CHAPTER 8

Key Issue Four: why has terrorism increased?

TERRORISM

- Terrorism by individuals and organizations

- State support for terrorism
  - *Libya*
  - *Afghanistan*
  - *Iraq*
  - *Iran*

TERRORISM

- Terrorism is the systematic use of violence by a group in order to intimidate a population or coerce a government into granting its demands.

- Terrorism differs from assassinations and other acts of political violence because attacks are aimed at ordinary people rather than military or political leaders

- Terrorist consider all citizens responsible for the actions being opposed, so therefore equally justified as victims.
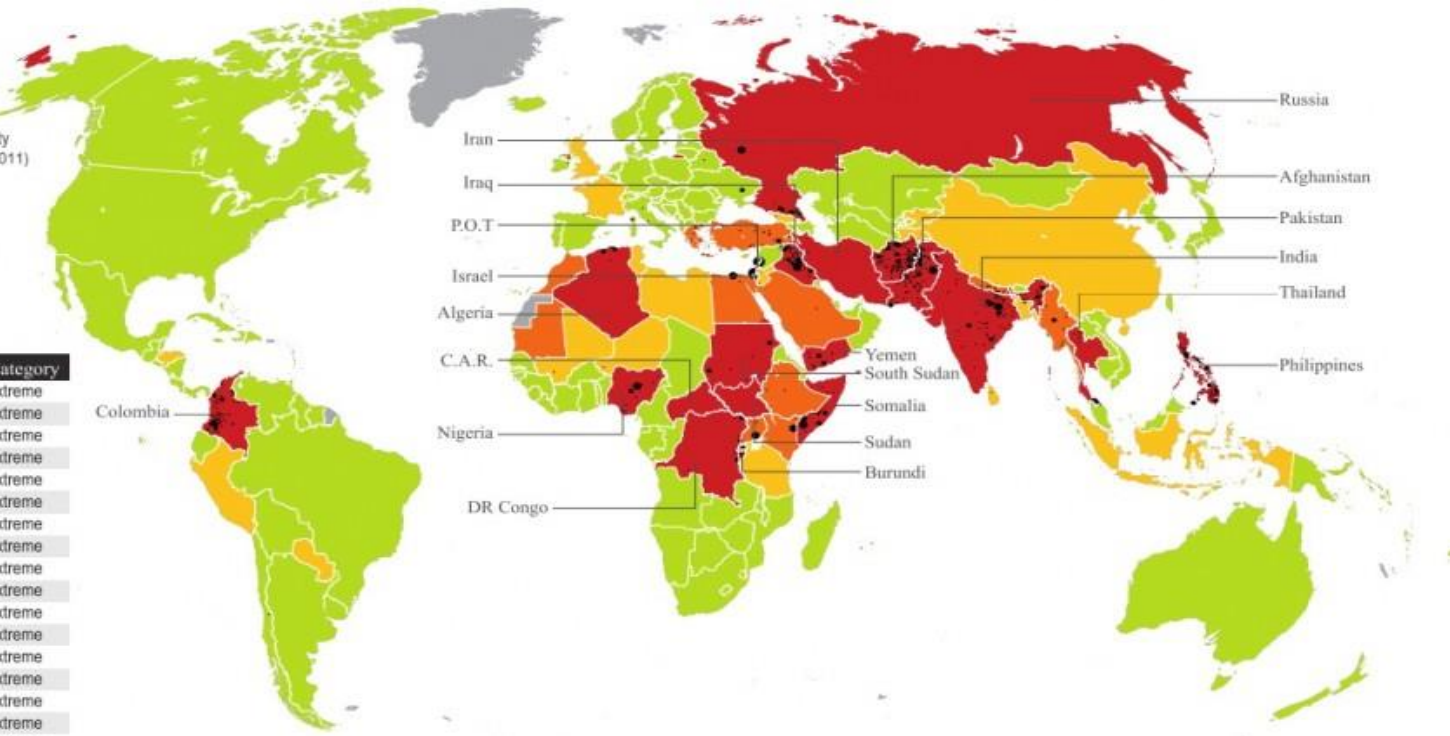
TERRORISM TODAY

TERRORISM BY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- The United States suffered several terrorist attacks during the late twentieth century.

