



### **Topic Synopsis**

#### **Ad Hoc on Terror, Evaluation of the War on Terror**

#### **I. Background of Topic**

On September 11, 2001, tragedy struck. Terrorists hijacked planes and crashed them into the Twin Towers in New York City as well as the Pentagon. There were a total of 2,996 deaths as a result of the attacks. Not only did these terrorist attacks take away many American lives, they damaged numerous other buildings and furthered American resentment against the Middle East. It is suspected by the United States government that the Islamic terrorist group Al Qaeda was behind the attacks. This attack marked the beginning of the War on Terror, which most Americans then favored. In response to the attack, the United States began research to look for evidence of Iraqi involvement. The NATO council declared that the terrorist attack on the United States was ultimately an attack on all of the other member nations. With the support of its fellow NATO nations and the American people, the American military was ready to go to war. On October 7, 2001, less than a month after the Twin Tower attacks, the United States and The United Kingdom began targeting Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorist camps in Afghanistan. President Bush went into the War on Terror with the goal of an anti-terrorism campaign. He claimed that the war's purpose was eliminating terrorism and protecting Americans from future and, possibly imminent future terrorist attacks. Furthermore, Bush saw reason the send troops to Iraq in order to stop Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from using Weapons of Mass destruction or from selling them to Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist groups. Many years later, no weapons of mass destruction were found, making Bush lose credibility. However, the United States military remained in the region in order to fight for



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democracy. Eventually, Saddam Hussein was found, and eventually put to death, which most people believed marked the end of the war in Iraq. However, tensions are still high between the United States and the Middle East. Recently, on May 2, 2011, the head of Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden, was found in Pakistan and killed, angering Al-Qaeda members and heightening their resentment against the United States. President Barack Obama is intending to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan by next summer in order to reverse gains made by the Taliban. On the other hand, President Obama has also promised to have all U.S. troops out of Iraq by 2012.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The United Nations has adopted many resolutions with the purpose of combating terrorism. The United Nations has established a committee specifically with the purpose of combating terrorism, called the Counter Terrorism Committee, or CTC. The United Nations has called upon states to take action to combat and eliminate terrorism. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is intending to extend its purposes in order to cover terrorism. The 9-11 terrorist attacks have forced the United Nations members to come to terms with the fact that in the area of security issues, the United Nations member states must cooperate instead of leaving the problem for individual states to solve. After the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the United Nations Security Council passed numerous counterterrorism resolutions including Resolution 1373, which required states to undergo periodic checks of their national security programs. Furthermore, the 1297 Committee enforced an assets freeze on Osama Bin Laden and many of his men. In terms of the War on Terror specifically, the United Nations seemingly tried to appear neutral, although the United Nations is biased toward democracy. After the Canal Hotel Bombing in Iraq, the United Nations withdrew all of its representatives from the region. Up until the bombing, the United



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Nations had used to Canal Hotel as headquarters. Although the United Nations Secretary General stated that the bombing would not impede the United Nations' efforts to rebuild Iraq, the United Nations were forced to relocate to Jordan.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

Steps must be taken in order to properly combat terrorism. In order to do this, it is important for The United Nations and Western Nations to advance democracy in order to combat the ideology of terrorism. The United States has deprived Al-Qaeda of a safe haven in Afghanistan and is working on the establishment of a democratic government in its place. Countries wishing to increase their security can establish departments similar to the Department of Homeland Security. Governments need to put a huge amount of focus into strengthening their security programs. Governments in opposition to terrorism need to be vocal about their opposition in order to shift public opinion towards terrorism as well. There is still a presence of Al Qaeda in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Recently Obama delivered a speech in which he stated that the United States will not accept defeat and will destroy the entire Al-Qaeda network. In Afghanistan, the United States is fighting against the Taliban. The United States is taking the most extreme measures out of any other country due to its direct ties with terrorism and the fact that it has been a victim of terrorism. If other countries feel as strongly as the United States does about fighting terrorism, then a possible solution for them would be to take similar measures as the United States has in combating terrorism. In conclusion, the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups in the Middle East are kindling huge threats to security in Western Nations. In order to combat



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these terrorist groups, the threatened nations must be willing to take action both international and domestic action against the terrorist groups.

#### **IV. Bloc Positions**

Asian: The Asian bloc does not have extreme ties to combating terrorism; however, most countries in Asia should be opposed to terrorism and willing to take steps to combat it. Many countries in the Asian region do not have stable economies, and, thus, do not have the means to combat terrorism, which is why the United Nations needs to take steps to help countries that do not have to economic stability to support themselves in the area of a terrorist attack or threat.

Latin: Similar to the Asian bloc, many countries in the Latin block simply do not have the economic stability to combat terrorism. Terrorism is not an issue for most countries in Central and South America, but most countries in that region are opposed to terrorism and the negative effects it brings about. The number of radical Islamic people in Latin America is growing, and, because of this, there is a chance that terrorism could pop up.

European: Many countries in Europe have assisted the United States in the War on Terror. When the United States originally bombed Afghanistan, Great Britain helped. The majority of countries in the European bloc are in favor of democracy and combating terrorism. On the other hand, there are countries that are not in support of terrorism but also not in support of democracy, such as Russia.

Middle Eastern: The Middle East is where the terrorism problem and conflict is occurring. The type of government that each country has dictates their position on terrorism. Newly established democracies, such as Iraq, should be opposed to terrorism,



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but countries that are still anti-western, such as Iran or Afghanistan would not be opposed to terrorism.

**V. Guiding Questions**

1. How are the existent terrorist groups in the Middle East a threat to Western Nations?
2. Should the United States continue to wage war in Afghanistan?
3. What are examples of security measures nations could take in order to protect themselves against terrorism?
4. Should the United Nations be taking action to combat terrorism or should it try to be neutral?
5. How can the end of this war be achieved?