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President Bush emphasizes the importance of national security in a speech to U.S. Coast Guard members in 2003.

## WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

### Taking a Stand

In the fall of 2002, United States President George W. Bush delivered a speech on international security before the United Nations in New York:

“We must choose between a world of fear and a world of progress. We cannot stand by and do nothing while dangers gather. We must stand up for our security and for the permanent rights and for the hopes of mankind.”

—George W. Bush, Remarks at the United Nations General Assembly, September 12, 2002

**Focus Question** What kinds of threats to national and global security do nations face today?

# Security in a Dangerous World

## Objectives

- Explain why nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons threaten global security.
- Analyze the various terrorist groups and why they are becoming more and more dangerous.
- Describe the various ways in which the United States and other nations have responded to terrorism.

## Terms, People, and Places

proliferate	Afghanistan
terrorism	Taliban
Al Qaeda	

## Note Taking

**Reading Skill: Compare and Contrast** Use the chart to compare threats to global security.

Threats to Security	
Nuclear Weapons	Nuclear weapons unsecured in former Soviet Union

The end of the Cold War had promised an end to global conflict and the threat of nuclear war. Just a decade later, people and nations around the world once again worried about attack—from different, unpredictable sources.

## The Power of Modern Weapons

In the latter half of the twentieth century, Russia and the United States built up arsenals of nuclear weapons. When the Cold War ended, those weapons still existed. At the same time, chemical and biological weapons threatened global security.

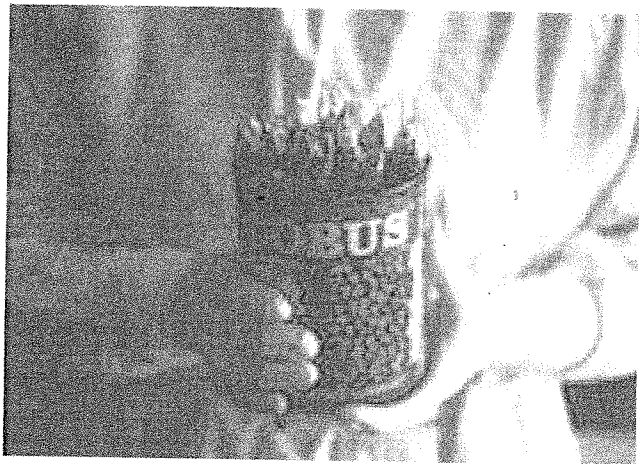
**The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty** In 1968, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed by Russia, the United States, and 60 other countries. The purpose of the treaty was to ensure that nuclear weapons did not proliferate, or rapidly spread, to nations that had no nuclear weapons. By 2000, 187 nations in total had signed the treaty.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors nations regularly to check that they comply with the treaty. Yet some nations have not signed it at all, including at least three nuclear-armed countries: India, Pakistan, and Israel. Some that have signed it get around it by selling nuclear technology rather than weapons. As we will see, other nations have moved or are suspected of moving to acquire nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan's testing of nuclear weapons in 1998 raised fears of a nuclear arms race in Asia. These moves have raised doubts that the NPT can stop the spread of these deadly weapons.

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**The Problem of Russia** When the Soviet Union collapsed, stockpiles of nuclear weapons and materials remained throughout its former territory. The Russian government has not had the funds or the means to dismantle or secure the materials properly. At the same time, it is feared that those who worked in nuclear facilities, or those who have access to them, including smugglers, may be tempted to sell materials or knowledge to interested buyers.

In recent years, the United States and Europe have increased funding to help Russia secure its nuclear weapons. The United States and Russia also signed agreements to reduce the size of their nuclear arsenals, but both have backed off from these agreements.



#### A Risky Situation

Vials of the bacteria that cause plague were left improperly secured in Kazakhstan by Soviet scientists.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction** As you have read, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) include nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Nuclear weapons include the atom bomb. Biological weapons refer mainly to germs that can be released into the air or into water supplies. Chemical weapons are toxins, such as nerve gas and mustard gas, which was first used in World War I.

WMDs were occasionally used in warfare for much of the 1900s. However, in the 2000s they took on a new danger. Terrorist groups began to use them for their own purposes. And "rogue states"—nations that ignore international law and threaten their neighbors and the world—saw them as a way both to defend themselves and to increase their power. Often, rogue states are also dictatorships that brutally mistreat their own citizens.

✓ **Checkpoint** What was the purpose of the NPT?

