

9-11 and Counting

The Attack on Science and Human Consciousness

By **James E. Beichler**

On 11 September 2001, one of the greatest tragedies in U.S. and probably in human history occurred. Such a critical appraisal of the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings does not represent an emotional, a political or even a patriotic statement, but a logical evaluation of the events in light of the coming advances in scientific knowledge as well as human evolution. This event was not a tragedy of nature's making such as a volcano or earthquake that kills thousands of humans, but a tragedy resulting from the conscious effort of a single-minded and criminally misguided group of people. It is the element of human choice in creating this tragedy that ranks 9-11, as it has come to be called, so high above other more deadly events. The sheer audacity and ruthlessness of the act as well as the utter disregard for the welfare and will of others, respect for their different ways of life and the utter disregard for life itself render the 9-11 events a tragedy of the greatest proportion. The attack itself is all the more troubling because it was perpetrated in an age of scientific and supposedly moral enlightenment in our world at large.

The condemnation of such a barbaric act in this particular journal is neither a political nor an emotional assessment, but purely scientific and logical. Politicians and others have characterized the airline hijackings and the subsequent acts of destruction as pure "evil," a term which has no place in science. The terms of "good" or "evil" are not relevant to science itself, which seeks to explain the universe in its many various aspects of unfolding in as accurate and general terms as humanly possible. However, the uses to which science and technology are put by various individuals or groups of people can be termed either "evil" or "good," relative to the norms and general consensus of the whole of humanity. In this political and social sense alone, the attacks on 9-11 were definitely "evil," but even that evaluation offers little help to discover and define the root causes of the event, especially within the context of science and paraphysics.

Politicians and scholars alike, within their capacity to go beyond the emotional strains resulting from the events of 9-11, have deemed the destruction first as an attack on the United States, then as an attack on the world, followed by attacks on political freedom, freedom of thought and even as an attack on civilization itself. From a logical point-of-view, it is easy to justify the events of 9-11 as an even an attack on civilization, which is the most extreme and serious characterization yet made public. Civilization and society are based upon a common trust that exists naturally between individuals. When you are driving down the street, you place total trust in the drivers coming in the opposite

direction. You trust that they will not stray over the double yellow lines and kill you. When you meet a person for the first time, you offer your right hand in friendship, trusting that the person will not pull out a gun with his or her left hand and shoot you. It is a trust of this type which forms the basis of all civilizations. Without this common form of trust, humans would never mingle together to form societies and civilizations. So, the basis of civilization is the same trust that all members of a society have for their fellow human beings. This common trust allows individuals to communicate ideas as well as live together in harmony. Any attack on the mutual trust between members of a society is, by definition, an attack on the basis of civilization itself.

Now, the 9-11 hijackings and subsequent use of the hijacked jets as bombs have to some degree destroyed the element of trust between individuals within our society, as demonstrated by the radically decreased number of people flying since 9-11 due to their fears that security on the airlines is not adequate to protect them. This attack on 'trust between individuals making up our society' has been compounded by the subsequent anthrax attacks on members of the American government and news organizations. Quite simply, many people no longer trust the safety of our mail system, a major means of communication within our society. Still greater evidence of the growing mistrust is clearly demonstrated by the spreading fear in European and other countries even though their own mail delivery systems and national airlines were not directly attacked. The shock waves of mistrust are slowly but surely spreading throughout the world.

The attacks have also been deemed acts of international terrorism. This assessment seems logical since terror is the antithesis of trust and acts of terror are always direct attacks on trust. Terrorism sows distrust. In the case of the 9-11 events, the element of terror does not derive from the ferocity of the attacks alone. The terror is derived from the element of surprise as well as the unwarranted and unexpected ferocity of the attacks. The extremely barbaric nature of this planned terror has amplified public distrust, resulting in a lasting fear within our society. The basic changes forced upon our society are quite evident in the words of our children, some of whom now associate all airplanes with the attacks as well as the psychological trauma experienced by individuals in the form of nightly dreams since 9-11. The large number of people who have reported traumatic dreams attests to the deep rooted nature of the psychological scars within the general American population.

These diverse symptoms and revelations beg the question: How is all of this relevant to science and paraphysics? In general, the attacks can be seen in far more fundamental terms than relating them to a breakdown in trust, which is once again an emotional human reaction to the circumstances. The attacks struck an even deeper chord within the human psyche than previously noted, extending all the way down to the most basic level of human knowledge and thereby influencing the collective consciousness of the human race. The perpetrators of the 9-11 events seek to dominate the lives of other individuals by limiting others' access to knowledge about our world in general, and accurate knowledge of our world is the basis of all science.

