



RESOURCE GUIDE

9/11 Terrorist Attacks and Aftermath: Primary Sources and Research Topic Ideas

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Introduction

SEPTEMBER 11th, 2021 marks 20 years since the catastrophic attacks on the United States in which almost 3,000 people were killed. A search of college and university course catalogs and LibGuides reveals that courses on the events of September 11th are being taught around the world and many students are writing on this topic.¹ ProQuest offers a wide range of primary and secondary sources that are helpful for professors looking for unique reading assignments for class discussion, and for students writing research papers on topics related to September 11th.

This guide is divided into two major sections. The first section focuses on government policy, national security, and the War on Terror and covers two major databases of primary sources in detail: the Digital National Security Archive and ProQuest Congressional. These databases offer researchers, instructors, and students excellent opportunities to investigate many other facets of the U.S. government response to the September 11th attacks. The second part of the guide focuses on personal stories from the people most affected by the attacks: survivors, first responders, and Muslim Americans, in addition to covering artistic and cultural responses to 9/11.

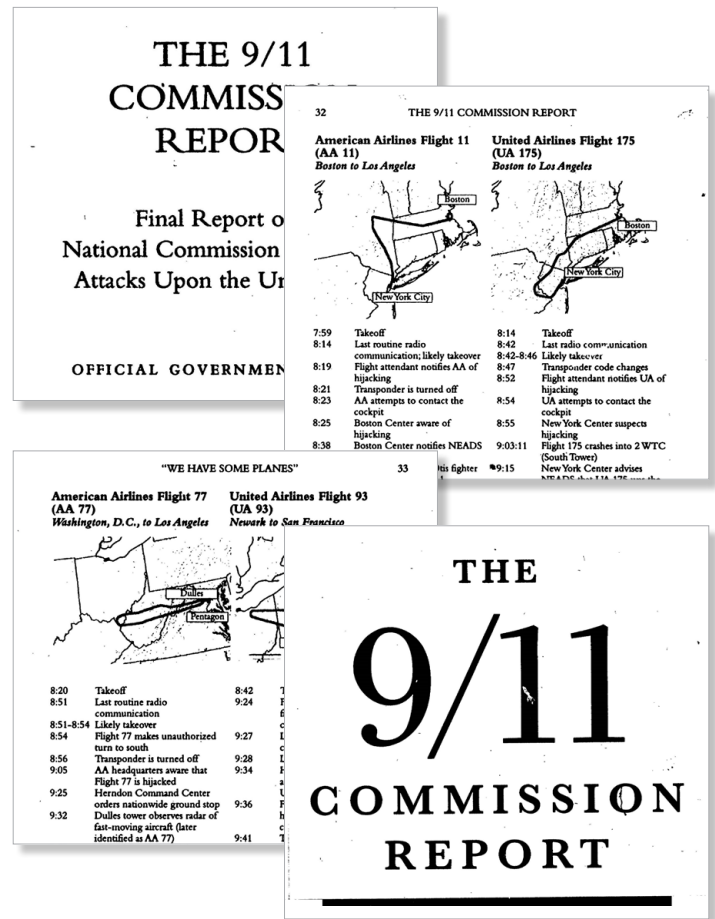


Books on Terrorism and International Relations Prior to 9/11

Secondary sources, especially those written by journalists, can be a helpful starting point to learn about the September 11th attacks and surrounding issues like international relations and religion. The three sources listed below are award-winning books that provide different views of Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda, U.S. foreign policy, and terrorism prior to the September 11th attacks:

- Coll, Steve. *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/6081780?accountid=131239>
- Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/6100802?accountid=131239>
- Benjamin, Daniel and Simon, Steven. *The Age of Sacred Terror*. Random House Publishing Group, 2002. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/6101552?accountid=131239>

These books provide a good introduction for students to begin investigating, analyzing, discussing, and writing about primary sources pertaining to terrorism and 9/11, and the U.S. government's response to the attacks. The [9/11 Commission Report](#) by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States is an additional source that provides essential information pertaining to the September 11th attacks.



1. See, for example, the August 30, 2021 article in The Atlantic by Amy Zegart <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/08/911-teaching/619921/>

For additional information, see "How Stanford scholars are teaching the next generation about 9/11" <https://news.stanford.edu/2021/09/08/teaching-sept-11-2001-attacks/> and an article about a course on 9/11 being taught at New Jersey City University <https://www.njcu.edu/academics/schools-colleges/william-j-maxwell-college-arts-sciences/departments/world-languages-and-cultures/our-gen-ed-courses/9-11-and-after>

For examples of Libguides on September 11th, see <https://library.fiu.edu/9-11> and <https://libguides.juniata.edu/9/11Remebrance> as well as the information and resources posted by James Madison University <https://www.jmu.edu/civic/9-11-at-20.shtml>

Note that for some of the items identified in this resource guide, you may need to log into your ProQuest or library account.

Digital National Security Archive (DNSA)

The **Digital National Security Archive** is an exceptional database for primary source documents relating to national security issues, including terrorism and September 11th. The **Digital National Security Archive (DNSA)** consists of over 50 content sets containing declassified government documents covering U.S. policy toward critical world events from 1945 to the present. There are numerous DNSA sets that are especially relevant for studying the topic of September 11th. These include the following collection titles (in rough chronological order):

- Terrorism and U.S. Policy, 1968–2002
- Afghanistan: The Making of U.S. Policy, 1973–1990
- CIA Covert Operations: From Carter to Obama, 1977–2010
- Donald Rumsfeld's Snowflakes: The Pentagon and U.S. Foreign Policy. Part I: 2001–2003 and Part II: 2004–2009
- The U.S. Intelligence Community After 9/11
- Targeting Iraq, Part 1: Planning, Invasion, and Occupation, 1997–2004
- Electronic Surveillance and the National Security Agency: From Shamrock to Snowden
- U.S. Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction: From World War II to Iraq

Each of these sets includes a wide range of unique documents, most of them formerly classified, and many that have been secured through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests or through lawsuits.²

The following paragraphs of this section provide a preview of the types of documents that can be found in the DNSA that focus on issues related to 9/11. One of the highlights of the **Terrorism and U.S. Policy, 1968–2002** collection, for example, is the selection of material won as the result of the lawsuit filed by former AP reporter and hostage Terry A. Anderson. A keyword search in this collection on “National Security Archive Terry Anderson Documents” will retrieve these documents. The Terry Anderson Documents include highly sensitive reports from U.S. military and other intelligence elements that give important insights into the scope and depth of intelligence reporting and analysis about terrorism in the 1980s. **Terrorism and U.S. Policy, 1968–2002** also contains a complete set of the declassified records of meetings of the Cabinet Committee to Combat Terrorism, one of the most important decision-making bodies on terrorism during the Nixon and Ford administrations. A basic search on “cabinet committee to combat terrorism” retrieves 151 results. Included in the results is **Coleen Rowley's whistleblowing letter** to the FBI from May 21st, 2002, in which she accused her superiors of blocking attempts to uncover information that might have thrown off some of the plans for the 9/11 attacks. The letter was printed by *Time* magazine on June 3rd and billed as “the Bombshell Memo.” Another notable item in the Terrorism set is a report prepared by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress entitled “**The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism: Who Becomes a Terrorist and Why?**” These types of documents demonstrate how the FBI framed and understood terrorism and terrorists.

