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

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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:


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
- CIA Covert Operations: From Carter to Obama, 1977–2010
- The U.S. Intelligence Community After 9/11
- 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. 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.
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 ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT

HEARING BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION
APRIL 30, 2002

CRS Report for Congress

Terrorism: Section by Section Analysis of the USA PATRIOT Act

Updated December 19, 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.”
“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
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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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 Afghan 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:
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 Zone 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 a 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:


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:


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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. 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 "sounded 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
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 Maysoon 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 comedic 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.

Contact your sales specialist to learn more about these resources and how to get them into your library collection.

To talk to the sales department, contact us at 1-800-779-0137 or sales@proquest.com.

Digital National Security Archive
Winner of the 2018 ACRL Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award, the Digital National Security Archive (DNSA) offers access to primary documents from the National Security Archive. It is the most comprehensive collection available of significant primary documents central to U.S. foreign and military policy since 1945. This is a growing collection of the most important, declassified documents with two new collections added each year. Many are published for the first time. Each collection is compiled under the direction of a scholar at the National Security Archive.

Product Page | Brochure

ProQuest Congressional
ProQuest Congressional is the only site anywhere that offers a comprehensive collection of congressional documents from 1789 to the present. This primary source collection offers students an unparalleled opportunity to understand the present by comparing today's events and opinions with trends and patterns throughout our nation's history.

Product Page | Brochure

## 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
- ProQuest One Literature
- The Vogue Archive

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