

## United States History Assessment: Global Terrorism

### Table of Contents

Content:	Page:
Instructor Directions	1-3
Student Directions	4-5
Scoring Rubric	6
Press Release Printable Template	7-8
Press Release PDF Form	9
Primary Source Collection	10-21

United States History Assessment: Taking Action on Terrorism	
<b>Academic Standards for U.S. History</b>	Content Standards: 6.6, 7.2 Process and Literacy Standards: 1.A.2, 1.B.6, 1.C.9, 2.B.4, 2.C.7, 2.C.8, 2.C.9, 2.D.10
<b>Compelling/Essential Question</b>	What responsibility does the United States owe to protect its citizens and preserve world peace?
<b>Supporting Question(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is foreign policy determined and implemented in a democratic society?</li> <li>What policies should the government use to combat the threat of terrorism?</li> </ul>
<b>Historical Context</b>	Since the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001 on New York City, public attention has focused on the growth of global terrorism and its threat to international and domestic security, as well as domestic safety. As terrorist activities continue, how should our leaders forge future foreign policy in order to meet their Constitutional duty to “insure domestic tranquility”?
<b>Background Reflection</b>	What action(s) should our government take in order to not merely protect American citizens but to assure global peace and security in the modern age of terrorism? Use the political cartoon found in the appendix to this assessment. Do you agree with the artist’s message? Why or why not?
<b>Assessment for Learning (Formative Performance Task)</b>	The student will research a collection of historic and contemporary primary sources and develop a course of action in the form of a White House Press Release to address the threat of global terrorism.
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access (online or printed) to collection of historic and contemporary primary sources (written documents, photographs, political cartoons) included in this assessment.</li> <li>White House Press Release template (included in this assessment and available online).</li> <li>Access to internet resources for background knowledge regarding terrorism, the role of the United Nations, and foreign policy options (<i>available online; optional classroom exercise</i>).</li> <li>Rubric for evaluation (included in this assessment and available online).</li> </ul>

<b>Student Task</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will serve as the White House Press Secretary to the President of the United States.</li> <li>Your task is to investigate the historical and current regional and world crisis created by the growing threat of terrorism.</li> <li>Read the primary sources, both historical and contemporary, to gain a better understanding of the problem of terrorism.</li> <li>You will select one source from each of the five groups of sources (<i>see Appendix</i>) to use in your task.</li> <li>Following your analysis of the primary sources, develop a policy statement on behalf of the president. Your recommendation will take the form of a White House Press Release announcing the course of action that the president will pursue.</li> <li>Use the template provided in this assessment to compose your policy recommendation. Be sure to cite each of the five sources you will use as historical examples. (<i>Citations will merely need the title of the primary source and author, if provided.</i>)</li> </ol>
---------------------	--

## INSTRUCTOR

<b>Instructor's Notes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide students with a paper copy or digital access to the set of documents to be analyzed.</li><li>2. Optional Resources are available to students, per teacher's discretion, at the URL above. Such resources include presentations defining terrorism, an overview of basic responses to foreign crises, and news updates from the Council on Foreign Relations. <i>(These resources can supplement classroom investigations but are not required to fulfill the expectations of this assessment.)</i></li><li>3. Students should be encouraged to use common strategies for analyzing primary sources. For example, the National Archives and Records Administration offers excellent templates, online and printable, for a wide variety of sources at <a href="https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets">https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets</a></li><li>4. Provide students with paper copies of the template or link to online White House Press Release. Review with students the components required in this template.</li><li>5. Use the provided rubric to evaluate student research and application of historic understanding, as reflected in their policy recommendations.</li></ol>
---------------------------	--

### Suggested Modifications for English Learner (EL) Students

Students with an IEP or limited English language skills may be given a limited number of primary sources to analyze, as well as the opportunity to verbally explain their foreign policy recommendation.

