

Amarillo College
2011-2012 Theme

Deconstructing 9/11: Where are we *now*?



1957-2011




Dedicated to the 9/11 Victims and Their Families

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*Please note: This content is intended
to stimulate critical thinking and
discussion. It is not intended to
promote anyone's personal beliefs.*

The Cultural/Religious Divide: Better?



**Other
Religion
or
No Religion**

"We Americans must learn to accept the fact that non-Western peoples want our technology. They want our income, but they do not want to be like us. They do not want to be us. Most of them like their own way of life. They do not want ours. The great majority believe that democracy is a code word, not for elections but for abandonment of their ancestral ways. They do not want to abandon their ancestral ways. It should be obvious by now that a great many of them will fight to remain as they are and have been." — Patrick Lang, author, "Al Qaeda and the Jihadis."

BBC—Religions. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has education as one of its missions. It provides concise overviews of the world's major religions and the cultures that stem from them. See below for BBC's descriptions and descriptions from other sources. Click the links for more detailed information. **Note: The source of the population figures is the *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2010*.** The numbers are rounded to the nearest 1000.

- **Judaism.** Founded more than 3500 years ago. From *BBC —Religions*. Number of followers in USA: 3,137,000 in 1990; 2,268,000 in 2008.
- **Christianity.** Jesus' death, and thus the founding of Christianity, occurred during the reign of Roman governor Pontius Pilate, which is known to be 26 AD-36 AD. From Livius.org. Number of followers in USA: 151,225,000 in 1990; 173,402,000 in 2008.

- **Islam.** “Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1400 years ago in Mecca, Arabia.” From *BBC —Religions*. Number of followers in USA: 527,000 in 1990; 1,349,000 in 2008.
- **Agnosticism.** An agnostic is “a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable; broadly : one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or the nonexistence of God or a god.” *Merriam-Webster*. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/agnostic?show=0&t=1316012642>
- **Atheism.** “Atheism is the absence of belief in any Gods or spiritual beings. The word *Atheism* comes from *a*, meaning without, and *theism* meaning belief in god or gods.” From *BBC —Religions*. Number in USA (“no religion”): 13,116,000 in 1990; 30,427,000 in 2008. The numbers show there are more agnostics than atheists.

“Al Qaeda and the Jihadis.” By Patrick Lang. The author, a retired Army colonel and expert on the Middle East, clarifies some of the misunderstandings Americans have about Al Qaeda. From Academic Search Complete library database. **AC Online login required.**

Poll: “Muslim Americans—No Signs of Growth in Alienation or Support for Extremism—Mainstream and Moderate Attitudes.” Pew Research Center, August 30, 2011. **Excerpt:** “Muslims in the United States continue to reject extremism by much larger margins than most other Muslim publics, and a higher percentage views U.S. efforts to combat terrorism as sincere than did so in 2007. At the same time, majorities of Muslim Americans express concerns about Islamic extremism here and abroad - worries that coexist with the view that life in post-9/11 America is more difficult for U.S. Muslims.”

“Are Judaism and Christianity as Violent as Islam?” By Raymond Ibrahim. 2009, Summer. *Middle East Quarterly*. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete library database. **Abstract:** “... Violent episodes from the history of Judaism and Christianity are examined in light of claims from some religious scholars that the violence in the Islamic texts of the Qur'an and the Hadith is no worse than that of Judaism and Christianity. . . .” **AC Online login required.**



Image at left: “Torture Chamber of the Inquisition.” From *A Complete History of the Inquisition*. Westminster, London, 1736.

Gallup Poll, August 2, 2011: “Most Muslim-Americans See No Justification for Violence.”

Excerpt: “Muslim Americans are the staunchest opponents of military attacks on civilians, compared with members of other major religious groups Gallup has studied in the United States. Seventy-eight percent of Muslim Americans say military attacks on civilians are never justified.”



“Does the Koran Advocate Violence.” This article summarizes an episode of the television program 20/20 in which Diane Sawyer and Bill Weir question scholars about some of the common beliefs Americans hold about Islam.

“The Psychological Aspects of Islam: Basic Principles of Islam and Their Psychological Corollary.”

This article offers some interesting insights into Islamic culture. Abstract from author: “The background and basic principles of Islam are delineated. The centrality of the oneness of God and the five pillars of faith are discussed. Psychological benefits resulting from ablution, praying, fasting, alms giving, and pilgrimage to Mecca are noted. Islam provides clear guidance, and its teachings have reference to care for the family, divorce and polygamy, concern for the welfare of parents and the aged, and concern for learning and work. Proscriptions against suicide, sexual perversions, crime, and racial discrimination are also included. Muslims can enjoy healthy and balanced lives by following these teachings.” **AC Online login required.**

“Islam: Governing under Sharia.”

