

Chapter 1 : What impact did the Great Depression have on ordinary Americans? | eNotes

*Ordinary Americans: U.S. History Through the Eyes of Everyday People [Linda R. Monk, Ken Burns] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. An excellent book to bring history alive for all ages.*

Which statement explains why a German submarine sank the Lusitania? The German commander mistook it for a warship. Germany practiced unrestricted submarine warfare. Germany had warned Americans not to travel on British ships. Which of the following explains why the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the outbreak of war in Europe? Franz Ferdinand was a popular leader internationally. Which of these events happened last? Russia mobilized its army to support Serbia. Which of the following is attributed to countries who raced to build up their navies after ? They wanted the United States to fight on the side of the Allies. They wanted the United States to fight on the side of the Central Powers. They felt that the war was none of their business. He wanted to keep the United States out of war under any circumstances. He hoped to avoid war but expected that the United States would be drawn in. He asked the American people to support him in going to war. Which of the following was a result of immigration from Europe being cut off during the war? Native-born Americans became less hostile toward immigrants. Submarine warfare prevented would-be immigrants from leaving their countries. African Americans left the South in large numbers to work in war-related industries. The Lusitania was sunk.

Chapter 2 : Bill Clinton Quote Taken Out of Context - blog.quintoapp.com

Most Americans are not rich and famous, yet it is the stories of the rich and famous that fill our history books. Ordinary Americans is different; it tells history as the average American actually lived it.

Drop in or drop out. Make love, not war. Never trust the man, man. The flower children of Haight Ashbury. The nomads of America in search of the next Woodstock. The Volkswagen vans and dilapidated school buses painted with flowers and peace symbols. Other than often smelling worse than a ruptured gall bladder, hippies were generally harmless back in the day. Today, they run many of our corporations and most of our government and seemingly all of our schools and universities. One is running for president same as her husband did several decades prior. Generally hippies were content to be left alone and those of us who had no use for them were content to leave them alone. Now we have a genuine American hippie by the name of Shawnee Chasser who lives in a tree house in the middle of Miami Dade County, Florida. I guess freedom only goes so far in Dade County, same as it does for America. The complaints are that her treehouse is of substandard construction, and therefore unsafe. In reading a little bit about Ms. Chasser, I doubt the grandmother and I would have much in common. She probably scorns big corporations and I used to represent them in the world of Madison Avenue. Yet on another hand, Ms. Chasser and I might just be closer than either of us imagined. And if I want to build a platform in my big oak tree in the backyard and live on it, the government can kiss my backside. Yes, I get the idea of property values and having "shanty towns" and the whole such. However, we have zoning and ordinance committees and inspectors for the purposes of judging these situations on an individual basis. Chasser the hell alone. She harms no one, is self-sufficient and it is her property.

Chapter 3 : Trump just took “telling ordinary Americans” stories™ to a whole new level

There is an old adage that a fish rots from the head down. In this case, the fish is named James Comey and this fish is the biggest of all the fish in the ocean of investigators, bureaucrats, technicians, admins, custodians and career-climbing oxygen thieves (management) that comprises today's FBI.

