

Page 1

In the name of God, the most compassionate, most merciful

The September 11th Attacks or the Impossible Becoming Possible

One year has passed since the glorious September 11th attacks, the first Jihad attack in modern history killing infidels in their homeland. Truly, one cannot describe this big effort which revived the hopes of millions of people in the nation for a better tomorrow under an Islamic Caliphate that creates justice and dignity. This achievement of last year was followed by many winds of change, in which God magnified some people and scorned others. Surely, He magnified the Mujahideen, particularly the nineteen executors of the glorious attacks, who defend Islam in the east and the west battling the tyrant of this century, America.

The attack fortified Muslims' belief in the almighty and powerful God because nobody would have conceived- even in his dreams- that the great superpower of America, which has unmatched economic and military strength, would be thunderously attacked in its homeland, laying it into a political, economic, security, and military crisis since then.

Therefore, one year after the September 11th attacks, it is necessary to look again at the attack's background, symbols, and effects, so as to make it a beacon that will light the road for everyone in their way to bring back the lost Islamic glory.

1- Historical Background

The Jihad against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan was an unmatched occasion for refining the Jihad ideology and applying it on the ground, especially when this Jihad came after many bitter decades of the impairment of Islam on all levels, with the tyranny of ideologies imported from the east and the west, and the success of globalization and westernization in taking control of almost all the Islamic lands.

It is true that the Muslim world witnessed before a Jihad against British, French, Italian, Spanish, and Dutch colonization, but Islamic figures at the time could not put forward their ideas due to the sweeping currents of admirers of the west and the east, particularly because the imperialists were encouraging those admirers in secret and in public because they were faithful to imperialism and its goals.

Anyhow, when the Afghani Jihad opportunity happened it was seized by divine callers and faithful men to wake the Muslim conscience. In the year 1984, models of institutional Jihad for Arabs in Afghanistan started appearing, like the House of Ansar [followers] established by Sheikh Osama Bin Laden, God bless him, and the Office of Services established by Sheikh Abdullah Azam, may God rest his soul. The House of Ansar was established in Peshawar to be a temporary hostel for the incoming Mujahideen before they move on to training and then participating in Jihad. Also, the establishing of the Office of Services led to improved performance in the media, donations, and encouraged all Muslims, especially Arabs, to engage in Jihad monetarily and directly.

In early 1986, Sheikh Osama Bin Laden decided to expand the Jihad operative organization and establish its military camps and logistics.

Page 2

Indeed, Sheikh Osama started six military camps and was able, through his expertise in construction, to move the camps more than once according to the circumstances of the war. Soon, Osama's reputation was spreading between the Arab Mujahideen and they started pouring in great numbers into the House of Ansar and the military camps. Arab Mujahideen started participating in many clashes with the Soviets and their agents and soon afterward they went into fierce battles, most famously the Battle of Jaji at the end of the year in which the Arab Mujahideen defeated one of the best trained and armed Russian units and killed many of the Russian commandos.

Since the early years, the Mujahideen were eager to grow internationally. Surpluses of aid in Afghanistan were sent to Mujahideen in all of God's land [all over the globe] such as Kashmir, the Philippines, Tajikistan, etc. But when Iraq invaded Kuwait and the Saudi regime asked for help from the impure infidels to defend its land, it became clear to the Mujahideen leadership that the next great Jihad would be against America after it established its colonization in the most sacred land for Muslims and the prior knowledge of Mujahideen that America will never leave a country without being forced out of it.

Then there was the American intervention in Somalia which gave the Mujahideen another chance to face their new enemy. So a small group of Afghan elderly [Jihadists] did a number of successful operations against the Americans in Somalia, forcing the U.S. to withdraw. In Yemen, a number of Americans were killed in a hotel while they were on their way to Somalia. The Mujahideen were convinced that American soldiers are weak and cowardly and if it were not for American technological advances and logistical advantages, their country would not exist anymore.