Information from the Council on Foreign Relations.
Excerpt: “Also meaning ‘path’ in Arabic, sharia guides all aspects of Muslim life including daily routines, familial and religious obligations, and financial dealings. It is derived primarily from the Quran and the Sunna--the sayings, practices, and teachings of the Prophet Mohammed. Precedents and analogy applied by Muslim scholars are used to address new issues. The consensus of the Muslim community also plays a role in defining this theological manual.”

“Americans are wrestling with fear, but, on the other hand, they are also wrestling with acceptance.”

—Robert P. Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute

Poll: “Many Americans Uncomfortable with Muslims.”

By Eric Marripoda in CNN’s “Belief” section. The article is based on a poll by Public Religion Research Institute and the Brookings Institution. Americans are divided in their perceptions of Muslims, and where they get their news makes a difference.

Mutual Misperceptions: The Historical Context of Muslim-Western Relations.

By Gary Brown; Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Group; 16 October 2001. Parliamentary Library of Australia.

Excerpt: “This is a paper as much about perceptions and beliefs as about historical truth: not all perceptions are

justifiable in fact but, true or false, they can have the power to inform or inflame popular reactions and even influence the policies of governments. The paper does provide a skeletal historical background, but in the main it seeks to explain how this background has led to the kind of mutual misperception which can cause normally law-abiding people in an Australian city (Brisbane) to burn a mosque, or some Muslims to identify 'the west' as their principal enemy. Crusades art above is in the public domain.



Are We Safer Now?

“While nothing is perfect, the United States has closed many of its vulnerabilities. Even something as simple as buying large amounts of fertilizer now raises red flags, making it much more difficult for would-be terrorists. In addition, law enforcement and surveillance authorities are more aggressive and able to uncover plots much earlier.” —Frances Townsend, Bush Administration security official.

“Is the U.S. safer today than before the 9/11 attacks?”

By Ashley Hayes, CNN. Many experts believe the U.S. is safer but caution that citizens should not get complacent. **Excerpt:** “I think it's a mixed bag,’ said Amy Zegart, an associate professor at UCLA's School of Public Affairs who served on the National Security Council under President Bill Clinton in 1993. ‘... We're never safe. The question is, are we moving in the right direction? The answer is yes, but we have a long way to go.’” May 2, 2011.

Report: “U.S. Safer Than On 9/11, But Not Safe Enough.”

By Alan Greenblatt, National Public Radio. **Excerpt:** “Ten years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States is undoubtedly safer and more secure, but gaps in coordination among the government agencies responsible for security remain a problem. [Additional problems are] sometimes fragmented responses to more recent crises, unwieldy congressional oversight

and lack of progress on creating secure driver's licenses and other official identification." August 31, 2011.



"The New Rules of Engagement." By Phillip Bobbitt. 2010, January 11. *Newsweek*. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete library database. **Abstract:** "The article discusses strategies for fighting terrorism in the wake of the attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001. The author compares the anti-terrorism strategies employed by both former U.S. Presidents Bush and Obama. The author argues that Congress should employ strategies to prevent terrorist attacks including the creation of a special Article III court to try terrorists and a national identification card law." **AC Online login required.**

"... there will always be one-off terror attacks here and there. To some degree, terrorism will always be with us, like poverty and like disease." — Clark Ervin, former Bush Administration official.

Gallup Poll, September 9, 2011: "Ten years in, many doubt U.S. is winning war on terror." Excerpt: "PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' views on who is winning the war on terrorism are almost identical now to where they were in October 2001. Americans are roughly evenly split, 46% to 42%, between

the view that the U.S. and its allies are winning the war on terrorism and the view that neither the U.S. nor the terrorists are winning. Despite the similarity between views now and 10 years ago, there has been a great deal of change in the intervening time, including points in 2002 and 2003 when two-thirds of the public felt that the U.S. was winning."