## Primary Source Collection

### Group A:

Blast Hits Trade Center, New York City 1993 Attack, N.Y. Times, February 27, 1993  
Trade Center Verdict: Yousef Guilty, N.Y. Times, November 13, 1997

### Group B:

U.S. Attacked, NYC 9-11, N.Y. Times, September 12, 2001  
Still Standing, cartoon by Mike Ritter, East Valley Tribune, September 12, 2001  
Bin Laden's Spectacular Miscalculation, CNN News, September 12, 2016

### Group C:

Public Opinion on the Patriot Act, Gallup Poll, August, 2003 |  
Civil Liberties cartoon, Steve Sack, Star Tribune, September 12, 2003  
Boston Bomber Convicted, NBC News, May 5, 2015

### Group D:

A Look at Dangers Posed by the Islamic State, Associated Press  
What is the Islamic State, Council on Foreign Relations, November 16, 2015

### Group E:

Statement by President Obama on Paris, November 13, 2015  
France, Russia Pummel ISIS: Airstrikes, Fox News, November 17, 2015

## Appendix

### Background Reflection:

- What action(s) should our government take in order to not merely protect American citizens, but to assure global peace and security in the modern age of terrorism?
- Do you agree with the artist's message? Why or why not?



*Steve Benson, The Republic, November 15, 2015*

United States History Assessment: Taking Action on Terrorism	
<b>Compelling/Essential Question</b>	What responsibility does the United States owe to protect its citizens and preserve peace?
<b>Supporting Question(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is foreign policy determined and implemented in a democratic society?</li> <li>• What policies should the government use to combat the threat of terrorism?</li> </ul>
<b>Background Reflection</b>	<p><i>Use the political cartoon below to reflect upon these questions:</i></p> <p>What action(s) should our government take in order to not merely protect American citizens, but to assure global peace and security in the modern age of terrorism?</p> <p>Do you agree with the artist's message? Why or why not?</p>

<b>Student Task</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You will serve as the White House Press Secretary to the President of the United States.</li> <li>2. Your task is to investigate the historical and current regional and world crisis created by the growing threat of terrorism.</li> <li>3. Read the primary sources, both historical and contemporary, to gain a better understanding of the problem of terrorism.</li> <li>4. You will select one source from each of the five groups of sources (see Appendix) to use as historical examples of the threat and effect of terrorism.</li> <li>5. Following your analysis of the primary sources, you will develop a policy statement on behalf of the President of the United States. Your recommendation will take the form of a White House Press Release announcing the course of action that the president will pursue.</li> <li>6. Use the template provided in this assessment to compose your policy recommendation. Be sure to cite each of the five sources you will use as historical examples. (Citations will merely need the title of the primary source and author, if provided.)</li> </ol>
---------------------	--

### Primary Source Collection

#### Group A:

Blast Hits Trade Center, New York City 1993 Attack, N.Y. Times, February 27, 1993

Trade Center Verdict: Yousef Guilty, N.Y. Times, November 13, 1997

#### Group B:

U.S. Attacked, NYC 9-11, N.Y. Times, September 12, 2001

Still Standing, cartoon by Mike Ritter, East Valley Tribune, September 12, 2001

Bin Laden's Spectacular Miscalculation, CNN News, September 12, 2016

#### Group C:

Public Opinion on the Patriot Act, Gallup Poll, August, 2003

Civil Liberties cartoon, Steve Sack, Star Tribune, September 12, 2003

Boston Bomber Convicted, NBC News, May 5, 2015

#### Group D:

A Look at Dangers Posed by the Islamic State, Associated Press

What is the Islamic State, Council on Foreign Relations, November 16, 2015

#### Group E:

Statement by President Obama on Paris, November 13, 2015

France, Russia Pummel ISIS: Airstrikes, Fox News, November 17, 2015

## Appendix

### Background Reflection

- What action(s) should our government take in order to not merely protect American citizens, but to assure global peace and security in the modern age of terrorism?
- Do you agree with the artist's message? Why or why not?



*Steve Benson, The Republic, November 15, 2015*



**Rubric: United States History Assessment -- Terrorism**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:	Score: 0 Unsatisfactory	Score: 1 Developing	Score: 2 Approaching	Score: 3 Meets Expectations	Student Score:
Task Requirements	No components are completed	Less than half of components are completed	Majority of components are completed	All components are fully completed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Selected and cited historical primary sources from appropriate groupings (5)</li><li>Summaries (3) of historical examples of terrorism</li><li>Description of past course of action (1)</li><li>Proposed course of action (1)</li></ul>				
<b>Oklahoma Academic Content Standards:</b> <i>The student will examine contemporary challenges and successes in meeting the needs of the American citizen and society, 2002 to the present.</i> <i>1. Cite specific textual and visual evidence to assess the causes, conduct, and consequences of the United States. . . including the efforts to counter and combat terrorism. . .</i>					
Historical Accuracy	Contains numerous major factual errors or no facts at all	Contains some major factual errors	Contains minor factual errors	Contains no factual errors	
Historical Understanding	Demonstrates significant misunderstandings reflecting poor depth of knowledge	Demonstrates some misunderstandings and lacks depth of historical knowledge	Demonstrates minor misunderstandings but generally good depth of knowledge	Demonstrates clear understandings of history and superior depth of knowledge	
Application of Historical Evidence	No descriptions of examples are clear and/or the proposed course of action is illogical	One to two descriptions of examples are coherent, and the proposed course of action is plausible	Three to four descriptions of examples are clear, and the proposed course of action is practical	All descriptions of examples are clear and coherent, and the proposed course of action directly addresses the problem	
Overall Quality of Authentic Product	Shows no logical reasoning or cohesion to answer the essential question	Shows limited logical reasoning or cohesion to answer the essential question	Shows adequate logical reasoning and cohesion to answer the essential question	Shows strong logical reasoning and cohesion to address the essential and/or supporting questions.	
Total Score for all Criteria:					

