

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

THE PATH TO 9/11, PART 1

After watching the events depicted in Part 1 of *The Path to 9/11*, answer the following questions.

Critical-thinking Questions

1. What was your overall response after watching Part 1 of *The Path to 9/11*?
 - Was it informative?
 - How did it make you feel?
2. What were some surprising or interesting facts or concepts about the events leading up to that day that you did not know prior to viewing?
3. Who is Ramzi Yousef, and why is he significant in the period prior to 9/11? How was he finally brought to justice?
4. In what context is Osama bin Laden first introduced in the miniseries? How does the media portray him prior to the 9/11 attacks? How is he perceived today?
5. Who was General Massoud? How was he portrayed in the film? Was he an ally of the United States?

Debate It

Choose a side and debate as a class or in small groups.

1. On August 7, 1998, two U.S. embassies (Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) are bombed in Africa, killing 250 people, including 12 Americans, and injuring 4,000. The Clinton administration responds with airstrikes against suspected bin Laden training camps in Afghanistan and Sudan. In a press conference after the bombings, President Clinton said, "We will use all the means at our disposal to bring those responsible to justice."

Did the U.S. airstrikes help or hinder the U.S. stance on the war on terror? How does Osama bin Laden appear to the Muslim world after these bombings?

2. On December 14, 1999, a border guard at the Canadian border questions a man of Middle Eastern appearance about his Canadian residence. She asks the man where in Canada he resides and for how long. The man speaks with an accent and appears not to understand. The guard repeats the question and the man stammers that he has been a resident for six

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years. When asked for another form of identification, the man shows the guard his Costco membership card. The guard asks the man to pull over for more questioning. He asks, "What is wrong?" The guard responds, "Nothing, sir, just pull over to the side." The guard explains to a colleague as they walk toward the man's car, "This guy is very uptight. I want a thorough look-see."

The guard asks the man to open his car trunk. The man asks, "Why?" She responds, "Sir, U.S. Customs has the right to search any vehicle entering the country. Open the trunk... please." A search of the trunk reveals bomb-making materials. A follow-up investigation of the man leads to the arrest of al Qaeda operatives in New York on the eve of the millennium.

Do you think the event described above is a case of racial profiling or a search based on evidence? Provide examples from the miniseries to support your answer.

In the interest of protecting national security (as against infringing on the rights of an individual) do you think this kind of search should be allowed?

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Be sure to watch the conclusion of
The Path to 9/11 on
Monday, September 11, 8-10 P.M. E.T.