Civil Liberties



"American Muslims' Civil Liberties and the Challenge to Effectively Avert Xenophobia." By Aisha Peña. 2009, January. *Muslim World*. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete library database. **Abstract:** "The article explores the negative images and stereotyping of Muslims in the U.S. It outlines the events that intensified the negative images and stereotypes associated with Muslims include the hostage takeover in Iran, the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 and the terrorist attack in the

" Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. " —First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

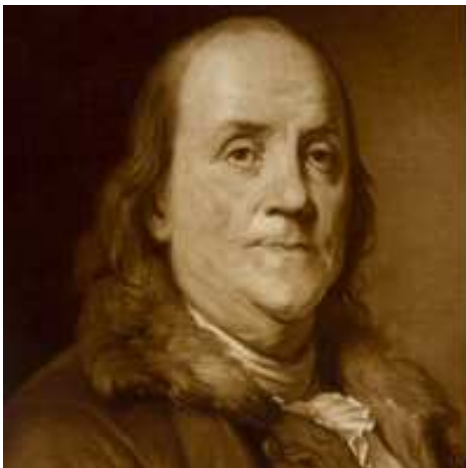
World Trade Towers in 2001. It relates the increase in the output of literature on immigrant Muslims and Islam in the U.S. following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It explains why African American Muslims can serve as spokespersons on issues of civil and human rights for all Muslims in the U.S." [AC Online login required.](#)

[Gallup Poll, January 20, 2010: "Americans Back Profiling to Combat Terrorism."](#) **Excerpt:** "The poll results suggest that Americans seem to give greater weight to protecting citizens against possible terrorism than to protecting against potential

violations of individual liberties. The largest difference in support for profiling among key attitudinal or demographic subgroups is seen by political ideology. Eighty-three percent of self-identified conservatives favor the use of profiling, compared with 47% of liberals. At 70%, moderates are much closer to conservatives than to liberals in their views."



["Racial Profiling: A Matter of Survival."](#) A *USA Today* **editorial** by Michelle Malkin. August 16, 2004. **Excerpt:** "Post-9/11, the belief that racial, religious and nationality profiling is never justified has become a dangerous bugaboo. It is unfortunate that loyal Muslims or Arabs might be burdened because of terrorists who share their race, nationality or religion. But any inconvenience is preferable to suffering a second mass terrorist attack on American soil."



"Those who would give up Essential Liberty, to purchase a little Temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

—Benjamin Franklin

Common Reader: *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*

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[AC's Common Reader Page.](#)

Author Jonathan Safran Foer (photo at right by David Shankbone) is scheduled to be in Amarillo November 2 to speak at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m.



"War is loud and close. As for the novel itself, I hope the reader feels it loudly and close."

—Jonathan Safran Foer

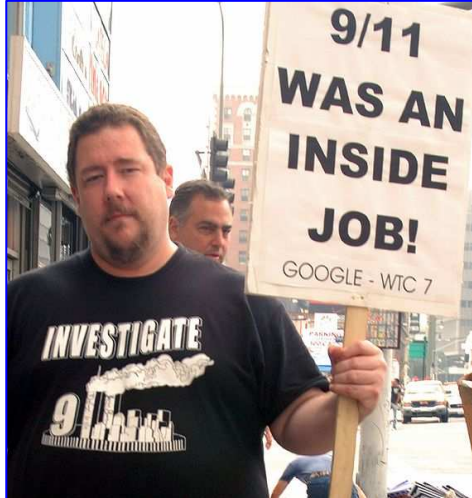
[Read complete interview in *Mother Jones* magazine.](#)

Conspiracy Theories and Myths

[Snopes.com](#) is the most prominent site for debunking urban legends and myths, conspiracy theories, and rumors. [This page addresses those related to 911.](#)

["The Top September 11 Conspiracy Theories."](#) Listed below are the main conspiracy theories, which are debunked in the article. From America.gov. 2009.

- 1) The World Trade Center (WTC) twin towers were destroyed by controlled demolitions.
- 2) No plane hit the Pentagon on September 11. Instead, it was a missile fired by elements "from inside the American state apparatus."
- 3) United Airlines flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was shot down by a missile.
- 4) World Trade Center building 7 was destroyed by a controlled demolition.
- 5) The planes that hit the World Trade Center towers were remotely controlled.
- 6) Insider trading in the stocks of United Airlines and American Airlines just before September 11 is evidence of advance knowledge of the plot.
- 7) Four thousand Jews failed to show up for work at the World Trade Center on September 11.
- 8) Al Qaida is not responsible for the September 11 attacks.



[“911 Truth Movement.”](#) Excerpt from Mission

Statement: “TO EXPOSE the official lies and cover-up surrounding the events of September 11th, 2001 in a way that inspires the people to overcome denial and understand the truth; namely, that elements within the US government and covert policy apparatus must have orchestrated or participated in the execution of the attacks for these to have happened in the way that they did.” Photo at left. Protestor for 911 Truth Movement. 2007. Available under Creative Commons License.