2. Each DNSA collection includes a detailed introduction that describes the research value of the set. Some of the documents highlighted here are described in these introductions. For more on DNSA, visit the product homepage <https://www.proquest.com/dnsa> as well as the National Security Archive's own site, <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/>

In the collection, **Donald Rumsfeld's Snowflakes: The Pentagon and U.S. Foreign Policy**, a basic search on the term “September 11” retrieves 125 results. Among these results, there are 6 documents of “talking points following September 11 attacks.” These documents are directed to different government officials, including **one memo** to President George W. Bush, copying Vice President Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Chief of Staff Andrew Card. Under the heading “Expectations” the memo states that the “world needs to have realistic expectations. This campaign is a marathon, not a sprint. ... We are patient and determined.”

The set entitled **The U.S. Intelligence Community After 9/11** includes a document from August 6th, 2001—a month before the September 11th attack—from the President's Daily Brief entitled “**Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S.**” Another document in this set, from just over a year after the attacks, is a September 20, 2002 Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report on “**The Intelligence Community's Knowledge of the September 11 Hijackers Prior to September 11, 2001.**”

To find additional documents, use some of the keywords identified above, or try searching on topics like Afghanistan, War on Terror, Bin Laden, Al Qaeda, and other relevant terms.

September 19, 2001 2:56 PM

TO: President George W. Bush
cc: Vice President Richard B. Cheney
Honorable Colin Powell
Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr.

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

Following are some concepts that I offer for consideration as speeches, press briefings and talking points, internally and external. It is likely that the terrorists plan September 11th attack and future attacks, but that they would hide and what evidence they wished to leave to confuse our search. Therefore, it will take a sustained effort.

- 1. Terrorist Attack.** The September 11th terrorist attack carefully planned. There may well be more attacks planned. It is likely that the terrorists plan September 11th attack and future attacks, but that they would hide and what evidence they wished to leave to confuse our search. Therefore, it will take a sustained effort.
- 2. Expectations.** The world needs to have realistic expectations. This campaign is a marathon, not a sprint. No terrorist organization as the Al-Qaida network, is going to be conclusively destroyed. We recognize that it will take time to destroy the countries that harbor these people for the faces of a successful. Therefore, the fact that the first, second, or third efforts does not produce specific people should not cause us to be patient and determined.
- 3. Worldwide Support.** The legitimacy of our actions depends on how many countries support us. More nearly the opposite legitimacy of other countries' opinions should be judged toward this systematic, unprovoked assault on a free world.
- 4. Coalitions.** The coalitions that are being fashioned to combat terrorism, and properly so, each country has a different perspective and different relationships, views and concerns. It is surprising that some countries will be supportive of some activities in

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE Date: 05/18/1998

To: Oklahoma CITY

From: SA [REDACTED]
Squad 4
Contact: Ext. 3753

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 279-0
199-0

Title: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Synopsis: Information regarding flight training by Middle Eastern males.

Details: SA [REDACTED] Chief Pilot, Oklahoma City Division, advised that he has observed large numbers of Middle Eastern males receiving flight training at Oklahoma airports in recent months. SA [REDACTED] stated this is a recent phenomenon and may be related to planned terrorist activity. SA [REDACTED] speculates that light planes would be an ideal means of spreading chemical or biological agents.

11-L

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. Suite 1100
111 Washington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

May 21, 2002

FBI Director Robert Mueller
FBI Headquarters
Washington D.C.

Dear Director Mueller:

I feel at this point that I have to put my concerns in writing concerning the important topic of the FBI's response to evidence of terrorist activity in the United States prior to September 11th. The issues are fundamentally ones of INTEGRITY and go to the heart of the FBI's law enforcement mission and mandate. Moreover, at this critical juncture in fashioning future policy to promote the most effective handling of ongoing and future threats to United States citizens' security, it is of absolute importance that an unbiased, completely accurate picture emerge of the FBI's current investigative and management strengths and failures.

To get to the point, I have deep concerns that a delicate and subtle shading/skewing of facts by you and others at the highest levels of FBI management has occurred and is occurring. The term “cover up” would be too strong a perhaps over laboriously choose my words here. I base my concerns on my relatively small, peripheral but unique role in the Moussaoui investigation in the Minneapolis division prior to, during and after September 11th and my analysis of the comments I have heard both inside the FBI (originating, I believe, from you and other high levels of management) as well as your Congressional testimony and public comments.

I feel that certain facts, including the following, have, up to now, been omitted, downplayed, glossed over and/or mis-characterized in an effort to avoid or minimize personal and/or institutional embarrassment on the part of the FBI and/or perhaps even for improper political reasons:

- 1) The Minneapolis agents who responded to the call about Moussaoui's flight training identified him as a terrorist

ProQuest Congressional

Like DNSA, ProQuest Congressional is a database that can be useful for examining questions of terrorism, government policy, and national security. ProQuest Congressional is the only database that offers a comprehensive collection of Congressional documents from 1789 to the present. Among the document types in the database, Congressional hearings are often the most highly sought after because hearings present differing views of issues being considered by Congress. Hearings give researchers the ability to discover who has a voice in Congress, who the players were in an issue, and how they positioned themselves in the debate. While ProQuest Congressional includes many other document types such as House and Senate documents, Congressional Research Service Reports, the Congressional Record, Executive Orders, and much more, for this resource guide we will focus primarily on content in the Hearings collection, as well as several Congressional Research Service Reports.

Legislation Passed After the September 11th Attacks

The paragraphs that follow will provide highlights of documents that can be found in ProQuest Congressional on issues related to 9/11, specifically around legislation passed in response to the attacks, travel and immigration issues, and conditions in Afghanistan during U.S. occupation. These documents can be used for reading assignments, classroom discussions, or as primary sources for students to use in their essays.

