

9-11

THE TRAGEDY

And good morning from the CNN Center in Atlanta. I'm Vince Join.

And I'm Carol Lin. I'm glad you're joining us here. We have the very latest now on this terrorist attack on America. It's hard to believe but just about 21 hours ago a hijacked American Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The plane was hijacked shortly after taking off from Boston. And then minutes later while Americans watched on televisions across the nation a second hijacked airliner hit the Trade Center's other tower.

And not too long after these planes hit the World Trade Center another hijacked airliner slamming into the Pentagon. This morning emergency personnel hoping to begin searching for debris.

And then, Vincent, rural Pennsylvania, about 80 miles South East of Pittsburgh this scene – yet another hijacked plane crashes. In all 266 passengers and crew died in these plane hijackings and authorities say the planes were taken over by small groups of men. In at least two cases they used knives to commandeer the aircraft. A final account of the day of terror remains unwritten. The total number of those killed is not yet known.

CNN, *America under Attack*, September 12, 2001

ANALYSIS

1. How many planes were hijacked?
2. What did the hijackers do with the planes?
3. Was this terrorist attack a success?
4. How many people were killed?
5. What was the reaction in the US and around the world?

THE PASSIVE VOICE

1. *Four planes were hijacked.* **By** whom?
2. *Thousands of people were killed.* **By** whom?
3. *Everybody in the world was astonished.* **By** what?
4. **Quelle est la FORME de la voix passive?**
5. **Quelle est la VALEUR de la voix passive:**
 - a) **Focalisation** sur de l'événement ;
 - b) **Omission** possible de de l'action quand il est, ou, ou

WORDS

Match the following words:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. to be glad | a) to be happy |
| 2. to have the very latest | b) a report, a description, an explanation |
| 3. to hijack a plane | c) a passenger airplane |
| 4. an airliner | d) to capture, to take into command |
| 5. to take off | e) to take over, to take command of |
| 6. to slam | f) a group of people working together on an air or watercraft |
| 7. to search | g) a tool with a thin sharp blade that is used for cutting |
| 8. a crew | h) to take over a plane and ask for something |
| 9. to take over | i) to have the latest news |
| 10. a knife / knives | j) to bang, to close with great force and noise |
| 11. to commandeer | k) to seek, to look for, to hunt for; to investigate, to examine |
| 12. an account | l) to leave the ground in flight |

MAYOR GIULIANI

I've been in love with the city of New-York probably ever since I can remember. When as a little boy in Brooklyn my parents would take me to Manhattan, I've always found the skyline of New York City a beautiful expression in a very dramatic way of what America is all about. I think the World Trade Center was one of the stronger, bolder symbols of American freedom, particularly economic freedom. And I liked the impact it had on the New York skyline and photographed it myself many times. And a couple of times – this was long before I was Mayor – I'd actually go out in traffic, which would be a little dangerous – cars would go around me – so I could just get the exact shot of the World Trade Center.

September 11 was supposed to be a fairly quiet day for me. It was a beautiful day. *[8:46 a.m.: the first plane hits Tower 1...]* I was told that apparently a plane had hit the World Trade Center. And we started driving down Fifth Avenue toward the World Trade Center. *[9:03 a.m.: the second plane hits Tower 2...]* And then all of a sudden I saw a big explosion of fire. And at that point we all concluded that it was a terrorist attack. I think that was the first point at which I realized we were in something that was different than anything we had prepared for and any of us had ever thought we would live through. I realized I was in some kind of a horrible, awful, horrific human experience. *[People jump through the windows...]*

A mother described to me talking to her son on the telephone when the second plane hit. And that's the last time he talked to her. Another family described to me how their loved one had let two elevators go because he was older and the people in the elevator were younger. And so my mind went back to the stories and the scenes about the *Titanic* with the people who get on boats and they didn't get on the boat because they were older. And from that moment on I started thinking that we'll never know all the heroes. We know our uniform people were heroes. They went there and they died. They gave up their lives bravely trying to save the lives of other people. But what we don't know are all the individual stories of the person who gave up the elevator for another person, the person who calmed someone and got him out of the building, the person who organized a flaw so that everyone could evacuate, the person who maybe at the last moments comforted people when all of them knew they were going to die. *[9:59 a.m.: Tower 1 collapses...]*

This was an attack intended to destroy us because we are a country that's built on principles of freedom, and because of free will people get a chance to distinguish themselves. This wonderful American civilization emerges, which isn't based on any ethnic group, it isn't based on any one race, it isn't based on any one religion, it's based on people believing in freedom. *[10:28 a.m.: Tower 2 collapses...]*

There was a white smoke racing through the streets. This was the worst most horrendous fire and I started thinking about the people that might be trapped. Are there people trapped and if there are trapped can they survive? And I remember thinking, "This is like being in hell; this must be what Dante would describe as hell."

I think we're going to have to remember September 11 in its reality much the same way as we have to remember other horrific events in our history because somehow I think it pushes the human consciousness towards finding ways to avoid this in the future. But if you censure it too much, if you try to find too many euphemisms for what happened, then I think you rob people of the ability to actually relive it and therefore motivate them to prevent it from happening in the future.