- Score 0 indicates unsatisfactory and/or incomplete work by the student.
- Score 1 indicates that the student's work demonstrates developing skills, yet falls short of a satisfactory level of mastery.
- Score 2 indicates that the student's work is approaching fulfillment of all requirements and demonstrates good quality.
- Score 3 indicates full completion of all requirements and may indicate a quality of work that exceeds expectations.



## WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE

From the Office of the President of the United States

### Historical Background of the Situation:

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize one historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available)*

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize a second historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize a third historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*



*Using a fourth primary source, describe the ongoing threat terrorism poses to domestic and/or international security. (Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

*Using a fifth primary source, describe one course of action taken by the United States to respond to terrorist activities. (Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

**Proposed Solution:**

*State the new course of action the President of the United States will pursue. Explain how this course of action will work to combat terrorism and protect American citizens at home or abroad.*



## WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE

From the Office of the President of the United States

### Historical Background of the Situation:

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize one historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available)*

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize a second historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

*Using one of the primary sources, summarize a third historical example of the cause or effect of terrorism.*

*(Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

*Using a fourth primary source, describe the ongoing threat terrorism poses to domestic and/or international security. (Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

*Using a fifth primary source, describe one course of action taken by the United States to respond to terrorist activities. (Cite the primary source, title and author only, if available.)*

**Proposed Solution:**

*State the new course of action the President of the United States will pursue. Explain how this course of action will work to combat terrorism and protect American citizens at home or abroad.*

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

New York, Friday, 1993 windy, mostly  
clear. Lows in the city: High  
10. Tonight, clear. Low 22. Tomorrow,  
mostly sunny, 68-72. High 16. Wednes-  
day, high 17, low 21. Details, page 24

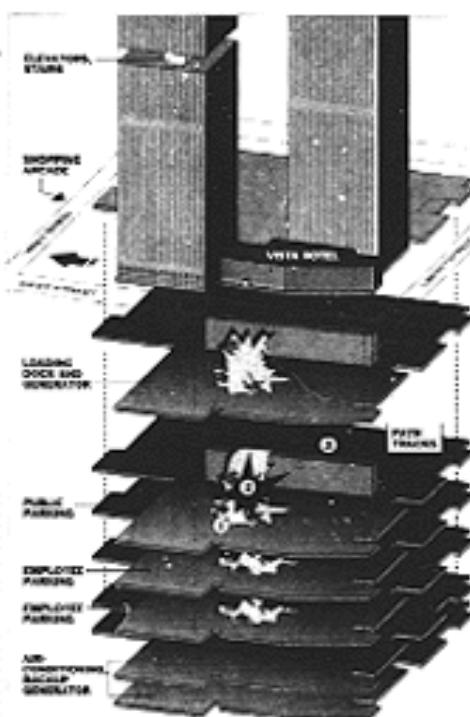
VOLUME 111, No. 49,355

Copyright © 1993 The New York Times

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1993

50 CENTS

## BLAST HITS TRADE CENTER, BOMB SUSPECTED; 5 KILLED, THOUSANDS FLEE SMOKE IN TOWERS



1 The blast occurred in a parking garage on the second level of the north tower, between the north and south towers.

2 A car was a 200- to 300-foot distance from the blast. The car was a 1991 Ford Taurus, and it was a 1991 Ford Taurus.

3 Carcinogens and other pollutants from the blast were carried by the wind to the south tower, and damaged lower levels.

This drawing is a schematic and is based on information from witnesses and police at the scene.