Yet at the same time, most Americans have a lengthy to-do list for this object of their frustration: Majorities want the federal government to have a major role in addressing issues ranging from terrorism and disaster response to education and the environment. And most Americans like the way the federal government handles many of these same issues, though they are broadly critical of its handling of others — especially poverty and immigration. A new national survey by Pew Research Center, based on more than 6, interviews conducted between August 27 and October 4, , finds that public attitudes about government and politics defy easy categorization. The partisan divide over the size and scope of government remains as wide as ever: Support for smaller government endures as a Republican touchstone. Yet both Republicans and Democrats favor significant government involvement on an array of specific issues. Among the public overall, majorities say the federal government should have a major role in dealing with 12 of 13 issues included in the survey, all except advancing space exploration. There is bipartisan agreement that the federal government should play a major role in dealing with terrorism, natural disasters, food and medicine safety, and roads and infrastructure. However, these differences are a matter of degree. Overwhelming numbers of Republicans and Democrats say the federal government should have either a major or minor role on all 13 issues tested. See appendix A for more detail. In 10 of 13 areas included in the survey, the balance of opinion about government performance is more positive than negative. In several areas, Democrats and Republicans give the federal government similar ratings: However, there are substantial partisan differences in views of government performance on a pair of issues that are likely to be important in the campaign. Notably, neither Democrats nor Republicans give the federal government positive ratings when it comes to helping people get out of poverty. The government gets very negative ratings from members of both parties for its management of the immigration system. Other general attitudes about the federal government have moved in a more negative direction over the past two decades. Increasingly, Americans even express less confidence in their own collective political wisdom. The loss of confidence cuts across the political spectrum: But with the election approaching, the criticisms of elected officials have taken on an especially sharp edge. And elected officials receive very low marks for honesty. There are few meaningful partisan differences in views of elected officials. Nearly identical shares of Republicans and Democrats view elected officials as intelligent, honest and selfish. Deep partisan divides among the politically engaged. Views of government agencies. Most government agencies continue to be viewed favorably by majorities of the public. Postal Service — the highest rating among 17 agencies and departments tested. Is politics a contest between right and wrong? Opinions of the political parties and governance. Yet both also are criticized for their approaches to governance: Views of other national institutions. The federal government is not the only national institution viewed negatively by the public. Opinions about taxes and government. While the public expresses a range of negative assessments of the government, there continues to be limited public outcry over personal tax burdens.

Chapter 4 : Ordinary | Define Ordinary at blog.quintoapp.com

Which statement summarizes ordinary Americans' attitude toward the war in Europe? A. They worried that the war would hurt trade and business. B. They wanted the United States to fight on the side of the Allies. C. They wanted the United States to fight on the side of the Central Powers. D. They felt that the war was none of their business.

We have a war going on here in America. On one side are thugs, criminals and societal sewage. They are armed, vicious, without conscience and exhibit a pack mentality. On the other side are the police. Some would say that the job of the police is to protect decent, law-abiding society from the lawless. Those who believe that are wrong. The police are still investigating and arresting, but our justice system is being overly selectively and short-sighted in how career criminals are being dealt with. The whole thing is rotting--from the head. When President Obama visits a federal prison and tells convicted drug dealers, peddlers of poison to our kids and fellow citizens, that he thinks the law is overly harsh on those who knew what they were doing was wrong, a message is sent to every criminal in America. When a three-hundred pound thug can strong-arm rob a convenience store, then fight a police officer and wrestle him for his gun and get fatally shot in the process and the president urges the looters and rioters to essentially continue standing up for what they believe in. When this same idiot of a president calls police "stupid" because they arrested an Ivy League professor who by all appearances was breaking into a home his own, by the way and refused to show identification to the police, what attitude do we think street thugs and common ghetto criminals are going to have? So here we have one group that advocates making war against the police. Some were ambushed, some were stalked and killed in their home. Others were confronted and killed. Not a word from the offender-in-chief except to blame guns. So there is one group. But there is another group almost as bad. They are made up of guilty white people, mainly those living in crowded cities and suburbs. They are educated, often well above their capacity for common sense intelligence. They are soft on the inside with their wishy-washing feelings and equally soft on the outside. They make up the primary workforce in America and travel in great herds at predetermined times each day to and from their places of employment. Ask them in an environment filled with angry young black ghetto dwellers and this group will wail against the police and the unfair justice system. In medical terms, an apologist is akin to being born without a spine. They need others of their own ilk to continuously prop them up and keep them upright. And for the third group? I give you the great essay from Lieutenant Colonel ret Dave Grossman. Where do you fall and where do you stand? I consider a peace officer to be a cut above, on a higher calling and as such, I hold them to higher standards. I do the same with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. When a cop or a soldier does wrong, they do not get a pass. They, above all others, know right from wrong. Weed out the bad, praise and reward the good. It does so because honor is, finally, about defending those noble and worthy things that deserve defending, even if it comes at a high cost. In our time, that may mean social disapproval, public scorn, hardship, persecution, or as always, even death itself. What is worth defending? What is worth dying for? What is worth living for? Bennett - in a lecture to the United States Naval Academy November 24, One Vietnam veteran, an old retired colonel, once said this to me: They are kind, gentle, productive creatures who can only hurt one another by accident. Remember, the murder rate is six per , per year, and the aggravated assault rate is four per 1, per year. What this means is that the vast majority of Americans are not inclined to hurt one another. Some estimates say that two million Americans are victims of violent crimes every year, a tragic, staggering number, perhaps an all-time record rate of violent crime. But there are almost million Americans, which means that the odds of being a victim of violent crime is considerably less than one in a hundred on any given year. Furthermore, since many violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders, the actual number of violent citizens is considerably less than two million. Thus there is a paradox, and we must grasp both ends of the situation: We may well be in the most violent times in history, but violence is still remarkably rare. This is because most citizens are kind, decent people who are not capable of hurting each other, except by accident or under extreme provocation. I mean nothing negative by calling them sheep. Inside it is soft and gooey but someday it will grow into something wonderful. But the egg cannot survive without its hard blue shell. Police officers, soldiers, and other warriors are like that