[“Debunking the 911 Myths. A Special Report from Popular Mechanics magazine.”](#) Excerpt: “The following content is from an in-depth investigation of the conspiracy theories surround the attacks of 9/11, which was published in the March 2005 issue of Popular Mechanics. That cover story was expanded and published in August 2006 as a book titled Debunking 9/11 Myths. The fully revised and updated 2011 edition of the book is now on sale.”

“Healthy skepticism, it seems, has curdled into paranoia. Wild conspiracy tales are peddled daily on the Internet, talk radio and in other media. Blurry photos, quotes taken out of context and sketchy eyewitness accounts have inspired a slew of elaborate theories: The Pentagon was struck by a missile; the World Trade Center was razed by demolition-style bombs; Flight 93 was shot down by a mysterious white jet. As outlandish as these claims may sound, they are increasingly accepted abroad and among extremists here in the United States.”

—Editors of *Popular Mechanics* magazine in special report (see above.).

[“911 Conspiracies Won’t Stop.”](#) CBS News.

September 11, 2011. **Excerpt:** “While there is no one theory uniting them, it can generally be said they believe the U.S. government and/or the Jews and/or anyone other than unhinged terrorists orchestrated the events of 9/11 in order to further their own dark and secretive agenda.”

[“Paranoia, 9/11, and the Roots of Conspiracy Theories.”](#) *Psychology Today* (online version).

9/11 and the psychological roots of conspiracy theories. Published on September 11, 2008 by Ilan Shrira in *The Narcissus in All of Us*. **Excerpt:** “. . . conspiracy theories help us cope with distressing events and make sense out of them. Conspiracies assure us that bad things don't just happen randomly. Conspiracies tell us that someone out there is *accountable*, however unwittingly or secretly or incomprehensibly, so it's possible to stop these people and punish them and in due course let everyone else re-establish control over their own

lives. Conspiracies also remind us that we shouldn't blame ourselves for our predicaments; it's not our fault, it's *them!*"

Death of Osama Bin Laden



["Bin Laden's death may have little impact on war, terror threat."](#) By Tom Watkins, CNN.

Excerpt: "But no one denied that the slain leader of al Qaeda leaves a staggering legacy. 'Bin Laden's objective in 9/11 was to sucker us into an invasion of Afghanistan with the idea that we'd be bogged down there for a long time and would impoverish ourselves,' [Frank] Anderson said, noting that the United States now faces a huge debt burden and has incurred tens of thousands of casualties.

Across the world, "his legacy is at least hundreds of thousands of dead people, the vast majority of whom were Muslims. [And he has also caused] 'very serious damage to Pakistan as a viable nation state.'" — Frank Anderson is the president of the Middle East Policy Council in Washington.

Bin Laden's stated reasons for attacking the West:

"I'm fighting so I can die a martyr and go to heaven to meet God. Our fight now is against the Americans." -- Quoted by *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* newspaper.

"Hostility toward America is a religious duty, and we hope to be rewarded for it by God I am confident that Muslims will be able to end the legend of the so-called superpower that is America." *Time Magazine*

"We declared jihad against the US government, because the US government is unjust, criminal and tyrannical. It has committed acts that are extremely unjust, hideous and criminal whether directly or through its support of the Israeli occupation." - Osama bin Laden - to *CNN* in March 1997.

" . . . For the American forces to expect anything from me personally reflects a very narrow perception. Thousands of millions of Muslims are angry. The Americans should expect reactions from the Muslim world that are proportionate to the injustice they inflict." to *Time Magazine*. Dec. 1998.

"We swore that America wouldn't live in security until we live it truly in Palestine . This showed the reality of America, which puts Israel's interest above its own people's interest. America won't get out of this crisis until it gets out of the Arabian Peninsula , and until it stops its support of Israel." -Osama bin Laden, October 2001.

Legacy of September 11 Attacks



[“9/11 Taught Differently Around The World, Tufts Grad Finds.”](#)

By Sacha Pfeiffer, WBUR, National Public Radio, Boston University, September 8, 2011. **Excerpt:** “It’s that when you’re thinking about the way that a story is told, you might imagine that one word chosen or substituted for another would not make much of a difference. But when you take all these little changes together, you get a tone that is very well-defined. So, for example, in the way that you

would describe the people who executed the attacks of 9/11, whether you call them “attackers” or whether you call them “assailants” or whether you call them “individuals” has very a different connotation and creates a very different image in one’s mind when you’re reading that textbook.”



