



The 20-Year Afghanistan War Is the Child of 9/11—Both Could Have Been Averted, Says Author of The Case Against George W. Bush

Author Steven C. Markoff laments the 20 years of the Afghanistan war and the related terrible loss of American and other lives, the misfortune of those wounded, the families torn asunder, and the massive American financial expenditure in that war. He believes that none of those sacrifices had to occur.

As set out in Markoff's book, [The Case Against George W. Bush](#), despite George W. Bush being told personally by the outgoing president that Bush's biggest terrorist problem would be Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, and despite Bush receiving an additional flood of intel from June through September 2001, Bush continued to focus on and falsely sell our country on the dangers of Saddam Hussein and his never-found WMD, right up to September 11, 2001. He should have instead used the power of the presidency to work to protect our country from those coming terrorist attacks.

If Bush had done so, 9/11 could have been averted. Markoff supports his view that 9/11 could have been averted with quotes from knowledgeable people and organizations. Markoff further shows that the war in Afghanistan was the child of 9/11.

Those quoted in Markoff's book as agreeing that 9/11 could have been averted include:

- Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton of the 9/11 Commission, who said 9/11 could have and should have been prevented. Even more damning, the 9/11 Commission's final report found that the GWB administration never mobilized in response to the domestic terrorist threat prior to

9/11

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Key Takeaways

- *Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton of the 9/11 Commission said 9/11 could have and should have been prevented.*
- *The 9/11 Commission found that the GWB administration never mobilized in response to the domestic terrorist threat prior to 9/11.*
- *Former Deputy CIA Director John McLaughlin said the GWB White House was unwilling to believe in terrorist threats before 9/11.*

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9/11.

- Former Deputy CIA Director John McLaughlin, who told the 9/11 Commission that the GWB White House was unwilling to believe in terrorist threats before 9/11.
- Richard Clarke, who told *60 Minutes* that Bush ignored his urgent warnings about Al-Qaeda and then, after 9/11, tried to link the terrorist attacks to Iraq to justify attacking that country.
- Former CIA Director George Tenet, who looked back on a July 10, 2001, meeting with Condoleezza Rice as a tremendous lost opportunity to prevent or disrupt the 9/11 attacks.
- A review of the FBI's work on Al-Qaeda, which uncovered that only one intel research specialist was assigned to bin Laden, and that researcher was gone after July 2001. No one else was assigned to track bin Laden until after 9/11.

Markoff concludes, "Looking back at pre-9/11 history and the available intel Bush received, it is clear that GWB pushed aside the many reports that we would be attacked by Al-Qaeda and bin Laden. Instead of dealing with that intel as our commander-in-chief, Bush stayed focused on taking out Saddam Hussein and planning to take Iraqi oil. Had Bush acted responsibly, and moved decisively against those threats, 9/11 may well have been averted. If 9/11 had been averted, there would have been no Afghanistan war, no loss of 2,400 American service members with thousands more wounded, and we wouldn't have spent the more than two trillion dollars that war cost us and our future."

In sum, Markoff's book documents how GWB's inaction from the intel he was receiving prior to 9/11 gave the terrorists an unprotected field to attack us. Bush's inaction in not trying to stop the terrorists and what became the 9/11 attacks, which led directly to the Afghanistan war, rose to the level of criminal negligence.

The Case Against George W. Bush received a Best of Los Angeles Award for "Best Political Book - 2020."

