

Research
Based
Curricula



**What is the Biggest
Danger That We Face?
International Relations**

Key Stage 4
Citizenship Studies
Resource 6

2019



Resource Six Overview



Topic	Issues in International Relations: The War on Terror
GCSE Modules	Rights and responsibilities
Objectives	<p>After completing this Resource, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Be able to define what the 'War on Terror' is✓ Be able to discuss different aspects or dimensions of what the War on Terror has involved and their effects✓ Be able to identify debates which the War on Terror attracts✓ Be able to explain why the War on Terror is important for international relations
Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the data source2. Complete the activities3. Explore the further reading
Context	<p>This Resource looks at a key feature of International Relations in the 21st Century and in International Relations today- the War on Terror.</p> <p>The resource will explore what the 'The War on Terror' is and what it has involved. It will look at the dramatic event of the September 11th terrorist attacks and how states and leaders responded and the different effects of this response.</p> <p>Part Two will take a closer look at two features of the War on Terror- military Drone attacks and locking up suspects without charge in Guantanamo Bay Prison. We will explore the importance of these in international relations and for people's rights.</p>

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Data Source



Section A

September 11 attacks,
United States 2001

Peter L. Bergen,
<https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks>

The September 11 attacks, also called the 9/11 attacks, were a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda against targets in the United States. This was the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history and caused widespread shock around the world.

The attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C., caused **extensive** death and destruction. The attacks then triggered an enormous U.S. effort to **combat** terrorism. Some 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed after the passengers attempted to retake the plane); all 19 terrorists died. Police and fire departments in New York were especially hard-hit: hundreds had rushed to the scene of the attacks, and more than 400 police officers and firefighters were killed.

Section B

What is the War on
Terrorism

Richard Jackson, 'War
on terrorism',
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/war-on-terrorism>

'War on terrorism' is a term used to describe the American-led global **counter-terrorism** campaign launched in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

It was intended to represent a new phase in global political relations and has had important consequences for security, human rights, international law, cooperation, and governance.

The war on terrorism was a **multi-dimensional** campaign of almost limitless scope (without limits). Its military dimension involved major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, **covert** operations in Yemen (a state in the Middle East) and elsewhere, large-scale military-assistance programs for states which cooperate with the US in the War on Terror (such as giving them money or weapons to fight terrorists or suspected terrorists), and major increases in military spending.

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Its intelligence dimension comprised institutional reorganization and considerable increases in the funding of America's intelligence-gathering capabilities, a global program of capturing terrorist suspects and holding them at Guantánamo Bay prison camp, expanded cooperation with foreign intelligence agencies, and the tracking and [interception](#) of terrorist financing.

Its diplomatic dimension included continuing efforts to construct and maintain a global [coalition](#) of partner states and organizations and an extensive public [diplomacy](#) campaign to counter anti-Americanism in the Middle East.

The domestic dimension of the U.S. war on terrorism entailed new antiterrorism legislation (laws), such as the USA PATRIOT Act; new security institutions, such as the Department of Homeland Security; the [preventive detainment](#) of thousands of suspects; surveillance and intelligence-gathering programs by the National Security Agency (NSA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and local authorities; the strengthening of emergency-response procedures; and increased security measures for airports, borders, and public events.

The USA PATRIOT Act for example significantly expanded the powers of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to search people and use surveillance on people, such as monitoring people's phone calls, emails and bank/ credit cards, and tracking people's movements.

The successes of the first years of the War on Terrorism included the arrest of hundreds of terrorist suspects around the world, the prevention of further large-scale terrorist attacks on the American mainland, the toppling of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and closure of terrorist-training camps in Afghanistan, the capture or elimination of many of al-Qaeda's senior members, and increased levels of international cooperation in global counter-terrorism efforts.

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However, critics argue that the failures of America's counter-terrorism campaign were more than its successes. They argue that the war in Afghanistan had effectively scattered the al-Qaeda network, thereby making it even harder to destroy, and that the attacks in Afghanistan and Iraq had increased anti-Americanism among the world's Muslims, thereby giving the message of militant Islam more support and uniting militant groups in a common cause.

Other critics allege that 'the War on Terrorism' was an excuse for the United States to follow other interests or agendas it had, such as controlling global oil reserves, increasing defence spending, expanding the country's international military presence, and increasing its power against other regional states.

