

Impacts of 9/11 on US Society, Economy and Politics: A Historical Perspective

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Abstract

September 11, 2001 is inarguably one of the most pivotal events of modern history. It has shaped and continues to influence modern socio-political rhetoric in the United States, but also around the world. Indeed, it is because of 9/11's long standing impact on world affairs that it has piqued the interest of journalists and researchers to this day, as they seek to draw parallels between and provide explanations for the tides of policy and civilization post 9/11. There has been significant work done in the past into studying how the fateful hour of the new millennium shaped the America of today. Much is to be learned from the detrimental effects of a large-scale terrorist attack on a developed country, but even more so the knowledge of how to maneuver yourself through a figurative storm can prove fruitful to developing countries struggling to find their footing facing security and economic challenges.

Key words: American Society, Economy, Politics, 9/11

Introduction

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 had a significant and lasting impact on American society, economy, and politics. The tragic events of that day, which saw the destruction of the World Trade Centre and the loss of 3,000 lives, were a turning point in American history. In the aftermath of the attacks, the nation came together to mourn and to respond to the crisis, and this response had far-reaching consequences that continue to shape the country today.

This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the aftermath of 9/11 and its impact on American society, economy, and politics. It will draw on a range of

sources, including academic literature, government reports, news articles, and personal accounts, to examine the ways in which the attacks affected distinct aspects of American life.

The paper will begin by examining the immediate aftermath of the attacks and the response of the government and the public. It will explore how the attacks led to a sense of national unity and a renewed sense of patriotism, but also how they led to increased fear, suspicion, and discrimination against certain groups, but particularly Muslim Americans. The paper will also examine the government's response to the attacks, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the passage of the Patriot Act, and the impact of these measures on civil liberties and privacy.

The paper will then move on to assess the impact of 9/11 on the American economy. It will examine how the attacks led to a decline in consumer confidence, a drop in tourism, and a decrease in the stock market, but also how they led to an increase in defense spending and the growth of the security industry. The paper will also explore the long-term economic consequences of the attacks, including the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the impact of these conflicts on the national debt.

Next, the paper will analyze the impact of 9/11 on American politics. It will examine how the attacks led to a shift in the nation's foreign policy, a focus on national security, and an increased emphasis on military interventionism. The paper will also explore the political consequences of the attacks.

In addition to examining the impact of 9/11 on American society, economy, and politics, the paper will also consider the lessons that can be learned from this tragic event. It will explore the ways in which the country has responded to subsequent crises.

This research paper aims to provide a thorough assessment of the impact of the attacks and to shed light on the several ways in which the nation has responded to this defining moment in its history. By examining the legacy of 9/11, the paper aims to educate the reader about the longstanding effects

of the attacks and how countries can respond to catastrophic events of this sort.

Problem Statement

The American society, economy, and politics have been significantly and permanently impacted by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This research paper aims to conduct a thorough analysis of the attacks' aftermath and how various facets of American life have been impacted. The article intends to illuminate the legacy of 9/11 and offer insights into how the nation might continue to learn from this pivotal point in its history by looking at the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the impact on the American economy, and the effect on American politics.

Literature Review

(Kim, H., & Gu, Z. 2004) investigates how the terrorist attacks of September 11th affected airline stock returns and risk. The authors evaluated the stock performance before and after the attacks by looking at the stock prices of 12 major U.S. airlines from January 1995 to December 2002. The 9/11 events, according to the authors, significantly impacted airline stock prices. In addition, after the attacks, the aviation industry's volatility greatly increased. The attacks had a significant effect on the airline industry, according to the authors, and the market's response was consistent with a pessimistic appraisal of the airline's prospects for the future. The study also discovered that each airline's response changed based on its size, financial standing, and route. Low-cost airlines, in contrast to traditional carriers, were less impacted by the assaults, while airlines with more international flights experienced bigger losses than those with more domestic routes. The article offers insightful information on how significant occurrences, including terrorist attacks, affect the stock market and the aviation sector.