In Memoriam New York City September 11 2001, HBO June 2002

ANALYSIS

1. Whose point of view is expressed in this documentary?
2. Explain this statement: "I've always found the skyline of New York City a beautiful expression in a very dramatic way of what America is all about."
3. When did Mayor Giuliani realize that what had just happened was a terrorist attack?
4. Why does Mayor Giuliani talk about the *Titanic*?
5. What does Mayor Giuliani call a *hero*? Give examples.
6. According to Mayor Giuliani, why did this terrorist attack happen?

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7. According to Mayor Giuliani, what is the American civilization based on?
8. What did Mayor Giuliani start thinking when he saw the smoke in the streets?
9. Why does Mayor Giuliani think we should not forget 9-11? Do you agree with him?

A POEM

The following poem was written by Mattie Stepanek, a 11-year-old boy battling an incurable disease (not connected to the 9-11 attack).

9-11-2001

It was a dark day in America.
There was no *Amazing Grace*,
Freedom did not ring.
Tragedy attacked sky-high,
5 Fiery terror reigned / rained.
Structures collapsed,
Red with blood
White with ash,
10 And out the sky blue!

As children trust elders
Citizens find faith in leaders.
But all were blinded,
Shocked by the blasts.
15 Undeniable outrage,
Undeniable outpouring
Of support,
Even prayer –
20 Or at least moments of silence

Church and State could not be separated.
A horrific blasting of events
With too few happy endings.
Can the children sleep safely
25 In their beds tonight?
Can the citizens ever rest
Assured of national security again?
God, please bless America
And the rest of our earthly home!

Mattie Stepanek, *Heart Songs*, 2001

ANALYSIS

1. Do you know what 911 stands for in the US?
2. Why was 9-11 a “dark day” in America? Is this only a metaphor?
3. “There was no *Amazing Grace*, *Freedom did not ring*.” What do these two verses refer to?
4. Explain: “*And out the sky blue!*”
5. Referring to Mayor Giuliani’s account, do you agree that leaders were “*shocked by the blasts*”?
6. “*Church and State could not be separated.*” Explain why and say whether this was a success or a failure as far as the terrorists are concerned?
7. What does “*too few happy endings*” refer to?
8. “*Can the citizens ever rest Assured of national security again?*” Answer this question and justify.
9. “*God, please bless America And the rest of our earthly home!*” Do you like this ending? Why or why not?

MUSLIM REACTION

Cultural differences have been thrown into sharp relief since the attacks on September 11th. Many people in the Islamic world and the West have been struggling to understand one another. Still the results of a recent Gallup poll conducted in majority Muslim countries may come as a surprise to Americans. Christiane Amanpour reports.

The Gallup poll was conducted in 9 predominantly Muslim nations: Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Nearly 10,000 face to face interviews in both cities and rural areas revealed a strong negative view in those countries of the United States, President Georges Bush and the war on terrorism.

Incredibly, after months of evidence filtering into the public, including the widely distributed video tape of Oussama Ben Ladden claiming responsibility for the September 11th attacks on America 61% of those asked said Arabs did not do it.

“Oussama Ben Ladden might have been used, but this not something he could have done himself.”

Despite that skepticism, 67% of those asked said the attacks on the United States were morally unjustifiable. Just 15% said they were morally justifiable.

“I’m really sorry. I think it was an inhuman act whatever the reason might be behind it. It is condemned as far as I am concerned.”

But an even higher majority, 77% of those interviewed, said the US war in Afghanistan was morally unjustifiable.

“I think the American reaction, so far as Afghanistan is concerned, was not logical because many people suffered in Afghanistan, lost their homes, and lost their lives, and none of them had anything to do with Ben Ladden.”

When asked more specific questions about the United States, 58% of those contacted say they do not like President Georges W. Bush, while 53% say they have an unfavorable view of the United States itself.

“I don’t care anything about America. We are brothers to the Talibans and feel sorrow about them.”

When feelings about America are further explored most of those interviewed say they like its principles of freedom and equality, its economic prosperity and technological prowess.

“I think for Indonesians America is a developed, democratic nation. I think for many Indonesians there are many positive things about America and many of us want to go there.”

But people in Indonesia and other Muslim countries surveyed accuse America of neither caring about nor sharing its good qualities with them.

“Technologically, America is the best in the world, but personally I think America has a kind of arrogance, and dominating the rest of the world in every way, whether technologically or politically.”

In effect this poll surveyed only half the Muslim world. Many countries simply refused to allow or severely restricted Gallup poll questions. Gallup says Egypt, one of America’s main allies refused to allow its poll to be conducted there. In addition, Gallup says, it’s difficult to compare these results to feelings before September 11th since no similar surveys have ever been done before.

Christiane Amanpour, CNN.

CNN, *American Edition*, February 26, 2002

ANALYSIS

1. What is this report about?
2. What is the reaction to 9-11 in the Muslim countries surveyed?
3. What does it reveal about the *American Dream*?
4. Does the poll really reflect the opinion in the whole of Islamic countries?