- With the exception of the Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people in 1995, Americans generally paid little attention to the attacks and had only a vague notion of who had committed them.

- It took the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, for most Americans to feel threatened by terrorism.

AMERICAN TERRORISTS

- Some of the terrorists during the 1990s were American citizens operating alone or with a handful of others.

- Theodore J. Kaczynski, known as the Unabomber, was convicted of killing 3 people and injuring 23 others by sending bombs through the mail during a 17-year period.

- His targets were mainly academics in technological disciplines and executives in businesses whose actions he considered to be adversely affecting the environment.

- Timothy J. McVeigh claimed his terrorist act was provoked by rage against the U.S. government for such actions as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 51-day siege of the Branch Davidian religious compound near Waco, Texas, culminating with an attack on April 19, 1993, that resulted in 80 deaths.

THE UNABOMBER

Oklahoma City Bombing

AMERICAN TERRORISTS

- Dec. 21, 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 Lockerbie Scotland 259 killed

- Feb. 26, 1993 Car bomb in World Trade center; 6 killed

- April 19, 1995 Oklahoma city bombing; 168 killed

- June 25, 1996 apartment Build in Saudi, 19 US soldiers

- Aug 7, 1998 Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania 190 killed

- Oct. 12 2000, USS Cole, Yemen, 17 killed

- Domestic terrorists: Ted. Kaczynski The Unabomber killed 3.

- No one much noticed these attacks (except Oklahoma) until 9/11

WORLD TRADE CENTER

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Ikonos satellite images of the World Trade Center June 30, 2000, before the attack.
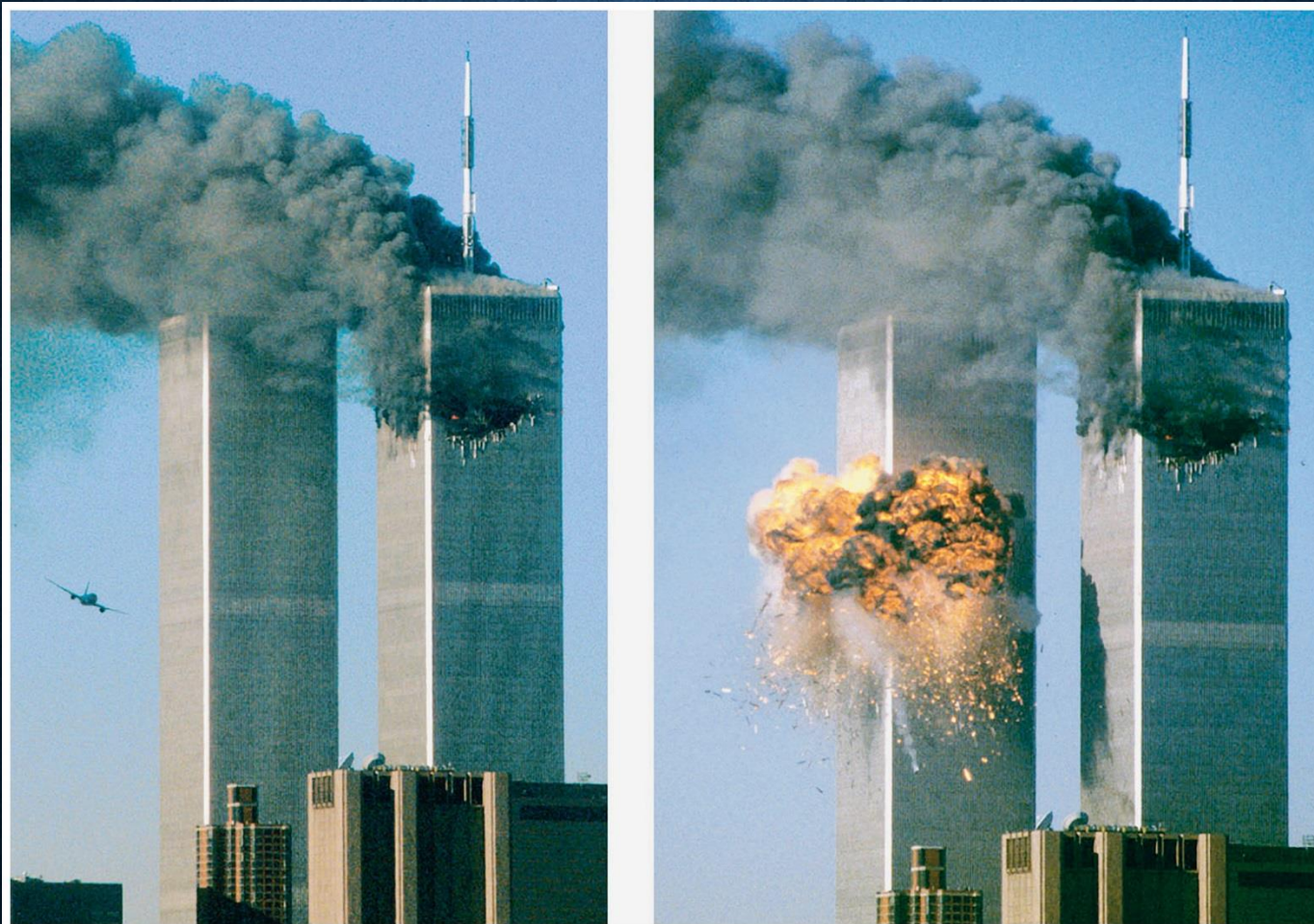
WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE SEPTEMBER 15, 2001