[“911 Study: Multiple Health Woes Persist for 911 Rescue Workers.”](#)

By Eryn Brown. Los Angeles Times. September 1, 2011.

Excerpt: “Now researchers led by a team from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City have reported anew that physical and mental illnesses were very common across a large group of 9/11 emergency responders — and remained persistent for 10% to 30% of them a full nine years after the disaster. . . More than

50,000 people are believed to have worked in rescue, recovery and cleanup operations at the World trade Center site.” FEMA photo at left.

[“The Long-Term Legacy of 911.”](#) By David Sirota. Salon. July 26, 2011. Excerpt: “But maybe the most profound legacy of 9/11 is the attack’s effect on our very concept of wars and enemies. Before 9/11, those ideas were finite and tangible -- though there were red scares and McCarthyist crusades that argued otherwise, we for the most part believed that conflicts had beginnings and ends and that villains could ultimately be thwarted. But the Post-traumatic stress of 9/11 has elicited a kind of neurotic psychosis that embraces Permanent War and allow enemies to occupy a psychological space usually reserved for immortal bogeymen.”

[CQ Researcher Report: “Remembering 911.”](#) By Kenneth Jost, CQ Researcher Online, September 2, 2011. In-depth report on various aspects of the 911 legacy from a very well-respected publication. [AC Online login required.](#)

Psychological and Emotional Aftermath of Attacks

“Only time will tell if September 11, 2001, was a defining moment for an entire generation and the beginning of a new era in American history or just a terrible national tragedy that occupied our minds and wrenched emotions for a short while before it faded into memory.” —Dr. Patricia Somers (from article)

[“After 911: The Mental Health Crisis that Never Came.”](#) Published on September 6, 2011, by James C. Coyne, Ph.D., in *The Skeptical Sleuth*. Reproduced in *Psychology Today*. **Excerpt:** “The best evidence contradicts early claims that these events had long-lasting negative effects or that watching the events on television inflicted a virtual trauma on the American people. Earlier claims were exaggerated and could have been shown

to be inaccurate even at the time they were made. Available evidence now attests to the resiliency of the American people.”

[“Accepting the ‘New Normal.’”](#) By Jay Tolson, *U.S. News & World Report*, September 11, 2006. **Abstract:** “[Discusses] the decline in the sense of solidarity and confidence that most U.S. citizens felt with one another and the national government in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. It explores the country's initial willingness to accept increased security measures as well as its eagerness to support regime change in Iraq. The article considers U.S. citizens' changing attitudes as time passes and more information about homeland security and foreign policy is revealed.” [AC Online login required.](#)

Sayyid Qutb: “Leading Theorist of Violent Jihad”



[“A Lesson in Hate: How an Egyptian Student Came to Study America and Left Determined to Wage Holy War.”](#) By David Von Drehle, February 2006, *Smithsonian* magazine. **Excerpt:** “[Sayyid Qutb, see photo at left] seethed at the brutishness of the people around him: the way they salted their watermelon and drank their tea unsweetened and watered their lawns. . . . He wrote, ‘The American girl is well acquainted with her body’s seductive capacity. . . . She knows seductiveness lies in the round breasts, the full buttocks, and in the shapely thighs, sleek

"Americans intentionally deride what people in the Old World hold sacred." — Sayyid Qutb

legs and she shows all this and does not hide it." Qutb became a "leading theorist of violent jihad." He was executed by the Egyptian government in 1966. Osama bin Laden was a student of Qutb's brother, who taught at a university.

"The World is an Undutiful Boy!": Sayyid Qutb's American experience. By John Calvert. *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2000. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete library database. **Excerpt from abstract:** "The article analyzes the images of America put forward by Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966), the prominent Egyptian ideologue of Islamism, during and immediately following his study mission to the US between 1948 and 1950. It argues that Qutb's understanding of America was conditioned by his tendency . . . to posit a cultural divide between a 'spiritual East' and a 'materialist West.'" The article quotes several of Qutb's writings about the habits and characteristics of Americans. **AC Online login required.**

"The Struggle Within Islam." By Robin Wright, *Smithsonian*, September 2011. **Abstract:** "The article discusses the change in attitudes of Muslims toward extremism since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, which unleashed an angry backlash against extremism. It reports that opinion polls in major Muslim countries from various continents and disparate groups showed strong sentiment against Al Qaeda and support for modernization and democratization. This is true especially among young people who are reported to be a majority in most Muslim countries."

