

**CS1 ◀ PEARL HARBOUR, 7 DECEMBER 1941, AND THE ANNIHILATION OF JAPAN ▶**

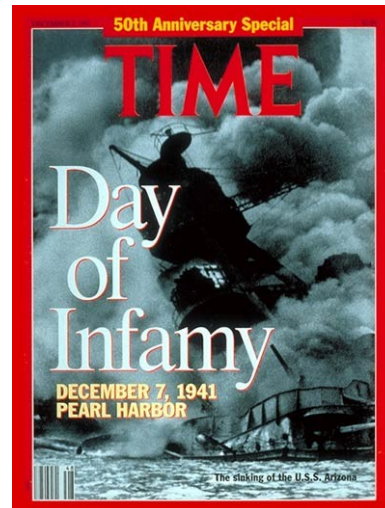
*How did the USA react to the Pearl Harbour attack?*

**1. Entering WWII**

Structure

Key notion

Vocabulary



The explosion of USS *Arizona*, TIME anniversary issue, 2 December 1991

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. [...] The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. [...]

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

President Roosevelt, Address to the Nation, 8 Dec. 1941

It will not only be a long war, it will be a hard war. That is the basis on which we now lay all our plans. That is the yardstick by which we measure what we shall need and demand; money, materials, doubled and quadrupled production - ever-increasing. The production must be not only for our own Army and Navy and air forces. It must reinforce the other armies and navies and air forces fighting the Nazis and the war lords of Japan throughout the Americas and throughout the world.

President F.D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat "On the War with Japan" broadcast, Dec. 9, 1941.



"Let's Go, everybody -Keep'em Firing," US war poster



US declaration of war to the Axis powers, *The New York Times*, 12 December 1941, US National Archives



German Tiger tank captured intact beside a US comparatively small Sherman tank, 13 August 1944, US National Archives

CS1 ◀ PEARL HARBOUR, 7 DECEMBER 1941, AND THE ANNIHILATION OF JAPAN

How did the USA react to the Pearl Harbour attack?

2. Victory at all cost

Structure

Key notion

Vocabulary



The raising of the flag on Iwo Jima, Joe Rosenthal, New York Times, 25 February 1945

Iwo Jima (19 February-26 March 1945), one of the bloodiest battle of the war.

	US forces	Japanese forces
Troops	70,000 U.S. soldiers (Marines, Navy corpsmen & airmen)	18,000 - 22,000 Japanese soldiers (figures are subject to debate)
Casualties & losses	19,217 wounded 6,821 killed	17,845 - 21,570 killed in action or by suicide
PoWs	2 captured but recovered	212 taken prisoners

The USA needed to secure this heavily fortified Japanese island as American fighters and bombers would be within striking range of Tokyo for the first time. PoW: prisoner of war

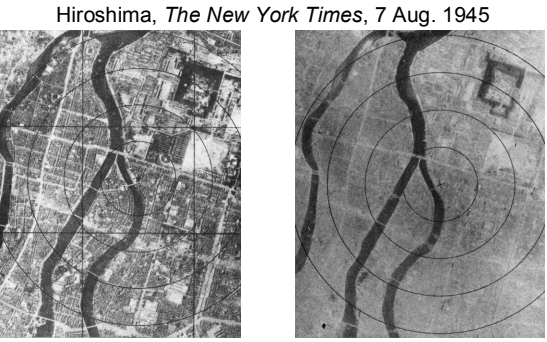
With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary increase in destruction to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. [...]

The United States had available the large number of scientists of distinction in the many needed areas of knowledge. It had the tremendous industrial and financial resources necessary for the project and they could be devoted to it without undue impairment of other vital war work. [...] We have spent two billion dollars on the greatest scientific gamble in history -- and won.

Official statement, President Harry Truman, August 6, 1945.



A shift change at Oak Ridge, 'Oak Ridge in the 1940s', Knoxville News Sentinel. The plant produced the first enriched uranium fuel for the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.



Hiroshima before & after the bombing, U.S. National Archives

## CS2 ◀ THE BERLIN CRI- SIS (23 JUNE 1948 - 12 MAY 1949), A COLD WAR STALEMATE ▶

How was Berlin typical of  
Cold War confrontations?

### 1. The run-up to crisis 1945-1948

Structure

Key notion

At the present moment in world history every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based on the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies on terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and suppression of personal freedom.

President Harry Truman, address before Congress, 12 March 1947.