The article aims to investigate the reasons for the escalation of police surveillance in the United States after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and its effects on society. According to Bloss, the 9/11 attacks sparked a state of fear and unease that changed how the public felt about policing and surveillance.

This anxiety was used by the government as an excuse to increase monitoring authority and implement new surveillance methods. Bloss argues that in constructing a narrative about the necessity of stepped-up police enforcement and surveillance in the fight against terrorism, the media significantly influenced public opinion. The repercussions of greater surveillance on society are also covered by the author. He contends that surveillance may lead to the targeting of marginalized groups and may have a chilling impact on civil freedoms, (Bloss, W. (2007).

(Nagoshi, J. L., Terrell, H. K., & Nagoshi, C. T. 2007) gives insight into how the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks affected college students' coping mechanisms, mental health, and social dominance attitude. The research on this topic has been in conflict, and it hasn't offered solid proof of the extent of negative psychological consequences resulting from individuals exposed to the incidents. Assessing these psychological impacts on college students as well as the connections between a few key variables both before and after the attacks are the main objectives of this study. Research on negative psychological reactions brought on by watching the events of September 11, 2001, has raised questions about the extent of such adverse effects. The findings give support to the idea that effective coping strategies significantly decreased these negative impacts. The study found that some factors were investigated before and after the attacks and found that distant trauma from watching the media coverage of those events had a significantly negative impact on coping behaviors.

Another article investigates the generally accepted belief that the drop in US tourism was caused by post 9/11 visa regulations, (Neiman, B., & Swagel, P. 2009). To differentiate between the impacts of visa regulations, economic variables, and nation-specific factors on travel to the US, the authors apply an empirical model. The analysis concludes that other variables, such as the psychological effects of the 9/11 attacks and the Iraq War, had a more major influence in the decline in travel to the United States and did not result from changes in visa requirements. The article provides a complete analysis of the factors impacting international travel to the US, including

statistics on non-immigrant entry, economic variables, and border security policies. The authors also examine how visa regulations affect transitory business and leisure travel. The study emphasizes the necessity of understanding the complex aspects influencing trends in international travel, which is especially important considering the recent Trump administration visa restrictions. The authors' use of empirical modeling allows them to conduct an extensive and fair investigation of how visa regulations affect international travel to the US.

This article aims to provide an analysis of the economic consequences of 9/11. This includes the total direct and indirect costs of the attack as well as looking at resulting policies which were put into effect following the attack. The article uses different data sources such as academic studies, industrial estimates, and government reports to estimate the total economic impact. The costs are broken down into 3 categories, firstly the direct costs, which are the cost of the destruction and the rescue & recovery efforts. The second category is the indirect costs, which is basically the loss of business activities and the cost of increasing security measures. The last category is the intangible costs which are measured in terms of the physiological impacts of the attacks on individuals and society, (Rose, A. Z., & Blomberg, S. B. 2010).

The article examines the Islamophobic trends that have surfaced following the 9/11 attack. It focuses on media coverage of Muslims and how Muslims are portrayed in news and how ultimately this portrayal contributes to Islamophobia, (Atom, B.A. (2014). The methodology used in makes use of a content analysis approach examining samples of new articles from three major western news outlets: The Guardian, The New York Times, and Der Spiegel. The headings, lead paragraphs and photographs used in these articles are used to identify the general trends that are used in the portrayal of Muslims. The findings are that there has been a significant increase in the negative portrayal of Muslims in these media coverages since 9/11. Muslims are portrayed as dangerous, violent and as a threat to the western society.

The article focuses on the impacts of attacks on the stock market, GDP, and business. The argument in the article that the terrorist attacks had a short-term negative effect on the stock market but that the long-term impacts were negligible. They attribute this to the flexibility of the US economy and the government's quick response to the assaults, counting the Government Reserve's choice to lower interest rates. The country was able to recover from the economic downturn relatively quickly, (Gail, M. 2002).

