

ROOTS OF 9/11 WITH TOM FRIEDMAN

Directions: “Searching for the Roots of 9/11” begins with the introduction of Thomas L. Friedman, a New York Times foreign affairs columnist who is a three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. His documentary analyzes the Arab sentiment towards Americans and seeks to explain the factors that contributed and ultimately caused the terrorist attack on September 11th in an effort to help Americans better understand the tragedy and prevent similar events from occurring in the future. He feels that civilization cannot truly be safe until we understand the roots of 9/11, because if we don’t fix the problems within civilization ("a war between the good guys and the bad guys"), we are going to continue to have a war between civilizations. At a time of war, he is searching for the answers to two fundamental questions: (1) what motivated the 19 young hijackers to board planes to kill 3,000 of our American brothers and sisters, and (2) why did so many of their fellow Arabs applaud their actions?

Your task for this assignment is to watch the documentary on “The Roots of 9/11” and complete the chart below. Some of the answers for the chart are in the documentary, some require your personal opinion, and some require you to use your critical thinking skills.

For homework, please complete the reflective journal questions.

<p>List and explain the three reasons Friedman believes were behind 9/11.</p>	
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<p>What were the two most surprising things about the documentary?</p>	
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Reflective Journal:

- How do you think this documentary could help people understand the reasons behind 9/11? Explain.
- List and discuss three steps the United States could or should take to help ensure that this does not happen again?
- Friedman concludes the documentary by stating that there is one thing he knows for sure. “How we manage the aftermath of the Iraq story and what kind of peace we try to construct out there will determine who wins: the mountains of suspicious, the rivers of rage, or the voices of moderation who really do want to partner with us [the Americans].” What steps need to be taken by American citizens and/or the government of the United States to deal with this issue?
- Personal reflection – anything else you want to add or discuss regarding the documentary or the government’s response since 9/11.