By the time of U.S. President George W. Bush's re-election in 2004, the negatives or effects of the War on Terrorism were becoming apparent. In Iraq, U.S. forces had overthrown the government of Saddam Hussein in 2003 (the President of Iraq), and U.S. war planners had underestimated the difficulties of rebuilding Iraq and the violence which would occur throughout Iraq between different groups after President Saddam Hussein was removed from power.

By late 2004 it was clear that Iraq was sinking into chaos and civil war; estimates of the number of Iraqi civilians killed during the period of maximum violence—roughly 2004 to 2007—vary widely but generally are more than 200,000. U.S. casualties during this period far outnumbered those suffered during the initial 2003 invasion. Afghanistan, which for several years had seemed to be under control, soon also fell into chaos and conflict and violence, and the Taliban has become very powerful again.

The Bush administration faced [domestic](#) and international criticism for actions that it deemed necessary to fight terrorism but which critics considered to be immoral,

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Data Source



illegal, or both. These included the detention of accused enemies without trial at Guantánamo Bay and at several secret prisons outside the United States, the use of torture against these detainees in an effort to gain information from them, and the use of military drones to kill suspected enemies in countries far beyond the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

By the last years of Bush's presidency, public opinion had turned strongly negative concerning his handling of the Iraq War and other national security matters. This [discontent](#) helped Barack Obama, an outspoken critic of Bush's foreign policy, win the presidency in 2008. Under the new administration, the expression *War on Terrorism*—still closely associated with Bush policies—quickly disappeared from official communications. Obama made the rejection clear in a 2013 speech in which he stated that the United States would not engage in a [vaguely defined](#) "global war on terrorism" without limits. Instead there would be more focused actions against specific hostile groups. Under President Obama, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were gradually wound down, although at the end of Obama's presidency in 2016 there were still U.S. troops in both countries.

It is worth noting that beneath Obama's rejection of the War on Terrorism, there were important similarities with president Bush's actions. The Obama administration, for example, greatly expanded the campaign of targeted killings carried out with drones, even eliminating (killing) several U.S. citizens abroad whom it deemed threatening. Special operations forces were greatly expanded and increasingly sent to conduct low-profile military interventions in countries outside of acknowledged war zones. And U.S. security agencies continued to exercise the wide-ranging surveillance powers that they had [accumulated](#) during the Bush administration despite protests from civil liberties groups.

Resource Six Data Source



Section C

Summary of key
features of the War on
Terror

Global Policy Forum,
"War on Terrorism",
<https://www.globalpolicy.org/war-on-terrorism.html>

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Bush administration declared a worldwide "war on terror," involving open and **covert** military operations, new security legislation, efforts to block the financing of terrorism, and more. The USA called on other states to join in the fight against terrorism asserting that "either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." Many governments joined this campaign, often adopting harsh new laws, lifting long-standing legal protections and stepping up domestic policing and intelligence work.

Critics charge that the "war on terrorism" is an ideology of fear and **repression** that creates enemies and promotes violence rather than **mitigating** acts of terror and strengthening security. The worldwide campaign has too often become an excuse for governments to **repress** opposition groups and **disregard** International Law and **civil liberties**. Governments should address terrorism through international cooperation, using International Law and respecting civil liberties and human rights. Governments should also address the root causes of terrorism, notably **political alienation** due to prejudice, **state-sponsored violence** and poverty.

Section D

A military drone strike

Photo accessed
<https://intelligencebriefs.com/at-least-200-people-killed-by-us-mass-casualty-drone-strikes-in-yemen-and-somalia/>



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Data Source



Section E

Aftermath of military
drone strike

Photo accessed
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/obama-limits-cia-drone-strikes-pakistan>



Section F

Drone warfare

BBC News, 'Drones:
What are they and how
do they work?' 31
January 2012,
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-10713898>

President Barack Obama has confirmed the US is using unmanned aircraft to target suspected militants in tribal areas of Pakistan. These are known as drones. Drones are small aircrafts which are operated from a distance. The person flying them can be in a room hundreds of miles away, Drones can be loaded with rockets which can be fired at targets by the person flying the drone from a distance.

Drones are used in situations where a person flying an aircraft inside the aircraft is considered too risky or difficult. Drones can also provide forces with surveillance, a 24-hour "eye in the sky", seven days a week. Each aircraft can fly for up to 17 hours at a time, flying over an area for all of this time and sending back live pictures or footage of activities on the ground.

Although the US does not routinely speak publicly about operations involving drones, President Obama has confirmed that they regularly strike suspected militants in Pakistan's tribal areas.