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Ikonos satellite images of the World Trade Center September 15, 2001, after the attack.

WORLD TRADE CENTER, SEPT. 11, 2001

WORLD TRADE CENTER SEPT. 11, 2001

These attacks resulted in nearly 3000 deaths

Four airplanes hi-jacked this day.

United Flight 175 approaches Tower 2. Tower 1 has already been hit by American Flight 11.

WORLD TRADE CENTER SEPT. 11, 2001

United Flight 175 crashes into Tower 2.

AL-QAEDA

- Responsible for most of the anti-US attacks of the 1990's

- Founded by Osama bin Laden (rich as a result of his father), who was also a fighter against the Soviets in Afghanistan

- Bin Laden declared war against the U.S. in 1996.

- Membership grew to 20,000 and in 34 countries.

- Primarily, Al-Queda members work in isolated cells.

- Individuals report to Majis (councils) for finance, media and legal-religious policy.

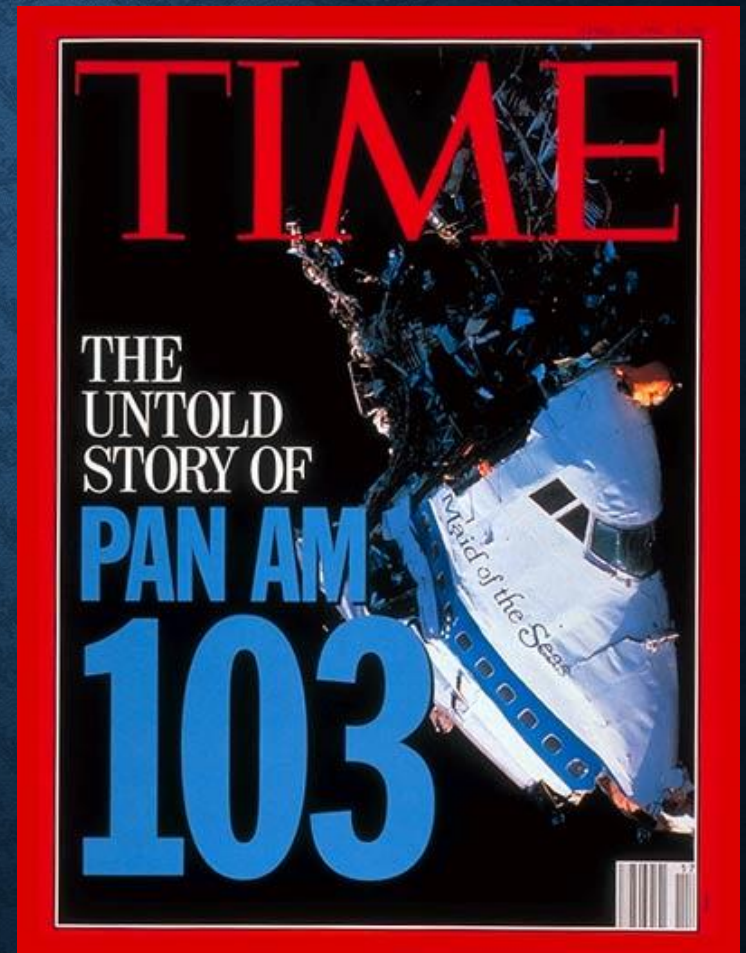Several other attacks around the world since 9/11

STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM

- States sponsored terrorism at three increasing levels of involvement:
    - providing sanctuary for terrorists wanted by other countries;
    - supplying weapons, money, and intelligence to terrorists;
    - planning attacks using terrorists.

- In response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack against the United States, the U.S. government accused first Afghanistan, then Iraq, and then Iran of providing at least one of the three levels of state support for terrorists.

- As part of its war against terrorism, the U.S. government in cooperation with other countries attacked Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 to depose those countries' government leaders considered supporters of terrorism.