## Terrorism Threatens Global Security

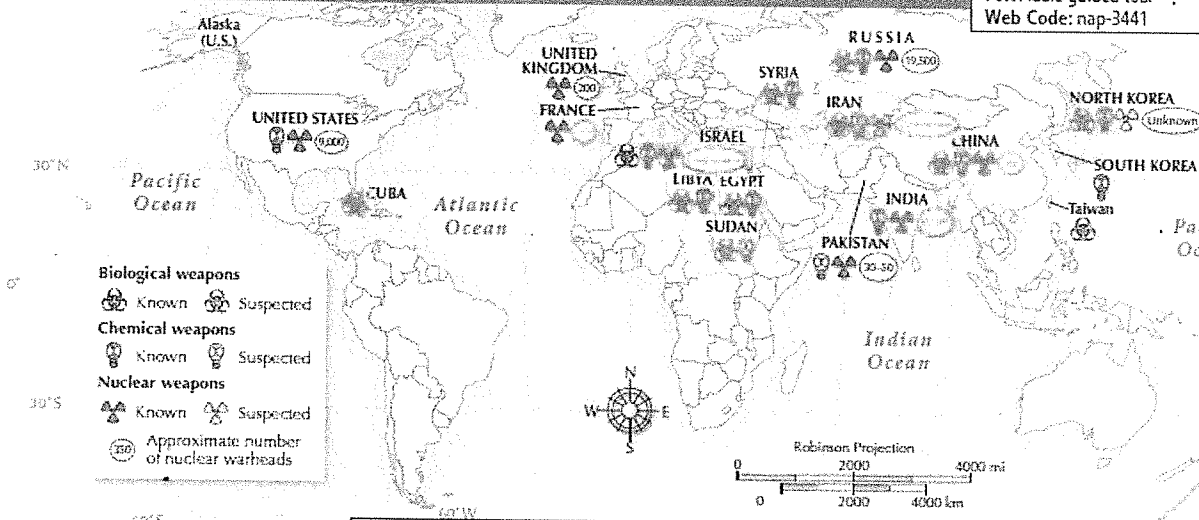
Terrorism is the use of violence, especially against civilians, by groups of extremists, sometimes backed by governments, to achieve political goals. Terrorists' goals range from releasing political prisoners to gaining territory. Terrorists have bombed buildings, slaughtered civilians, police, and soldiers, and assassinated political leaders. Terrorists generally have failed to achieve their greater goals. However, they have succeeded in inflicting terrible damage and generating widespread fear.

Terrorist groups use headline-grabbing tactics to draw attention to their demands. They might attack railway stations in Italy, release nerve gas in the subways of Tokyo, or blow themselves up as "suicide bombers" to kill Israeli civilians. Despite government efforts to prevent attacks, terrorists successfully set off a number of bombs in London in 2005.

**Regional Terrorist Groups** Regional terrorist groups have operated for decades. Several of them are located in the developed world—for example, in Europe. From the 1970s to the 1990s, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) used terrorist tactics in their attempt to force Britain to give up Northern Ireland. The ETA, a Basque terrorist group, still seeks to force the Spanish government to allow the Basque region in the Pyrenees to gain independence.

## World Distribution of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Geography Interactive  
For: Audio guided tour  
Web Code: nap-3441



**Map Skills** Chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons are distributed throughout the world.

- 1. Locate** (a) Sudan (b) North Korea (c) Israel (d) India.
- 2. Describe** Which nations have stockpiles of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons?

- 3. Draw Inferences** Locate nations with suspected weapons. Why might a nation choose to be secretive about its stores of dangerous weapons?

Terrorist groups operate in many other regions. The Tamil Tigers in the island republic of Sri Lanka have combined guerrilla warfare with terrorist bombings in their long struggle to found a separate state. In Latin America, groups like the Shining Path in Peru used violence in attempts to overthrow governments and set up their own regimes.

**Terrorism and the Middle East** Increasingly, the Middle East has become a training ground and source for terrorism. One historical reason for this has been Western colonial domination in the region. In addition, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 caused anger among many Arabs. In 1964, a group of Arabs founded the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), with the goal of creating an independent Palestinian state. In its early years, the PLO used terrorist methods.

Although the PLO officially renounced terrorism in 1988, other Palestinian groups, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, practice terror to achieve their ends, as does the Lebanese group Hezbollah, formed after Israel invaded Lebanon and dedicated to the destruction of Israel. In 2006, Hezbollah's attacks on Israeli military and civilian targets led to a brief Israeli invasion of Lebanon—and a sharp increase in Hezbollah's influence in that country.

**Islamic Fundamentalism** Islamic fundamentalism refers to the belief that society should be governed by Islamic law. Islamic fundamentalism has been a response by some Muslims to what they see as the moral wrongs and unjust power of Western nations. Islamic fundamentalism arose in part out of Arab anger at the creation of Israel as well as from a backlash against the presence of foreign powers in the Middle East. Socially, Islamic fundamentalism was encouraged by a lack of basic

resources in many Arab nations. Islamic fundamentalists made Israel or Western nations scapegoats for their problems. In the past few decades, terrorist attacks have increased against these scapegoats.

Many governments have been heavily influenced by Islamic fundamentalism, including Iran and Saudi Arabia. Both of these nations have provided financial support for terrorist organizations.