USA PATRIOT Act

One of the first pieces of legislation passed after the September 11th attacks was the USA Patriot Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 26th, 2001. The PATRIOT Act bolstered the ability of federal authorities to conduct surveillance of civilians, to pursue criminal and intelligence investigations, to bar and expel foreign terrorists from the United States, to separate terrorists from their sources of financial support, to punish acts of terrorism, and to address the needs of the direct victims of the events of September 11th. The text of the USA PATRIOT Act can be read here: https://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/docview/t41.d42.107_pl_56

Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports are an excellent source to gain additional information about the PATRIOT Act. ProQuest Congressional includes a CRS report entitled **“Terrorism: Section by Section Analysis of the USA PATRIOT Act”** from December 10th, 2001. Four years later, CRS issued a report regarding the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. CRS reports like these can help to give students a good background on a specific piece of legislation before they start looking at Congressional Hearings.

For students interested in hearings on specific pieces of legislation, a search in Congressional on the name of the legislation or the topic of the legislation will retrieve relevant results. In the case of the USA PATRIOT Act, many of the hearings focus on how the expansion of Federal information access and collection affects the civil liberties and privacy of individual Americans. Here are the titles of several hearings that can be used to examine this question:

- **Department of Justice Oversight: Preserving Our Freedoms While Defending Against Terrorism** (November 28, 2001)
- **America After 9/11: Freedom Preserved or Freedom Lost?** (November 18, 2003)
- **Misuse of PATRIOT Act Powers: The Inspector General’s Findings of Improper Use of the National Security Letters by the FBI** (March 21, 2007)
- **Reauthorizing the USA PATRIOT Act: Ensuring Liberty** (September 23, 2009)
- **USA PATRIOT Act: Dispelling the Myths** (May 11, 2011)

Homeland Security Act of 2002

On April 11, 2002 the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs held one of its first **hearings** to review the legislation designed to strengthen homeland security in order to prevent and respond to terrorist threats against the U.S., including the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. The committee held additional hearings on **June 20, 2002** and on **June 26–27, 2002**; the latter hearing specifically focused on the topic of the potential relationship between the Department of Homeland Security and intelligence agencies. The new Department officially began

The image displays a screenshot of the ProQuest Congressional website search results for the query "New York City" AND "sanctuary policy". The search results show 72 results, with the first three items listed as hearings. The first hearing is titled "New York City's 'Sanctuary' Policy and the Effect of Such Policies on Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Immigration" and was published on February 27, 2003. The second hearing is titled "Markup of H.R. 3921, the 'Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act of 2007', H.R. 2405, the 'Tribut To Be an American Citizen Act', H.R. 1512, To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act To Provide for Compensation to States Incarcerating..." and was published on October 24, 2007. The third hearing is titled "America After 9/11: Freedom Preserved or Freedom Lost?" and was published on November 18, 2003. To the right of the screenshot are two overlapping CRS reports. The top report is titled "THE ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT" (S. H.R. 107-890) and is a hearing before the Subcommittee on Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, One Hundred Seventh Congress, Second Session, dated April 12, 2002, with serial number J-107-71. The bottom report is titled "Terrorism: Section by Section Analysis of the USA PATRIOT Act" and is a CRS report for Congress, received through the CRS Web, updated December 10, 2001.

operating as a cabinet-level department in March 2003. Students might use these hearings, as well as others on the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to consider questions regarding the creation of new government departments, the powers that were granted to Homeland Security, and the interaction between Homeland Security and existing departments. They might also use other hearings or CRS reports on Homeland Security to try to make judgements about the department's effectiveness.

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

The [Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003](#), passed on November 27th, 2002, authorized the creation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. In 2004, the Commission completed its final report, known as The **9/11 Commission Report**. Congress held a number of hearings to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. Among the hearings conducted regarding the 9/11 Commission are:

- [9/11 Commission Report: Denying Sanctuaries to Terrorists](#)
- [Review of the 9/11 Commission's Intelligence Recommendations](#)
- [Aviation Security: Reviewing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission](#)
- [Homeland Security: The 9/11 Commission and the Course Ahead](#)
- [Ensuring Full Implementation of the 9/11 Commission's Recommendations](#)
- [9/11 Commission and Recommendations for the Future of Federal Law Enforcement and Border Security](#)
- [Moving from "Need To Know" to "Need To Share": A Review of the 9/11 Commission's Recommendations](#)
- [9/11 Commission Recommendations on Public Diplomacy: Defending Ideals and Defining the Message](#)
- [9/11 Commission Report and Maritime Transportation Security](#)
- [Strengthening Enforcement and Border Security: The 9/11 Commission Staff Report on Terrorist Travel](#)

Travel and Immigration Issues

The last hearing in the list above deals with travel. Because passenger airplanes were used in the September 11th attacks and the attackers held student visas allowing them to enter the United States, U.S. Congress gave considerable attention to issues of travel and immigration. The USA Patriot Act included provisions to expand the foreign student tracking system and authorized appropriations for the foreign student monitoring system.

Five days after President Bush signed the Patriot Act into law, on October 31st, 2001, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on "[Tracking International Students in Higher Education](#)" to discuss distribution of visas and related security measures. In the opening statement to the hearing, the Committee Chair Pete Hoekstra noted:

"The hearing today is not to talk about the value of exchange programs or the value of having foreign students participating in and attending colleges, universities and technical schools in the United States of America. We have, over the years, had significant testimony in front of the entire Education Committee indicating the value of having foreign students participating in our colleges and universities. However, since September 11, we know that nothing is the same. Everything is a little bit more complicated. Travel and just about everything in our lives has changed. Security is now of the utmost importance."

In April 2002, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Immigration held a hearing to consider the [Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act](#). This law included provisions to implement an interoperable electronic data system to provide immediate access to information in Federal law enforcement and intelligence agency databases on admissibility or deportability of aliens; to require issuance of machine-readable, tamper-resistant visas and travel documents that use biometric identifiers; and to restrict issuance of visas to aliens from countries that are state sponsors of terrorism. In his introductory statement for the hearing, Senator Edward Kennedy said:

"Legislation must strike a careful balance between protecting civil liberties and providing the means for law enforcement to identify, apprehend and detain potential terrorists. It makes no sense to enact reforms that severely limit immigration into the United States."



HOMELAND SECURITY: THE 9/11 COMMISSION AND THE COURSE AHEAD

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND
SECURITY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

Serial No. 108 56

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'Fortress America,' even if it could be achieved, is an inadequate and ineffective response to the terrorist threat. The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act strikes that balance."