- A generation earlier, the United States also attacked Libya in retaliation for using terrorists to plan attacks during the 1980s.

LIBYA

- Terrorists sponsored by Libya in 1986 bombed a nightclub in Berlin popular with U.S. military personnel then stationed there, killing two U.S. soldiers (three, including one civilian).

- In response, U.S. bombers attacked the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in a failed attempt to kill Colonel Qaddafi.

- In 1990, investigators announced that the 1988 destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, was conducted by Libyan agents.

- Following eight years of U.N. economic sanctions, Colonel Qaddafi turned over the suspects for a trial that was held in the Netherlands under Scottish law.

- One of the two was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, while the other was acquitted.
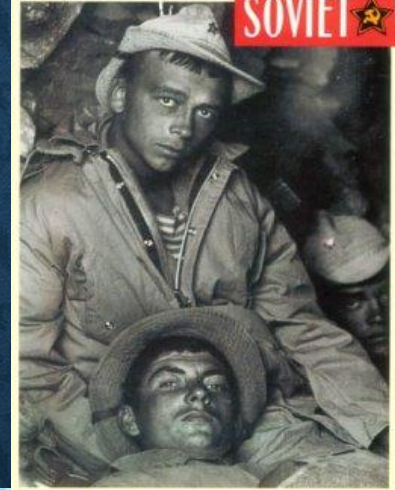
AFGHANISTAN 1979

- Taliban (Arabic for "students of Muslim religious schools") had gained power in Afghanistan in 1995, temporarily suppressing a civil war that had lasted for more than two decades and imposing strict Islamic fundamentalist law on the population.

- Afghanistan's civil war began when the King was overthrown by a military coup in 1973 and replaced five years later in a bloody coup by a government sympathetic to the Soviet Union.

- The Soviet Union sent 115,000 troops to Afghanistan beginning in 1979 after fundamentalist Muslims, known as mujahedeen, or "holy warriors," started a rebellion against the pro-Soviet government.

- Unable to subdue the mujahedeen, the Soviet Union withdrew its troops in 1989, and the Soviet- installed government in Afghanistan collapsed in 1992.