**The Rise of al Qaeda** One powerful Islamic fundamentalist group is called al Qaeda (ahl KY duh), which means "the Base" in Arabic. The leader of al Qaeda is Osama bin Laden, the son of a rich Saudi Arabian family. Bin Laden had helped the warlords of Afghanistan drive the Soviets out of their country in the 1980s. In the 1990s, he mobilized al Qaeda to expel American business interests, political influence, and military power from Saudi Arabia. By the new millennium, he was providing aid, training, and money to scattered terrorist groups from Morocco to Indonesia.

Early al Qaeda attacks on American interests occurred in Asia and Africa. Terrorists blew up two American embassies in East Africa in 1998 and damaged an American naval vessel in a port on the Arabian Peninsula in 2000. But the major blow came when al Qaeda struck inside the United States itself.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, teams of terrorists hijacked four airplanes on the East Coast.

Passengers challenged the hijackers on one flight, which crashed on the way to its target. But one plane plunged into the Pentagon in Virginia, and two others slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York. More than 2,500 people were killed in the attacks.

✓ **Checkpoint** What do Islamic fundamentalists believe?

## An Aggressive Security Policy

Al Qaeda's attack on the United States triggered a startling global shake-up. Governments around the world questioned their allies, their enemies, and even their own abilities to keep their citizens safe. Fighting terrorism became a central focus of national policies and international relations. In the United States, President George W. Bush declared war against terrorism in general and against al Qaeda in particular.

**New Security Measures Take Shape** Over the years that followed, the United States made increasing security a top priority. To this end, it strengthened and reorganized its intelligence services. The government also instituted more rigorous security measures at airports and public buildings. And a long-term effort was launched to find out how terrorist groups were funded, with the goal of cutting off terrorists' money supply and thus limiting terrorist activity.

These measures were costly. They also inconvenienced travelers and others affected by the new security procedures. In addition, some believed the central government was taking too much power and infringing on the freedoms of citizens. But many felt that the threat was serious enough to justify extreme measures.



### A Dangerous Leader

New York City police stand near a "Wanted" poster in 2001. How does bin Laden threaten the United States' security?

### WITNESS HISTORY VIDEO

Watch *The Taliban in Afghanistan* on the Witness History Discovery School™ video program to learn about Islamic fundamentalism in Afghanistan.

**Discovery**  
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The Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq Meanwhile, the United States made it a priority to find and punish the perpetrators of the 2001 attack. Osama bin Laden and others were living in Afghanistan in 2001. The government of that country, an Islamic fundamentalist group called the Taliban, refused U.S. demands to surrender the terrorists. The United States responded by forming a coalition to attack Afghanistan. With the help of Afghan warlords who opposed the Taliban, American and allied forces quickly overthrew the Taliban and drove the al Qaeda operatives into hiding or flight. Bin Laden, however, remained at large.

American and allied forces supported the formation of a new temporary Afghan government. A constitution was drafted and approved, and presidential elections were held in 2004, followed by parliamentary elections in 2005. However, Taliban fighters continued to resist American and allied forces and the new Afghan government.

As you have read, President Bush claimed before the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). He also linked the war in Iraq to the war on terrorism. However, WMDs were not found, and terrorist attacks in Iraq increased after the U.S. invasion.

**Tensions With Iran and North Korea** The United States stepped up pressure on other countries not to develop WMDs. Two principal targets of suspicion were the Islamist government of Iran and the Communist regime in North Korea.

In the early 2000s, the regime in Iran announced a plan to develop nuclear power plants. Many in the West, however, feared that Iran might be trying to build an atomic bomb that could be passed on to terrorists. The heavily armed Communist government in North Korea, meanwhile, withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 2003. In 2006, North Korea actually tested a small nuclear bomb.

The United States worked with other nations in the mid-2000s to dissuade Iran and North Korea from joining the “nuclear club.” However, the danger of nuclear proliferation remained.

✓ **Checkpoint** Why did the United States invade Afghanistan?



#### Iran's Nuclear Plans

Iranians form a chain around a nuclear research facility to show their support for their country's nuclear program. *Why do Western nations object to the program?*

#### Vocabulary Builder

**priority**—(pry AWR uh tee) *n.* something deemed of greater importance than other things

## Assessment

### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice  
Web Code: naa-3441

#### Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

#### Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Compare and Contrast** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: What kinds of threats to national and global security do nations face today?

#### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Draw Inferences** Why might the United States and Russia be reluctant to fully commit to nuclear disarmament?
4. **Predict Consequences** How might nations around the world react should Middle Eastern nations democratically elect Islamic fundamentalist governments?
5. **Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment** Do you think that “preemptive” wars, or wars waged to prevent other wars or attacks, are sometimes necessary? Explain your answer.

#### Writing About History

**Quick Write: Draft the Opening Paragraph** The paragraph that opens your essay is the place to grab the reader's interest. Remember that if the reader loses interest after reading the first paragraph, he or she is unlikely to continue reading. Draft an opening paragraph about threats to global security, using specific details to grab the reader's interest. An opening such as “There are many threats to global security” is much less compelling than a description of a specific threat.