(Khan, M., & Ecklund, K. 2012), discuss the negative attitudes and discrimination faced by Muslim Americans in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The study aimed to investigate if attitudes towards Muslim Americans were more negative than attitudes towards individuals whose ethnicity was unspecified. The FBI reported a 1,700% increase in hate crimes Animosity towards Muslim Americans and society at large manifests negative stereotypes. Muslim immigrants, more than any other immigrant group, are greeted with a negative attitude. Since then, increased religious and racial animosity has caused Arabs, Middle Easterners, Muslims, and people who resemble members of these groups to face hostility from people of other cultures. The study also examined the effects of social desirability and non-prejudice on attitudes towards Muslim Americans. However, significant differences between attitudes towards Muslim Americans and unidentified individuals persisted, suggesting that the results cannot be explained by social desire alone.

Research Questions

1. How 9/11 on the whole affected American society and economy?
2. How American Policy makers and society responded to the consequences of 9/11 attacks?

Research Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative data analysis are the two main types used in research. As both qualitative and quantitative analysis have advantages and disadvantages of its

own, the topic that is under study will decide which of the two methods to employ. Qualitative analysis is used to understand the underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations behind an issue. The basis for it is non-numerical information like text, pictures, and emotions. Researchers may study complex events, such as emotions, relationships, and cultural customs, that can't be measured by quantitative methods by using qualitative data analysis. To get qualitative data, researchers often use techniques like focus groups, focus interviews, and observation. Quantitative analysis, on the other hand, is used to measure numerical data and statistical relationships between variables. It includes analyzing numerical information using statistical methods and mathematical models. Predictions and tests for hypotheses are often carried out using quantitative analysis. Researchers often use procedures like surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis to gather quantitative data.

To make a distinction between the two, the type of data is looked at. The meaning of the data is explained using qualitative analysis, and quantitative analyses are used to measure it. Quantitative analysis is explanatory and subjective, while qualitative analysis is based on numerical data that are objective. Qualitative analyses are generally used in the social sciences and humanities, whereas quantitative analysis is applied to numerous areas of science and technology.

Now, in the instance of this research, the effects of the September 11 attacks, taking a qualitative analysis approach over quantitative can be backed by various factors. Firstly, the scale of an event can frequently be determined through quantitative analysis. But it fails to adequately give the complexity of the event or the circumstances in which it took place. On the other hand, qualitative analysis offers an advanced understanding of the situation and people's experiences. For instance, qualitative examination can help us in learning the responses of those who saw the September 11 attacks, the effect they had on their lives, and how they dealt with the tragedy's aftermath.

The capability of quantitative analysis to investigate perceptions and attitudes is constrained. It's helpful in

determining the frequency of a specific issue, but it cannot give us information about what people are thinking or feeling. On the other hand, qualitative analysis is perfect for examining attitudes and perceptions. Experimenters can learn further about how people viewed the 9/11 events, how it altered their beliefs and values, and how it affected their actions through in-depth interviews and focus groups. In quantitative analysis, human experience is constantly ignored. It ignores the human stories that make up people's lived experiences in favor of emphasizing data and statistics. On the other hand, qualitative analysis is perfect for landing the human experience. Investigators can learn further about how people saw the 9/11 events, how they affected their connections, and how they dealt with the emotional damage by studying narratives and individual testaments.

Though both qualitative and quantitative examinations have benefits and downsides, figuring out the consequences of 9/11 requires an understanding of qualitative analysis more than quantitative analysis. It enables experimenters to learn further about the situation, research attitudes and perspectives, and record human experience. We can more fluently understand the complicated and elaborate impacts of 9/11 on people and society by employing qualitative analysis.

