

# Did 9/11 Really “Change Everything”? Or Was It Simply an Excuse to Implement Existing War Plans

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

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We've been told that 9/11 changed everything.

Is it true?

Let's look:

- The Afghanistan war was planned before 9/11 (see [this](#) and [this](#))
- The decision to launch the Iraq war was made [before 9/11](#). Indeed, former CIA director George Tenet said that the White House [wanted to invade Iraq long before 9/11, and inserted “crap” in its justifications for invading Iraq](#). Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill – who sat on the National Security Council – also [says](#) that Bush planned the Iraq war before 9/11. And top British officials [say](#) that the U.S. discussed Iraq regime change one month after Bush took office
- Cheney apparently even made Iraqi's oil fields a national security priority [before 9/11](#)
- The Patriot Act was planned [before 9/11](#)
- Cheney dreamed of giving the White House the powers of a monarch long [before 9/11](#)
- Cheney and Rumsfeld actively generated fake intelligence which exaggerated the threat from an enemy in order to justify huge amounts of military spending long [before 9/11](#). And see [this](#)
- Cheney and the rest of the neocons lamented – [before 9/11](#) – that America could not truly project its power globally without the justification of a “new Pearl Harbor”
- The government's spying on Americans began [before 9/11](#) (confirmed [here](#) and [here](#). And see [this](#))
- The decision to threaten to bomb Iran was made [before 9/11](#)

- The government knew that terrorists could use planes as weapons — and had even run its own drills of planes being used as weapons against the World Trade Center and other U.S. high-profile buildings, using REAL airplanes — all [before 9/11](#)
- The government heard the 9/11 plans from the hijackers' own mouths [before 9/11](#)
- Cheney was in charge of all counter-terrorism programs for the United States before (and on) 9/11. See [this Department of State announcement](#), [this CNN article](#) and [this essay](#)
- It was known long [before 9/11](#) that torture doesn't work to produce accurate intelligence, but is an [effective way](#) to terrorize people

So did 9/11 really “change everything”? Or was it simply an excuse to implement existing plans?

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