shell, and someday the civilization they protect will grow into something wonderful.? For now, though, they need warriors to protect them from the predators. You better believe it. There are evil men in this world and they are capable of evil deeds. The moment you forget that or pretend it is not so, you become a sheep. There is no safety in denial. I live to protect the flock and confront the wolf. If you have a capacity for violence and no empathy for your fellow citizens, then you have defined an aggressive sociopath, a wolf. But what if you have a capacity for violence, and a deep love for your fellow citizens? What do you have then? Someone who can walk into the heart of darkness, into the universal human phobia, and walk out unscathed. We know that the sheep live in denial, that is what makes them sheep. They do not want to believe that there is evil in the world. The idea of someone coming to kill or harm their child is just too hard, and so they chose the path of denial. The sheep generally do not like the sheepdog. He looks a lot like the wolf. He has fangs and the capacity for violence. The difference, though, is that the sheepdog must not, can not and will not ever harm the sheep. Any sheep dog who intentionally harms the lowliest little lamb will be punished and removed. The world cannot work any other way, at least not in a representative democracy or a republic such as ours. Still, the sheepdog disturbs the sheep. He is a constant reminder that there are wolves in the land. The sheep would much rather have the sheepdog cash in his fangs, spray paint himself white, and go, "Baa. Then the entire flock tries desperately to hide behind one lonely sheepdog. The students, the victims, at Columbine High School were big, tough high school students, and under ordinary circumstances they would not have had the time of day for a police officer. They were not bad kids; they just had nothing to say to a cop. When the school was under attack, however, and SWAT teams were clearing the rooms and hallways, the officers had to physically peel those clinging, sobbing kids off of them. This is how the little lambs feel about their sheepdog when the wolf is at the door. Look at what happened after September 11, when the wolf pounded hard on the door. Remember how America, more than ever before, felt differently about their law enforcement officers and military personnel? Remember how many times you heard the word hero?

Chapter 5 : Watch: Ordinary Americans Become Heroes in the Wake of Harvey Devastation | Video

A new study has found that ordinary Americans have virtually no impact on policymaking.

Summer of Staggering Stupidity "The best test of a civilised society is the way in which it treats its most vulnerable and weakest members. They may be feeling quite secure about their insurance coverage today, but that could so very easily change tomorrow. Now that may sound mean-spirited, but someone has to say it. And what of all these right-wing, anti-healthcare-reform Senators and Members of Congress? But of course that will never happen. However, it most definitely could happen to any one of these rage-filled right-wing regular that is, neither rich nor powerful Americans, any one of whom could indeed, at any time, find themselves sick, with their insurance company denying them coverage. What they seem to be oblivious to is the fact that America already has a universal, socialized, government-run, single-payer healthcare system. At least for everyone over And the police, Coast Guard, and Search and Rescue for that matter. No, this is a war against "a Stalinist takeover of America". Or perhaps a more apt analogy is with the thousands of women in Mali protesting in recent weeks against a new law guaranteeing them equality in marriage. Give me your stupid, your ignorant, your muddled masses Which brings me to my main point, which is: Why do so many ordinary Americans consistently vote for and support politicians and policies that are so unambiguously opposed to their own interests? However, supporting Republicans who launch pointless wars that your kids will have to fight and die in, who lower taxes for the rich meaning your taxes will stay higher and your government services will remain underfunded, who fight against universal healthcare putting you at future risk of being uninsured, who Imagine what it would be like if, like the current healthcare-insurance industry, some of the following government-run vital services also operated on a purely for-profit basis: However, you can always watch educational shows like Sesame Street at home. The profit ratio is simply too low. You could always move to the city. Too much crime there. You could always buy yourself a gun. Of course you could always go look yourself You could always use your garden hose. Yeah, death panels most certainly do exist.