Discussion

We want to shed some light on the rampant Islamophobia that stemmed from the most significant act of terrorism to occur on U.S. soil. Furthermore, our first research aims to analyze cognitive differences or novelties that arose following 9/11, whether that be a generalized conclusion for society at large or confined to a more particular space. There are plenty of lessons to be learned from studying social behavior post September 2001, but the goal is always to devise counter measures for the hate and tension that incubated from the increase in negative emotions because of 9/11. Our research delves first into mental health issues suffered by American college students. The American education system boasts the most surveyed group of academics in the world, and when you factor in examinations, evaluations, presentations etc. we

already have a very solid litmus test for observing changes in behavior, or the impact of trauma on academic achievement. To get it out of the way, yes, there was an obvious, discernible effect of consuming media related to the September 11 attacks and how well students performed academically. Those who were more readily exposed to media coverage of 9/11 did markedly worse than those who were not. Trauma is more likely to manifest itself in individuals who have had the experience of such but consider also that students were able to overcome these great mental burdens and persevere as well. Some coping mechanisms employed successfully by students include psychological counseling, support groups, therapy, resorting to religion and spiritual means like prayer and meditation etc. Perhaps the single greatest social impact of 9/11 is the Western world's landslide into Islamophobia. This extends as far as government's integrating Anti-Muslim rhetoric into policy, but more on that later. The West's lapse into Islamophobia is explained by several factors. To start, there was already marked tension between America and "Islamist" factions in the Al-Qaeda, the Taliban etc. which were offshoots of the American funded Mujahideen who were formed to counter the Soviets in Afghanistan. Americans are comfortably the most patriotic or nationalistic bunch of Westerners on the planet. Inherently, that means that America's foreign policy or military standing will often dictate an American's stance on all kinds of sociopolitical avenues. These feelings accentuated tenfold into jingoism after 9/11, when Al Qaeda formally accepted responsibility for the attacks despite Osama Bin Laden initially denying any involvement in the attacks. Full of emotion and rage, Americans consequently began to see Islam as the ultimate enemy of the state and Western ideals. There was also the undeniable element of what was essentially a smear campaign against Islam courtesy of fast spreading misinformation via blanket lies and verses of the Quran being quoted out of context. This only furthered Islamophobic discourse, courtesy of which Muslim Americans are still subject to hate crime and mistrust to this very day. Look at school-going Muslims who grew up in the 9/11 era. Bullied, humiliated and side cornered, there is an entire generation of Muslim Americans who have felt alienated and

betrayed by their own countrymen and have been forced to foster these feelings throughout their lives.

It is rather obvious that a coup de main of 9/11's scale would have noticeable economic outcomes. Let's leave aside the billions of dollars lost just from the demolition of the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the hysteria caused by such a catastrophic occurrence adversely influences financial indicators like the stock market. As people begin panic selling their shares, it sets off a shockwave of depreciating stock prices and has the potential to trigger a financial crisis. What's also true is that the U.S. economy has recovered from that shortfall, so studying this facet of the ordeal may provide some insight into how to bounce back from similar setbacks. Since the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon were both orchestrated via commercial aircraft, there was an immediate decline in airline stocks owing in large to the fright surrounding air travel. Suddenly, the possibility of a hostage situation in the sky became apparent and it was considered probable that the aftershocks of 9/11 would bring around incidents of the same kind. People being scared to fly obviously meant fewer sales for airlines, meaning they would have to accept heavy financial losses. Losses in turn meant budget cuts, and budget cuts in turn meant layoffs. 9/11 greatly affected the livelihoods and careers of an appreciable amount of airline staff and personnel, steering unemployment in the field to unprecedented levels. On the note of hysteria and fright, tourism in the U.S. also saw a sharp decline. But ultimately, 9/11 was detrimental yet not decisive in damaging the U.S. economy. In the months following 9/11, economic indicators would soon return to pre-9/11 numbers. Down the road, the U.S. would continue to lose money through military action in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria as part of the War on Terror. Despite that, however, America also found itself in a comfortable position as the world's arms dealer. Maybe it is not accurate to term the U.S. as a Banana Republic, but it certainly found a disproportionate amount of return in selling weaponry, war tech and intel to other countries. It is clear that without 9/11, these returns would simply not have reached the same heights.