### Many Are Trapped for Hours In Darkness and Confusion

An explosion apparently caused by a car bomb in an underground garage shook the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan with the force of a small earthquake shortly after noon yesterday, collapsing walls and floors, igniting fires and plunging the city's largest building complex into a maelstrom of smoke, darkness and fearful chaos.

The police said the blast killed at least five people and left more than 650 others injured, mostly with smoke inhalation or minor burns, but dozens with cuts, bruises, broken bones or serious burns. The police said 476 were treated at hospitals and the rest by rescue and medical crews at the scene.

New York Times, February 27, 1993

## ***THE TRADE CENTER VERDICT: THE OVERVIEW; 'MASTERMIND' AND DRIVER FOUND GUILTY IN 1993 PLOT TO BLOW UP TRADE CENTER***

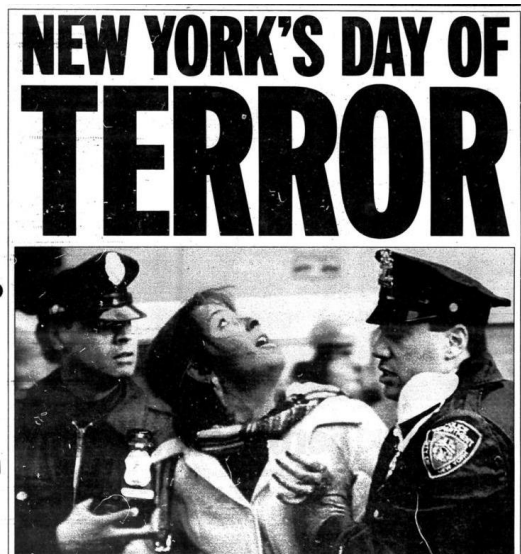
By BENJAMIN WEISER, New York Times, NOV. 13, 1997

Concluding what is likely to be the final major trial in the calamitous explosion at the World Trade Center in 1993, a Federal jury in Manhattan yesterday convicted Ramzi Ahmed Yousef of directing and helping carry out the deadly bomb plot to punish the United States for its support of Israel.

After deliberating for three days, the jury also convicted a second man, Eyad Ismoil, whom prosecutors had accused of driving the yellow Ryder van that carried the bomb into the Trade Center's underground garage. Both men fled the country on the night of the bombing, one of the deadliest acts of terrorism ever committed on American soil. The bombing caused six deaths, hundreds of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage, and it forever changed the way many Americans viewed their security.

Afterward, Federal and city police officials stood on the steps of the Federal courthouse, proudly declaring that the verdict affirmed that terrorism would not be tolerated, but cautioning that there were still strands in the case that would be followed, including a search for a fugitive who prosecutors have said mixed the chemicals for the bomb in an apartment in Jersey City.

Building on evidence, prosecutors were able to augment their case against Yousef with crucial new testimony. A United States Secret Service agent, Brian Parr, told jurors that Yousef gave a detailed account of his role in the bomb plot, even bragging about it while being flown back to the United States after his arrest in Pakistan in 1995.



# U.S. ATTACKED

## *HIJACKED JETS DESTROY TWIN TOWERS AND HIT PENTAGON IN DAY OF TERROR*



The United States was plunged into a state of war yesterday by an enemy it could not see. Unlike other conflicts in which the US has engaged, there were no klaxons this time, no air raid sirens, no open declaration of hostilities, no ultimatum, nor any prior expression of intent. This was no mere car bombing, no sneak attack on a U.S. warship or embassy, nor a lone gunman's targeting of an American diplomat or businessman. Yesterday's offensive was simply unparalleled. It came, without a trace of a warning, on multiple targets chosen for their paramount symbolic value, and was clearly, pitilessly designed to cause the maximum damage, the highest possible number of casualties, and the greatest achievable degree of terror.

Last May, Mr Bush placed his vice- president, Dick Cheney, in personal charge of counter-terrorism efforts in the US mainland and created a new national agency, the National Preparedness Office, to coordinate federal emergency responses and intelligence-gathering. The F.B.I., the C.I.A., the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency already command vast budgets and deploy enormous resources to keep track of potential threats. But yesterday, none of this worked.

New York Times, September 12, 2001





## 9/11: Osama bin Laden's Spectacular Miscalculation

by Peter Bergen, CNN News, September 12, 2016

Like the attack on Pearl Harbor, another hinge event in American history, 9/11 was a great tactical victory for America's enemies. But in both these cases the tactical success of the attacks was not matched by strategic victories.