The Soviet take over of Eastern Europe  
1945-1948.



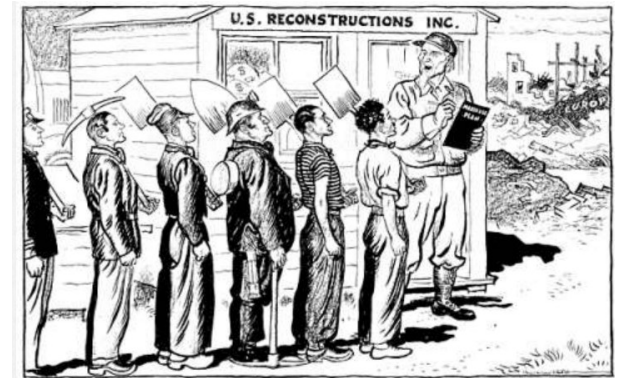
At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one. [...]

I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.

I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political process.

President Harry Truman, address before Congress, 12 March 1947.



The Marshall plan, Leslie Illingworth, Daily Mail, 29 September 1947.  
The US 13 billion dollar aid launched by Secretary of State George Marshall was accepted by Western Europe and lasted until 1952.



Fighting with matchsticks,  
Berlin crisis, by Leslie Illingworth, Daily Mail, 5 April 1948  
On the right, US President Truman; on the left, Soviet leader  
Joseph Stalin

In the first two decades of the Cold War, there were a number of occasions during which a form of atomic diplomacy was employed by either side of the conflict.

During the Berlin Blockade of 1948–49, President Truman transferred several B-29 bombers capable of delivering nuclear bombs to the region to signal to the Soviet Union that the United States was both capable of implementing a nuclear attack and willing to execute it if it became necessary. During the Korean War, President Truman once again deployed the B-29s to signal U.S. resolve. [...] In an about face, in 1962, the Soviet deployment of nuclear missiles to Cuba in order to try to force U.S. concessions on Europe became another example of atomic diplomacy.

Atomic Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State, last updated: November 1, 2013

Vocabulary

## CS2 ◀ THE BERLIN CRI- SIS (23 JUNE 1948 - 12 MAY 1949), A COLD WAR STALEMATE ▶

How was Berlin typical of  
Cold War confrontations?

### 2. The Berlin crisis

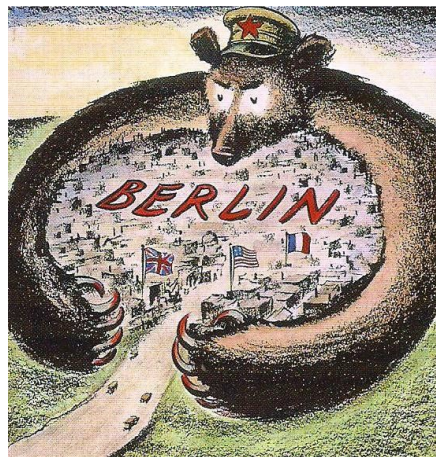
Structure

Key notion

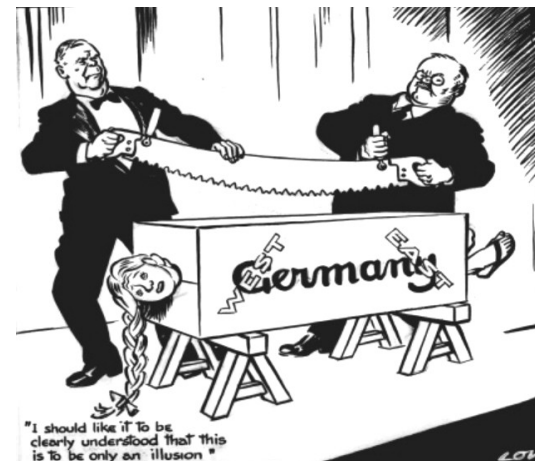
Vocabulary

On June 23, the Soviet au-  
thorities suspended all railroad  
passenger and freight traffic  
into Berlin, because of alleged  
'technical difficulties'. They  
also stopped barge traffic on  
the similar grounds. Shortly  
before midnight on June 23,  
the Soviet administration is-  
sued orders to the Berlin cen-  
tral electric station to disrupt  
delivery of power from Soviet  
sector plants to the Western  
sectors ; shortage of coal was  
given as a reason. On June  
25, Soviets stop supplying  
food to the civilian population  
in the non-Soviet sectors.

