Beyond 9/11

How Terrorism Affects the Population of the United States of America

Photo Courtesy of Christopher Bollyn

Melia Summers
Hilltown Cooperative Charter School
Eighth Grade Project
January 7 - June 6, 2014

Opening:

"*I hear a second explosion in World Trade Center 2, then a loud, low-frequency rumble that precipitates the unthinkable -- a collapse of all the floors above the point of explosion. First the top surface, containing the helipad, tips sideways in full view. Then the upper floors fall straight down in a demolition-style implosion, taking all lower floors with it, even those below the point of the explosion.*"-- Neil deGrasse Tyson, eyewitness of the bombing of the World Trade Center.

Thirteen years later, this act of terrorism continues to affect us all, whether it is through the trauma of the incident or through the trauma of loss, the sudden economic crash or the silence that followed. Terrorism deprives those it affects from mental and physical freedom. Primarily, terrorism affects the feeling of safety in the population through instating fear within the people, instating fear for their lives, fear to exert their rights, the fear terrorism brings also causes people to go to extremes to keep themselves and others safe. Terrorism has had a long history and the September 11 attacks has drastically changes the United States of America's perception of acts of terror. In this paper I will explore the history of terrorism and some of its effects and how the September 11 attacks changed our Government's response through: what an act of terror is; the early history of terrorism; terrorism in colonial America; terrorism in antebellum America; how terrorism evolved; and lastly the effects of the September 11 attacks.

Definition:

Experts do not agree on the legal or academic definition of 'terrorism and 'terrorist' (Wikipedia, Definitions of Terrorism). On the seventeenth of November, 1996, the non-legally binding United Nations Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to the UN General Assembly Resolution 51/210, condemned terrorist actions in the hereinafter terms:

1. "Strongly condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. Reiterates that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a

   state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular

   persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever

   the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic,

   religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;" (UN, 51/210 Measures

   to Eliminate International Terrorism).

Defined by former FBI counterterrorism official, David Gomez, when speaking with ABC News, "...an act of terrorism the terrorist must be (attempting) to make a statement to the government or the people." Therefore, Gomez asserted that the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook was not an act of terrorism because Adam Lanza was not attempting to communicate with the people of the government of the United States (Good).

How the United States Government Attempts to Prevent Acts of Terrorism:

There are many ways the United States government attempts to prevent acts of terrorism. According to the Washington Post, the United States government spends about 17.2 billion dollars fighting terrorism through intelligence, in addition to the amount the Department Homeland Security[1] spends fighting terrorism within the borde of the United States-- for example, in the fiscal year of 2012, th Department of Homeland Security spent, in total, 47.4 billion dollars. Reported by the Department of Homeland Security, "since the fiscal year of 2003, the Department of Homeland ha awarded over thirty one billion dollars in preparedness grant funding based on risk to build and sustain targeted capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from threats or acts of terrorism." Moreover, the Department of Homeland Security

---

[1]Image Courtesy of the Department of Homeland Security

attempts to prevent terrorist travel by intensifying airline security for airlines flying into the United States and securing flights. The Department of Homeland Security attempts to prevent acts of terrorism strengthening surface transportation security, global supply chain security, and detection of biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, and by strengthening the protection of critical infrastructure (Department of Homeland Security). According to David Gomez, in the United States of America, bombings are automatically classified acts of terrorism by the Justice Department. Until deemed otherwise, the FBI will handle bombings as terrorism investigations. Moreover, the United States Central Intelligence Agency attempts to prevent national security threats, from other countries. According to Jason McCue in his Ted Talk, "Terrorism is a Failed Brand," education about terrorism is key. Education and dialog can help prevent civilians from financing terrorism, therefore, preventing terrorism (McCue).