Chapter 6 : US History help please? | Yahoo Answers

And, it is the story of a prairie fireâ€”begun by ordinary Americans who brilliantly and courageously fought back when our leaders refused to do so. All in all, it is one of the best books about the law and American life that I ever have read."

Trump on Michigan and Mississippi wins: Trump appears to be a racist, so racism must be what motivates his armies of followers. Conservatives have written them; liberals have written them; impartial professionals have written them. The Trump movement is a one-note phenomenon, a vast surge of race-hate. Its partisans are not only incomprehensible, they are not really worth comprehending. Last week, I decided to watch several hours of Trump speeches for myself. I saw the man ramble and boast and threaten and even seem to gloat when protesters were ejected from the arenas in which he spoke. I was disgusted by these things, as I have been disgusted by Trump for 20 years. But I also noticed something surprising. In each of the speeches I watched, Trump spent a good part of his time talking about an entirely legitimate issue, one that could even be called leftwing. Yes, Donald Trump talked about trade. In fact, to judge by how much time he spent talking about it, trade may be his single biggest concern â€” not white supremacy. Not even his plan to build a wall along the Mexican border, the issue that first won him political fame. He did it again during the debate on 3 March: It seems to obsess him: Trump embellished this vision with another favorite leftwing idea: Trump extended the critique to the military-industrial complex, describing how the government is forced to buy lousy but expensive airplanes thanks to the power of industry lobbyists. The chance that he will actually do so, of course, is small. He appears to be a hypocrite on this issue as well as so many other things. But at least Trump is saying this stuff. Trump is supposed to be on a one-note crusade for whiteness. Could it be that all this trade stuff is a key to understanding the Trump phenomenon? Republican and Democratic leaders alike agree on this, and no amount of facts can move them from their Econ dream. Well, here is a video of a company moving its jobs to Mexico, courtesy of Nafta. This is what it looks like. His information about all of them losing their jobs. Either he is one, or as the comedian John Oliver puts it he is pretending to be one, which amounts to the same thing. But there is another way to interpret the Trump phenomenon. It is worth noting that Trump is making a point of assailing that Indiana air conditioning company from the video in his speeches. Here is the most salient supporting fact: I am referring to a study just published by Working America , a political-action auxiliary of the AFL-CIO, which interviewed some 1, white working-class voters in the suburbs of Cleveland and Pittsburgh in December and January. Support for Donald Trump, the group found, ran strong among these people, even among self-identified Democrats, but not because they are all pining for a racist in the White House. Left parties the world over were founded to advance the fortunes of working people. The working people that the party used to care about, Democrats figured, had nowhere else to go, in the famous Clinton-era expression. Ill-considered trade deals and generous bank bailouts and guaranteed profits for insurance companies but no recovery for average people, ever â€” these policies have taken their toll. Our infrastructure is falling apart â€” Our airports are, like, Third World. Yet still we cannot bring ourselves to look the thing in the eyes. We cannot admit that we liberals bear some of the blame for its emergence, for the frustration of the working-class millions, for their blighted cities and their downward spiraling lives. So much easier to scold them for their twisted racist souls, to close our eyes to the obvious reality of which Trumpism is just a crude and ugly expression:

Chapter 7 : An Ordinary American:

"The ordinary man and woman in the United States is hardly going to be touched, a glancing blow of a tax cut for them," he said. Jennings claimed that 83 percent of the tax cut's effect would only.

