

September 2001 brought a new kind of war to the US and the world - a war without a clear enemy.

~~Who's~~ Who's the enemy? Nobody is certain. There is no country you can retaliate for this act - there simply isn't one. The WTC was always an American landmark, and the sight of a previous attempt to bring them down in 1993 had failed. The picture of such a building on fire was frightening enough, later to find out it was a large commercial jet. Not only were two buildings burning, the country itself was on fire emotionally. The days, weeks and months afterwards brought hatred against those of Middle Eastern descent - even in our own area. Security itself was a challenge. Airlines that once flew high were filing for bankruptcy and closing their doors. The financial troubles continued for both stock markets, seeing their lowest numbers since the 1990's. The world had changed in every form imaginable, emotionally and physically.

The freedoms we live with daily were challenged but not defeated. Freedom is ^{not} something to take for granted, rather cherished. Hopefully in the next couple years we will see a new perspective on the world. 2001 into 2002 has been a period of strong uncertainty on a day-to-day basis - not knowing what could happen today or tomorrow. Americans now live with a greater sense of vigilance in a ~~new~~ world made up of hatred. It has made our country stronger in ways more than one.