For more documentation on travel and immigration issues, searching in ProQuest Congressional on either **Travel and "September 11"** or on **Immigration and "September 11"** leads to many useful results. The immigration search, for example, retrieves over 3,000 results from the Hearings document type. The hearings that are retrieved in the immigration search in the first five years after September 11 focus on a wide range of topics: restructuring of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS); implementation of the Foreign Student Tracking Program; INS's interactions with Mohamed Ali Hedayet, an Egyptian immigrant responsible for the July 2002 shooting deaths of two people at the Los Angeles International Airport; New York City's Sanctuary Policy; public safety and civil rights implications of state and local enforcement of federal immigration laws; and federal policies regarding detention and deportation of illegal aliens since September 11th. For students interested in exploring this topic further, once they find a topic within these results from the immigration search, they might try more specific searches on the topics mentioned in these documents. A search, for example, on "Foreign Student Tracking Program" leads to 5 Hearings, 11 CRS Reports, 6 House and Senate Documents, 1 Miscellaneous Publication, and 5 results from the Congressional Record. A search on "New York City" AND "sanctuary policy" retrieves 22 hearings, 3 CRS Reports, 4 House and Senate Documents, 2 Miscellaneous Publications, and 41 entries in the Congressional Record.

Afghanistan

In October 2001, the United States armed forces launched Operation Enduring Freedom against the Al Qaeda terrorists and the Taliban regime that harbored them. Over the next 20 years, until the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan at the end of August 2021, the U.S. military had a continuous presence in Afghanistan. While students might use ProQuest Congressional to investigate any number of topics pertaining to the U.S. relationship with Afghanistan over the last 20 years, in this resource guide, we consider just one topic: the training of

the Afghan military. Questions to consider in reading through the hearings on this topic include:

- What were the early plans and goals for training Afghan forces?
- Did the plans for the training or the goals of the training change over time?
- And how did participants and government officials assess the relationship between the U.S. armed forces and Afghan forces?

Another possible approach to these documents would be to compare newspaper coverage regarding Afghanistan to the eyewitness statements given in the hearings identified below. One of the first hearings in ProQuest Congressional that considers the training of the Afghan military is a March 14th, 2002 House Committee on International Relations hearing on the [Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002](#). At the time of the hearing, an interim government led by Hamid Karzai was in the process of reestablishing a representative government in Afghanistan, and U.S. and Afghan forces were working together to eliminate the remnants of the Taliban.

Congress framed U.S. occupation of Afghanistan as a years-long process from the beginning. In one of the opening statements of the hearing, Representative Tom Lantos noted "warlords remain powerful in Afghanistan, women and children are starving, and some families sell their young to get a few days worth of food. It will take years, not month for the international community to help Afghanistan's new leaders solve the horrendous problems they face." Lantos continued:

"As we draft this legislation, we must keep several principles in mind. First, we must deal with the humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan immediately. If the people of Afghanistan have no hope, they will once again be dominated by warlords, drug traffickers and terrorists. Second, we must help provide security in Afghanistan both by helping the government to establish a military force to defend itself and by providing support for the interim peacekeeping force. Only the establishment of security will enable Afghanistan to eliminate terrorists and drug trafficking, and to reduce the interference in Afghanistan's affairs of its neighbors. And security, obviously, must reach way beyond Kabul. The present



TRAINING AND EQUIPPING AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES: UNACCOUNTED WEAPONS AND STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

HEARING

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

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situation where the peace-keeping forces are in the Kabul area only is clearly unacceptable and must be changed at as rapid a pace as possible."

During the hearing testimony, Alan P. Larson of the State Department testified that the development of "a credible Afghan army" would be key to the future of Afghanistan. He noted that developing this army was a high priority of the U.S. government and that in February 2002, a U.S. military assessment team visited Kabul and was starting to prepare a report and make recommendations.

Eleven months later, on February 12th, 2003, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing entitled **Reconstruction of Afghanistan: An Update**. In his opening statement for this hearing, then Senator Joe Biden stated that the reconstruction of Afghanistan would require a significant investment and that the proposal for 2004 to keep spending levels in Afghanistan at the same level as the spending in 2002 and 2003 was not going to be sufficient to achieve U.S. goals in Afghanistan. Other speakers at the hearing stated that the process of building an Afghan military force was a difficult task, but some speakers argued that progress was being made. Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs in the Department of Defense stated:

"On the Afghan National Army, I can just say that it is progressing slowly but successfully. For the first several battalions, we were not able to recruit the full number of about 600. We turned them out and trained them, but they were understrength. The most recent battalion is at full strength, One of the limiting factors has been up to now our ability to recruit, but we think that is clearly improving."

Over the next 17 years, the U.S. Congress held dozens of hearings on the Afghan military as well as Afghan police forces. The titles of some of these hearings include:

- U.S. Military Operations and Stabilization Activities in Iraq and Afghanistan (February 03, 2005)
- Building the Capacity of Foreign Military Forces (April 07, 2006)
- Counternarcotics Strategy and Police Training in Afghanistan (October 04, 2007)
- Assessment of U.S. Strategy and Operations in Afghanistan and the Way Ahead (January 23, 2008)
- Situation in Iraq and Afghanistan (September 23, 2008)
- Training and Equipping Afghan Security Forces: Unaccounted Weapons and Strategic Challenges (February 12, 2009)
- Strategic Options for the Way Ahead in Afghanistan and Pakistan (February 26, 2009)
- U.S. Strategy for Afghanistan: Achieving Peace and Stability in the Graveyard of Empires (April 02, 2009)
- Afghanistan Policy at the Crossroads (October 15, 2009)
- U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan (December 02, 2009)
- Afghanistan: Assessing the Road Ahead (December 03, 2009)
- Contractor Training of Afghan National Security Forces (December 18, 2009)
- Evaluating Goals and Progress in Afghanistan and Pakistan (June 23, 2011)