World War II was uppermost in U. The families on the home front were profoundly affected. An immediate political, psychological and economic shift took place following the Pearl Harbor attack in , because the United States found itself unprepared. The onset of war necessitated numerous adjustments; while American forces were fighting overseas or training in U. The American home front geared up for an all-out effort to rush into war production, and American society experienced dramatic changes. The first major impact was felt with labor shortages when the men went off to war. More and more women now entered the work force. Once reserved for men, women now took up jobs in industry, and Rosie the Riveter became a popular icon in America. Widening their horizons, many women were now working full time and yet were still trying to maintain their home life. Attracted by waiting jobs, the number of high school dropouts increased significantly, resulting in the teenage work force swelling from one million to three million youngsters. In the meantime, federal inspectors ignored laws that regulated the employment of children. Although the war had opened up new opportunities, it also brought much sadness and a far more serious reality regarding life in its normal state. Separation from fathers or sons left devastating effects, and in a sense, many felt robbed of their childhood. With the family shifting roles, each member was initially shocked and filled with mixed emotions. With added stresses it was an emotional time, to say the least "the American family would undoubtedly be changed forever. While adjusting to sacrifices, there was an added excitement about the war and uncertain fear of the consequences as well. The war brought vast changes: While there was an increase in marriages, job opportunities, and patriotism there was also a definite decline in morale among some Americans. Despite the increase in rising wages, poverty increased and some families were forced to move in search of work. Some 20 million people existed on the border of starvation as families faced a severe shortage of housing, lack of schools, hospitals and child-care facilities. Those factors contributed to an upsurge in divorce, resulting in severe problems among the young. There were five million "war widows" trying to care for their children alone. Women employed outside the home left tens of thousands of "latchkey" children who were unsupervised much of the day. The rates of juvenile delinquency, venereal disease and truancy rose dramatically. The impact on the family was evident, attended by much anxiety about the breakdown of social values. The war also aggravated systemic racism. On the West Coast there was actual hysteria when the war broke out. Thousands of Americans of Japanese descent were relocated and interned in camps. As for African Americans, they were usually "the last to be hired and the first to be fired. Discrimination continued its divisive role in society during that era. Poverty increased as the federal deficit escalated. The federal government encouraged Americans to conserve and recycle numerous items, so that factories could use them for wartime production materials. Getting their first taste of recycling, Americans were encouraged to salvage their tin cans, bottles, rubber items, paper, scrap metal, and even fats left over from cooking. The government conducted "salvage drives" throughout the country to aid the war effort. Food rationing was the rallying cry on the American home front. With the military as top priority, American families began to feel the pinch. There were now such substitute foods as dried powdered eggs and liquid paraffin instead of cooking oil. For those who violated the rationing rules, the punishment was strict. Statewide competitions were conducted and winning recipes published to optimize use of home-grown vegetables. The sale of war bonds and war stamps also helped the United States to stage a rapid economic recovery. Unfortunately, only about one third of the American people could afford to contribute to the cause. Changes were felt all the way to the top. As the federal government continued to cut funding for many social programs, many idealists left their government positions. War necessities directly influenced American fashion. Dependence on fewer materials led to the two-piece bathing suit. Nieman Marcus called them "patriotic chic. It was not possible to purchase a car because none were being produced. To obtain a telephone, one had to be in a critical occupation of the war effort "and yet the U. The country had pulled out of an awesome economic depression thanks to greatly

expanded war production. The end of the war revealed pent-up demand. Prices skyrocketed with the removal of price controls , but women stayed on the job to buy items needed for the family. The American Dream now became a reality as families found it possible to buy a home, a car, a washing machine, and to give their children everything they had been deprived of for so long. As a result of the war, the nation had become more urbanized because 1. The vast changes in wartime society and domestic adjustments are evident even today. Fortunately, they were willing to share them.

Chapter 8 : Beyond Distrust: How Americans View Their Government | Pew Research Center

Presidents have been using ordinary Americans as tools and props and symbolic representatives of the goodness of the country for more than 30 years.

