

METHODOLOGY OF THE TIMELINE

1. Background:

For many years I have been comfortable combining disparate information. In business, when faced with a decision I wasn't yet comfortable making, I often combined information from different sources because I found that, over time, information from various people and places often gave me enough direction to comfortably make a decision on the issue at hand.

Additionally, charts have historically seemed to ease the understanding of complex or voluminous data. [1]

I have also found in business that triangulated data...three (or more) different sources supplying a view on the same or related question, often provided a sufficient commonality to clarify issues, even when one or more of those sources were in conflict. Thus, in this reference work, I have listed multiple sources of many events and issues.

After deciding on the scope, goal and format of this work, I focused on the questions of when the timeline should begin, how to deal with issues and facts that appeared to be controversial or conspiracies, and whether I should add my own views to the project.

- The beginning date of this work:

I believe one could, in good conscience, start this work around 650 AD when the Muslim religion was founded, or November, 1917 when the Balfour Declaration was signed leading to the future State of Israel, or a multitude of other key dates. I finally settled on March 12, 1947, the day President Harry S. Truman delivered the Truman Doctrine to a joint session of Congress that essentially committed America to a declared and more formal role involving our country in the policing and politics of the world beyond our shores.

[1] I have habitually added vertical and horizontal alpha numeric codes on my charts to ease the sharing of information contained in them ("Mary, look at Column X, line Y...it confirms what we suspected"). Charts have also seemed ideally suited to present time lines and sequential data, and I have used the chart form for this book because I think putting diverse, but arguably connected events in time sequence will enable the reader to not only focus on specific events at certain periods, but see the events in a broader if not connected context.

- Controversial issues/conspiracies:

I grappled with how to handle issues that were interesting but not vital to understanding the main 9/11plus events and that appeared to be controversial or conspiracies, such as:

- The question of how an untrained pilot, even with GPS could have so expertly maneuvered a Boeing 767 traveling 500 mph into a direct hit on the North Tower of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
- Why the third World Trade Center building collapsed on 9/11/01 without seemingly being hit and why the two main World Trade Towers collapsed given their modern steel construction.
- Why many Saudis were flown out of the U.S. in mid September 2001 (when other air traffic was halted) without comprehensive interrogation or a documented trail—flights that seemed steeped in darkness.
- Whether or not the Pentagon was hit by a missile or by American Airlines flight #77.

After discussing these and similar questions with others, I decided to leave them for others to explore.

- My opinion(s):

I discussed with my wife and close friends the question of whether I should include my personal opinions on the quotes and events that surfaced while compiling and editing this work. In the end, I decided the value of this work wasn't what I or what any one person thought, but of the varied, collective and sometimes conflicting interpretation of events of many.

2. Gathering the quotes & information for the work:

In August 2009, I hired a small team of researchers and a project manager to extract the relevant quotes (about 85% came from published books and about 15% came from other sources), and after a review process that included the

project manager and me reviewing each and every quote, input the acceptable quote into a searchable database (that will hopefully end up in print form). The quotes were put in date/time order to maximize the ease of a reader following the flow of events.

3. Our policy of picking and listing quotes is:

- How books are chosen for research:
 - From mention in news articles and press releases.
 - By suggestion from others.
 - From reference in other books.
 - By reputation/background of the author or subject.
- How articles are chosen for research:
 - From mention in books.
 - By suggestion from others.
 - From browsing news websites.
 - Through independent research online.
 - By reputation/affiliations of the writer.
- Listing Policy:
 - If a quote attributed to one date alludes to events which took place on a specific earlier date, either date can be used to log the quote.
 - If a source contains useful information and identifies a month but not the specific date, the quote will be listed as taking place on the 15th of that month. An explanatory note in brackets at the end of the quote reads, "The 15th of the month used for date sorting purposes only."
 - If a source contains useful information and identifies an event as happening either early or late in a month, but not on a specific date, the quote will be listed as taking place on the 5th or 25th of that month, respectively. An explanatory note in brackets at the end of the quote reads, "The 5th (or 25th) of the month used for date sorting purposes only."
 - If a source contains important information and identifies a month but not the specific date, and the information about that month contains

data collected through the entire month, then the quote can be listed as taking place on the 31st of that month (or 30th, if applicable.) An explanatory note in brackets at the end of the quote reads, "The 31st (or 30th) of the month used for date sorting purposes only."

- Job titles, first names, last names, dates, explanations of acronyms and any other relevant information is added in brackets to further identify important characters and keywords in the body of the quote.
- If a book contains a dated preface, any quote taken therein can be attributed to said date.
- Editor's notes appear in blue text and brackets at the end of quotes.

4. Taking quotes (almost) at face value:

I have assumed that a quote was good enough to print (whether in book form or in the general media), the quote is good enough to include in this project.

In the few instances when the published material seems factually wrong or misleading, I have said so in an author's note directly under the related-quote.

5. The quotes highlighted in "red" are ones that many would consider more interesting—although the red color probably won't appear in the published version of this work.