*The Berlin Crisis: A Report*, US  
Department of State, 1948.

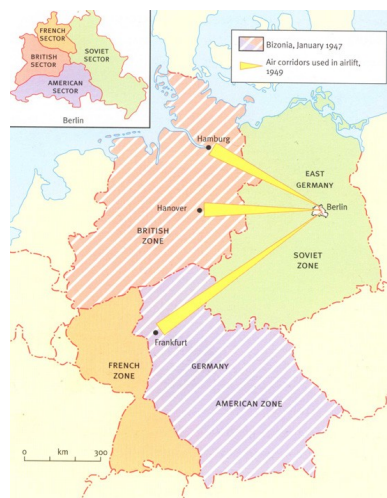


The Berlin blockade, 'Closing the gap', Dick  
Spencer, *Saint Louis Post Dispatch*, June 1948.



Germany after the crisis: Sawing through a woman,  
David Low, *Evening Standard*, 13 April 1949.

On the right George Marshall, US Secretary of State ; on the left  
Molotov, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs. The German Federal  
Republic came into being on 23 May 1949 and the German De-  
mocratic Republic on 7 October 1949.



The Berlin airlift 25 June 1948-30 September 1949



Germany and Europe after the crisis.

### CS3 ◀ THE VIETNAM WAR (1965-1973/75), A COLD WAR QUAGMIRE ▶

How did US intervention and strategy lead to defeat ?

#### 1. US involvement in Vietnam

Structure

Key notion

Vocabulary



It is generally acknowledged that if Indochina were to fail, ... Burma and Thailand would follow suit almost immediately. [...]

South Vietnam is fighting for its life against a brutal campaign of terror and armed attack directed by the Communist regime in Hanoi. [...] The people of South Vietnam have chosen to resist this threat. [...]

The United States will not abandon friends who want to remain free. It will do what must be done to help them. Consequently, the USA is prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist South Vietnam in defense of its freedom.

US State Department, Johnson administration, February 1965.

Dear Mr. President,

I have received your recent letter in which you described the dangerous conditions caused by North Vietnam's effort to take over your country. [...]

In response to your request, we are prepared to help the Republic of Vietnam to preserve its independence. We shall promptly increase our assistance to your defense effort as well as help relieve the destruction of the floods you describe.

If the Communist authorities in North Vietnam stop their campaign to destroy the Republic of Vietnam, the measures we are taking to assist your defense efforts will no longer be necessary.

President Kennedy to South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, Dec. 14, 1961.

"I'm Looking After The Little Tyke All The Time"



South Vietnamese Democracy, Herblock, *The Washington Post*, September 26, 1967.

Onward And Upward And Onward And—



Escalation, Herblock, *The Washington Post*, 1967.

To keep US casualties down, the US initiated massive bombing--more bombs were dropped on Vietnam in one year (1967) than in all of World War II. Civilian casualties were estimated at 1000 a week in heavy bombing--a figure kept secret from the American public.

The US introduced the use of defoliants, most famously napalm, a form of jellied gasoline. One bomber group's slogan was "only you can prevent forests." During the war about 1/2 of Vietnam's rain forests were destroyed.

Michael O'Malley, *The Vietnam War and the Tragedy of Containment*, 2013

### CS3 ◀ THE VIETNAM WAR (1965-1973/75), A COLD WAR QUAGMIRE ▶

How did US intervention and strategy lead to defeat ?

#### 2. US humiliating defeat

Structure

Key notion

Vocabulary

As US superiority seemed so overwhelming, the US military undertook little revision of traditional strategy. But, as Robert McNamara, Johnson's Secretary of Defense, wrote, "the picture of the world's greatest superpower trying to pound a tiny, backward nation into submission...is not a pretty one."

Indeed, the war was fought not against a clearly defined enemy, but against a shifting enemy that was literally everywhere. American strategy made ordinary Vietnamese in the countryside hostile to Americans--acts of sabotage, hidden bombs and sniper attacks were common. It became difficult for Americans to tell North and South Vietnamese people apart, and after a while they stopped caring.

Michael O'Malley, *The Vietnam War and the Tragedy of Containment*, 2013



Accidental Napalm, Nick Ut, Trang Bang, South Vietnam, June 8, 1972.

South Vietnamese forces and children, including a little girl who had ripped off her burning clothes, after a napalm attack on a suspected Viet Cong village.