Early Terrorism:

It is largely debated who were the first terrorists. Dates vary from the first century to the eleventh century. The first debated terrorist organization were the Jewish Zealots (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism). The Jewish Zealots-- 'zealot' meaning one who is zealous on the behalf of God, in Hebrew Kanai-- were localized in the Jewish Province. Founded in 66 C.E, and disbanded in 76 CE, their goal was to throw out the Romans from the Holy Land by inciting the people of the Jewish Province so they could rebel against the Romans with force (Wikipedia, Zealotry). They killed numerous prominent collaborators with Roman rule (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism). The Jewish Zealots were driving force behind the Great Jewish Revolt-- 66-70 C.E (Wikipedia, Zealotry). Another debated terrorist organization were a sixth century subgroup of the Jewish Zealots, the Sicarii Zealots, or the Dagger Men. This organization was at large directly after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. The Sicarii Zealots aspired rule Judea and attempted to expel the Romans and their supporters. During public events, members concealed daggers underneath their cloaks, made their kill and disappeared into the crowd. A third debated terrorist organization were the Hashshashin (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism). The Hashshashin-- translated from Arabic into The Assassins-- came to power in the eleventh century, about 1050 and disbanded in 1124 C.E (Wikipedia, Assassins). Led by Hassan-i

Sabbah-- a Persian-Muslim scholar and politician during the Golden Age of Islam-- opposer of the Fatimid rule (Wikipedia, Hassan-I Sabbah). Owing to the fact that that Hashshashin forces were small, they resorted to wreak terror by assassination. They assassinated city governors and military commanders across the Persian Empire (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism).

Terrorism in Revolutionary America:

American children are taught that the American Revolution is the story of thirteen colonies overthrowing the tyrannical King George of Britain and Ireland (The American Revolution, People). But did the British government and civilians see the six year war with America differently (U.S History, American Revolution)?

The American forces largely depended on asymmetrical warfare to win the war with the United Kingdom. According to *Google,* asymmetrical warfare is warfare involving surprise attacks, most often against a stronger or a brobdingnagian force. For example, to overcome the British's powerful army, the American Navy attacked British ships and steal their supplies, this act was called privateering (Schultz). *The Oxford University Press* defines privateering as an armed ship sanctioned by the government for use in war, especially in the capture of enemy merchant shipping. American privateers would attack British ships and steal their supplies, keeping the goods for their benefit. According to Jesse Lemisch of George Mason's University, the American Navy greatly depended on this tactic because, "it compensated for their weakness at sea." In addition to privateering, the American forces used guerilla warfare to help them win the war; it was very effective. The figurehead of guerilla warfare in the American Revolution was Francis Marion, also known as the Swamp Fox. Marion's militia used the element of surprise, with great success, to overcome the great size and strength of the British army. Asymmetrical warfare played an immense role in the creation of the United States of America.

Were the actions performed by the American rebels acts of terrorism? Though the word 'terrorist' and 'terrorism' were non-existent, there are parallels between actions of the American rebels and modern terrorism. American forces broke the British code of conduct for military and civil affairs.

There are parallels between what the American government of today and the British government during the American Revolution call terrorists, or as the United Kingdom called it, ones who had 'deviant behavior' (Schultz). Robert Keel defines deviance, as "...a negotiated order. Deviance violates some groups assumptions about reality (social order). It violates expectations." The two main acts of deviance performed by the American forces--guerrilla warfare and privateering of vessels by the American Navy-- are close to the terrorism we are facing today. Privateering resembles the terrorism we are facing today, such as: the attacking of American cargo ships in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean by Somali Pirates (Schultz). During the American Revolution, terrorism affected the population by helping them win the war with the United Kingdom.

How Terrorism Evolved in the Nineteenth Century:

Terrorism took more lives in the nineteenth century because of the expansion of explosives and firearms. Moreover, explosives became more stable, powerful, and affordable, making them more accessible and deadly. (Terrorism Research).

The words 'terrorism' and 'terrorist' were first introduced during the French Revolution in reference to the Reign of Terror performed by the revolutionary government (Terrorism Research). Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the term terrorism was associated with government actions of terror, for example, the French Reign of Terror. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the word terrorism was associated with non-governmental groups of terror, or Anarchism (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism). Anarchism is a political philosophy that promotes stateless societies, or societies that are not governed and have little to no authority. Their ideology holds the state to be harmful, unnecessary, and undesirable (Wikipedia, Anarchism). Anarchism, or rising nationalism, was the most prominent ideology associated with terrorism in the nineteenth century (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism).

