

U.S. Government
On Native Soil
Study Guide

1. What thoughts did the 9/11 families share, even while they grieved differently?

2. Why were the 9/11 families angry at the government?

3. List the various things the families did in order to force the government to investigate 9/11:

4. Which congressmen supported an investigation? According to the film, why did the White House resist?

5. Who is Richard Clark and how was he significant in the investigation?

6. Who is George Tenet and how was he significant in the investigation?

7. What agencies issued alerts to the airlines? Why do you think the public was not warned of these alerts?

8. Prior to 9/11 security checkpoints at airports were manned by private companies hired by the airlines. Many security workers were paid minimum wage and given minimal training. Who suggested improvements to the security system? Why were those improvements resisted by the airlines?

9. By what means did the airlines communicate their resistance to increased security to congress?

10. Why were hijackers able to hijack Flight 93 even though it took off more than a half an hour after the first hijackings?

11. The Port Authority is part of a special local government district formed by New York and New Jersey to manage entry points in and out of New York City. What plans did they fail to make that trapped people above the fires in the World Trade Center?

12. How many times had Al Qaeda attacked U.S. sites prior to 9/11? What were those sites?

13. Why didn't the Clinton administration respond more forcefully to these attacks?

14. How did U.S. Foreign policy complicate efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden?

15. What was the role of the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) in September 11th?

16. Who is Condoleeza Rice and what was her role before and during the 9/11 attacks?

17. List some ways in which “first responder” systems (fire department, police department, Port Authority) failed after the attacks.

18. Why was Richard Clarke’s statement so important to the families?

19. How does the father of the firefighter define “complacency?” Do you agree or disagree?

After viewing On Native Soil assess the relative significance of the role you think each of the following factors played in the attacks on 9/11 and the aftermath:

U.S. Foreign Policy

U.S. Intelligence gathering

U.S. Intelligence analysis

The Airlines

The Port Authority and other first responders

The American People

The Federal Bureaucracy (FAA, INS, CIA, FBI)

Al Qaeda