Ambushing the enemy, Viet Cong poster, 1965.

"We huddled them up. We made them squat down...I poured about four clips [several hundred bullets] into the group...the mothers were hugging their children...well we kept right on firing. They were waving their arms and begging..."

Q Again - Men, women, children?

A. Men women and children

Q. And babies?

A. And babies.

Q. Did you ever dream about this?

A. I still dream about it. About the women and children in my sleep. Some days, some nights, I can't even sleep."

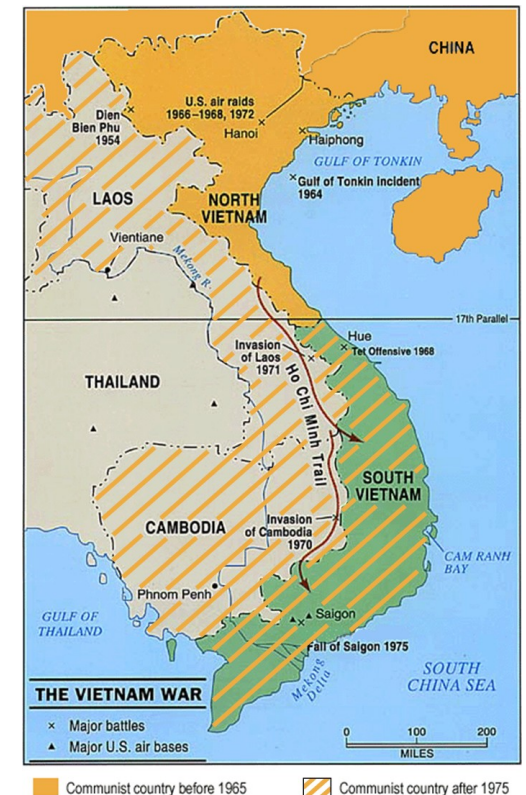
CBS News interview with Private Paul Meadlo who participated in the My Lai Massacre on 16 March 1968 in South Vietnam.

The Vietnam war was complicated by factors that had never occurred before in America's conduct of a war. [...]

Another unusual aspect of this war was that the American news media had come to dominate domestic opinion about its purpose and conduct and also about the nature of the enemy. The North Vietnamese were a particularly ruthless and cruel enemy, but the American media concentrated primarily on the failings and frailties of the South Vietnamese or of our own forces.

Richard Nixon, *Memoirs*, 1978.

Note. The US President tried to justify US defeat and the withdrawal of US troops in 1973.

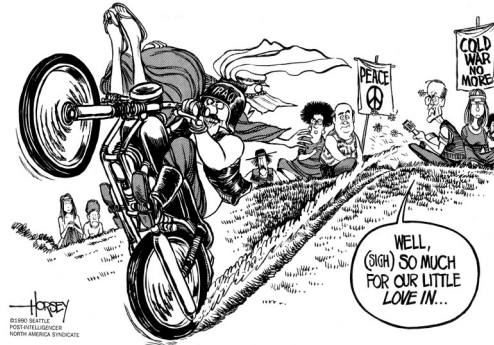


**CS4 ◀ THE GULF WAR (1991), A POST COLD WAR TRIUMPH ▶**

*What were the reasons for war and US triumph?*

**1. The reasons for war: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1990)**

Structure



David Horsey, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 1990

Less than a week ago, in the early morning hours of August 2d, Iraqi Armed Forces, without provocation or warning, invaded a peaceful Kuwait. Facing negligible resistance from its much smaller neighbor, Iraq's tanks stormed in blitzkrieg fashion through Kuwait in a few hours. [...] Iraq now occupies Kuwait. [...] There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression. A puppet regime imposed from the outside is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable. No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace; and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression.

Address on Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait, George H. W. Bush, August 8, 1990.

Key notion

Vocabulary

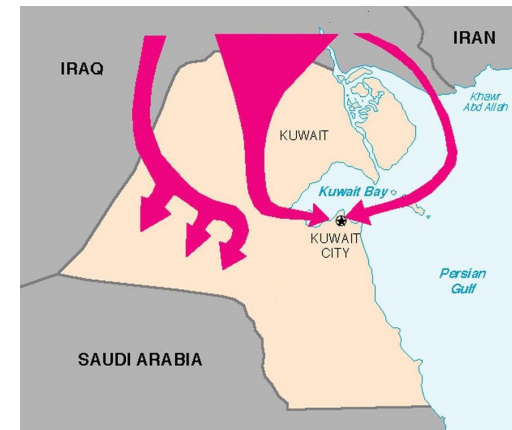
**Superpowers unite on Iraq**

*Overwhelmed Kuwaiti forces continue to fight invaders*

The United States and the Soviet Union, acting together for the first time in a major international crisis, moved simultaneously to isolate Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait yesterday. Washington imposed an oil and trade ban and moved a carrier group to the Gulf while Moscow, Iraq's main arms supplier, suspended all deliveries.