Are we in the tradition of the opening and plural societies of Amsterdam and London and America? Or the closed and authoritarian ones of Madrid and Moscow? The infrastructure of the Republican party has chosen to hoist its sail to religious bigotry. I think it is the height of insensitivity, and unreasonableness to allow for the construction of a mosque on the site of the World Trade Center bombings. I mean, come on. Our founding principles demand Barack Obama support your rights to human sacrifice. The pain and suffering experienced by those who lost loved ones is unimaginable. So I understand the emotions that this issue engenders. Ground Zero is, indeed, hallowed ground. The criticisms of the mosque are the emotional reactions of a traumatized people. Christian and Jewish ultra-conservatives. If it is another mosque that is wanted, as Obama suggests, ordinary Americans desire only that it be built somewhere else in New York. In the good old USA, citizens have a right to do many wrongs. One such wrong would be the establishment of a Muslim shrine at Ground Zero. Obama simply does not engage the point. He does not argue that the establishment of a Muslim shrine at Ground Zero would be right. He says that we must all recognize and respect the sensitivities involved with the development of lower Manhattan, but then again, apparently we need not. His acknowledgment of the need to recognize and respect the sensitivities involved is meaningless ornamentation. Obama does not recognize the deep offense that would be given by the establishment of a Muslim shrine at Ground Zero. On this point he has precisely nothing to say. He does not make a case why the feelings of ordinary Americans should give way. With great reliability Obama stands athwart the feelings of ordinary Americans. Indeed, he is a much more ardent defender of the faith of Muslims [sic] than he is of the United States, of its history or of its people. Muslims and the Islamic faith have been a part of American history for just as long as any other distinct group of people or faith has been a part of American history. It might also be instructive to remember that the hatred, dislike, suspicion, prejudice, fear, and misinformation about Muslims today echoes "quite stunningly so, in fact" that directed against Catholics in the 19th century. Americans whose religious faith is Islam suffered that tragedy right along with Americans whose religious faith is Christianity and Americans whose religious faith is Judaism and Americans whose religious faith is Hinduism and Americans who have no religious faith at all.

Chapter 9 : An Ordinary American

Jeffrey Folks is the author of many books and articles on American culture including Heartland of the Imagination (). The left is determined to sink the Trump presidency.

I moved back to Britain towards the end of August. Three weeks later, the country I had lived in ceased to exist. In the short term, the domestic impact would have been much uglier. Gore would have been under irresistible pressure to act as the right wanted, and I think he would have been compelled to give in. Whether he would have invaded Iraq, though, I doubt. But Gore was not president. George W Bush was. But Bush squandered his advantages. To me, Bush and Obama are the opposite sides of that interruption. This, in turn, had provoked an immense effort by the Democrats, principally associated with Bill Clinton to claw back a majority by tactical accommodations while preserving a commitment to social justice and internationalism. I think that this remains the essential divide in US politics in. This, along with the tax cuts, is at the root of the deficit problem – though its roots lie in , not . On the whole, the US remains a country drifting to the right, but in its own distinctive way that offers few practical models for places such as Europe. Obama was elected on a wave that has now broken on the rock of the financial crash and the recession. But it is very much an open question whether they will succeed. Have we, as Americans, forgotten what our nation was created to be, or have we ceased to trust those principles out of which it was conceived: Have we forgotten that revenge is not the same as justice? Have we forgotten or wilfully sacrificed our humanity in our fearful frenzy to protect ourselves and our way of life, becoming the very enemy of those freedoms that are the basis of that very way of life? Have we forgotten that all actions have causes and consequences? Have we forgotten that violence always begets violence, and that war is by definition terrorism? Have we forgotten to be curious first and afraid second, to ask questions and listen to the answers? It is time to remember that there are other, better, more effective, nonviolent ways to respond to conflict. It is time to remember that we have a choice about what kind of society we truly want to be. Such cynicism is understandable: No matter how chagrined people feel in the moment, all too soon, once again, politicians will lie, tabloid editors will hound celebrities, the rich will get richer. But on the morning of 11 September , in a hotel in downtown New York , it was, despite my early 20something fashionable cynicism, very hard to see how anything could ever be the same again. One second, I was sitting on my bed, eating a bowl of Shredded Wheat and watching Tracey Ullman being interviewed on breakfast TV; the next, the streets were filled with smoke, the air was full of screams and the world seemed like it was on the verge of ending. People are rude again. Jokes and sarcasm are allowed. But things are also different. Of course, it has healed. But the mark will always be there. On that day, the two towers fell, but a nation of millions rose up as one. A decade later, the tragedy continues to reverberate around the world. There is forever a pre and post. There is no going back. The world still lives in the shadows of fallen towers. Some of us are still afraid of the bogeyman, both real and imagined, that lurk behind and in between them. We remember it as a day when 19 criminals hijacked a religion, and 3, innocent lives perished for the unfortunate realisation of their perverse, criminal ideology. Sadly, their death continues to be exploited by some for the sake of profit: Reconciliation – with our neighbours and citizens of different faith traditions and ethnicities who all share the same spiritual and cultural DNA of being "American," or at very least "fellow human". For those unfairly scapegoated and smeared simply due to wearing a turban, or beard, or having the wrong skin colour, an unfriendly passport, a multi-hyphenated last name, and for those unfortunates ones "at the wrong place at the wrong time", and the other footnotes in history barely remembered as the cannon fodder and collateral damage of errant missiles and improvised explosive devices, we hope you forgive us, as we try to move forward – together, again. For a nation attempting to break free from the looming shadow of a tragedy that, at times, made her succumb to her worst fears, hysteria and paranoia. Despite losing her moral compass, from time to time, in dealing justly with its neighbours both at home and abroad, the one nation of many communities is remarkably resilient, often learning – albeit grudgingly – from her costly mistakes, and still surviving in a volatile and uncertain economic and political climate. The moment the Bush administration chose to label the attacks acts of war, rather than the heinous crimes they were, a careful