The terrorists wish to darken the world with ignorance, an ignorance of their choosing alone, out of the light of universal knowledge. Theirs is not just the passive ignorance found in a state of non-knowledge, but also an actively enforced counterfeit ignorance based upon their own misbegotten religious beliefs. The greater our knowledge of and about our world, the greater the consciousness of individuals as well as the overall consciousness of the human race becomes. So, the terrorists seek to diminish human consciousness itself by substituting their brand of planned ignorance for our diverse knowledge of the world. By destroying the elements of trust between the people of the world, the terrorists seek to limit and control communication of knowledge and thus control groups of people to their own ends.

If you look at the society that the Taliban, who are at least supporters of the al-Qa'eda terrorists if not social terrorists in their own rights, have built in Afghanistan, the assault on human knowledge is readily and conspicuously evident. The Taliban have outlawed the education of all women beyond their eighth birthday, thereby seeking to diminish the total sum of knowledge in our world by roughly one-half. Afghani women have been culturally minimized and unnecessarily subjugated to the point where they are little more than slaves, whose only purpose is the propagation of their brand of religion through the birth of new adherents. Severing their connections and communication with others by several means has dehumanized these women, including the isolation from social contact with others by both physical imprisonment in their homes and psychological imprisonment under the traditional 'burqa' when they leave their homes.

Religious schools in Pakistan and elsewhere-called 'madrasas' have been co-opted as a source of new recruits for the Taliban and the al-Qa'eda terrorist group. In these schools, young men are taught only the Quran and nothing else. They are taught no science, no mathematics, no literature, no art, and none of the skills that they would need to exist in a modern society. These young men will never have any knowledge of anything but the highly constrained and minimal information regarding the rest of the world as filtered through the hate and prejudice of their radical teachers and sickened role models. These young men are condemned to the lowest possible level of human consciousness as defined by their lack of worldly and universal knowledge, and this diminishes the overall level of human consciousness. To further compound this crime against humanity, the prejudicial education that the young men receive through the Quran alone, they are only taught one radical interpretation of the Quran and the 'sharia,' a specific code of religious laws that accompany the Quran.

If the power and control of the Taliban and al-Qa'eda network were allowed to grow beyond its present geographical borders or even to dominate the world, which is their goal, then the total sum of knowledge that the rest of the world holds dear would be destroyed and thus cease to exist. The Taliban are so paranoid and possessive of their radical brand of Islam that they have outlawed music, singing, dancing, television, radio, kite flying and almost any other means of communicating the knowledge upon which human society and civilization are based. However, this does not mean that the terrorists are anti-technology or even actively anti-science. Indeed, they wish to utilize the fruits of technology and science for their own ends through the perverse misuse of scientific

knowledge for the production of weapons of mass destruction. Their wish to reserve science and technology for themselves and otherwise destroy knowledge is nearly absolute within their own political domain, Afghanistan. Any limitation to knowledge or the search for knowledge within our world, even in this one small country, diminishes the total knowledge and consciousness of the whole human race. Since science is based upon knowledge about the world in which we live, the Taliban and al-Qa'eda would eventually seek to destroy all of science as their final act in the subjugation of the human race to the absolute ignorance that they teach. The attacks that these groups perpetrated on 9-11 should be regarded as attacks on science itself as well as attacks on human knowledge, conducted by spreading fear and mistrust while harboring ignorance and unwarranted prejudice.

Science is a progressive human endeavor. As our knowledge of the universe (at large and in its totality) increases, science progresses by developing new theories that link together seemingly disparate bits of knowledge and thus explain more and more observed natural phenomena. So, any attempt to limit either knowledge or the free flow and dissemination of knowledge is also a threat to the progress of science. It is not very well known outside of a small community of specialized scholars, but science forms the conceptual framework upon which our present civilization and society rests, rather than the technology that grows out of science as most people assume. People do not always realize how intimately science and society are tied together. In fact, far too many people are sadly unaware that science guides the development of society and scientific thought is the single most important influence on modern culture. Science and religion have been at odds regarding their perspective influences on culture many times in the past, but they are now growing together. Yet specific events in political and cultural history can be directly related to scientific advances. For example, most people do not realize and would even be extremely surprised to learn that the framing of the American Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights were direct results of the development of Newtonian physics.