Throughout the nineteenth century, terrorists were successful in assassinating government officials in the United States, Russia, France, Spain, and Italy (Terrorism Research). An example of such terror organization is the Narodnya Volya. This organization strived to overthrow the autocratic

regime of the Russian Tsars. The Narodnya Volya-- the People's Will-- were the first group of terror that showed aspects of modern terrorism: clandestine operations, cellular organization; an impatience and inability for the task of organizing the people they claim to represent; and a tendency to increase the level of violence as pressures on the group enlarge. The Narodnya Volya reigned during the late nineteenth century; they held the most power and had their biggest accomplishments in the 1880's. To incite state retribution and to mobilize the populace against the government, the Narodnya Volya used dynamite-paced bombs to kill Russian state officials (Zalman). In the Nineteenth century, terrorism affected the population by aiding rebellions.
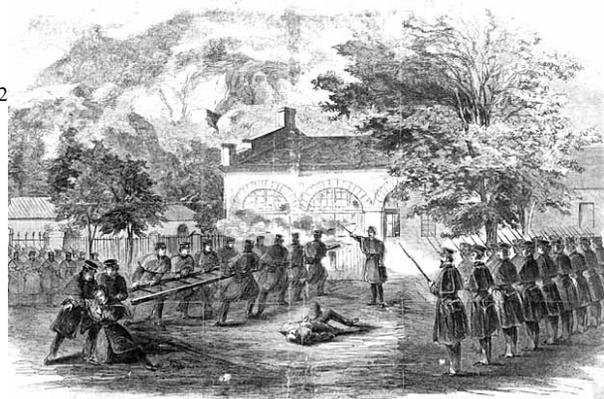
Terrorism in Antebellum America:

On the 23rd of August, 1831, the Governor of Virginia, John B. Floyd received a note from the postmaster of Southampton County, Virginia, James Trezevant. The note stated, that "An insurrection of the slaves had taken place, that several families had been massacred and that is would take a considerable military force to put them down." (The Library of Virginia, Nat Turner's Rebellion). According to *The Confessions of Nat Turner: The Leader of the Late Insurrections in Southampton, Va. As Fully and Voluntarily Made to Thomas R. Gray,* this insurrection of sixty insurgent African American men and boys-- also known as the Southampton Tragedy-- was led by acclaimed prophet and runaway slave, Nathaniel Turner. Turner's rebellion led to the deaths of fifty-five men, women, and children (Lewis). Subsequent to Turner's uprising, Virginian Caucasian slave owners retaliated by slaughtering over 200 African Americans and led national and state governments laws were instituted to limit the activities of free and enslaved African Americans, including the Fugitive Slave Act (The Library of Virginia, Nat Turner's Rebellion).

In October of 1859, a white abolitionist, John Brown, attempted to capture Harper's Ferry[2]

---

[2] Image Courtesy of Wikipedia.

to "...serve as notice to the slaves that their friends had come and as a trumpet, to rally themselves." (Douglass). Otto Scott, in his book *The Secret Six: John Brown and the Abolitionist Movement*, stated that John Brown strived "to force the nation into a new political pattern by creating terror." Captain John Brown and his army of abolitionist insurgents were twenty one men strong when they raided Harper's Ferry-- a United States arsenal in now West Virginia-- in October of 1859. Brown's party of white, freed, and runaway men were defeated by a detachment of the U.S marines led by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Seventeen people were killed: one of the eighty eight Marines; ten of Brown's men; and six civilians. John Brown and six of his men were captured, tried, and executed (Wikipedia, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry).

The actions of John Brown and Nathaniel Turner helped create a barrier between the abolitionists and American civilians. When Brown proposed a raid on Harper's Ferry to abolitionists including Frederick Douglass, Douglass speculated that, "...an attack on the Federal Government... would array the whole country against us [abolitionists]." (Douglass). Furthermore, the actions of Turner led to the United States Congress restricting the rights of free African Americans; for example the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 (Adel). The acts of terror put on by abolitionists in antebellum America hindered the abolitionist movement.

How Terrorism Led to the Civil War:

In the year of 1861, eleven states seceded from the United States of the America, of those states at least three claimed one of the reasons for secession was the lack of protection from the Federal Government from terrorists, or "unnatural and sectional enemies." (The Declarations of Secession of Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas). The *Declaration of the Causes which Impel the State of Texas to Secede from the Federal Union* states one of the reasons for Texas secession from the Federal Union was "...the disloyalty of the Northern States and their citizens and the imbecility of the Federal Government, infamous combinations of incendiaries and outlaws have been permitted in those States and the common territory of Kansas to trample upon the federal laws, to war upon the lives and

property of Southern citizens in that territory, and finally, by violence and mob law, to usurp the possession of the same as exclusively the property of the Northern States." Texas additionally stated that a cause which impelled the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union was the "The Federal Union, while but partially under the control of these our unnatural and sectional enemies, has for years almost entirely failed to protect the lives and property of the people of Texas against the Indian savages on our border, and more recently against the murderous forays of bandits from the neighboring territory of Mexico..." Texas claimed that the Federal Union actively "encouraged and sustained lawless organizations to steal our slaves and prevent their recapture, and have repeatedly murdered Southern citizens while lawfully seeking the rendition." and "...have bestowed praise upon the actors and assassins in these crimes..." Terrorism impelled states of the Federal Union to secede.

