

Foreword: a Synopsis

In *The War on Freedom*, brilliant British scholar Nafeez M. Ahmed writes with cool, factual understatement a story that begs comprehension: *compelling evidence that the U.S. government instigates terrorism as the perfect pretext to justify an aggressive foreign policy—up to and including the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.* Astonishing as his thesis may seem, the thoughtful reader will find that it explains many obvious puzzles:

- How could our intelligence services fail to thwart such an ambitious project as 9/11?
- Why did our government immediately point the finger at Bin Laden, yet refuse to release the evidence? Were they loath to reveal their complicity, if they had been monitoring the ‘Boeing Bombing’ plot all along, and let it happen?
- Why did the White House ram through legal measures immediately after the attacks that essentially repeal the Bill of Rights and the Freedom of Information Act?

Ahmed’s extensive research also brings to light some less well-known puzzles. Isn’t it strange that:

- An investment from the bin Laden family started George Bush Jr. in business, and the war in Afghanistan will make the Bush family richer.
- The activities of a former U.S. Army Sergeant who trained Al-Qaeda and participated in the Embassy bombings suggest that the U.S. continues to protect bin Laden as a strategic asset.
- Members of Al-Qaeda were trained in terrorism by the CIA in the USA, and the hijackers themselves were trained by the U.S. military.
- The U.S. financially supported the Pakistani secret services, which funded presumed hijacker Mohammed Atta.
- A crescendo of warnings from intelligence services around the world in early September were selectively ignored, while high-level orders were issued to block investigations of suspected terrorists linked to Bin Laden.
- Three FBI officers testified that they had known the names of the hijackers and the date of the planned attack weeks before it happened, but were muzzled by superiors under threat of prosecution; their counsel was the U.S. Congress’ chief prosecutor in the Clinton impeachment case.
- Standard operating procedure is for Air Force fighters to intercept hijacked planes immediately, but this was not done until it was all over

on September 11, an hour and a half after the World Trade Center was hit.

- Intelligence experts deride the possibility that Bin Laden could have carried out such sophisticated, precise attacks without the support of a state-run intelligence organization.

Bin Laden got away, and the war on him remains an open-ended campaign, justifying any presidential policy, from attacking Iraq to plundering Social Security.

Loyal, law-abiding American readers may find all this too difficult to believe. We are taught certain civic values, and we believe our democratically elected government upholds them. Yet, even General Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us against the military-industrial complex...

How and why could the American presidency in effect wreak terror on its own citizens? The WTC attack, widely considered epoch-making, was certainly an immense opener for the war and oil lobbies, and for the projection of naked power. Ahmed unveils the linkages between the Bush, Cheney, Saudi, and Iraqi oil fortunes, as well as the shared anti-Soviet geopolitics of the CIA and the Islamic mujahideen in Central Asia.

How much of U.S. history and foreign policy has been made by manufacturing a pretext to attack a weaker enemy? Ahmed answers the question here in reference to the Afghan war, as he has earlier in a series of brilliant articles on U.S. intervention in Latin America and other regions (see <http://nafeez.mediamonitors.net>.)

I am not an historian by trade, but I remember not only the Alamo, but the Maine, which we found out 100 years later the Spanish didn't blow up; our intercession in WWI, from which Europe never recovered; and how FDR invited the Japanese to demolish our navy at Pearl Harbor. Isn't it time to investigate this subversive government within a government, the war party with its ruthless secret services?

People around the world are saying they like America and Americans—it's our government they can't stand. Yet it is *our* civic responsibility to keep an eye on it, and not hide our heads in the sand of so-called patriotism.

God willing, Ahmed's call for an investigation will be heard and the evidence he has so diligently gathered will be examined. If his thesis is proved right, then the September 11 attacks will truly be epoch-making for freedom and democracy.

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