When a country of the U. S's stature undergoes a travesty of 9/11's scale, it is expected that there will be a lawmaking fiasco to follow to prevent future occurrences of the like. There is simply too much policy influenced by the September 11 attacks to cover in a research project of our scale, but it is clearly worth discussing the highlights. Congress has the ultimate say over whether the country will engage in war. Between 2001 and the end of Obama's presidency in 2018, the government allowed the persistence of the War on Terror, and the U.S. maintained a strong military presence in the Middle East. One of the most impacted domains because of 9/11 was immigration, and its influence was so strong it extended even to Donald Trump's presidency. A series of aviation and immigration reforms were introduced, and security was greatly heightened around airports and military bases. The U.S. has since maintained an active immigration control office monitoring even approved flyers from a list of countries, most of them third world countries or bearing Muslim majority populations. On that note, President Trump advocated for a complete ban on Muslims entering the United States, and in January of 2017, literally his first month in office, he would sign an executive order that would suspend the entry of citizens coming in from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen into the United States for a period of 90 days.

Results

Up till now we've established that 9/11 was catastrophic for the American outlook on Muslims, Islam and Americans who were not Muslim, but from regions with significant Muslim populations like Sikhs from South Asia. Laying out some facts that will support these claims, the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding marked a 1600% increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes just in the United States alone in the seven days following the September 11 attacks. In 2001, courtesy of a Gallup poll, over half or 52% of surveyed Americans had a negative view of Islam in stark contrast with a poll from the year 2000 which boasted 59% of surveyors reporting favorable views of Islam instead. The feelings are long standing as well; nearly 9 years after the attacks in 2010, 38% of surveyed Americans per Pew Research Center believed

that Islam encourages violence more than other religions including Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism do. In fact, radical right wing, white supremacist terrorist manifestos often cite 9/11 as a turning point in influencing their negative views about Islam and Muslims. As per [8], it would be helpful to investigate whether non-Muslim views towards minority groups are like non-Muslim attitudes towards Muslims in Europe. A short psychological study was done to characterize non-Muslim attitudes towards Muslims in the US. The findings demonstrate that unfavorable sentiments are more common situations, such as when Muslim Americans go to Florida or sell a secondhand automobile. It was discovered that individuals who were older and US-born had more unfavorable opinions about an American Muslim who cheated on the exam. This is a clear indicator of Anti-Muslim sentiment and by virtue of this paper, it is clear that 9/11 has had a huge hand in shaping these thoughts.

Perhaps economic indicators are the most concrete results we can decipher from our research. Upon the attacks, the NYSE shut down for four days, which was the longest consecutive period of inactivity since the Great Depression itself. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) saw its biggest one-day decline ever on September 17, 2001, when the markets reopened, dropping 684 points, or 7.1%. The Nasdaq had a significant dip of 11.6% as well. According to a paper by the Brown University Costs of War project, the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan cost over \$8 trillion in total between 2001 and 2021. This sum accounts for both short-term costs like interest on the national debt, care for veterans, and other associated costs, as well as direct spending on military operations. According to the estimates in [5] approximately \$3.3 - \$4.4 trillion dollars is the total economic cost of 9/11 and this estimate is significantly larger than earlier estimates primarily because they all focused only on the direct costs of the attacks. With regards to the GDP performance around 9/11, there was a definite decrease of 0.5%, which is still surprisingly low. Ultimately the American economy suffered at worst a lack of confidence, temporarily, but was able to maintain its form going into the future, recovering its DJIA standing by March

2002. Having discussed the aviation industry as being particularly hard hit by 9/11, The four biggest US airlines—American, United, Delta, and Northwest—reported combined losses of \$7.4 billion in the last quarter of 2001, as opposed to a combined profit of \$1.6 billion at the same time the year before, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The US airline industry lost \$10 billion because of the 9/11 attacks due to decreased sales and increased security costs, according to the GAO assessment. According to some estimates, the US aviation industry suffered losses of up to \$25 billion in the year following the attacks.