The Ku Klux Klan

On the 24th day of December, 1865-- eight months after the American Civil War officially ended-- the Ku Klux Klan was formed (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism). The Ku Klux Klan , or more commonly known as KKK,was formed by six Confederate veterans, residing in Pulaski, Tennessee. The Klan's name most likely refers to the Grecian word 'kuklos' meaning circle or a band of brothers. The KKK lacked organizational structure; many similar groups arose and adopted the same methods, ideology, and name (Wikipedia, Ku Klux Klan). The size of the KKK[3] is questionable, but one founder claimed that that there were 550,000 members nationwide. The Klan strove to restore white supremacy in the United States by targeting freed slaves and their allies with violence, threats, and murder (Wikipedia, History of Terrorism).

___

[3] *Image Courtesy of Wikipedia*

During Reconstruction era America, the KKK assembled to intimidate ones challenging white supremacy by performing attacks upon challengers called lynchings. Lynchings often consitsted of rapes, tar-and-featherings, and other violent acts of hatred (Southern Poverty Law Center, Ku Klux Klan). Through January and November of 1868, the Freedmen's Bureau agents reported 336 cases of assault with the intent to kill or murder on freedmen in the state of Georgia. Furthermore, on March 31 of 1868 Republican organizer, George Ashburn was slaughtered by Klan members and increasing throughout 1868, the KKK threatened and murdered members and supporters of the Republican Party. These acts of terror were designed to keep people from voting for the Republican Party, and this political terrorism was effective; in the 1868 Georgia elections, the Democratic presidential candidate, Horatio Seymour, was in the lead whereas in April of 1868, the Republican gubernatorial candidate carried the state. In some areas of Georgia, the contrast was phenomenal; in Georgian County, Oglethorpe, 1,144 had voted Republican in April, and in November, only 116 people voted Republican when armed Klan members surrounded the polls. Political terrorism went to the extreme in the Georgian county of Columbia, Klan members not only cowed civilians but even intimidated federal soldiers guarding the polls. Political terrorism performed by white supremacy organizations in the state of Georgia quickly led to the "redemption" of Georgia and its return to the Democrats conservative white control by latter 1871 (Bryant). After the American Civil War, white supremacy groups, such as the KKK, kept Southern African Americans from exerting their right to vote and the right life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness through acts of terror.

How Terrorism Evolved in the Twentieth Century:

In the first half of the twentieth century there were two events that significantly influenced the nature of present day terrorism: the World Wars. Both World War I and World War II increased the passions and hopes of nationalists throughout the world, therefore severely damaging the authority of the government and international law. Nationalism intensified throughout the world became a powerful force in the civilians of many colonial empires. Nation such as Nazi Germany became focused on the superiority of religion, ethnicity and race, therefore leading people of said 'lesser' ethnicity or racial

groups to realize nationalist ideas. Many used violence-- terror-- so other nations would realize the great injustices brought upon them (Terrorism Research, Terrorism in the 20th and 21st Century). Acts of terror associated with Nationalism led to the demeaning of members of certain religions, ethnicity, and race. Often, these acts of terror led to the deaths or encampment of ones affiliated with that religion, ethnicity, or race.