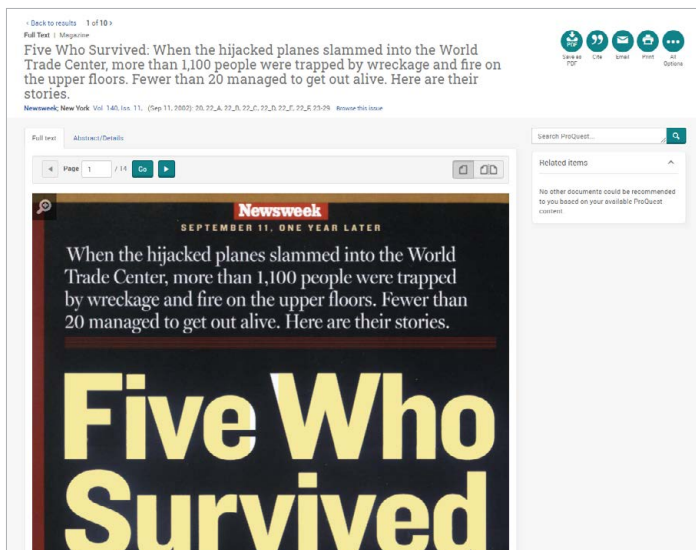
- The Way Ahead in Afghanistan (July 27, 2011)
- The U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq (September 22, 2011)
- Use of Afghan Nationals to Provide Security to U.S. Forces, in Light of the Attack on U.S. Personnel at Forward Operating Base Frontenac, Afghanistan, in March 2011 (February 01, 2012)
- Afghan National Security Forces: Resources, Strategy, and Timetable for Security Lead Transition (June 20, 2012)
- Afghan National Security Forces: Afghan Corruption and the Development of an Effective Fighting Force (August 2, 2012)
- Transition in Afghanistan: Views of Outside Experts (February 27, 2013)
- Assessing the Transition in Afghanistan (July 11, 2013)
- Afghanistan 2014: Year of Transition (December 11, 2013)
- Risks to Stability in Afghanistan: Politics, Security, and International Commitment (July 30, 2014)
- The Situation in Afghanistan (February 11, 2015)
- U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan (October 08, 2015)
- Assessing the President's Strategy in Afghanistan (December 02, 2015)
- Assessing the Development of Afghanistan National Security Forces (February 12, 2016)
- Overview of 16 Years of Involvement in Afghanistan (November 01, 2017)
- U.S. Lessons Learned in Afghanistan (January 15, 2020)
- The Afghanistan Papers: Costs and Benefits of America's Longest War (February 11, 2020)

As the titles and dates of these hearings indicate, the hearings in ProQuest Congressional offer a wide range of invaluable documentation across the full span of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

Other Topics in ProQuest Congressional

ProQuest Congressional can be used to research many other topics pertaining to the September 11th attacks in addition to those we have listed here. Researchers will also find materials on first responders; health effects and compensation for those working on the cleanup of the World Trade Center site; children and 9/11; protecting constitutional freedoms during the War on Terror; the effect of post-September 11 laws on Arab and Muslim Americans; U.S. international relations and diplomacy during the War on Terror; the drug trade and international terrorism; the war against Saddam Hussein in Iraq; the Benghazi, Libya Attack; and the Syrian Civil War.

ASSIGNMENT IDEA: Using ProQuest Congressional and ProQuest Newspapers, compare the way an issue is discussed in Congressional hearings or DNSA documents to how it is discussed in newspaper articles. How, for example, is the USA PATRIOT Act written about in newspaper editorial pages? A search on the ProQuest platform limited to the document type of commentary and editorials in newspapers retrieves items with titles such as:



- "Snooping in the USA ; Patriot Act Goes too Far." The Record; Bergen County, N.J. (11 Apr 2005): L10. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/425937455/34761F24C915407CPQ/1>
- "Dealing with the Threat of the USA Patriot Act." The Vancouver Sun; Vancouver, B.C. (28 July 2004): A10. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/242303757/C8D99BD858B4E8FPQ/1>
- "Way too Patriotic; Congress Needs to Rein in Abuses of the USA Patriot Act, Especially 'National Security Letters.'" Los Angeles Times; Los Angeles, Calif. (26 Mar 2007): A.14. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/422119986/6E28546E37F946F1PQ/1>

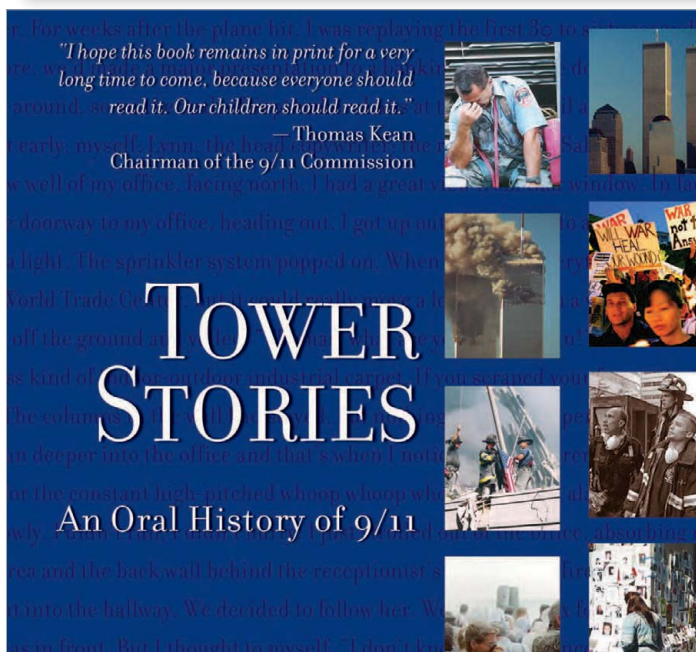
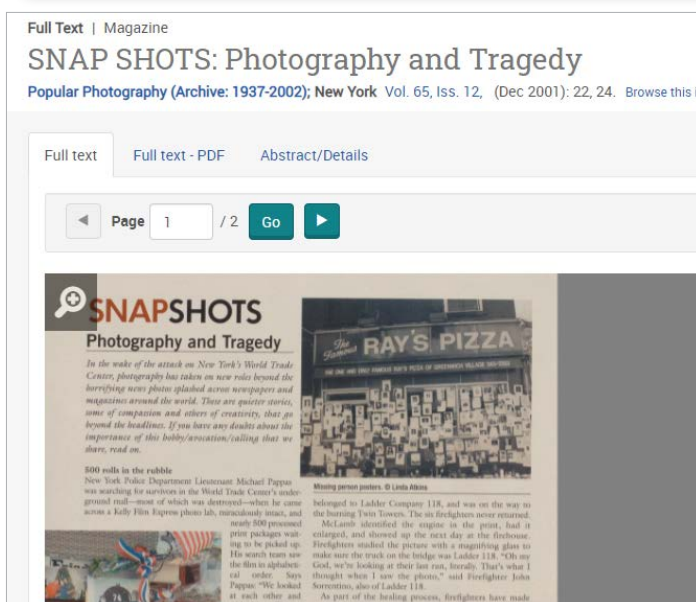
Personal Stories of 9/11 in Newspapers, Magazines, Videos, and Books

The first part of this guide has focused on issues of government policy, national security, and the War on Terror. In the last two sections of this resource guide, we shift our focus to looking at personal stories of September 11th and to artistic and cultural expressions in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

In our research on personal stories, we have focused on survivors of 9/11; relatives of victims of 9/11; people who responded to the crash site at the World Trade Center, known as Ground Zero; and the impact of 9/11 on Muslim Americans.