Al Qaeda's attacks coming out of the azure-blue sky 15 years ago, on Tuesday morning September 11, 2001, were a great shock to Americans and to much of the world: Almost 3,000 dead; many hundreds of billions of dollars of damage to the US economy, and the shock of the world's only superpower being taken on by a relatively small terrorist group, al Qaeda.

Osama bin Laden fervently hoped that attacking the United States would create pressure on American leaders to reduce their support for Middle Eastern regimes. In particular, bin Laden wanted to put pressure on the United States to pull its troops out of Saudi Arabia. Indeed, bin Laden's principal political goal was to overthrow the Saudi royal family. Two months later the Taliban was completely routed from Afghanistan and within another couple of weeks those key members of al Qaeda who had survived the intense American airstrikes were fleeing to neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

Bin Laden disastrously misjudged the likely American response to the 9/11 attacks because he labored under the delusion that the United States was weak. In his first television interview on CNN in 1997, bin Laden claimed the United States was a paper tiger, pointing to the American withdrawals from Vietnam in the early 1970s. In the years after the 9/11 attacks the United States not only did not reduce its influence in the Middle East, but it also established or added to massive bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. And, of course, it also occupied both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since 9/11 the C.I.A. has eliminated many dozens of al Qaeda's leaders in drone strikes. The CIA also provided the leads that eventually led to the death of bin Laden, when US Navy SEALs raided his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

### Public Opinion on the Patriot Act

**Should the government take all steps necessary to prevent additional acts of terrorism in the U.S. even if it means your basic civil liberties would be violated?**

**Or should the government take steps to prevent additional acts of terrorism but not if those steps would violate your basic civil liberties?**

	Aug. 2003	Jan. 2002
Take steps, even if civil liberties violated	29%	47%
Take steps but not violate civil liberties	67%	49%
No opinion	4%	4%

**Do you think the Bush administration has gone too far, has been about right, or has not gone far enough in restricting people's civil liberties in order to fight terrorism?**

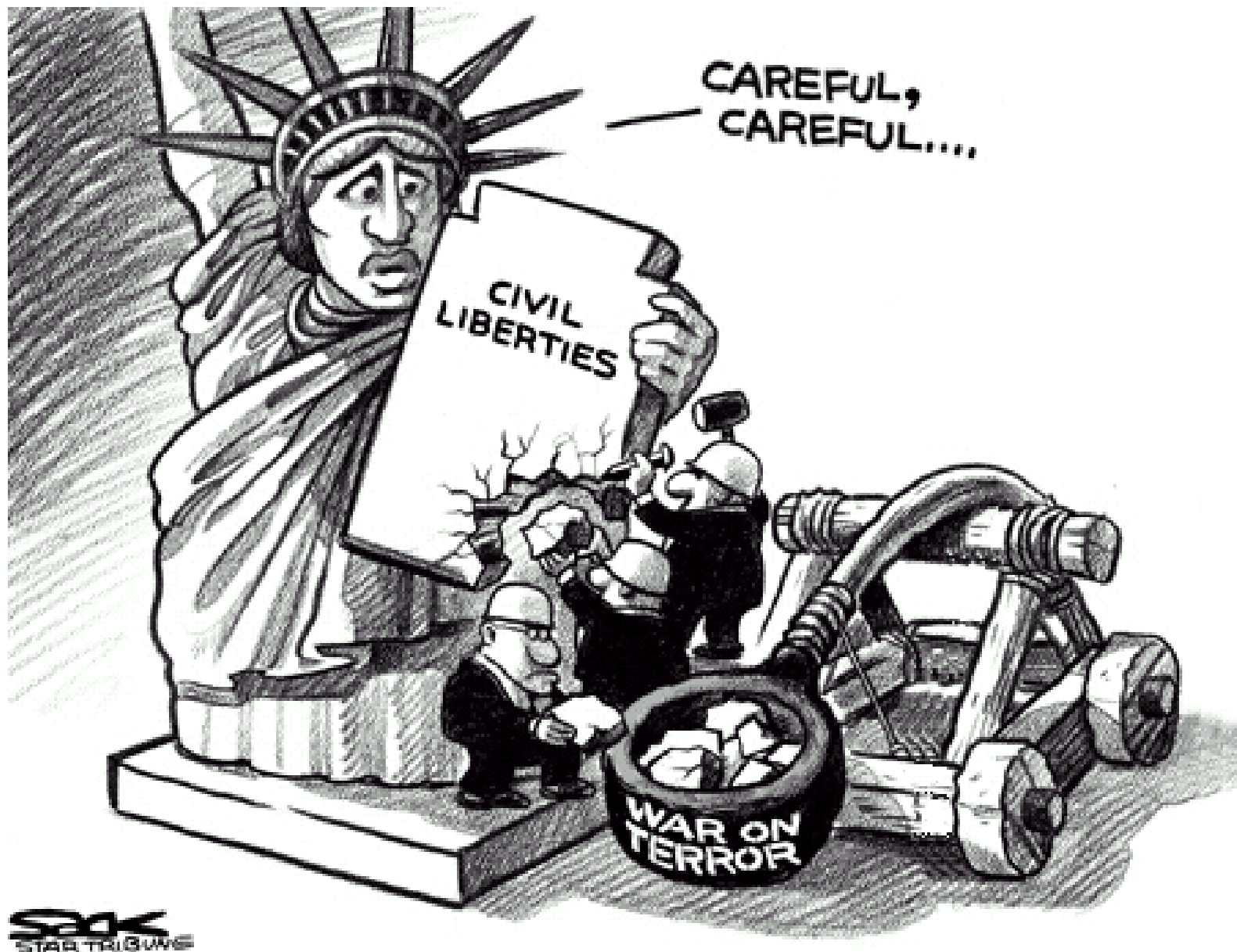
	Aug. 2003	Jun. 2002
Too far	21%	11%
About right	55%	60%
Not far enough	19%	25%
No opinion	5%	4%