It Was Just the Beginning: Al-Qaeda Prior to the September 11 Attacks:

Osama Bin Laden was the master financer of terror for Al-Qaeda. In 1993 the Federal Bureau of Investigation first heard of Bin Laden's rage against America. Bin Laden and his organization of terror, Al-Qaeda plotted to blow up New York landmarks including: the Holland and Lincoln tunnels; 26 Federal Plaza; and the United Nations building (Wright, 3). In August of 1996 Bin Laden declared war on America from a sheltered cave in Afghanistan. Bin Laden claimed that the cause of his proclamation of war was because if the presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia five years after the Persian Gulf War. Bin Laden stated, "Terrorizing you, while you are carrying arms in our land, is a legitimate right and a moral obligation." He even addressed U.S Secretary of Defense, William Perry directly on the subject of his--Bin Laden's--army:

> *"I say to you, William that: ...these youths love death as you love life... these youths will not ask you for explanations they will sing out that there is nothing between us that needs to be explained, there is only killing and neck-smiting."* Bin Laden assumed that he spoke *for all Arabs (Wright, 4). Bin Laden spoke as if the crusades were still happening, he mixed history with present.*

In November of 1996, a Sudanese informer, Jamal al-Fadl, promised to be government's witness if there should be a trial against Osama Bin Laden (Wright, 5). This was the first time the government heard about Al-Qaeda. The interrogators-- an FBI agent, David Coleman, and two American attorneys, Kenneth Karas and Patrick Fitzgerald-- soon learned from their conversations--spanning six or seven hours a day for two weeks-- with Jamal al-Fadl that Al-Qaeda posed a national security threat. In 1996 Al-Qaeda numbers were strong and stretched throughout the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, and Europe; many of Bin Laden's associates had connections to the United States. Moreover, Al-Qaeda was interested in acquiring chemical and nuclear weapons

and was responsible for the attempted murder of American troops in the 1992 Yemen Hotel Bombing. In addition, Al-Qaeda was also responsible for the insurgents who shot down American helicopters in Somalia. By 1996 Al-Qaeda was a worldwide terror organization (Wright, 6).

Speaking on his own initiative, Jamal al-Fadl went into great detail about Al-Qaeda. Jamal al-Fadl described Al-Qaeda sleeper cells and training camps; drew organizational charts and gave names. Questioning after questioning, Jamal al-Fadl's horror story never varied. When Coleman produced Jamal al-Fadl's testimony to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no one seemed particularly interested. His testimony may have been chilling, but how could they corroborate the testimony or a liar furthermore, there were more serious investigations needing the FBI's efforts (Wright, 6). The FBI's indifference indicates that they felt that Al-Qaeda did not pose a significant threat. Al-Qaeda was incapable of perpetuating an attack of such scale that it could completely change the way the United States' government deals with terrorism. Safe from the madman thousands of miles away with his continuously growing army. Bin Laden's proclamation of war was the ranting of an impotent organization. Moreover, it was surmised that there was no way one man could harm the United States of America, the largest superpower of the world. And yet, with hubris in tow, they were so remarkably wrong.

The Attacks on the World Trade Center:

On the eleventh of September, 2001 a disaster struck; the government's worst fears were realized. Osama Bin Laden and his organization of terror, Al-Qaeda had struck like they had never imagined. It was a warm sunny day on the eastern seaboard on September 11 of 2001, when four passenger planes were hijacked by nineteen militants involved with Al-Qaeda. Their mission was to fly these four planes the North and South Towers, the Pentagon, and Washington D.C. (Wikipedia, September 11 Attacks).

At 8:45 American Airlines Boeing 767 Flight 11 flew through the clear morning air and crashed into the New York landmark, the North Tower of the World Trade Center, leaving a burning, gaping
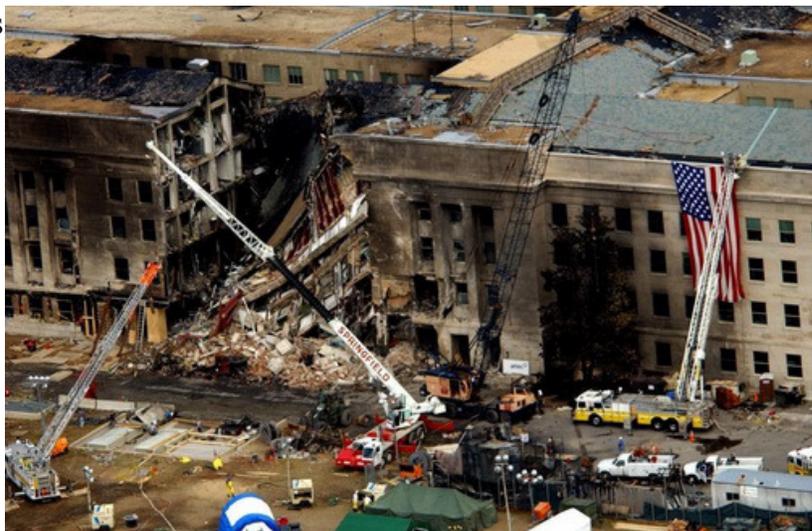
hole near the 80th floor of the 110 story building. Its counterpart was sliced through at the sixtieth floor eighteen minutes subsequent, by a United Airlines Boeing 767 Flight 175. New York casualties totaled to 2,606 civilians, with the deaths of 372 non-American citizens (History.com, 9/11 Attacks).