On September 11th, 2002, the first anniversary of 9/11, *Newsweek* published a special commemorative issue entitled **America: A Year After** focused on the September 11th attacks. One story in this *Newsweek* issue is entitled, "Five Who Survived." This article focuses on five of the less than 20 people who managed to escape from the upper floors of the World Trade Center.³ This commemorative issue also contains a series of three articles focused on first responders, survivors, and their families, told by the subjects in their own words. The first article in the series, "**After 9-11: A Year of Change,**" contains three first-person accounts about how 9/11 changed their lives.⁴ **Christy Gibney Carey** was the director of the Family Assistance Center and talks about her experience comforting grieving relatives as she helped them apply for aid and file missing person reports. **Iliana McGinnis** lost her husband to the North Tower leaving her as a single mother to their then 5-year-old daughter, Caitlin. Iliana recalls how her young daughter processed her father's death in the following year. **Mickey Kross** was a firefighter who was trapped in a cramped space after the North Tower collapsed. He spent the following nine months working at Ground Zero to rescue others.

The second article in this series, entitled "I Just Can't Get Away from It,"⁵ features short personal stories from people who experienced the attack up close. **Lt. Col. Robert Grunewald** is an active-duty officer who handled information technology at the Pentagon and was barely able to escape during the attacks. Grunewald talks about how little things—from photographs to cranes to the smell of jet fuel—give him memories of 9/11. **Lt. Sherma Saif**, a dentist in the Navy, went into the Pentagon to rescue others after the attack. Saif recalls the discrimination he faced as an Iranian-American after 9/11. **Michael Kiefer** was a firefighter who died in the South Tower. His father, Bud, recounts pieces of Michael's story. He tells of how Michael wanted to be a



firefighter since he was a young boy, but died only nine months on the job. He is reminded of Michael every day everywhere he goes, such as the supermarket or the beach. **Gerry Fornino** is an FBI bomb technician who spent months after the attacks searching recovered vehicles from the World Trade Center for human remains and potential evidence. For him, it was a horrible experience to pull every possible part of the human anatomy from cars, but it was also a chance to identify someone and help a grieving family. The third article, entitled **"I'll Never Have Closure,"** tells the story of **Mary Danahy**, whose husband Patrick died in the South Tower.⁶

On the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, *Vogue* magazine published the story of **Lauren Manning**. Manning remembers starting the morning of September 11th, 2001, running late for work. As she headed to the elevators in the lobby of 1 World Trade Center, she got whipped around and caught on fire. Manning was able to make it outside, where a man ran to help put out the fire and assist her to an ambulance. Despite her quick actions and the brave response of the man who came to her aid, Manning was burned on more than 80 percent of her body. Unconscious for almost two months as her body tried to recover, Manning talks about her recovery and the toll it took on her family.⁷

First responders and other people rushed to the World Trade Center site to help in any way they could. These responders, estimated at about 70,000 people, and who have been referred to as "ground zero responders," worked to try to save people from the wreckage of the World Trade Center and later to clear the site. In January 2011, *60 Minutes* ran a story, **"Remembering 9/11"** about these responders and their experiences on 9/11 and after.⁸

When Lieutenant Michael Pappas was searching for survivors in the World Trade Center's underground mall, he came across a Kelly Film Express photo lab and nearly 500 processed print packages ready for pick up. The owner, Allan Tamarkan, tried calling the customers but most numbers were from customers who passed away at the Twin Towers. Pappas' story is one of several that is recounted in an article in *Popular Photography*, **"Snap Shots: Photography and Tragedy."**⁹ The article highlights examples of how photography was being used as a form of both remembering and healing after 9/11.

For more oral histories and other personal stories of ground zero responders, readers might consult the following books on ProQuest Ebook Central:

- DiMarco, Damon. *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11*. Santa Monica Press, 2007. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/5180210>
- Strozier, Charles. *Until the Fires Stopped Burning: 9/11 and New York City in the Words and Experiences of Survivors and Witnesses*. Columbia University Press, 2011. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/895199>
- Smith, Dennis. *Report from Ground Zero*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/6045592>
- Stout, Glenn, et al. *Nine Months at Ground Zero: The Story of the Brotherhood of Workers Who Took on a Job Like No Other*. Scribner, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/5657871>

Additional personal stories like these can be found by conducting searches on the following phrases: "9/11 Survivors," "9/11 first responders," and "ground zero responders."

September 11th and Muslim Americans

Personal stories from the perspectives of Muslim Americans reveal another side of the impact of 9/11. In the Congressional hearings listed in the first portion of this resource guide, some of the hearings include passing mention of the impact of September 11th on Muslim Americans, particularly in regard to anti-Muslim sentiment or concerns about civil liberties and privacy. The experiences of Muslim Americans after September 11th, however, are quite complex and deserve to be studied in much more detail. For students interested in examining the lives of Muslim Americans after 9/11, ProQuest Newspaper collections, Magazine Archives, and books contain substantial information. An advanced search on **9/11 Muslim Americans** limited to these source types retrieves thousands of results. Titles of some of these articles and books include:

- Al-Khatahtbeh, Amani. *Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age*. Simon & Schuster, 2016. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/5697757>
- "An American Muslim Reflects on Impact of 9/11." *Press-Citizen* (Sep 11, 2002). <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/american-muslim-reflects-on-impact-9-11/docview/896676946/se-2>

3. "Five Who Survived" *Newsweek* (Sep 11, 2002): 20-29, <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/five-who-survived/docview/1894123800/se-2>

4. Julie Scelfo, S. S., Rosenberg, D., & Piore, A. "After 9-11: A Year of Change." *Newsweek*, Vol. 140, Iss. 11 (Sep 09, 2002): 40-41. <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/after-9-11-year-change/docview/214282369/se-2>

5. Lt Col, R. G., Saif, S., Kiefer, M., & Fornino, G. "I Just Can't Get Away from It." *Newsweek*, Vol. 140, Iss. 11 (Sep 11, 2002): 44-45. <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/i-just-cant-get-away/docview/1894122973/se-2>

6. Danahy, M., Scelfo, J., Smalley, S., Rosenberg, D., & Piore, A. "I'll Never Have Closure." *Newsweek*, Vol. 140, Iss. 11 (Sep 11, 2002): 48. <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/ill-never-have-closure/docview/1894124363/se-2>