**How familiar are you with the Patriot Act: very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar?**

Very familiar	10%
Somewhat familiar	40%
Not too familiar	25%
Not at all familiar	25%
No opinion	-

(Aug. 2003)

Source: The Gallup Organization



Steve Sack, Star Tribune, September 12, 2003

A jury in Boston voted to execute Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, refuting his lawyers' argument that he was pulled into the plot by his radicalized Muslim older brother and overcoming Massachusetts' popular opposition to the death penalty. Tsarnaev said nothing when the verdict was announced . . . . He remained expressionless as U.S. District Judge George O'Toole thanked members of the jury, some of whom wept.

Tsarnaev will likely end up at the U.S. Bureau of Prison's death row, where he is expected to embark on an appeals process that could last years before he is finally killed by lethal injection. But in the short term, the sentence closes a major chapter in Boston's recovery from the April 15, 2013 bombing, in which twin blasts rocked the race's crowded downtown finish line, killing three spectators, injuring more than 260 others, and inflicting a grievous psychological wound on one of America's oldest cities.

The explosions, on a local holiday marking the opening battles of the Revolutionary War, were the worst act of terror on American soil since 9/11. U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, who prosecuted Tsarnaev, said the trial sent a message that America gives a fair shot at justice for its worst criminals, terrorists included. "Today is not a day for celebration," she said.

The verdict was delivered by the same jury that convicted Tsarnaev of all 30 criminal counts against him, including the killing of a police officer and a shootout with police in which Tsarnaev's co-conspirator older brother was killed. The jury agreed on death for six of the death penalty counts, which focused on Tsarnaev's detonation of a pressure-cooker bomb that killed Martin Richard and Chinese graduate student Lingzi Lu.

*by Andy Thibault, Tom Winter and Jon Schuppe, NBC News, May 5, 2015*

## **A Look at Dangers Posed by the Islamic State Group**

The Islamic State militant group that has taken over large parts of Syria and Iraq poses one of the most significant threats to stability in the Middle East. The Islamic State group rules over a population of several million people with its strict interpretation of Islamic law. It also controls many of the roads linking the communities it has conquered—although much of the territory in between is sparsely populated. It claims thousands of heavily armed fighters, and has set up its own civil governments and courts. “It acts as a state in areas that don’t have a state at the moment. It’s effective because it provides services, it has a military presence, it speaks as a state,” said Hassan Hassan, an analyst in the Middle East. In propaganda videos, the group lays out ambitious plans that include targets such as Islam’s holiest city of Mecca, as well as European and American cities.

### **What resources does the Islamic State group have?**

The Islamic State group controls oil fields, power plants, dams, and factories in both Iraq and Syria. Charles Lister, an analyst who closely tracks jihadist groups, estimates the group is capable of bringing in some \$2 million a day just from the sale of oil. The group has long generated cash too from extortion and kidnapping. Militarily, the group has seized heavy weaponry, including tanks and surface-to-surface missiles, from Iraqi and Syrian forces.