During the early years of the eighteenth century, Newton's physical theories became so successful in describing and analyzing nature that philosophers came to the conclusion that similar social laws governed the establishment of human societies and civilizations. Realizing this fact, those philosophers sought to discover and define the natural laws of society as modeled on Newton's laws of motion and universal gravitation. The political equality of humans, which has become the cornerstone of modern human societies, was originally based upon the equal consideration of different masses within the Newtonian explanation of motion. In particular, French philosophers such as Rousseau and Voltaire based their social philosophies on Newton's physical laws. Voltaire was one of the first Europeans to adopt Newton's scientific model of the world and authored the first French exposition of Newton's work. The ideas and social philosophies of these men set the stage for the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution as well as the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. With this in mind, it should become evident that any attack on America and its philosophy of governing, based on scientific concepts and principles, is also an attack on science at a more fundamental level of consideration.

Newtonian physics and all of the sciences that came after the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century would be lost in the global ignorance planned by al-Qa'eda, the Taliban, all of their terrorist allies and their supporters. That possibility, that the terrorists might gain the upper hand and subjugate a greater number of people under their brand of ignorance, is the real horrific terror behind the events of 9-11. Many people believe that these fanatics and terrorists wish to condemn our world to a political and cultural existence current with the middle ages, but do not completely realize that the terrorists actually want to destroy nearly all human knowledge of the world and reverse all progress toward our greater understanding of the universe at large. Allowing the terrorists to continue spreading their doctrine and destruction would destroy both the science which uses such knowledge as its basis for study and the collective human consciousness, condemning the human race to a period of time when it was thought that the planets and the sun orbited the earth with Archangels pushing them in their orbits. European science last held such views during the thirteenth century, which was coincidentally the same period of time during which the Islamic world last reached the zenith of its political power and scientific influence in the world.

True Islam does not normally follow a doctrine of automatic armed struggle and political engagement against the non-Moslem world, as advocated by the terrorists. In Islam, there are two types of 'jihad' or struggle. The first is the political and military struggle against external foes of Islam. It is this interpretation of the Quran that the Taliban, al-Qa'eda and their supporters have incorrectly used to justify their actions, but the vast majority of Moslems do not subscribe to this doctrine. Instead, by far the greater numbers of Moslems seek an internal 'jihad' or struggle within their own heart and moral consciousness. In its extreme practice, this second form of 'jihad' leads to the same form of enlightenment and universal knowledge of our world as practiced by the mystical practitioners of other religions. Science and society are not anathema to this form of Islam and, in fact, welcome it since it advocates the same moral principles and concerns for other human beings that science and society advocate. Unfortunately, a large part of the Moslem world has allowed itself to be hijacked by the mistaken ideas taught by the terrorists and radicals and mistakenly regard the 9-11 atrocity as a good thing if not a justified action. The terrorists and fanatics will eventually destroy all of Islam just as readily as they attack the non-Moslem world, if they are not stopped. The radical beliefs of the terrorists are just as destructive to the majority of Moslems as they are to other cultures. Moslems the world over share in the same human collective consciousness as non-Moslems throughout the human world, and thus have just as much to lose to the terrorists and radicals as do other individuals.

But again, these facts beg the question: What does this have to do with paraphysics? Paraphysics is the science that deals with the physical nature of consciousness and the intimate relationship between consciousness and the physical reality of our world, the universe. Normal physics, for the past three centuries, has been based upon two major tenets: The natural laws governing physical reality can be reduced to, or expressed in, terms of the interaction between energy and matter as portrayed by 'matter in motion;' And, natural laws proceed from a separation of mind and matter. In the past few decades, it has been discovered that mind, in the form of consciousness, cannot

be considered separate from the world of matter, even while the concepts of energy, matter and motion have proven inadequate to describe life, mind and consciousness. As science moves beyond normal physics to paraphysics, beyond 'matter in motion' as the most fundamental of all physical quantities, toward a more basic level of physical reality, an understanding of consciousness and its relation to physical reality will finally emerge. We already know that consciousness evolves and grows as we gain more knowledge of the world in which we exist, so any attack on the progress and dissemination of knowledge is an attack on human consciousness itself. Since the physics of consciousness falls within the realm of paraphysics, an attack on science and consciousness would necessarily be an attack on the paraphysics, the science of consciousness.