Policy making influenced by 9/11 has rendered citizens of several Muslim majority countries either unable or significantly stunted with regards to prospects for immigration to the U.S. While immigration statistics no longer sound promising, social indicators sound a more positive beat. It is important to note that there has been as of late a continued disacceptance of Anti-Muslim rhetoric between left-leaning members of Congress, as Anti-Muslim reforms are now met a great deal of criticism and were eventually overturned. There has also been a marked increase in Muslim representation in the United States government, with figures like Ilhan Omar and Rashida Talib being prominent figures in the Muslim-American community serving in public office.

Recommendations

How does a nation recover from an event that challenges its social fabric, tears at its economic motives, and forces the administration into making fierce, urgent, and perhaps irrational choices with respect to military and diplomatic decisions? At its core, it takes a lot of learning. When you consider the fact that Al Qaeda are only so much of an adversary of the United States as the United States themselves allowed them to be after the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, 9/11 is no longer something you need to look at through a lens that frames a clash of religious ideologies, but rather it is apparent that it was a stark failure of American policy. If it is to be believed that Al Qaeda were responsible for the September 11 attacks, sooner you should blame the system

that left the Mujahideen to fend for themselves and allowed the incubation of strong hatred for the United States rather than the preachings of Islam. Ultimately, money, power and influence have always been the strongest drivers for conflict in the modern world ahead of the spread of religion. It is important that the Americans hold the government accountable for their actions, particularly them meddling in the affairs of other countries to further national interests. One great way to steer America away from foreign intervention is to promote social welfare ideas within the United States that should advocate for change at home. Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, have crippling educational debt, cannot afford an uninsured trip to the doctor's and are slaves to a viciously capitalistic economy that stifles competition and is hell bent on making everyday life increasingly more expensive and difficult for the common man. It should be a much more important cause to make sure that the average American, who is also a citizen of the richest country in the world, does not have to decide between getting to eat and getting educated or staying healthy. Furthermore, advocacy for reparations to the American Muslim community and countries adversely affected by the War on Terror despite not having participated in the events of 9/11 is a must to trample the remnants of post-9/11 Islamophobia. This proposition follows the example of reparations to the African-American community for slavery during the early days of the new nation. Stifling Islamophobic rhetoric is essential for the advancement of an inclusive society, especially one that claims to be accepting of all people regardless of their ethnic, religious, personal, or social backgrounds. Other nations have a great lesson to learn from America as well considering their economic perseverance post 9/11; a strong economic core that emphasizes exports and sales will remain unshaken in the long term given short term setbacks.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 2001 World Trade Centre and Pentagon attacks on September 11th had a profound effect on a variety of facets of American life, such as social behavior, mental health, the economy, and judicial decisions. Following

the attacks, there was an increase in Islamophobia, which resulted in hate crimes and suspicion of American Muslims. Additionally, the assaults had a negative impact on college students' mental health who were exposed to media coverage of the attacks, however coping strategies such therapy, support groups, counseling, and religion were able to help them cope. The assaults also had an impact on the economy, producing a drop in airline stocks and tourism, which resulted in layoffs and unemployment for many airline employees. However, the economy gradually bounced back, and the United States became the top arms dealer in the world, reaping enormous profits from selling weapons, military technology, and intelligence to other nations. The Patriot Act, the War on Terror, and expanded military activity in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria are just a few examples of the important changes in legislation and international policy that were a result of the attacks.

Overall, the 9/11 attacks had a significant negative influence on American society, with long-lasting impacts on social, economic, and political institutions. Researching the events that followed the attacks can shed light on how people and countries can bounce back from comparable setbacks. It's critical to keep in mind the lessons from 9/11, such as the perils of Islamophobia, the value of mental health, the resiliency of people and communities, and the necessity of responsible domestic and foreign policymaking.

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