



## Introduction - Conflict and Tension in the Gulf and Afghanistan, 1990-2009

A series of complex and diverse conflicts and tensions unsettled life in areas of the Middle East before, between and since 1990 and 2009, particularly the areas north of the Persian Gulf (including Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan). Wars in the region had left dangerous power vacuums. Furthermore, the rise of anti-west regimes, such as Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the Taliban in Afghanistan, coupled with attacks by the militant Al-Qaeda group, deeply alarmed those in the west. Major events include the Gulf War 1990, the September 11th attack, the 'War on Terror', and the Iraq War of 2003.

# Discovery Year 9 / Literacy Autumn 1 Knowledge Organiser 9/11



**Finding out: What is known about the pilots involved in the attack? What other key events can be linked to these terrorists?**

**THE WAR ON AL-QAEDA**  
-The rise of Al-Qaeda and the role of the group/  
Osama bin Laden in the September 11th attacks;  
-Afghanistan the 'rogue state', the Taliban regime, and western/Muslim attitudes to its policies;  
-Bush and Blair's 'War on Terror' - the overthrow of the Taliban.

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| <b>September 11th Attacks (September 11th 2001)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The September 11th attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks against the USA on the morning of September 11th, 2001.</li> <li>-Four passenger airlines were hijacked by 19 Al-Qaeda militants.</li> <li>-Two of the planes were crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Centre complex in Manhattan – causing them to collapse.</li> <li>-A third plane was crashed into the Pentagon (the headquarters of US Defense) in Virginia, causing the collapse of the west wing.</li> <li>-The fourth plane was flown towards Washington DC, but crashed in fields in Pennsylvania after passengers overpowered the hijackers.</li> <li>-It is the single deadliest terrorist attack in history, with 2,996 people being killed and 6,000 others injured. 415 firefighters and police died.</li> <li>-Al-Qaeda were immediately suspected. Despite initially denying involvement, bin Laden claimed responsibility for the attacks in 2004.</li> </ul> |
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