Then the Jihadist youth started their successful series of operations against the American presence in the Arabian Peninsula, starting with the Al Riyadh explosion and followed by the Khobar explosion that killed 20 American military personnel and injured hundreds. Shortly after the Khobar explosion, Sheikh Osama Bin Laden issued his first statement, "The Declaration of Jihad to Expel the Infidels from the Arabian Peninsula," which was his first personal statement. By the end of 1997, Sheikh Osama was able to obtain about 40 Fatwas from religious clerics in Pakistan and Afghanistan supporting his statement to expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula.

In parallel with this development, a number of leaders of Islamic groups got together, specifically the Egyptian Jihad Group in Afghanistan, and many large delegations from Pakistan, Kashmir, and Bangladesh started pouring into the Sheikh's House of Ansar. All this resulted in the declaration of the World Islamic Front in February 1998, which calls for killing Americans and Jews in all places and at all times. Those who signed the declaration with Sheikh Osama Bin Laden included the prince of the Egyptian Jihad Group, Dr. Ayman Al Zawahiri, and Ruffai Taha from the Egyptian Islamic Group, as well as the head of one of the

Kashmiri factions and a well known Pakistani leader. Shortly after the declaration of the World Islamic Front, Bin Laden announced that he would attack within weeks, keeping the Americans anxious in the Arabian region, the Gulf, and even the horn of Africa. And while they were on their highest alert level, the attack came in a place they never thought of, their embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which were imploded by two explosive trucks on the 7th of August 1998.

Page 3

Jihadists proved in these two operations that they have the logistical, technical, and human capabilities to execute special and complex missions using maximum shock factor, coordinating both attacks, and creating massive destructive power. The Americans responded with their famous air strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan by tens of cruise missiles aimed at two specific targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. But this American strike was absolutely unsuccessful in both targeting and the methods used.

Then there was the martyrdom mission against the naval destroyer *Cole* in Aden port in October 2000, making the Americans and their slaves in the region even angrier; the Jihadist inflicted damage on the destroyer *Cole*, which has the best war technologies with a weight of 8000 lbs, carrying 350 people, and a price tag of more than one billion dollars. The Mujahid was able to make a 6-12 meter hole in the ship and caused enormous destruction inside, killing 17 of the American sailors and wounding thirty more. All this was done using a small boat with a small engine filled with explosives and the whole operation did not cost more than ten thousand dollars. This operation showed the Americans' weakness in the face of innovative and varying military operations, and that resistance is possible if there's the will to do it. The American administration treated this operation differently in the media so as not to increase Bin Laden's popularity. But even with that, Bin Laden was already a symbol in the entire Arabian region and there's no more solid proof for it than that his name is written and carried out in Palestinians protests.

It is safe to say that Al-Qaeda had a pioneering, strategic view since the beginning and that is why it reached out to all of the Jihad movements across the world. These relations took a great deal of time and effort to build trust and robust association on solid ground.

In addition, this organization [Al-Qaeda], based on its in-depth study of the Islamic experiences and the Jihadi ones in particular, focused since the beginning on the organizational and security arrangements to prevent any type of intrusion. This benefitted the organization greatly with its war against America since the early nineties. Therefore, one may find it very strange that the most powerful Western intelligence agency estimated Al-Qaeda Jihad trainees (in 1989-2001) between 10,000 to 110,000, which carries a great difference and shows that this is a prediction rather than estimation.

2. Al-Qaeda and the Preparation for September 11th attacks:

A. Preparing the Mujahid:

There's no doubt that the organization focused primarily on raising pioneering youth Jihadists

to be the basis of Jihad, therefore the results were tremendous on all levels and we can say that a mid-level Mujahid in Al-Qaeda is better trained and prepared for his mission than any other good fighter.

Page 4

Theoretically, Al-Qaeda did its best to build and establish all kinds of militaristic ideologies necessary for the development of Jihad capabilities. The Jihad Comprehensive Encyclopedia¹ that the organization prepared for all Jihadists in the days of the first Afghani Jihad which included all details of military actions, has been a significant achievement since then. It is about 7,000 pages (10 volumes) and thus it is an unmatched effort to prepare the Mujahideen for the troubles of Jihad. It includes military tactics, security and intelligence, light weapons, first aid, explosives, grenades and mines, armory, weapons assembly, topography, etc.