7. Manning, L. "Up Front: Surviving 9/11: A Will to Live." *Vogue*, Vol. 201, Iss. 9 (Sep 01, 2011): 376-376, 378, 384, 388. <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/up-front-surviving-9-11-will-live/docview/911906191/se-2>

8. *Remembering 9/11*. (2011, Jan 01).[Video/DVD] New York: BBC Studios Americas, Inc., Columbia Broadcasting System. <https://www.proquest.com/audio-video-works/remembering-9-11/docview/1822452205/se-2>

9. "Snap Shots: Photography and Tragedy." *Popular Photography* Vol. 65, Iss. 12 (Dec 2001): 22, 24. <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/snap-shots/docview/2304995945/se-2>



Full Text | Audio or Video Work

Ahmed Ahmed, in Secret Life of Muslims, Season 1 Episode 1

Uddin, Asma (producer), Frankel, Erika (producer), Damilji, Mona (producer), Ali, Wajahat (producer), and Seftel, Joshua (director). in *Secret Life of Muslims*. New York, NY - Brooklyn: Jan 1, 2016. [Browse this series](#)

- Bakalian, Anny, et al. *Backlash 9/11: Middle Eastern and Muslim Americans Respond*. University of California Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/837175>
- Cainkar, Louis A. *Homeland Insecurity: The Arab American and Muslim American Experience After 9/11*. Russell Sage Foundation, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/4417089>
- Peek, Lori. *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans After 9/11*. Temple University Press, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/616013>
- Reed, Acacia. "Muslim Americans Since 9/11." *Islamic Horizons* Vol. 37, Iss 1. (Jan/Feb 2008): 9. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/220564682/CC79FC2EAFD140A9PQ/1>
- Saahir, Mikal. "Being Muslim American in a Post-9/11 America." *Indianapolis Star* (13 Oct, 2012). <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1112170939/9E412326395346CDPQ/1>
- Sahagun, Louis. "A Post-9/11 Identity Shift: Muslim Americans Reassess How They Portray Their Faith in Public." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles, California. (08 Sep 2006). <https://www.proquest.com/docview/422123109/fulltext/52AA9A036AF24EF9PQ/1>
- Serrano, Richard A. "U.S. Apologizes for Post-9/11 Arrest; A Muslim American Was Detained for '16 Terrifying Days' Without Charges." *Los Angeles Times* (14 Feb 2015). <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1655060792/483590B2A31B4629PQ/1>
- Sheikh, Ahmad. "Remembering 9/11 as a Muslim American." *The Nation*. (12 Sep, 2011). <https://www.proquest.com/docview/888762641/D7EF39B8035344E1PQ/1>

The items listed here are only a preview of the many personal stories that can be found throughout ProQuest databases. While we chose to focus on Muslim Americans in this section, students might also try searching on Arab Americans or looking at how 9/11 affected people of Middle Eastern descent or Muslim heritage in other parts of the world like the United Kingdom and Europe.

Arts and Culture

To conclude this resource guide, we shift away from the political legislation, military events, and personal stories to explore cultural reactions and representations of 9/11. Following the September 11th attacks, musicians and comedians tried to show people ways to feel normal again and provided cultural commentary on the event.

Sonny Rollins and Without a Song: The 9/11 Concert

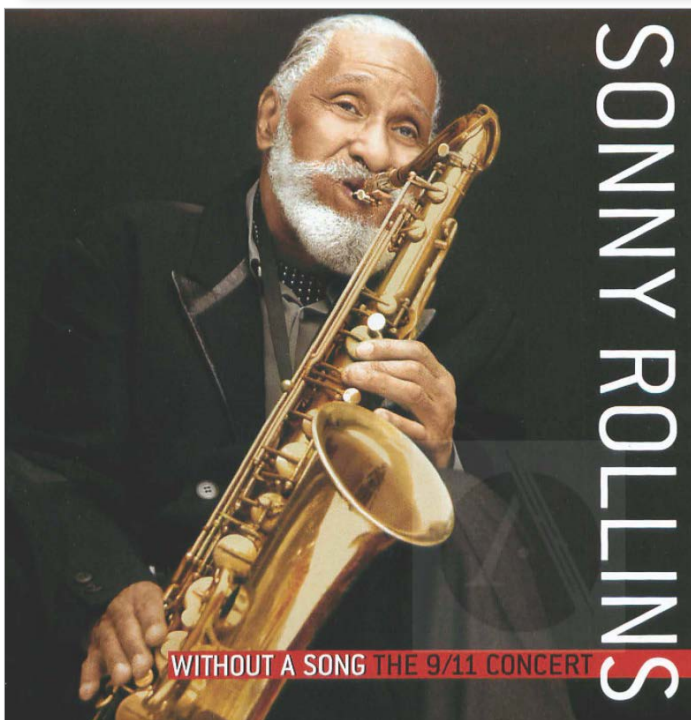
On September 11th, 2001, legendary jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins witnessed the attacks from his New York apartment, located only blocks away from the World Trade Center.¹⁰ Several days later, he performed in Boston. In true, brilliant form, Rollins channeled all the grief and anxiety of the moment into a thing of beauty. He opened the show with Frank Sinatra's "Without a Song" and demonstrated the healing, cathartic power of music. Rollins said his performance "sound[ed] a bit like a purging of bad memories, while at the same time seeming hopeful about the future." Rollins agreed to release a recording of the concert as a live album, his first in two decades, as *Without a Song: The 9/11 Concert*.¹¹



Full Text | Audio or Video Work

Remembering 9/11

Peterson, Rebecca (producer). 60 Minutes. New York: BBC Studios Americas, Inc. Jan 1, 2011.



When Frank A. Salamone reviewed the album in 2006, the consequences of 9/11 continued to reverberate. Suicide attacks in Afghanistan had doubled over the previous year. A wave of sectarian violence was unfolding in Iraq. Despite growing concerns about privacy and civil liberties, President George W. Bush signed the controversial USA Patriot and Terrorism Reauthorization Act. It was a time of tremendous uncertainty and turmoil, but as Salamone pointed out, “Music can and does help.” For more material on responses by musicians to 9/11, try a search on the ProQuest platform on music and 9/11.¹²

Comedians and Comedy After 9/11

Six months after the collapse of the World Trade Center, L.P. Ferrante conducted an interview with some of the era’s most influential comic minds for the entertainment industry magazine *Written By*.¹³ When asked if any of them thought they wouldn’t be able to continue writing jokes, Jim Brogan, best known for his wholesome, non-political stand-up acts, quickly and simply responded “No... This is what I do for a living.” However, he made a firm decision about where he would draw the line: “I really don’t think the events of September 11th or any of the people surrounding it are subjects for humor.”