U.S. Wars in the Middle East

"The best days are when an Afghan comes up to you thanking you for everything that you have done to help them and for making their (home) a better place now that the Taliban are gone," [Bruno] de Solenni wrote. He was killed by an improvised explosive device nine days later. From article by Adam Spencer, *The Daily Triplicate*, September 12, 2011.

"9/11 Media Coverage Brings Iraq, Afghanistan Wars Back Home."

By Michael Calderone, *Huffington Post*, September 9, 2011. **Excerpt:** "Veteran correspondents who've spent much of the past decade covering Iraq and Afghanistan say the wars still merit coverage, but they also acknowledge the financial strain on news organizations and the need to find compelling angles to interest a war-weary public."

"Iraq Troop Withdrawal: Obama Administration Supports Reducing U.S. Forces To 3,000 By End Of 2011."



By Joshua Hersh, *Huffington Post*, September 7, 2011. **Excerpt:** “Administration and Pentagon officials had hoped to secure Iraqi-government approval for a larger troop presence in Iraq into 2012, with the U.S. recently pushing for a final figure of around 10,000. But administration officials have lately come to believe that approval would be hard to get for anything more than a few thousand troops. The troop presence would probably include some combination of military trainers and air and naval advisers, the source said, adding that some Pentagon officials fear the 3,000 number may be too small to achieve even their limited missions.”

[“US military deaths in Afghanistan at 1,656.”](#) (As of September 13, 2011.) CBS News.com. **Excerpt:** “Since the start of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, 13,896 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department.”

[“US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,475 Tuesday, according to Associated Press count.”](#) (As of September 13, 2011). *The Washington Post*. **Excerpt:** “Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 32,191 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s weekly tally.”

Photo/Image Credits

[911 Victim photo: Amelia V. Fields.](#) U.S. Defense Department photo. “Families of 9/11 Victims Tour Memorial Construction Site.” 2007.

[“911 was an inside job” sign photo.](#) Author: Damon D’Amato from North Hollywood, CA. Made available through Creative Commons Attribution Generic License 2.0. 911 Truth Movement demonstrator. 2007. Demonstrator unidentified.

[Airport Security Scan.](#) U.S. Traffic Safety Administration. “The TSA Blog.” 2010. Retrieved September 13, 2011, from <http://blog.tsa.gov/2010/03/backscatter-advanced-imaging-technology.html>.

[Flight 93 Memorial.](#) From mycentraljersey.com. “Flight 93 memorial helps family keep memory of Watchung victim alive.” September 9, 2011.

[Ground Zero Worker.](#) FEMA photograph by Michael Rieger. September 24, 2001.

Hands. Microsoft clip art.

[“Legacy” section “Tribute in Light” photo.](#) Photo by Denoit from Wikimedia Commons. See [Denoit’s photo page](#).

Michelle Malkin photograph. Fox News telecast. Photo from *The Huffington News*.

Most Wanted Terrorists banner. From the FBI Web site.

Osama bin Laden. U.S. Commerce Department Site. Information Access Division.
Retrieved from http://www-lpir.nist.gov/projects/tv2003/active/topics/example.images/binladen_headshot.jpg.

President Obama. From U.S. State Department official blog.

Presidents Obama and Bush. From George W. Bush Whitehouse Archives. 2009.

Quran/Koran. Microsoft clip art.

Religious symbols. Microsoft clip art.

Soldier in Afghanistan. Photo by U.S. Department of Defense. Army Pfc. Steven Hamilton gives aid to an Afghan boy. Photo by Spc. Tia P. Sokimson, U.S. Army.

Statue of Liberty. Photo by Laslo Varga from Wikimedia Commons. 2007.

“Tribute in Light” Memorial. “This image or file is a work of a U.S. Air Force Airman or employee, taken or made during the course of the person's official duties. As a work of the U.S. federal government, the image or file is in the public domain.” Wikimedia Commons.

U.S. Constitution. From the National Archives.

Woman in Purple Scarf. U.S. State Department photo. Photographer: Randy West.



Religions

Islam



Islam began in Arabia and was revealed to humanity by the Prophet Muhammad. Those who follow Islam are called Muslims.

Muslims believe that there is only one God. The Arabic word for God is Allah.

< More Religions

See also

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- [Ethics](#)

Around the BBC

- [Asian Network: Devotional Sounds: Islam](#)
- [Asian Network - Devotional music for Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs](#)
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