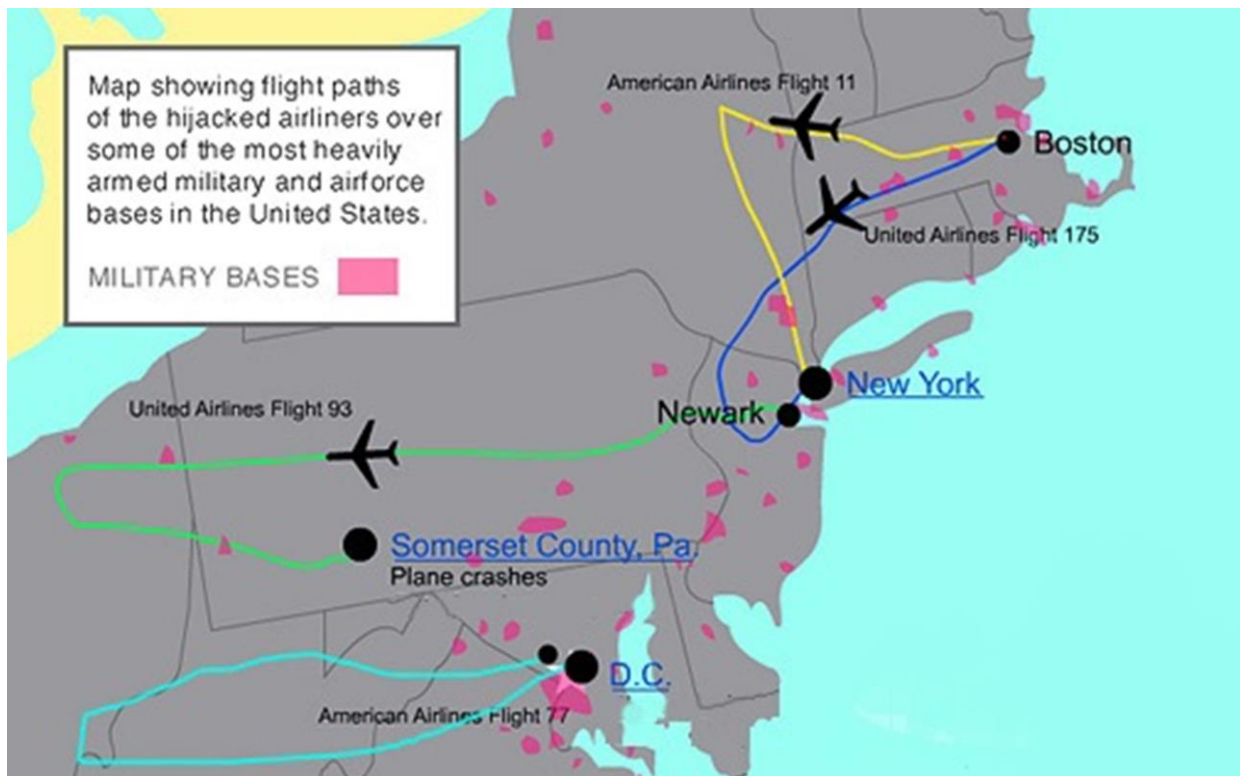

Forum:	The Historical Security Council
Issue:	Handling terrorism after 9/11
Chair:	Lu Huang
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Introduction (September 11th, 2001)

The terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001 contain four coordinated hijackings with subsequent suicide attacks on important civil and military buildings in the United States of America. The events of that day are commonly referred to as 9/11. Three airliners were hijacked on their domestic flights. The perpetrators steered two of them into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City, New York and one into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth plane, which supposedly was meant to crash into a government building in Washington, D.C., was brought down by the passengers and their fight against the hijackers at Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The attacks caused the death of about 3,000 people.

The 19 hijackers belonged to the terrorist organization al-Qaida. In response the United States started the war in Afghanistan in 2001 with the purpose to crush al-Qaeda, to arrest or kill their ex-leader Osama bin Laden and to disempower the allied Taliban regime. They also justified the Iraq war of 2003 with the terrorist attacks.



Source: <http://www.serendipity.li/wot/911-flightpaths/911-flightpaths-bases.htm>(July 18th,2015)

Background Information

The perpetrators

The Federal Bureau Intelligence (FBI) published a list with identified names of the responsible persons on September 13th, 2001 and later photographs and personal data of those 19 hijackers. They all came from wealthy, respected, and rather secular set families and enjoyed an education that qualified them to study abroad. Only there they sought and obtained contacts with radical Islamic preachers who advocated the Jihad against “the West. This ideology contained a belief in a Jewish conspiracy, the image of an imperialist West which continually colonizes and humiliates the Islamic world, and a hatred of global social injustice generated by globalization. They initially did not plan a suicide attack against western countries, but changed their minds after an initial contact with an al-Qaeda member. Their relationship with al-Qaeda and bin Laden was testified by the FBI in 2002 and their investigations continued for many years.

The client

The US government accused Osama bin Laden to have initiated, commissioned and financed the terrorist attacks based on their collected secret evidence. He initially denied any involvement. However the US Army found a videotape in which bin Laden talked about the attack plan with members of his group, called some hijackers by name, praised them and explained that he had not expected the complete collapse of the World Trade Centre buildings. Possible translation errors have been reviewed by US media.