groundwork was laid to allow for a future of cherrypicking which laws of war would apply and which would be ignored. As a result, thousands have been kidnapped: Detainees were held incommunicado, a fancy word for "disappeared": The few who were charged face trials before kangaroo courts called military commissions where newly-minted rules assure conviction; the majority, however, will remain prisoners of this so-called war indefinitely. Today, Obama has adopted almost all of the draconian Bush practices, save for permitting the worst forms of torture like waterboarding. But hooding, sleep deprivation and isolation are still permitted. The president has also ruled out any semblance of accountability for Bush administration officials responsible for waterboarding, practically ensuring its recurrence. The United States is a changed country. None of us are safer. All of us are less free. It had, after all, just appointed George W Bush its commander-in-chief. But the years since the Twin Towers attack have made matters much, much worse. Lump every imaginable failed or failing agency into something called a department of homeland security and "bringing airports to a grinding halt" deem the job done. The founding fathers concocted a balance of powers between president, Congress and states designed to meet the tests of the s and s. Nobody in their right mind thinks it fit for purpose any longer. Yet nobody has the will or the power to do anything about it. The lush, plastic dross of urban and suburban life has left individual resilience far behind except in old frontier legend. Head for the hills. Yet complacent because, in a swirl of fat-sodden comfort eating, no one can find a way to break free. But where has all the ambition gone? Where is the intellectual ability to put fear including fear of extremism and immigration in its place? Time to get off the floor and start fighting again. I cannot speak for all Americans, only for myself, when I say that in the past 10 years, I have had to grow up "not just because my mother was so brutally murdered, but also because the events of her murder required it. Like many, I had to learn about parts of the world I had only vaguely heard of before, had to listen to grievances I had previously been ignorant of, had to cope when people celebrated the violence that wreaked havoc in my life and shattered my mother into countless pieces. But some things about me and, I would hazard to say, America, have not changed. Mom taught my sister and me that we can fix any problem we set our minds to. And while the pain of her murder will never cease, living a life my mother would be proud of remains my goal to this day. Moreover, at the tactical level, any terrorist attack is by definition an intelligence failure, even though, in this instance, US intelligence had provided strong and prescient strategic warning of the threat. The net effect of the reorganisation was to create more bureaucracy and more lines across which information must flow. But like any other open society, America remains vulnerable to terrorist attack no matter how much its institutions are reformed.