

A New World Order: Contemporary Issues

- I. September 11, 2001: A Turning Point in World History?**
- II. The Global War on Terror**
- III. Is There an Arab Spring?**

September 11, 2001 as Turning Point in World History

- At the time, unsure of the meaning of 9/11 in global politics and history.
- Event itself and U.S. and world response to event have made it a turning point.
- 2001-present has been age of dramatic change, war and questions about modernity.



9/11 and Geopolitical Change



Both images taken at 9:03 a.m. on 9/11/01

U.S. Response to 9/11

- **2001-President George W. Bush responds with military war on Al Qaeda, Bin Laden and Taliban in Afghanistan.**
- **Announces “Global war on terror.”**
- **2003-U.S. attacks Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Accusation of U.S. torture of Iraqi POWs.**
- **2003-Present-U.S and Coalition forces focus increased attention on Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan.**
- **2009-2011-President Barack Obama increases troops and intensity in Afghanistan and draws down U.S. forces in Iraq.**
- **May 2011- U.S. special forces raid compound and in Pakistan and kill Osama Bin Laden.**

Iraq War



Toppling of Saddam, April 9, 2003



Bush Announces “Mission Accomplished” aboard
USS Abraham Lincoln when he gave the speech
May 1, 2003





Abu Ghraib torture and prisoner abuse, January 2004 reports.

War in Afghanistan, 2001-Present



President Obama Announcing Death of Osama Bin Laden



The Arab Spring?

- **Dramatic challenges to established political order in Middle East erupted in December 2010 and continue.**
- **Large scale protests against authoritarian regimes in emerge in Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria.**
- **Multiple causes and diverse motivations of protestors.**
- **Too soon if this can be termed “Arab Spring?”**



Map of Protests in Arab World, 2011