Scattered resistance continued last night in the capital, Kuwait City, as the US Secretary of State, James Baker, prepared to fly to Moscow from Mongolia. The American and Soviet governments are expected to issue a joint statement today condemning Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein. [...]

Simon Tisdall and David Hirst, *The Guardian*, Friday 3 August 1990



In the early hours of August 2, 1990, more than 100,000 Iraqi troops moved tanks, helicopters and trucks across the border into Kuwait. Iraq maintained the world's fourth-largest military and had mobilized an overwhelming invading force. Within an hour, they reached Kuwait City, and by daybreak, Iraqi tanks were attacking Dasman Palace, the royal residence. The emir had already fled into the Saudi desert, but his private guard and his younger half-brother Sheikh Faud had stayed behind to defend their home. The sheik was shot and killed.

1990 The invasion of Kuwait, Dave Johns, *PBS*, January 24, 2006



The Gulf Summit, Jeff, *The Herald Sun*, 11 September 1990.  
Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR and US President George H. Bush

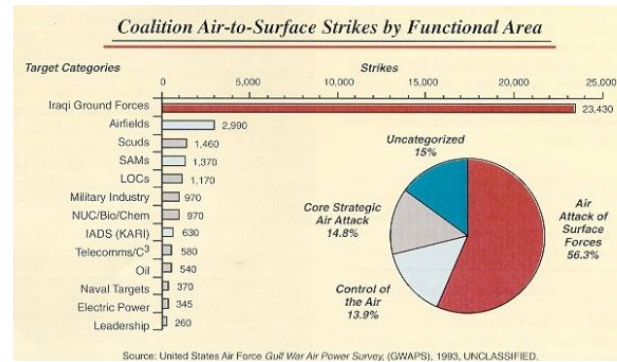
## HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2016 ▶

### CS4 ◀ THE GULF WAR (1991), A POST COLD WAR TRIUMPH ▶

What were the reasons for war and US triumph?

#### 2. The reasons for triumph: the nature of the Gulf War (1991)

Structure



The US-led coalition air strikes, 17 January - 23 February 1991, Department of Defense Report to Congress, 1993.

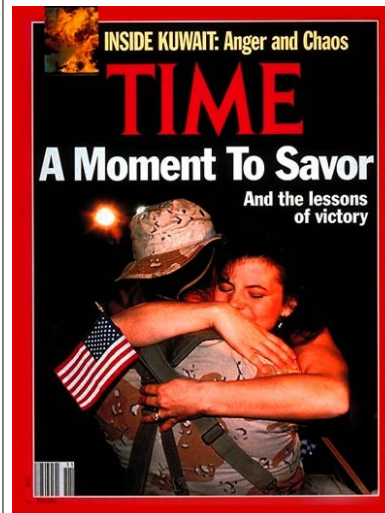
Note: Scuds, SAMs are missiles and LOC means line of communication



Key notion

America and the world must defend common vital interests. And we will. America and the world must support the rule of law. And we will. America and the world must stand up to aggression. And we will. And one thing more: in the pursuit of these goals, America will not be intimidated. Vital issues of principle are at stake. Saddam Hussein is literally trying to wipe a country off the face of the Earth. We do not exaggerate. Nor do we exaggerate when we say: Saddam Hussein will fail.

Address to Congress on Persian Gulf Crisis, President George H. Bush, September, 11 1990.



March 18, 1991

We have seen, with our own eyes, many fascinating things during the first five days of war. We have seen the night sky over Baghdad 'lit up like the Fourth of July.' We have seen the Iraqi defence ministry implode, cruise missiles launching to ringing cheers into the blue of the Gulf. But we have not, on any television screen, yet seen a single dead body.

We know, because we have seen the pictures, how accurate hi-tech missiles can be. We do not know, because there have been no pictures, if they can be inaccurate too. We have much calm, human footage from the pilots in the air. We have damned little footage from the people on the ground.

