

Ten Years after 9/11: Where We Were Then, Where We Are Now

by [Ali Soufan \(/experts/ali-soufan\)](/experts/ali-soufan)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

[Ali Soufan \(/experts/ali-soufan\)](/experts/ali-soufan)

Ali Soufan, a former FBI supervisory special agent, is the author of *The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda* (WW Norton, 2011).



Brief Analysis

Part of a series: [Counterterrorism Lecture Series \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/counterterrorism-lecture-series\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/counterterrorism-lecture-series)

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Former FBI agent Ali Soufan, who wrote a definitive history of the early years of the U.S. fight against al-Qaeda, addressed a Washington Institute Policy Forum.

On September 20, 2011, Ali Soufan addressed a Washington Institute Policy Forum in New York as part of the ongoing lecture series sponsored by the Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. Mr. Soufan's comments drew from his just-released book *The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda* (<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/The-Black-Banners/>).

[Download a redacted extract from the book \(/media/5889\)](/media/5889).

ABOUT THE BOOK

Extract reprinted from *The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda* (<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/The-Black-Banners/>) by Ali H. Soufan with Daniel Freedman. Copyright 2011 by Ali H. Soufan. With permission of the publisher, W.W. Norton & Company Inc.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ali Soufan was on the ground in Yemen on September 11, 2001, investigating the October 2000 al-Qaeda bombing of the USS Cole as an FBI supervisory special agent. A few hours after the attacks, as he prepared to board a flight home to join the investigation, he was instructed to stay in Yemen and interrogate al-Qaeda operative Fahd al-Quso, then in Yemeni custody. Mr. Soufan is now chief executive officer of the Soufan Group LLC. A former FBI counterterrorism agent with extensive experience interrogating al-Qaeda operatives, he also serves as executive director of the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies. ❖

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