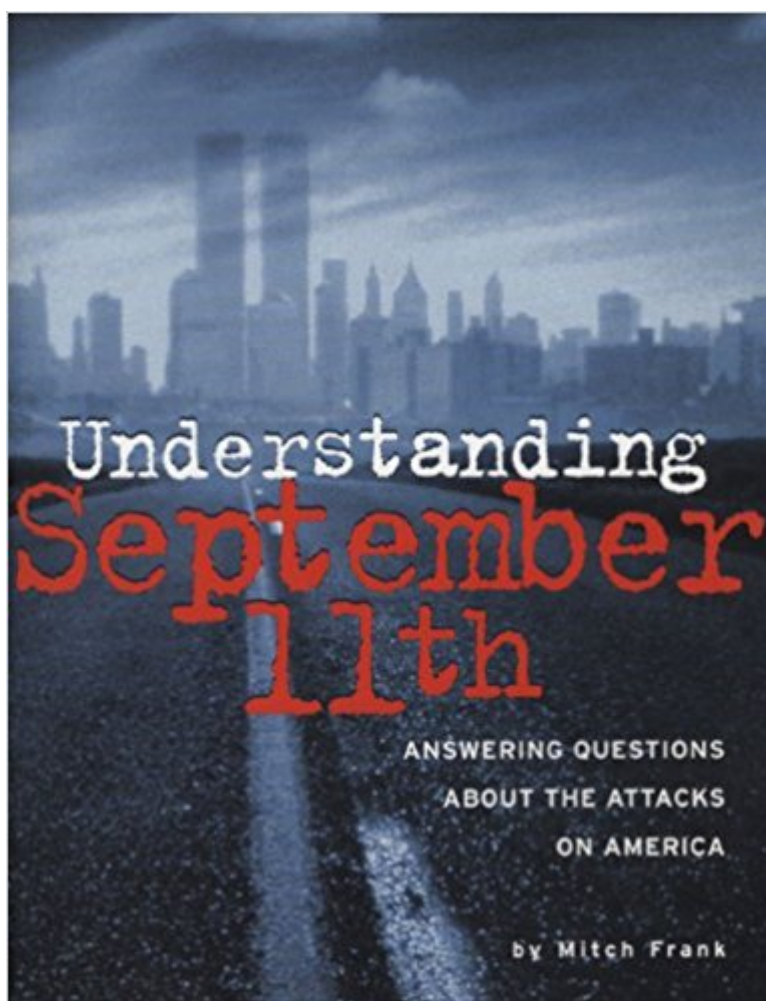




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# Understanding September 11th: Answering Questions About The Attacks On America



## Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. A Time magazine reporter answers eleven key questions that will help kids (and adults) understand what led up to the events of the September 11 terrorist attacks and how America has changed since that day. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Frank, a reporter for Time magazine, opens his informative narrative with a chilling account of his experiences on September 11, when he rushed from his Brooklyn Heights home to the scene of the disaster just after the first of the Twin Towers was hit. Using a question-and-answer format, the author then effectively distills for young readers information about the Middle East (especially Afghanistan), Islam, Islamism, the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. He also discusses terrorist groups' hatred of America and their campaigns against it. Readers may find here a useful framework for examining the possible motives for the terrorist attacks and the U.S. government's subsequent responses. Illustrations include photographs and maps; final artwork not seen by PW. Ages 12-up.

Grade 7 Up-A Time magazine reporter uses a journalistic approach to organize his information. Who were the hijackers? What is Islam? Why did the terrorists target the U.S.? Why did we go after Afghanistan? And so on. Although the answers are not footnoted, the bibliography is organized by

chapters, so readers can see that Bernard Lewis's *The Middle East* (Scribner, 1995), Thomas Lippman's *Understanding Islam* (Meridian, 1995), and Don Belt's *The World of Islam* (National Geographic, 2001) informed the author's thinking, as did current periodicals. He offers fairly in-depth explanations of how Islam and terrorism diverge and when they come together, providing historical background, biography, and descriptions of important texts, such as the Qur'an and the Encyclopedia of Jihad. He presents an empathetic picture of Middle Eastern resentments. He is blunt in laying out the religious, political, and economic reasons for U.S. interest in the region and passionate about civil liberties. Black-and-white photographs, insets, maps, an index, and a glossary that includes a number of Muslim terms provide additional assistance. Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Excellent book for the young kids to learn about 9/11. Chocked full of facts & sensitive explanations of that horrible day. Recommended. Well written for an emotional topic.

As a teacher of adolescents, I often find myself unable to answer their "Why?" questions about the state of world affairs. This book gave me a deeper understanding of the history and issues underlying the events of September 11. Mr. Frank presents the information concisely and unsentimentally -- a difficult feat given the emotional import of the subject matter. I found it immensely informative and will undoubtedly refer to it during this school year as the first anniversary approaches and passes. I'm also the mother of a two-year-old girl, and I've felt at a loss as to how to explain the attacks to her when the time comes. By the time she is of grade-school age, her social studies texts will definitely contain references to September 11. I now plan to read Mr. Frank's book with her to give her all the background information she could possibly need, and to share with her my husband's and my memories of that terrible day.

Mr. Frank has swallowed the whole barrel of government Kool Aid. He cites no evidence linking Osama bin Laden to the crimes of 9/11, because there is none. He tells the children who are his main intended readership that certain Arabs planned and coreographed 9/11 when there have never been any criminal indictments or trials to prove that premise, and so, without even any evidence of that, we cannot infer as much and still remain faithful to our creed demanding due process and presuming innocence until guilt has been proven -- and here, it hasn't even been formally charged! And, there are other suspicions, actually backed by LOTS OF evidence, as to who really planned and carried out 9/11. Are we, of all people, not concerned to follow the evidence

when a crime (especially a horrible mass murder) has been committed in our midst? Mitch Frank's "blame the Arabs" refrain is not the right answer, and ought not be urged on America's children!

Informative, engaging book for students in grades 5-12.

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