*The Guardian*, Monday January 21, 1991



Censorship, *International Herald Tribune*, 27 Feb 1991.

Vocabulary

**CS5 ◀ 11 SEPTEMBER 2001: AN ACT OF TERRORISM, AND THE SUBSEQUENT WAR ON TERROR ▶**

How did the USA react to the 9/11 attacks?

1. G.W. Bush & war in Afghanistan (2001-2014)
2. G.W. Bush & war in Iraq (2003-2011)

Structure

Key notion

Vocabulary



Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking, "Who attacked our country?" The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda. [...] Its goal is re-making the world and imposing its radical [Islamic] beliefs on people everywhere. [...] The leadership of al Qaeda [a person named Osama bin Laden] has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country. [...] The Taliban must act and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists or they will share in their fate.

Address to Congress, G.W. Bush, Sept. 21, 2001.



US offensive, *Time*, 29-10-2001.  
The Taliban government fell in December.



Taliban guerrilla, *Time*, 08-03-2010

[Now] we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world. Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September the 11th. But we know their true nature. And make no mistake about it: If they do not act, America will. (Applause) [...]

States like these [North Korea, Iran & Iraq], and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. [...] The price of indifference would be catastrophic.

State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush, Jan. 29, 2002.



Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chris Britt, Springfield, 16-11-2002

**CS5 ◀ 11 SEPTEMBER 2001: AN ACT OF TERRORISM, AND THE SUBSEQUENT WAR ON TERROR ▶**

How did the USA react to the 9/11 attacks?

**2. G.W. Bush & war in Iraq (2003-2011)**

**3. President Obama's new strategy**

Structure



Putting down the insurgency (2004-2011, *Time*, 19 April 2004)

THERE ARE all sorts of dangers in comparing wars. The United States is no longer engaged in a struggle with the Soviet Union. But how far is Iraq reviving "the Vietnam Syndrome"?

In the aftermath of September 11th it looked as if the conservatives had restored America's military machine to its former glory. American soldiers trampled their way across Afghanistan (where the Taliban government folded in short order) and then Iraq (where they reached Baghdad in just three weeks). Today the picture looks decidedly murkier.

First, the Iraq war is dividing the country in much the same profound way that Vietnam once did. [...] Second, the possibility that Iraq is indeed a quagmire grows ever larger.

"The Vietnam Syndrome: still there," *The Economist*, 2004



Adam Zyglis, *Buffalo News*, January 9, 2010.  
President Obama announced US troops would be leaving Iraq at the end of 2011 but would go back to Afghanistan.

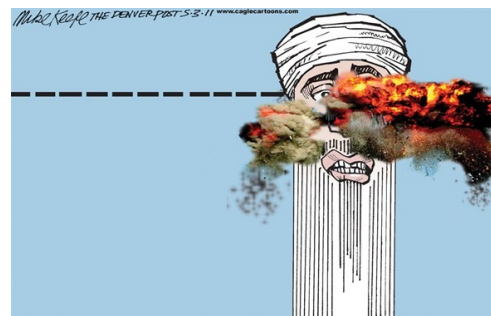
Key notion

We stand united with people around the world who have been targeted by terrorists -- from a school in Pakistan to the streets of Paris. (Applause.) [...]

For more than a year, America has led a coalition of more than 60 countries to cut off ISIL's financing, disrupt their plots, stop the flow of terrorist fighters, and stamp out their vicious ideology. With nearly 10,000 air strikes, we're taking out their leadership, their oil, their training camps, their weapons. We're training, arming and supporting forces who are steadily reclaiming territory in Iraq and Syria. [...]

If you doubt America's commitment - or mine - to see that justice is done, just ask Osama bin Laden.

President Obama, last State of the Union to Congress, 21 January 2016.



Dead, Mike Keefe, *Denver Post*, 03-05-2011.  
A covert US operation executed Osama bin Laden who had been hiding in Pakistan.

Vocabulary

We are 15 years into this new century. Fifteen years that dawned with terror touching our shores; that unfolded with a new generation fighting two long and costly wars [...]. It has been, and still is, a hard time for many.

But tonight, we turn the page. [...] Tonight, for the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over. (Applause.) Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain. And we salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 Generation who has served to keep us safe. (Applause.) We are humbled and grateful for your service.

President Obama, State of the Union speech to Congress, 21 January 2015.