After the first Afghani Jihad and the great challenges that faced the Islamic nation in different war zones (Palestine, Central Asia, Balkans, Caucas, Kashmir, Philippines, etc), the organization had to take the lead of the international Jihad work to deal with all this and establish new theories to improve the Mujahideen's training and combat capabilities. The new volume was published specifically for Special Operations which included chapters on how to create identification papers, organize military bases, residential buildings, hiding communication and transportation tools, buying and delivering weapons, the safety of all members, security procedures, etc.

Training camps were fit for the best training on Jihad activities to face the tyrants. Courses were divided into three parts: basic, advanced, and specialized. Tens of thousands were trained for the sake of God and to glorify His religion without necessarily having joined Al-Qaeda because only a few of those trainees were asked to join Al-Qaeda based on their pure faith and capabilities physically and psychologically. This procedure worked perfectly to prevent any infiltration; no agency was able to infiltrate the organization, no matter how advanced and capable it is, because membership is not granted for everyone but rather assigned from the [organization's] leadership according to very specific details. This also allowed Al-Qaeda to recruit elite Jihadists which benefitted the organization much more.

Therefore, it was not surprising at all for the heroes of September to do their heroic mission, considering the tremendous informational and practical experiences for Al-Qaeda. History witnessed that none of those heroes has retreated or run away from the certain death they faced. Although the CIA's investigation said that none of the mission's executors received training in an Al-Qaeda camp, it was the greatly divine preparation that built the passion for dedication and sacrifice in addition to the wise leadership of these groups – that [the leaders of the groups] had received their training in Afghanistan according to some reports. All of this activated the potential energy for every member chosen to participate in this vital and historic operation.

¹ Some Arabian and Asian security agencies were able to obtain scattered chapters of the encyclopedia since 1997. Belgian security agencies were the first to find a full version of the encyclopedia but they did not have the capabilities required to translate it. The CIA was able to obtain a full version only after it was delivered to them by the treasonous Jordanian Intelligence Agency.

Page 5

B. Preparing the Necessary Financial Tools:

Old military leaders had a saying: “Money is the nerve [essence] of war.” This saying became increasingly true as time passed because life has become more complicated with unprecedented costs and expenses. The Jihad action is not exempt from this either because every highly organized and effective operation needs generous financing as well. This often takes months, and even years, of preparations for the operation to go smoothly and unnoticed by the enemy. Al-Qaeda realized this in its early stages and so it set up a complex monetary network to finance the organization’s needs. Many researchers admit that neither the CIA nor MI6 have ever faced such a complex, global financial network like the one used by Al-Qaeda. Furthermore, the network is mostly divided into many parts only connected to each other through very few lines.

According to many strategic researchers, it is estimated that Al-Qaeda needs about 50 million dollars a year to conduct its training and operation supplies in Afghanistan and abroad. If this is true, then it is not strange at all for Al-Qaeda to include many financial specialists and to pay great attention to money and businesses while investing heavily across many continents.

Thus, the Mujahideen of the September 11th attacks proved their asceticism by dealing frugally with the organization’s finances, especially for their own personal needs. They only went to inexpensive hotels and cheap restaurants and never used expensive cars. They even returned what was left over from the organization’s expenses, showing a very rare dedication in this world of financial globalization and monetary slavery. But when expenditure became necessary for the operation, the Mujahideen bought first class tickets to be closer to the cockpit. This shows even more the efficiency and dedication those heroes had.

However, some researchers note that the organization’s financial capability may not be as big as others describe it. The two operations against the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam did not need major financial support. Other operations, like the one that would have devastated Los Angeles airport or the ones that would have hit the immoral American and Zionists hotels in Jordan, these operations were financed through armed and unarmed operations executed by the Mujahideen in both cases. In addition, the total cost of the operation against the *Cole* destroyer was less than \$10,000, which shows how Al-Qaeda uses the right amount of money for the right place and time.

Page 6

C. Planning:

It is clear that Al-Qaeda pays great attention in planning every detail of its operations. Many researchers acknowledge that one factor in Al-Qaeda’s strength is its investing tremendously in planning and preparing for every operation. In order to be more effective, Al-Qaeda divides every operation into three phases: Collecting information, preparing logistics, and execution.