Other comedians found ways to provoke laughs while acknowledging 9/11 in subtle ways. According to Gabe Abelson, a former writer for *Late Night with David Letterman*, Letterman’s approach came from place of optimism, focusing on “how the city actually began pulling itself together; how everyone was supportive of one another.” Abelson explained, “New York was in crisis and still needed healing and reassurance rather than edgy comedy. So, Dave would do a joke like this: ‘There’s a guy who stands in front of the Ed Sullivan Theater and every morning on my way to work he gives me the finger. Well, today he gave me the finger and a hug.’”

Muslim Americans and Arab Americans also turned to comedy following 9/11. In the ***Secret Life of Muslims***, Season 1 Episode 1, comedian Ahmed Ahmed explains why he stopped auditioning for acting roles and instead turned to comedy after 9/11.¹⁴ In 2002, Arab American comedians Dean Obeidallah and Maysoun Zayid founded the New York Arab-American Comedy Festival.



One of the original goals of the festival, according to Obeidallah was to “foster understanding, dispel stereotypes, make people understand who we are a little, and define us in a much more accurate way.”¹⁵ Muslim American comedians Azhar Usman and Preacher Moss formed the comedy troupe “Allah Made Me Funny” after 9/11. A video snippet of some of Usman’s comedy can be seen in the *60 Minutes* episode, “Muslim in America.”¹⁶ Perhaps one of the most well-known Muslim American comedians is Hasan Minhaj. Minhaj worked on Comedy Central from 2014–2018 and is known for his show called *Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj*.¹⁷ He also was the featured speaker at the 2017 White House Correspondents’ dinner and highlights from his performance are available in ProQuest One Academic. To retrieve items like the ones identified here, search the ProQuest platform for “Muslim American Comedians.”

Conclusion

This resource guide is a starting point and a preview of the types of documents that can be found in ProQuest databases on the September 11th attacks. From books like *Ghost Wars*, to declassified documents in Digital National Security Archive, to hearings pertaining to 9/11 in ProQuest Congressional, to the personal stories of those most affected by the attack, to the reaction of entertainers to 9/11, ProQuest databases offer students and researchers a plethora of material on many different aspects of the September 11th attacks. The keyword searches included throughout this guide provide additional pathways for researchers to pursue.

10. Salamone, F. A. (2006). **Audio Reviews: Sonny Rollins—“Without a Song: The 9/11 Concert.”** *Popular Music and Society*, 29(4), 474-475. Available from ProQuest Central, Arts Premium and ProQuest One Literature.

11. Sonny Rollins: Without a Song—The 9/11 Concert [Streaming Audio]. (2005). Milestone. (2005). Available from Music and Dance Online.

12. One of the documents that will come back in this search on music and 9/11 tells the story of composer Jake Heggie completed an album called *Here/After* (songs of lost voices). The album’s lyrics come from the stories of 9/11 survivors and those who lost loved ones in the attacks. Musician turns 9/11 survivor stories into songs: Musician turns 9/11 survivor stories into songs _ some joyous, others sad, questioning. (2013, Sep 02). Arizona Daily Star <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/musician-turns-9-11-survivor-stories-into-songs/docview/1510992937/se-2?accountid=131239>

13. Ferrante, L. P. (2002, 04). **Laughter after 9/11: The beginning of irony: Writing comedy in the wake of tragedy.** *Written by (Archive: 1965-2015)*, 6, 28-31. Available from the Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive.

14. Ahmed, A. & Seftel, J. *Ahmed Ahmed*, in *Secret Life of Muslims, Season 1 Episode 1*. (Jan 1, 2016). <https://www.proquest.com/audio-video-works/ahmed-secret-life-muslims-season-1-episode/docview/2010843599/se-2>

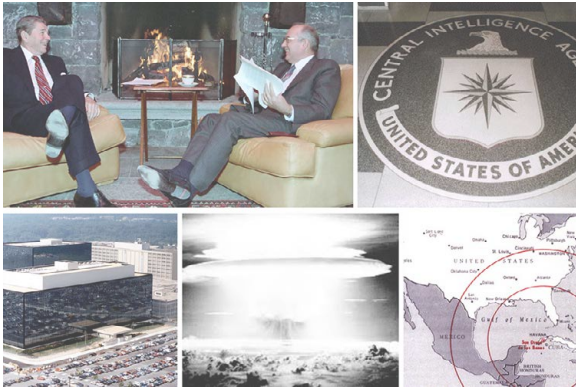
15. “VOA News: Arab-American Comedians Counter Stereotypes with Comedy.” US Fed News Service (20 Nov, 2006). <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/voa-news-arab-american-comedians-counter/docview/473146131/se-2>

16. *Muslim in America*. (2006, Jan 01). New York: BBC Studios Americas, Inc., Columbia Broadcasting System. <https://www.proquest.com/audio-video-works/muslim-america/docview/1822451027/se-2>

17. For more on Hasan Minhaj, see Ellie Austin’s “Hasan Minhaj on Telling Jokes without a ‘Safety Net’; the Host of Netflix’s *Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj* Sees Comedians Adapting their Work to Uncertain Times.” *Wall Street Journal* (Jun 10, 2020). <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/hasan-minhaj-on-telling-jokes-without-safety-net/docview/2411434097/se-2>; and Susan Dominus’s “Hasan Minhaj Thinks Comedy is for Weirdos.” *New York Times* (Jun 25, 2017). <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/hasan-minhaj-thinks-comedy-is-weirdos/docview/1913090465/se-2>

DATABASES COVERED IN THIS GUIDE

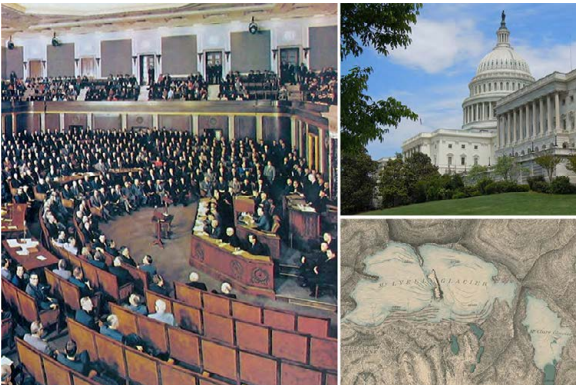
- Art and Architecture Archive
- Digital National Security Archive
- Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive
- Global Newstream
- Music and Dance Online
- News, Policy & Politics Magazine Archive (feat. *Newsweek*)
- ProQuest Central
- ProQuest Congressional
- ProQuest Ebook Central
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *Los Angeles Times*
- ProQuest One Academic
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