AFGHANISTAN 2001

- After several years of infighting among the factions that had defeated the Soviet Union, Taliban gained control over most of the country.

- The United States attacked Afghanistan in 2001 when its leaders, known as Taliban, sheltered Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda terrorists.

- Six years of Taliban rule came to an end in 2001 following the U.S. invasion. Destroying Taliban was necessary for the United States in order to go after al-Qaeda leaders, including Osama bin Laden, who were living in Afghanistan as guests of the Taliban. Removal of Taliban unleashed a new struggle for control of Afghanistan among the country's many ethnic groups.

IRAQ

- The United States attacked Iraq in 2003 supposedly to remove from power the country's longtime President Saddam Hussein.

- U.S. officials, supported by the United Kingdom, argued that Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction that could be turned over to terrorists.

- The U.S. confrontation with Iraq predated the war on terrorism.

- After Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait in 1990 and attempted to annex it, the U.S.-led coalition launched the 1991 Gulf War known as Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

- Although Iraq was defeated in the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party remained in power until the 2003 war.
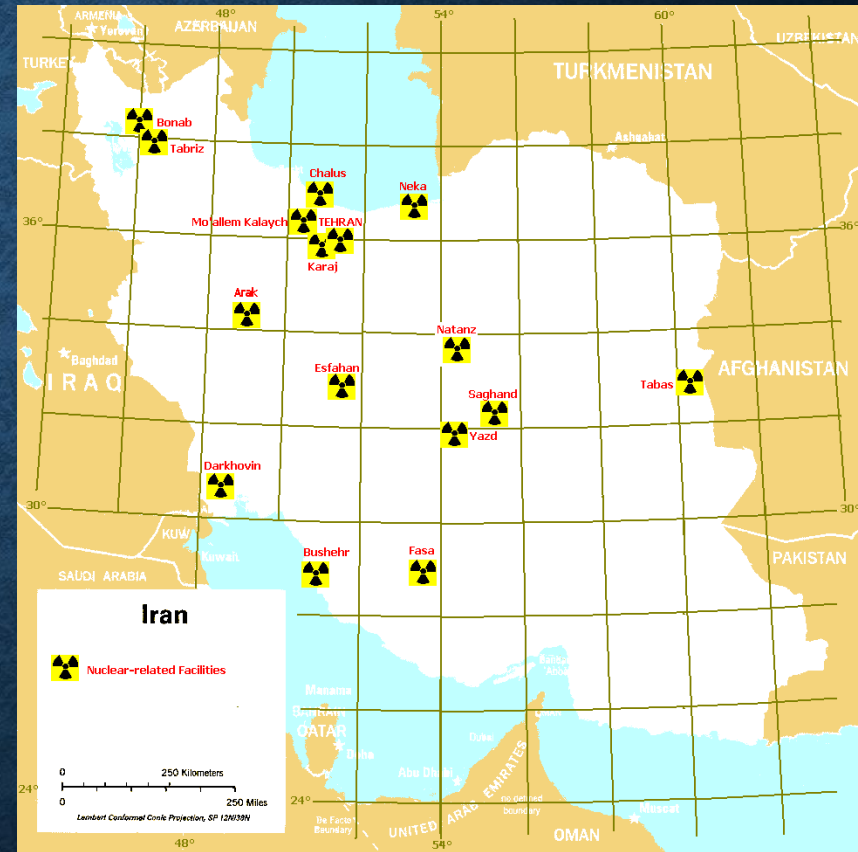
IRAQ 2003

- In contrast with the 1991 Gulf War, most U.N.-member states did not support the U.S .-led attack in 2003. Most other countries did not view as sufficiently strong the evidence that Iraq still possessed weapons of mass destruction or intended to use them.

- Hussein's brutal treatment of Iraqis over several decades was widely acknowledged by other countries but not accepted as justification for military action against him.

- U.S. assertion that Hussein had close links with al-Qaeda was also challenged by most other countries, as well as by U.S. intelligence agencies.