### **What danger does having the Islamic State group pose in the Arab world ?**

The world has seen the risk of allowing a state sympathize with Islamic extremists exist before. Al-Qaida was able to flourish and plot the Sept 11th attacks because it had a safe haven in Afghanistan. p Islamic State group is a far superior threat today than al-Qaida was in 2001. It is richer and holds much more territory than al-Qaida ever did. Al-Qaida operated on the basis of a loose network of various cells in different countries. The Islamic State group is a highly centralized command which will require a new counter- terrorism strategy in the region,” said Lina Khatib, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center.

### **Why has the Islamic State group attracted so many young people?**

In a speech, the group’s leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, listed instances of oppression of Muslims around the world, describing the “Islamic State” as one that “will return your dignity, might, and rights.” The group has become a magnet for young Muslims from all over the world, flocking to the region to help build the state. In a recent article, the group advised young Muslim, “Do not worry about money. There are plenty of homes and resources for you and your family.”

### **Does the Islamic State group want to strike the West?**

Islamic State militants called American journalist James Foley’s gruesome death revenge for U.S. airstrikes against the group and they still hold other hostages. Officials are concerned about the threat posed by Islamic State sympathizers, as well. Analysts believe the group is primarily a regional threat but acknowledge that “lone wolf” attackers inspired by the group’s ideology do threaten everyone.

*Adam Schreck and Zeina Karam, Associated Press*

The self-proclaimed Islamic State is a militant movement that has conquered territory in western Iraq and eastern Syria, where it seeks to establish a state that encompass some 6 million residents. Though spawned by al-Qaeda, it split with that organization and evolved to employ both terrorist and conventional militia tactics.

In 2014, the Islamic State proclaimed itself a caliphate, claiming exclusive political and theological authority over the world's Muslims. Its state-building project, however, has been characterized by extreme violence. Widely publicized battlefield successes have attracted thousands of foreign recruits.

The group that calls itself the Islamic State can trace its lineage to the aftermath of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. The Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi aligned his Jihad with al-Qaeda. Zarqawi's organization took aim at U.S. forces, their international allies, and local collaborators. He sought to draw the U.S. into a civil war by attacking Shias and their holy sites. Zarqawi's successors rebranded themselves as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS). The group is known to its followers as il-Dawla ("the State").

Sunni loss of power in both Iraq and Syria created a vacuum that the Islamic State has exploited. In Iraq, a Sunni minority was sidelined after the U.S. ousted Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, in 2003. In Syria, a civil war erupted in 2011 pitting the ruling minority Shia against the Sunni opposition, spawning sectarian violence. Syria's uprising helped in the Islamic State's expansion. Some analysts have even described a pact between Islamic State militants and Syrian President al-Assad's regime as the source of ISIS growth.

The northern Syrian city of Raqqa is often cited as the Islamic State's capital. There, the group has established some institutions (e.g., judicial, police) and taken over others (e.g., education, health) to provide residents services and solidify its control over the population.

Oil extraction constitutes the Islamic State's largest source of income. The group is estimated to produce 44,000 barrels a day from Syrian and Iraqi wells. The group then sells the crude to middlemen, netting an estimated \$1 to \$3 million a day. The Islamic States also extorts businesses, netting upwards of \$8 million a month. Christians who have not fled the area face a tax levied on religious minorities. Protection rackets also bring in revenue while building the allegiance of some tribesmen. And ransom payments have provided the Islamic States upwards of \$20 million, including large sums for kidnapped journalists and other captives.

In November 2015, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for downing a Russian passenger jet over the Sinai Peninsula, shortly after Russia had begun conducting air strikes in Syria. Over the following two weeks, the group also claimed responsibility for two suicide bombings in a suburb of Beirut and coordinated attacks in Paris killed at least 129 people. France retaliated by bombing Raqqa.

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration assembled a coalition of some 60 countries to "degrade and ultimately defeat" the Islamic State. The U.S.-led coalition includes the European Union and several Sunni Arab states. As of mid-May 2015, the coalition has carried out nearly four thousand airstrikes, four-fifths of them by U.S. forces. The United States has also carried out air strikes in Syria in a bid to roll back Islamic State territorial gains.