Many scientists and scholars believe that the human race is nearing a new level of consciousness, which may entail the next step in human evolution. The ever more rapidly increasing accumulation of both theoretical and practical knowledge over the past few decades, which surely is affecting human consciousness, would seem to indicate an evolutionary jump in human consciousness rather than just a simple increase in the overall level of human consciousness. As the time for the human race to reach this next level of consciousness grows shorter, the differences between beliefs supporting the older level of consciousness and those supporting the next level of consciousness will grow more pronounced causing a greater strain between different groups of people.

In a well-known principle of science and human thought, the transition state between a lower and a higher level of stability is marked by chaotic instability. The chaotic instability will be growing ever more pronounced until a new level of higher stability suddenly and naturally coalesces from the chaotic quagmire. In the same manner, as the time for the human race to reach a new higher level of consciousness comes closer, there will be greater amounts of strain between older less knowledge oriented societies and cultures and those oriented toward the changes in consciousness. So, as human culture as a whole approaches the next higher level of consciousness, cracks in society and cultural strains will increase.

The increase of terrorism is a symptom of the strain and chaotic instability preceding the advent of a higher human consciousness. There will be greater conscious differences between those who are knowledgeable and those who are non-knowledgeable or ignorant, while some groups who have the most to lose by the coming evolutionary transition to a higher consciousness will try to circumvent the evolutionary process by forcing the human race back toward a lower and seemingly more stable level of consciousness. Such is the path chosen by the Taliban, al-Qa'eda, their supporters and other terrorist groups. In the grander scheme of human evolution, the terrorists represent this retrenchment backwards in history, a form of de-evolution, as a reaction to an increasing universal knowledge and the higher level of consciousness that it produces.

Several strategies to battle terrorism become apparent when 9-11 is analyzed in this manner. What is clear is the fact that it is the responsibility of every living person to fight terrorism, because everyone, no matter what their position in life, society and culture, is directly affected by terrorists' acts. In science, a better understanding of mind

and consciousness is necessary to understand, deal with and overcome the problems inherent in the evolution of human consciousness. On the other end of the social spectrum, an armed response against terrorism is required. But neither of these strategies attacks the roots of the problem and, in fact, it is doubted if anyone in politics or the military, just those people who are coordinating the armed response to terrorism, understands the root causes of the terrorism. The root cause of the terrorism is ignorance, either the passive ignorance of lacking knowledge or the forced ignorance of leaders who repress knowledge. This fact implies that the real way to fight terrorism and the radicalism that supports terrorism is an increase in knowledge through education, both formal and informal.

While the short-term solutions to terrorism that have been followed by politicians and the military buy time, they do not solve the fundamental problems upon which terrorism feeds. In the long term, the only remedy for terrorism is to increase the knowledge base upon which consciousness grows and thus actively aid the natural evolution of human consciousness. Every living person must take part in this endeavor for it to succeed. In fact, it is the moral duty as well as the biological imperative of everyone in the world to learn: Learn physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics; Study medicine, literature, drama, music, philosophy, psychology, and all aspects of history and culture; Revel in personal relationships where you learn more about human interactions, experience emotions and learn how other humans live and feel; Communicate ideas through discussions, personal relationships and friendships; Teach others and share all forms of knowledge with as many and as widely as possible.

Do not just learn by formal education, but learn by reading books, attending lectures, museums and cultural events; Take lessons in Aikido, Tai Chi, Kung Fu or other form of oriental martial arts, taking special note of their philosophical, spiritual and physical aspects; Travel, indulge in other cultures and experience other religions; Study comparative religions, the history of religions and the mythologies of other cultures; Do not be afraid to try things that are new or different; Develop a knowledge and appreciation of other cultures; Never be afraid of new ideas, approach them with an open mind; And make proper choices in your life that do not harm or threaten others. Life is a learning process. We learn something new every moment of our lives, whether we wish to or not. Our bodies, brains and minds have been primed by evolution to learn, but we must never fill them with lies such as those taught by the terrorists. Fight prejudice and ignorance in all of their manifestations. We do not need to become a militaristic society or culture to defeat terrorism. Physically attacking terrorism, which is the most visible and news worthy manifestation of the fight against terrorism, and eradicating the terrorists, which is emotionally satisfying for the victims, will not complete the job that needs to be done, even if these acts form a good first line of defense. We need to become a society of warrior teachers and seekers of knowledge who can completely defeat the darkness and the ignorance which thrives and hides in the darkness.

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