- One reason was that Hussein's Ba'ath Party, which ruled Iraq between 1968 and 2003, espoused different principles than the al-Qaeda terrorists.
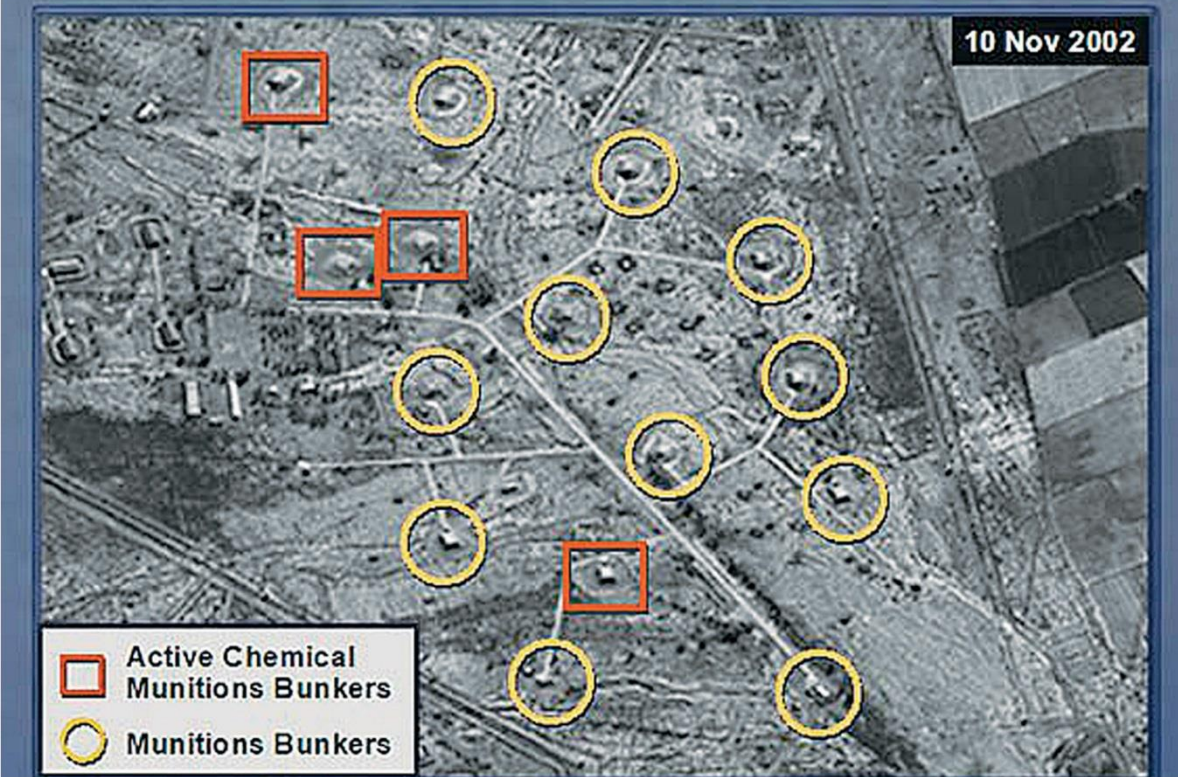
IRAN

- Hostility between the United States and Iran dates from 1979, when a revolution forced abdication of Iran's pro-U.S. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

- Iran and Iraq fought a war between 1980 and 1988 over control of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, formed by the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flowing into the Persian Gulf.

- Because both Iran and Iraq were major oil producers, the war caused a sharp decline in international oil prices.

- An estimated 1.5 million died in the war, until it ended when the two countries accepted a UN peace plan.

- As the United States launched its war on terrorism, Iran was a less immediate target than Afghanistan and Iraq.