What Is the Islamic State, by Zachary Laub, Jonathan Masters,  
Council on Foreign Relations, November 16, 2015



## President Barack Obama

November 13, 2015

5:45 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening, everybody. I just want to make a few brief comments about the attacks across Paris tonight. Once again, we've seen an outrageous attempt to terrorize innocent civilians. This is an attack not just on Paris, it's an attack not just on the people of France, but this is an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share.

We stand prepared and ready to provide whatever assistance that the government and the people of France need to respond. France is our oldest ally. The French people have stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States time and again. And we want to be very clear that we stand together with them in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

Those who think that they can terrorize the people of France or the values that they stand for are wrong. The American people draw strength from the French people's commitment to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. And those values are going to endure far beyond any act of terrorism or the hateful vision of those who perpetrated the crimes this evening.

We're going to do whatever it takes to work with the French people and with nations around the world to bring these terrorists to justice, and to go after any terrorist networks that go after our people.

We don't yet know all the details of what has happened. We have been in contact with French officials to communicate our deepest condolences to the families of those who have been killed, to offer our prayers and thoughts to those who have been wounded. We have offered our full support to them. The situation is still unfolding. I've chosen not to call President Hollande at this time, because my expectation is that he's very busy at the moment. But I am confident that I'll be in direct communications with him in the next few days, and we'll be coordinating in any ways that they think are helpful in the investigation of what's happened.

This is a heartbreaking situation. And obviously those of us here in the United States know what it's like. We've gone through these kinds of episodes ourselves. And whenever these kinds of attacks happened, we've always been able to count on the French people to stand with us. They have been an extraordinary counterterrorism partner, and we intend to be there with them in that same fashion.



## France, Russia pummel ISIS stronghold as critics blast US rules of engagement

Nov. 17, 2015

In the wake of Friday's deadly terror attack in Paris and the confirmed bombing of a Russian airliner, Russia and France are pounding the Islamic State's Syrian stronghold of Raqqa as, while the number of U.S. airstrikes against ISIS still dwarves all others combined. U.S. rules of engagement and the overarching desire to minimize collateral damage are holding back the true force of U.S. air power, while Paris and Moscow have taken off the gloves.

As of Tuesday, the U.S. has launched 8,243 airstrikes against ISIS targets, including 2,841 in Syria, according to the Pentagon. "Our air campaign in Syria and Iraq has never been what it should be," said Gen. Jack Keane, former vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army. "We've had incredible restrictions on what we call rules of engagement so, as a result, it takes layers to get approval for a target, it takes too much time, the enemy gets away."

On Sunday, France began bombing key targets in Raqqa, Syria the capital of the Islamic State's so-called caliphate in retaliation for coordinated terror attacks that killed at least 129 people in Paris. After receiving intelligence from the U.S., the French military said it independently hit command and recruitment centers, an ammunition storage base and one of the network's training camps. Russian planes and missiles, meanwhile, attacked ISIS strongholds overnight. The Kremlin announced an ISIS bomb was responsible for last month's Russian passenger jet crash that killed all 224 people on board.

While France and Russia tout their aggressive air campaign, the U.S. has carried out 95 percent of the airstrikes in Syria since the coalition air campaign against Islamic State militants began in August 2014. But the U.S. rules of engagement greatly restrict combat missions because ISIS immerses its members in civilian populations making them virtual safe havens for terrorist operations.

"President Obama, who approved these rules of engagement, has no understanding of history, no understanding of warfare," a military expert claimed. "Obama believes that you can somehow wage clean war. But you can't have a standard of no civilian casualties and expect to win like that. It never has and it never will."

U.S. warplanes took out 100 tanker trucks used to transport oil that help the militant group earn tens of millions of dollars each month, an American military spokesman said Monday. "The purpose of the strike was to cripple ISIL's oil distribution capabilities, which will reduce their ability to fund their military operations," a Pentagon spokesman said. On Tuesday, the U.S. Central Command announced another 17 airstrikes by the American-led coalition, including attacks on several ISIS buildings, sniper positions, and a weapons cache near Mosul. "The strategy that we are putting forward is the strategy that ultimately is going to work," Obama said in a news conference. "It's going to take time."

Obama has deployed more than 3,000 U.S. troops to Iraq to assist local security forces and he recently announced plans to send 50 special operations forces to Syria. But he's vowed to avoid the kind of large-scale ground combat that U.S. troops engaged in for years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

*Cristina Corbin, Lucas Tomlinson, Fox News, and The Associated Press*