Photo Courtesy of Sara K. Schwittek

The Attack on the Pentagon:

American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757, departed Dulles International Airport in the District of Columbia at 8:20 A.M with a crew of six, fifty-eight passengers and five hijackers. A total of sixty-our civilians. The last radio communication with American Airlines Flight 77 was over Eastern Kentucky at 8:51 A.M., thirty one minutes into the flight. At 9:37:46 the Pentagon[4] -- the

---

[4]Photo Courtesy of Public Intelligence

headquarters of the United States Department of defense--was hit by an American Airlines Boeing 757 (Pentagon Memorial, 9/11 at the Pentagon). 184 lives were lost (9-11 Research, Pentagon Victims). Victims ageing eight to sixty-nine (Washington Post, 9/11 Victims). John McWethy, who--in 2003-- was ABC News's chief national security correspondent describes his experiences during the attack on the Pentagon in the book *The Media and the War on Terrorism,* McWethy delineated:

"...I felt the jolt in the Pentagon. About a third of the way around is where the aircraft hit, and because of the oblique hit, much of the explosive impact went in one direction around the hallways of the Pentagon. Almost immediately the place was full of smoke and chaos..." John McWethy also recounts in *The Media and the War on Terrorism*, that when he got out of the Pentagon he spoke to two eyewitnesses who saw Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. He ran into a reporter from *USA Today*, the stated that while he was commuting down the highway he observed an American Airlines right above his head. Subsequently, McWethy also reported interviewing a taxicab driver: "...[He] watched it clip off the light poles as it came in low and careened into the side of the building."

United Airlines Flight 93:

At 08:42 in the morning United Airlines Flight 93 departed New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport en route to San Francisco (Wikipedia, September 11 Attacks). The Boeing 757-222 had a crew of seven with thirty-three passengers and four hijackers. The four hijackers overtook the cockpit at approximately 09:28, forty-six minutes into the flight--opposed to the, at most, thirty minutes of Flight 77, Flight 11, and Flight 175. They were described by Jeremy Glick in his to his wife as, "dark-skinned men, wearing red bandanas and wielding knives." At said time, Captain J. Dahl radioed 'mayday' amidst sounds of violence. A Cleveland Air Traffic Controller replied but received no response.

The final thirty minutes of Flight 93 were recorded by the cockpit voice recorder. At 09:31:57 lead hijacker, Ziad Jarrah, was recorded commanding the passengers to stay seated and incited fear by notifying them of a bomb on board. In his call to his wife, Tom Burnett stated that he believed, "the bomb threat was a ruse to control passengers." At 09:39 Jarrah notified the passengers that they were

going to be taken back to the airport and held as hostages. Proceeding that, air traffic controllers lost contact with the Boeing 757-222. From 09:30 to 09:55 passengers and crew made calls to loved ones, the United Airlines maintenance facility, and the 9-1-1 hotline. During the latter part of the flight, Tom Burnett was informed by his wife of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and responded that the hijackers were, "talking about crashing the plane...Oh my God. It's a suicide mission." Subsequently at 09:57, the passengers took part in a vote on whether or not to act. It was agreed upon to 'rush' the cockpit, attempting to impede the revolt pitched the airplane left and right, up and down. At 10:02:23 a hijacker was recorded yelling, "Pull it down! Pull it down!" The Boeing 757-222[5] made its final descent with the yoke turned hard to the right and rolled onto its back. The final recording consisted of the sounds of the continued revolt, prayer, and the sounds of increasingly rapid fall. United Airlines Flight 93 crashed going 593 miles per hour at at a forty degree nose down into an empty field in Stonycreek, Pennsylvania, killing everyone on impact.

