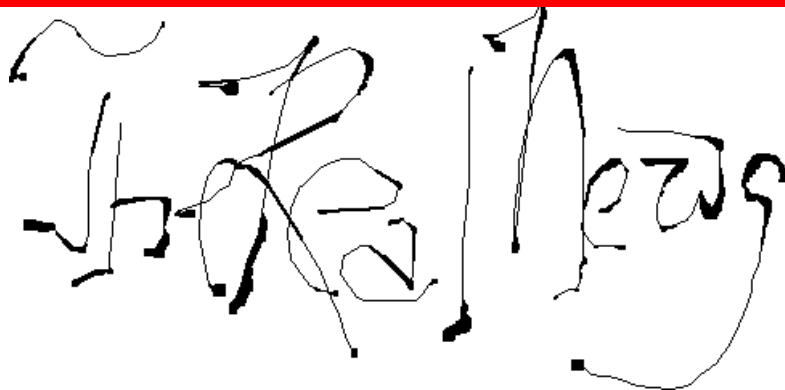


I was sitting in front of my office computer on the morning of September 11. It was a half hour before the typical 9 a.m. hectic telephone routine would begin. The news radio station was on in the background. I had heard that one of the Trade Center Towers had caught fire just before I arrived to work, but I thought little what it meant. As I continued to work, the sound of the radio alert began to jump through the air. It would be the first of an endless pattern of bulletins that day. An airplane had hit the Trade Tower. It took a few minutes to get the information to clarify what was happening live on New York City television. A second plane had hit the second tower. Unbelievable. Was there a problem with the air traffic control system? Was it a foggy morning? How could an airplane hit a 110 story skyscraper? Meigs Field on the Chicago lake front has corporate jets fly across the skyline on a daily basis. It took several other bulletins to clarify that it was not a corporate or general aviation plane that hit the World Trade Center, but a commercial jetliner. Still, the radio reports could not give any vivid details of the intense tragedy. Then there was an urgent bulletin. "There has been an explosion at the Pentagon." Then the tumblers of my logic clicked in. Someone was crashing planes into important American buildings! Then, there was a report that United Airlines, based in Chicago, was "concerned" that it had lost contact with one of its planes. What city was next in this massive assault?



**September, 2001**

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In the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, the anchor of the New York skyline was bellowing thick black smoke, the witnesses were saying on the radio.

A carpenter working at my office had heard the news after the Pentagon crash on his radio. He was stunned. His reaction was clear. "We're at war."

Another bulletin. Another plane had crashed, this time outside Pittsburgh. I thought that whoever was downing planes was making their way across the time zones to wreck havoc throughout the country.

The phones did not ring that morning with many client calls. Mostly, it was family messages. A brother in Virginia calling to say that all the roads were now closed. A brother in Chicago had left his office in the Sears Tower. Like the natural disaster of the Great Chicago Flood, the Loop was evacuated within two hours of the News.

Another bulletin. Confirmation that a plane had crashed into the Pentagon, and that the building was on fire.

Background information on the WTC was relayed; on a normal day 50,000 people inhabit the buildings. It was a short walk to Wall Street, in the financial heart of NYC.

Another bulletin. One of the Towers had just collapsed. Again, it was unfathomable. I recalled a documentary on skyscrapers on cable. It showed the film footage of the bomber that hit into the Empire State Building. But the building withstood that direct hit without falling down.

With the FAA grounding the entire airspace over the United States, more disturbing news from sources at United. There appeared to be another plane possibly in "distress" over Cleveland. (The plane landed; it was a false bomb alert, the beginning of many further inaccurate reports to follow throughout the day and night.)

But people everywhere was on edge. When reading history textbooks on Pearl Harbor, one cannot grasp the emotion of the people living through the moment of crisis. Until now. Stunned disbelief. Commercial jetliners were falling from the sky! Shock. The second tower had also collapsed in a heap of steel and concrete dust. Para-



noia --- what is next? Fear. There was no reasonable explanation for the massive loss of life. Then, later in the evening, anger. Four hijacked suicide bombers were flown directly into crowded buildings. What had the United States done recently to provoke such an attack? Nothing made sense.

In the end, that was the Answer. It made no sense.

After looking at the video on the evening cable news, it made no sense. After listening to New York emergency crews being buried by the buildings, it made no sense.

It was the same reaction to the Oklahoma Federal Building bombing. The death of hundreds of innocent people in the name of warped political cause.

The senseless logic wanes in the analysis. The masterminds behind the coordinated plot to ram planes into highly concentrated office buildings at the beginning of the work day had to realize that thousands of lives would be lost. The masterminds of the plot had to realize that the US would strike back with a fury 100 fold.

In this game of international terror chess, one would think that the plot keepers would have assessed this fact; and would have planned ahead with more attacks in the future.

Because the US is a free country, with vast open borders, and freedom of movement, terror on American soil could continually be sowed and the fear the terrorists wrought would regenerate in the minds of the general public.

The terror network, probably with wings from Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon, had to know that they had escalate the mass destruction.



Why?

The speculation for the attacks are so disjointed, no one will know for sure the real reason for the madness.

Madness could be the reason. Professional terrorists like Bin Laden, like Hitler, are mentally unstable individuals bent on their view of their pure society can only come from forceful destruction of others.

Martyrdom could be the reason. Terrorists live in such backward, forsaken lands that they have nothing to live for except war. They have no real economy. They blame others for their plight. They have nothing to look forward to except dying. It has been going on for thousands of years, in places like the Middle East.

Assault on religious beliefs is a false reason. The US has not attacked the Muslim religion. The US had no national religion. It does not punish people for practicing their religion. The emotional fever of religion is a powerful tool in the hands of political zealots. A prime example goes back to the Vikings, who adopted Christianity, to control the vast conquered tribes of eastern Europe and Russia.

Personal gain is a good reason. The purpose of throwing the US into a war mode is to create a war. War means soldiers, invasions, and weapons. Black markets in war torn regions are huge profit centers. The terrorist leaders may be wanting a war so they can profit in arms.

Personal ego is another reason. Politicians seek to write their own history before the historians can digest their work. Bin Laden and other terrorist leaders are seeking to solidify their names in the history books of their followers. It is a way to become immortal. Again, what student will ever forget the name Hitler?

Destabilize an entire region for power. The terrorists are using religion to whip up a rabid army of followers to topple other Muslim countries who do not follow their views. They are using the US as the evil empire, but it is a diversion to the real goals: destabilize weak governments by civilian uprisings in Pakistan, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. It is the feared North Vietnam communism domino doctrine played out in central Asia. The terrorist leaders and their network could suddenly command major western oil reserves and become an equal in the nuclear arms race with Pakistani or Indian technology. Then the stakes do become global-- and an immediate threat to everyone.

Even if these madmen would win by wiping out the US and its allies, what would they really gain? The US is the number one aid giver on the planet in money and food. Their countries, like Afghanistan or West Bank would still be impoverished wastelands. Their people's lives would not change for the better; it could only get worse.

Just like the terrorist acts of this September. It can only get worse.