Each one of these groups works on its part separately. The most important phase is collecting information and that's why Al-Qaeda gives this stage whatever it needs in patience and care. This is obvious in the September 11th attacks, which took a year and half in planning and preparation.

3. Lessons Learned from the Attacks:

For Al-Qaeda:

- Al-Qaeda, working under Sunnah and Sharia laws, was able to stand as a threat to the biggest power in the world despite the huge difference in capabilities between the two. One of the most important rules in Sunnah that the organization took seriously, besides financial and military readiness, is the focus on establishing a strong organization that cannot be affected by multiple strikes or security agencies. We can say that the complex networked organization, the decentralized planning, and the principle of universal Jihad are all factors that contributed to the success of Al-Qaeda in enduring multiple strikes from the enemy and making them very ineffective. Also, taking security measures in all situations and all the time is another important factor that should be praised and respected by all of the other Islamic movements.
- Al-Qaeda works under a very clear strategy. The targeting of Americans was a very smart choice strategically because the conflict with America's followers in the Islamic region showed that those followers cannot stay on top of their tyrant regimes without America's support. So why keep fighting the body when you can kill the head. The choice to target America is also understandable and accepted all across the Islamic nation because they all know the crimes that America committed against Muslims, which guarantees passionate popular support.
- Leaders of the organization were ready for all types of possibilities since the beginning and they prepared suitable alternatives. Whether it is the war inside Afghanistan, where combat units smartly pulled back with their weapons hidden in the mountains and ready for a long guerrilla war, or abroad, where Jihad cells were spread across the nations and every cell is ready to do its mission according to a specific plan without panic or confusion. This successful Jihadist planning put tremendous fear inside Americans all the time, with alerts about inevitable Jihad attacks constantly wrecking the American public who to this day does not understand how its gigantic military machine was unable to stop these attacks.

Page 7

- Al-Qaeda's attack set a model for the Islamic psychology to follow. This psychology knows nothing impossible. The organization set a model for what the other Islamic movements should do by adopting the principle of taking the initiative rather than waiting for a counter action and preparing for the next step before finishing the first step while not being dragged into a reaction that may confuse the plan.
- The Islamic Jihad education on discipline, obeying commands, and patience with absolute trust in God and the willingness to die for His sake became the basis of Al-Qaeda's Mujahideen morals, which will surely lead to victory.
- Representing the Islamic unity. Blood from Muslim descendants everywhere were all

mixed in the Jihad led by Al-Qaeda, with no difference between an Arab and a foreigner. This specifically built Islamic unity and destroyed the imperialistic borders that destroyed the Muslim nation.

- “Follow God and He will bless you” is a Prophetic Hadith applied by the Mujahideen and it clearly came true on the ground. On many occasions, America hysterically bombarded the Afghan mountains with all types of smart and stupid bombs including incendiary weapons, smoke, and poisons. Despite all this, the Mujahideen never weakened.... All thanks to God Almighty, the Preserver and Restrainer.

For America:

- For the first time ever since the fall of the Soviet Union, America felt a direct, extraordinary threat upon its homeland not just in its areas of interest. It is strange that the threat this time was coming from an organization that does not possess the same factors of strength possessed by powerful nations. And yet, America had to make coalitions. It started with NATO resorting to its Article 5 which states that all NATO nations are considered under attack if one of them is attacked. America also resorted to its natural allies (the Zionists [Israel], Japan, Korea, Australia, etc), asking for help in destroying Al-Qaeda. Furthermore, America asked for help from its classic enemies like Russia and China to do everything they can against Al-Qaeda. After all this, one cannot do much other than praising the divine force of God which is giving victory to the Mujahideen. This terrifyingly enormous gathering of forces, which America does not even need because it's already too powerful, is capable of destroying every living thing on the earth. Yet this coalition cannot harm the Mujahideen. One year after its greatest despair, America still has not healed and is still looking for real or fake victories even over enemies who may have nothing to do with this battle, but rather to convince itself and its allies that it is still in control.
- September 11th was the first real crisis facing America, yet the U.S. became a model for breaking the rules they set for themselves in human rights and personal freedoms. For example, Guantanamo Bay—which America thought would terrify Muslims- became the biggest disgrace in the face of American “democracy.