On November 1st, 2004, three days before the re-election of George W. Bush, bin Laden turned to the US population, explaining when and why he came up with the idea of the attacks and that those would be followed by more of their kind, if the United States of America did not change their policy. He had mentioned his main motive to be the United States’ support for Israel and its policies towards Palestinians. With this bin Laden confessed to be the initiator. He was killed on May 2nd, 2011 by US soldiers.

Reactions

In a large, nationally televised memorial service in the Stadium of New York, New York-based representatives of all groups and religions came together in memory of the dead and confirmed each other’s multicultural tolerance as an essential feature of the metropolis New York.

Shortly after the attacks, there were many offers to help the victims: blood donations, free use of a hotel, medical care and medicines for people without proof of residence, rent-free office space for group meetings and many other things. Later, a variety of celebrities had concerts and CDs, whose revenues went to the Funds for the most part, such as 9/11 Families, Children of September 11th and the Children’s Benefit Fund.

In the first days after the attacks hundreds of Muslims, Arabs or Arab-looking and turban wearing people, often Sikhs, were offended in the United States, attacked, threatened and some murdered. Arson attacks were also committed on Islamic institutions. US President

Bush subsequently visited a mosque on 17 September 2001 and condemned the attacks, distinguishing Islam from terrorism and called for tolerance towards Muslim US citizens.

However, the US government took several measures as a reaction to the attacks, along with changes in the domestic legislation, such as the Patriot Act, and war. Further explaining will follow in the next reports.

Key Organisations and Persons Involved

Osama bin Laden

Osama bin Laden (1957-2011) was a Saudi Arabian, stateless since 1994, who was classified as a terrorist. He was the founder and leader of the Islamic group al-Qaida and planned, among other things the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

Bin Laden came from a wealthy Saudi business family and supported the fight of the Mujahideen in the Soviet-Afghan war with money, weapons, training camps and construction projects in the 1980s.

al-Qaeda

Defined as a terrorist group, al-Qaida has been focusing on fighting “the West” and its values, ever since the Second Gulf War of the United States of America against Iraq in 1991 and the subsequent deployment of US military in Saudi Arabia. Its members see the United States of America as the “Great Satan”, which covers the “little Satan”, the State of Israel, in order to oppress the Islamic nation, to divide, exploit its riches and to hinder the spread of the Islam. They claim that the West is dominated by “infidels” and “crusaders” (Jews and Christians). From this they derive the right to haphazardly killing of civilians and citizens of different countries, including Muslims in the United States.

The first attempt to use planes as bombs, by being directed into important buildings by al-Qaida in 1995 had failed. Al-Qaida members have been, along with 9/11, been responsible for several attacks. For example, Bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 and a suicide attack on the warship USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. The United States of America responded with missile attacks on suspected Afghan training camps of al-Qaida in 1998 and bombed the as a by the CIA classified chemical weapon factory Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Sudan. On September 9, 2001 suicide bombers of al-Qaida assassinated the Taliban, which began an offensive against its forces in Afghanistan.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism

Roughly categorized as terrorism are violence and violent actions such as kidnappings, assassinations, bombings, etc. against a political order in order to bring political change. Terror acts as a pressure medium and is mainly supposed to spread insecurity and fear or generate sympathy and support. Terrorism is not a military strategy, but primarily a communication strategy. Although terrorists strive for changes in the existing order, normally

they do not want to occupy space, but the thought of the population and thereby enforce change processes.

There is no generally accepted scientific definition of terrorism, as the United Nations is still not agreeing in this point. Difficulties exist in particular in the distinction between terrorism and political resistance. Typically, people and movements, which are considered as violent by one side, but as legitimate for examples, for resistance fighters, are referred to as terrorists, and vice versa. The various legal definitions of the term, whether in national criminal law of States or in international law, are often controversial for similar reasons.

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

Security Council Resolution 1269

On 19 October 1999 the Security Council drafted a resolution which was to promote international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. After expressing concern at the increasing number of acts of international terrorism, the Council condemned terrorist attacks and called upon states to fully implement anti-terrorist conventions. It was the first time the Security Council had addressed terrorism in a general manner, though it did not define what constituted terrorism.

<<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/303/92/PDF/N9930392.pdf?OpenElement>>

Security Council Resolution 1368

This resolution adopted unanimously on 12 September 2001, after expressing its determination to combat threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism and recognising the right of individual and collective self-defense, the Council condemned the September 11 attacks in the United States.

The Security Council strongly condemned the attacks in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania and regarded the incidents as a threat to international peace and security. It expressed sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and the United States government.

The resolution called on all countries to co-operate in bringing the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of the attacks to justice and that those responsible for supporting or harbouring the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors would be held accountable. The international community was called upon to increase efforts to suppress and prevent terrorist activities through co-operation and implementation of anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 1269 (1999).

Resolution 1368 concluded with the Council expressing its readiness to take steps to respond to the attacks and combat all forms of terrorism in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

<[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1368\(2001\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1368(2001))>

Security Council Resolution 1373

This Resolution called on states to freeze terrorist financing, pass anti-terrorism laws, prevent suspected terrorists from traveling across international borders, and order that asylum seekers be screened for possible terrorist ties. It did this all under the rubric of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, thereby making these dictates binding under international law. According to official records, the Council session that passed this resolution lasted only 3 minutes. There was no formal open debate about this new vision for the Security Council. The resolution passed on September 28, 2011 was among the most radical of all UN resolutions ever considered.

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