The use of Drones in the area began under President George W Bush during the 'War on Terror', but their use has more than doubled under the Obama administration. As well as Pakistan, they are used in many other countries such as Afghanistan, Yemen and Libya in the Middle East, and Somalia in Africa.

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Data Source



Drones are seen by many in the military as delivering precise strikes without the need for more intrusive military action. However, they are not without controversy.

Hundreds of people have been killed by the strikes in Pakistan – civilians as well as militants, causing outrage. One of the deadliest attacks was in March 2011 when 40 were killed, many believed to be civilians at a tribal meeting or wedding.

Section G

Guantanamo Bay and the War on Terrorism

Amnesty International UK, 'Guantanamo Bay: 14 Years of Injustice',

12 January 2018,

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/guantanamo-bay-human-rights>

Guantánamo Bay detention centre is a symbol of torture, **rendition** and **indefinite detention** without charge or trial and is in its 15th year of existence.

Immediately after his election as president in 2009, Barack Obama promised that he would close the camp within one year. Seven years on, the notorious detention centre remains open.

In the wake of terrorist attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001, the administration – headed by President George Bush – declared a 'War on Terror'. He argued that the need to **counter** terrorism and keep people safe overrode the **obligation** to respect human rights.

Guantánamo Bay was established by the United States in January 2002 as a place for the US authorities to hold people perceived to be 'enemy combatants' or suspected terrorists in this War on Terror. The first detainees were transferred to the prison camp, based in Cuba, on 11 January 2002.

At Guantánamo, the US government sought to hold detainees in a place where neither US nor International Law applied. The facilities at Guantánamo have become a symbol of the large human rights abuses which have been carried out by the US government in the name of terrorism.

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Data Source



779 men have been taken to the facility since then. Of these, only seven have been convicted, including five as a result of pre-trial agreements under which they pleaded guilty in return for the possibility of release from the base. The trials did not meet fair trial standards. Only one Guantánamo detainee has been transferred to the US mainland for trial in a civilian court.

There are currently 107 detainees held in the US detention center in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Of them, 47 have been cleared for transfer, yet still remain behind bars. Dozens of Guantánamo inmates have resorted to hunger strikes in protest at their conditions and continuing detention. At one time over 100 detainees were on hunger strike.

While governments should of course protect citizens from the threat of terrorism, this threat should never be used to justify the violation of human rights or to remove or limit legitimate opposition and protest.

Section H

Prisoners at Guantanamo Bay Prison

Photo accessed
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/julian-borger-global-security-blog/2012/jan/10/guantanamo-legacy-afghanistan>



Resource Six Activities



- Activities**
- 1) Why was the September 11th attacks historic?
 - 2) Which group were the militants responsible for the September 11th terrorist attack associated with?
 - 3) The War on Terrorism represented a new *phase* or *consequences* in different areas. Fill in the gaps to complete the words:

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Global P		R
I	L	
C		
G		
H	R	
 - 4) As Source B discusses, the War on Terrorism is multidimensional. List 4 of these dimensions. Then, for each of these 4 dimensions, provide an example of what this involved.
 - 5) In your opinion, which of these dimensions discussed in Source B is the most important for the War on Terror? Justify your choice. Aim to write at 1 paragraph or more
 - 6) Provide an example of a success which the War on Terror had.
 - 7) Identify one of the criticisms about the War on Terror which is stated in Source C.
 - 8) Draw an image or write a caption which reflects what the War on Terror was about or what it involved.
 - 9) After reading Source B, analyse whether the War on Terrorism ended when Barrack Obama became President of the United States. Try to write 3 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research regarding this question. Extend your answer to a short essay of 5–6 paragraphs.

Resource Six Activities



- Activities**
- 10) Examine Sources G and H. Is it justified for people's rights to be violated in the War on Terror? Defend your answer. Try to write 3 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research regarding this question. Extend your answer to a short essay of 5-6 paragraphs
- 11) Using all of the sources in this Resource and your own knowledge and thoughts, how would you evaluate the 'the War on Terrorism?' Try to write 3 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research regarding the War on Terror, the different features of it, and what it as involved. Extend your answer to a short essay of 5-6 paragraphs

Resource Six

Further Reading



Explore

Documentary about the 9/11 decade which speaks to different sides- [The 9/11 Decade - The Intelligence War - Al Jazeera World](#)



*Independent
research*

The Wide impact of the War on Terror:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/wars-terror-killed-million-people-study-181109080620011.html>



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