Page 8

In addition, the oppressive arrests of thousands of Muslims in America who lacked basic human rights, stained forever the beautiful image that America paints for itself. The American model of justice became arresting people without charges, hiding prisoners' names and torturing them, falsifying charges, monitoring phones and emails, monitoring personal bank accounts, and creating special military courts that answer only to the president under full secrecy and confidentiality without even having the right to appeal decisions.

- The September 11th attacks became a model to show the failure of the American intelligence agencies that used to scare many people. America's ECHELON system (which consists of 120 spy satellites costing billions of dollars) and its thirteen intelligence agencies with multi-billion dollar budgets were unsuccessful in intercepting the 19 Mujahideen armed with knives and using the enemy's own tools to destroy its economic and military landmarks.

- Strategically, Al-Qaeda's September 11th attack destroyed the pillars of the American defense strategies, the same strategies that were undefeated by the Soviet Union or any other powerful nation. The attack also caused huge distress in America's capabilities after forcing it to send military forces to many battle theaters without being successful in any of them. On the other hand, the attack showed how America is suffering from a strategic crisis since the end of the Cold War. America does not have a clear and targeted strategy like it did during the Cold War. Thus, it is dealing with every party with on an open strategy based on trial and error, not based on a futuristic vision. One of the main reasons for this may be the fact that America is dealing with a gelatin-like [flexible or ever-changing] and complex enemy, which is annoyingly hard to detect, infiltrate, and strike.
- Military-wise, the September 11th attacks were the biggest threat to the outstanding American military situation. The asymmetric strategy used by Al-Qaeda mandates that the contender use tools and methods that are impossible for the defender to use or to identify and avoid. This made the huge technological advantage of the U.S. military unusable, thus reducing the effectiveness of the American military deterrence. In addition, the use of the martyrdom [suicide] bombings and expanding it beyond Palestine into American targets confused Americans and took away their sense of security.
- Media-wise, America failed in promoting its crusaders campaign. The American media machine was unable to defeat passionate hatred for America and not even their internal feelings of doubt. The giant American media machine was defeated in a judo-like strike from Sheikh Bin Laden. CNN cameras and other media dinosaurs took part in framing the attacks and spreading the intended fear, without costing Al-Qaeda a dime.

Page 9

In addition, the "Horror" tapes that CNN broadcasted recently increased awareness about the Mujahideen capabilities and spread confidence within the Islamic nation. The video tapes of Sheikh Osama and other leadership figures, going exclusively to *Al-Jazeera* and making the channel internationally famous, conveyed the voices of the Mujahideen to the Islamic nation and the entire world without costing anything for this invaluable service. It is ironic to note that many revolutionary organizations in the past tried kidnapping hostages for the whole purpose of broadcasting a statement, while today media outlets are racing each other to publish what the Mujahideen are saying. The Internet has also been effectively used to promote [the Mujahideen's] voice and opinions to hundreds of thousands of Muslims.

4. Present and Futuristic Effects:

- The September 11th attacks marked the historic ending of the American empire. These attacks proved that the base of the American power is fragile and dependent upon an economy built by the principle of immoral and greedy consumption. When this consumption stops, the economy will stop as well. Based on the big psychological effect that the attacks left on the American public, its consumption has changed and its losses have increased in the travel and airlines industry, tourism, and insurance. This

added more doubt about the health of the American economy. It is satisfying enough to know that the economic losses of the United States after the attacks for the airline industry alone were about \$100 billion, in addition to losing about 100,000 jobs, and many other losses totaling about one trillion dollars and causing hundreds of thousands of Americans to lose their jobs. From this, we realize the huge impact of the attacks and its historical marking of the total collapse of America.

- The attacks created a geopolitical quake characterized by the following:
 - The United States of America benefitted by strengthening its military presence in the same region over which the Soviets fought, especially in the independent republics of the Soviet Union. The reinforcements indicate a willingness to stay a long time in the region. This will increase the chances of conflict with Russia and China in the near future.
 - An increase in cracking up the European-American alliance, especially after the United States specifically declared its real intention, which is “interfering with the interior affairs of the third world,” to create a new world order or redraw the region according to its interests and strategies.
 - Signs of collapse in the American-Saudi alliance and, to a lesser extent, the American-Egyptian alliance. The Saudi regime is not the spoiled child of America anymore. Members of the regime are now being called out for corruption, misusing resources, and supporting “extremism.” This looks like the beginning of direct interference with the ruling regime in Saudi Arabia because the checks diplomacy that the Saudi rulers use is not satisfying anymore for their masters in the White House.