To this day there is controversy on the intended target of Flight 93. It is known that Osama Bin Laden had the desire to destroy the Capitol and the White House, in addition to the World Trade Center Towers, and the Pentagon. Furthermore, it is also known that Bin Laden preferred the White House as a target. According to a testimony made by Abu Zubaydah-- captured member of Al-Qaeda-- the White House was the intended target. However, in an interview Khalid Sheikh Mohammed-- member of Al-Qaeda and one of the planners of 9/11--and and Ramzi Bin Al-Shibh-- member of Al-Qaeda and one of the planners of 9/11--mentioned that the Capitol was the intended target of the United Airline's Boeing 757-222 (Wikipedia, United Airlines Flight 93).

Just Sixty Words: the Effects of the September 11 Attacks on the United States Government:

---

[5] Image Courtesy of Ronald L. Ecker

On September 14, 2001, President George W. Bush described the two airplanes crashing into the World Trade Towers as a national tragedy and an apparent terrorist attack and stated, "Terrorism against our nation will not stand." Four days later, the United States government had found a way to fight terrorism, through the Authorization for Use of Military Force. S.J.Res.23-- Authorization for Use of Military Force-- was signed by President Bush, making it public law on September 18, 2001, declaring,

> *"That the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons."*

According to Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich in their episode titled "60 Words" of their podcast, "Radiolab," this single sentence "has defined America for the last twelve years."

These sixty words launched "the longest war in U.S history," a war that has lasted over twelve years and still carries on; The War on Terror. (Abumrad and Krulwich)

As reported by Radiolab, the day after the worst attack on American soil, lawyer Timothy Flanagan was instructed to find a way for the United States to declare war and whom to declare war upon. Flanagan was acting upon the orders of President W. Bush who wanted to act with Congressional approval to project unity. President W. Bush, acting as Commander in Chief had the power to defend his country, but only Congress had the power to declare war, therefore, to declare war President W. Bush and Congress had to stand to stand as one (Abumrad and Krulwich). The one complication for Flanagan, was that no country had declared war since World War II, when on the fourth of June of 1942, the United States Senate unanimously declared war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and

Romania. (United States Senate). The modern day declaration of war is 'the authorization to use military force.' The Authorization to Use Military Force passed with only one 'nay' from Democratic Representative to California, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (Final Vote Results for Roll Call 342).

According to Radiolab, the Authorization for Use of Military Force has "..led to the madness we live in today." The Authorization for Use of Military Force "...is the legal foundation for everything the U.S has done; everything from Guantanamo Bay to drone strikes, to secret renditions, to seal raids, it's all been hung off these sixty words."

The Homeland Security Advisory System:

The Homeland Security Advisory System[6] was a color-coded terrorism advisory scale, implemented by Tom Ridge-- Assistant to the Homeland Security System--on the eleventh of March, 2002 in response to the September 11 attacks. Created by Homeland Security Presidential Directive fi and eight, the Homeland Security terrorism threat levels were supposed to provide, a "...comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and to the American people. Actions underneath this system have led to government sanctioned increase of armed patrols, a more rigorous monitorin of international borders, an increase in emergency personal, and an increase of employment of members of National and State Guard to assist local law enforcement on security details. However, the Homeland Security Advisory System has instituted fear within civilians throughout the United States and in certain cases, actions taken by the government under the Homeland Security Advisory System have been questioned to be illegal under the Fourth Amendment to the

---

[6] Image courtesy of Wired.

United States of America's Constitution (Wikipedia, Homeland Security Advisory System).

Conclusion:

Throughout time, terrorism has affected our perception of safety, for it targets our identity, our religion, or race, our politics, and our ideology. In this paper I have explored how terrorism affected the United States of America citizen's perception of safety through studying what an act of terror is, the early history of terrorism, terrorism in colonial America, terrorism in antebellum America, how terrorism evolved, and lastly the effects of the September 11 attacks. I have concluded that terrorism affects the feeling of safety in the population through instating fear within the people. Terrorism incites fear in many forms. It instigates fear for life and fear in turn suppresses the population to exert their rights. The fear terrorism produces causes the populace and the government to go to extremes to keep themselves and others safe. In the coming years, the United States' government needs to balance the war on terror so another war will not be launched that is tantamount to the Afghanistan War. Furthermore, is it plausible, to not anticipate an attack on the government and instead be prepared for one? Is it plausible to live in a world where justice upon Al-Qaeda is no longer sought?

> *"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children." - President George W. Bush*
>
> *"The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic, and religious freedom, the rule of law and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom." - Rudolph Giuliani*

Photo Courtesy of Mike Goldberg.