

**THE CASE AGAINST
GEORGE W. BUSH**

OVERVIEW

A. BACKGROUND

AL-QAEDA, A TERRORIST GROUP founded by and associated with Osama bin Laden in 1985, was well-known as a serious threat to our country during the presidential administrations of George H. W. Bush (Bush's² father) and William J. "Bill" Clinton.

The threat to our country from bin Laden and Al-Qaeda was clear, given that bin Laden made many threats against the United States. Importantly, Al-Qaeda was believed to be responsible for successful terrorist acts. Those attacks included the March 1994 bombing of the New York World Trade Center (WTC 7), located next to the Twin Towers; the August 1998 bombing of our East African embassies in Tanzania and Kenya; and the October 2000 bombing of our warship the USS *Cole*. It was reported that more than 245 lives were lost and more than 5,000 were injured in those combined four pre-9/11 attacks.

When George W. Bush became president in January of 2001, I didn't think about terrorist threats to our country. If I had, I would have assumed that because we had the best intelligence agencies and the most powerful military in the world, our new president would have been on top of any serious terrorist or other threats against us.

Eight months later, like most Americans, I was shocked by the events of 9/11, when two hijacked planes crashed into Manhattan's Twin Towers. A third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed in a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Almost three thousand people died in those attacks, making it, in terms of lives lost to terrorism, the worst day in our country's history. Watching some

² The names President George W. Bush and Bush are used interchangeably. Bush's father will always be referred to as George H. W. Bush or H. W. Bush.

of those attacks on television that morning, I thought they must have been well planned and shielded from anyone knowing about them in advance, sneak attacks that no competent government could have known about, foreseen, or prepared for.

A short time after 9/11, when President George W. Bush, still in his first year in office, declared a war on terrorism, and launched missile attacks in Afghanistan against bin Laden and Al-Qaeda as retribution for 9/11, our country was overwhelmingly behind him.

Concurrently, my interest in Middle East politics was piqued as I watched and read bits of news about 9/11, Middle Eastern oil, the reported dangers of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction, and our country's march toward attacking Iraq again—in 2003.

Still, I wasn't involved in the run-up to that war, physically or emotionally. That changed strikingly in 2007 when I read Richard A. Clarke's book *Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror*. The book was a calm recitation of surprising and disturbing facts and information.

For example, Clarke revealed that George W. Bush and some of his senior staff had been warned about the dangers of Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda even before Bush became president in January of 2001. Clarke also wrote that Bush received subsequent warnings that bin Laden and Al-Qaeda were planning on attacking the US prior to 9/11. After 9/11, Bush disregarded or downplayed those previously received threats while focusing on removing Hussein from power. Clarke also wrote that Bush took us into the 2003 Iraq War without having credible intel that Hussein was an immediate threat to our country.

Importantly, Clarke had the necessary government background, involvement, and position to know about what he wrote.³ When I finished Clarke's book, I was shocked. Could Bush have really disregarded threats of bin Laden and Al-Qaeda prior to 9/11? If so, was there a compelling reason that Bush spent his political capital and energy going after Hussein? Could it be that George W. Bush's Iraq War was about oil?

3 In 1992, President George H. W. Bush appointed Richard A. Clarke to chair the Counterterrorism Security Group and to a seat on the United States National Security Council. President Bill Clinton retained Clarke and in 1998 promoted him to the National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Counterterrorism. Under President George W. Bush, Clarke initially continued in the same position and later became the special advisor to the president on cyber security. He left his government position prior to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

It occurred to me that while Clarke seemed knowledgeable about terrorists, 9/11, and the run up to our 2003 invasion of Iraq, he was just one person, and his knowledge was limited to what he had personally seen and learned.

I thought that if I combined details from Clarke's book with related information from other diverse sources with inside or special knowledge of those times and places, that combined information could produce new and clearer insights about 9/11 and the Iraq War. I then set out to find what additional facts and information were available on those and related topics.

With the able assistance of Steve Gaskin, my project manager for the effort, and eight part-time researchers, over the next three and a half years we scoured 130 published books, numerous speeches, newspaper articles, and government reports on Hussein, his WMD, Iraqi oil, bin Laden, and Al-Qaeda. That research, sorting and cataloging produced more than 7,350 sourced quotes.

Those quotes cover events from the 1980s onward and include facts and statements related to terrorism, Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda, US/Middle East policies, Middle Eastern oil, Hussein, and decisions and actions by President George W. Bush and others from his inauguration through 9/11, the Bush Administration and torture, and finally the run-up to our attacking Iraq in 2003. The quotes also cover the aftermath of the 2003 invasion, Bush's statements on the war and torture.

In order to paint a reasonably complete picture of the relevant events, Gaskin and I selected quotes from books and other sources that included authors from all sides of the political spectrum—excluding no book or source due to the politics of its author.

The authors quoted include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair; Hans Blix, head of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission from March 2000 to June 2003; President George W. Bush; former Vice President Richard "Dick" Cheney; former US Senator Russ Feingold; former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; and writers and journalists such as Steve Coll, Frank Rich, Craig Unger, and Bob Woodward.

We then put the selected quotes into a free online searchable database that I designed and commissioned, www.911Plus.org.⁴

4 Since finishing the database in 2013, I have occasionally added to it when particularly relevant information surfaced. Such information includes four articles of impeachment

Being more of an archivist than author, I waited for a writer with investigative and writing skills to find and use 911Plus.org quotes as the foundation for a book about how George W. Bush had conducted himself as our president and commander-in-chief.

Several years passed, but no such writer surfaced. Then, during a bus ride toward the coast of Chile with my wife and other traveling companions in October 2015, I decided that if I wanted a book written about how George W. Bush began his administration and my other findings, I would have to do it myself.

B. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AND HIS ACTIONS

ON JANUARY 20, 2001, George W. Bush was sworn in as the forty-third president of the United States. The oath was administered by William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court (USSC), a ritual conducted by other chief justices at the inaugurations of many previous incoming presidents. The words of that oath:

“I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

You will read my contention, supported by many quotes, that certain George W. Bush actions broke that oath and betrayed his office and our country.

I acknowledge that being the president of the United States is a close to impossible job. Adding to the difficulties of the job are the human mistakes we all make; however, this book is not about Bush's mistakes as president or his good intentions gone wrong. My contention is that three of George W. Bush's important mistakes were not *mistakes*, but criminal acts of omission and commission.

(of the thirty-five) in the June 2008 House resolution of impeachment of George W. Bush titled “RESOLUTION Impeaching George W. Bush, President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors,” introduced by Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH-10), Congress.gov, June 10, 2008.

Despite swearing an oath to faithfully execute the responsibilities of the presidency—and, arguably, the primary responsibility of our president is to keep our country safe—these pages will show that George W. Bush as president committed the three crimes mentioned in the preface.

You will now find three chapters, each chapter outlining one of those crimes.

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