Page 10

- Tightening the American control on most of the world’s waterways, using the excuse of tracking Sheikh Bin Laden. This allowed America to enforce its bases in the oceans and increasing them in numbers and weapons, which will cost Washington a lot financially and militarily, especially with the worsening of the American economy.
- The attacks led America to become a military regime. For the first time in U.S. history, a general was appointed head of a military command for homeland security. It also led to establishing a secret government working in two locations in case of a surprise military attack and taking control of the administration without any constitutional supervision. The Bush administration established this plan without asking Congress, while firmly refusing to declare any details about the mechanism of this secret government. This confirms that America is moving towards a totalitarian military regime and shows an overwhelming defeat of the American values within the first battle. The constant calls from President Bush to stop leaking information imposed a thick veil of secrecy away from transparency and parliamentary supervision. The result was never holding anyone accountable for what happened on the 11th of September.
- The Taliban was a road block preventing the American greed from controlling the oil in the Caspian Sea. But after removing the Taliban (temporarily God willing) and instituting a treasonous government in Afghanistan, the stage is set to build oil and natural gas pipelines between the Caspian Sea, Turkey, and Europe. This means that the

demand for Arab oil will diminish after putting the Caspian Sea's oil on the market. Thus, it was a big mistake for the Gulf governments to support the crusaders' campaign and will backfire on the Gulf economy, which is already under enormous pressure, leading to a reduction in the GDP of the Gulf region.

- The attacks coincided with a time of increasing anti-American popular passion, after it [the United States] was a model for the free world and democratic values. The Islamic popular movements met at this point with other movements from around the world with similar anti-American attitudes. The waves of anti-globalization/Americanization are starting to grow further. This is clear in the many protests that happened in America itself along with Europe and South Africa. There is a popular rejection from various levels of society (intellectuals, environmentalists, and anti-war) for the American policies. The screams and slogans against the speech of the American Secretary of State during The Earth Summit (September 2, 2004) is a model for the popular international awareness against the oppressive American policies.
- Interest about Islam increased since last year all over the globe, along with an increase in buying Islamic books and Qurans. This clearly shows that sacrifice and Jihad carry a convincing power for others to see the righteousness of Muslims, more than millions of books and speeches.

Page 11

The September 11th attacks were undoubtedly a vital operation in the history of the Islamic nation. It is enough to say that the nation was living inside a shell of humiliation after the possible (applying Sharia law, freeing Palestine, etc) became impossible because of the treasonous Arab regimes. Then this attack happened, making the impossible possible.

References

- "A Reading in the Future of the Battle between the Farouk of the Century, Osama, and America." The Center of Islamic Studies and Research.
- "The Annual report for the Strategic International Changes made after the September 11th Attacks on the United States and the Production and Trading of Weapons in the World." Stockholm Institute for Peace Research International (SIPRI). 06/2002.
- "Justice in the Balance of the American War on Terror." Al-Bayan Newspaper, Emirates. Wednesday 20th of Muharam 1423 A.H [Islamic calendar], 3 April 2002.
- Rohan Gunaratna, "The Lifeblood of Terrorist Organizations: Evolving Terrorist Financing Strategies" in Alex Schmid (ed.) Countering Terrorism Through International Cooperation, Rome, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the UN and The UN Terrorism Prevention Branch, 2001.
- Victoria Griffith, Peter Speigl, and Hugo Williamson, "How the Hijackers Went Unnoticed," *Financial Times*, November 29, 2001.
- Walden Bello, "Washington: Triumphant or Overextended?" Focus Web, Jul 22/ 2002.
- Steven Simon and Daniel Benjamin, 'The Terror', *Survival*, Volume 43 Number 4, January 2002.
- David Cole, "Trading Liberty for Security after September 11," Foreign Policy in Focus, September 2002.