- However, the United States accused Iran of harboring al-Qaeda members and of trying to install a Shiite-dominated government in Iraq after the United States removed Saddam Hussein from power in 2003.
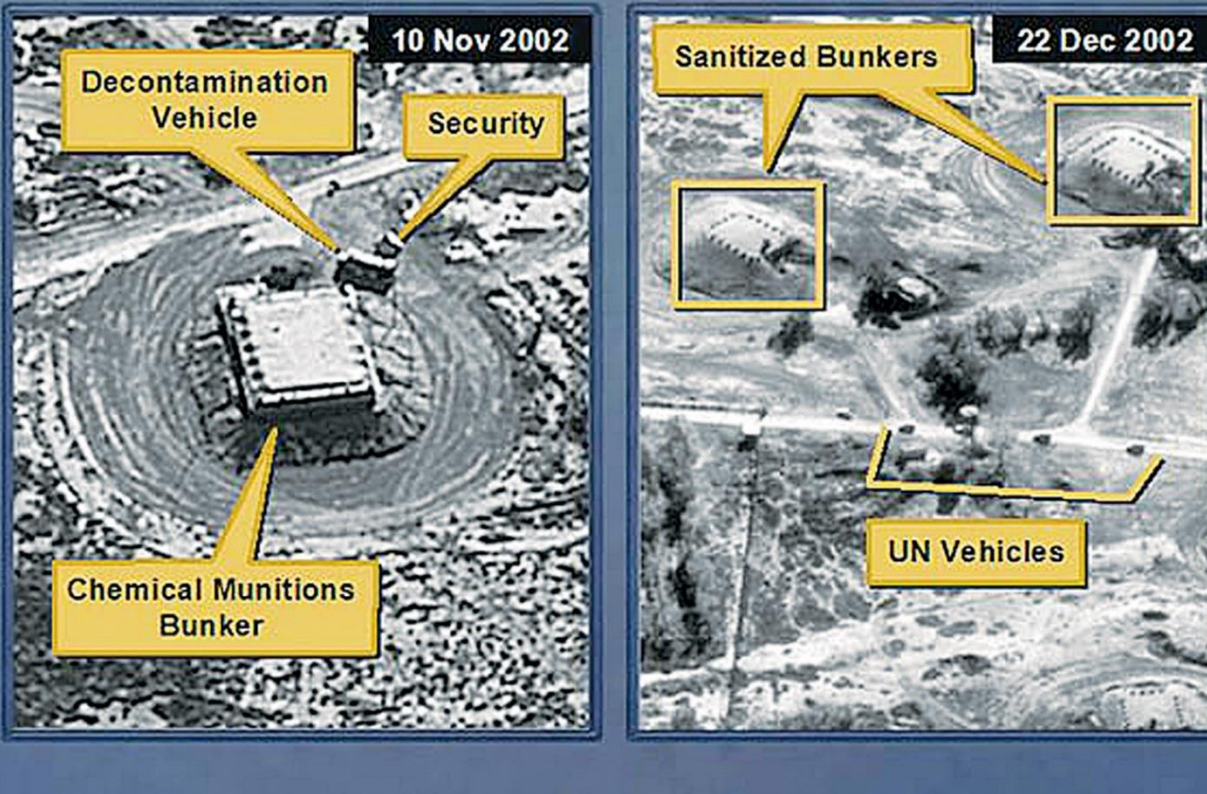
SATELLITE IMAGE OF IRAQ

This satellite image purported to show munitions bunkers in Taji, Iraq.

SATELLITE IMAGE CLOSE-UPS

Close-ups of alleged munitions bunkers in Taji, Iraq.

OTHER TERRORIST STATES

- Other states considered by the United States to be state sponsors of terrorism in recent years have included the following:
  - **Yemen**, which served as a base for al-Qaeda cells and sheltered terrorists who attacked the USS Cole;
  - **Sudan**, which sheltered Islamic militants, including Osama bin Laden;
  - **Iran**, which had the capability to produce enriched uranium;
  - **Syria**, which was implicated in support of Iranian and Libyan terrorists;
  - **North Korea**, which was developing nuclear weapons capability.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 8
THE END