

# A New Kind of War

Cold War influences on American culture  
after September 11th, 2001

by Victoria Penrose

# Unprecedented

“This will be a different kind of conflict against a different kind of enemy. This is a conflict without battlefields or beachheads, a conflict with opponents who believe they are invisible.”

-President George W. Bush, Radio

Address of the President to the Nation,  
September 15, 2001.



# 1993 World Trade Center Bombing

- Same location, same goal
- Terrorist training connections
- Perpetrators quickly apprehended
- Did not match same level of national trauma as September 11th



# Oklahoma City Bombing

- Previously the worst terrorist attack on American soil- 168 dead, 650+ injured
- Committed by militia extremist Timothy McVeigh
- Attacks did not spark major policy changes



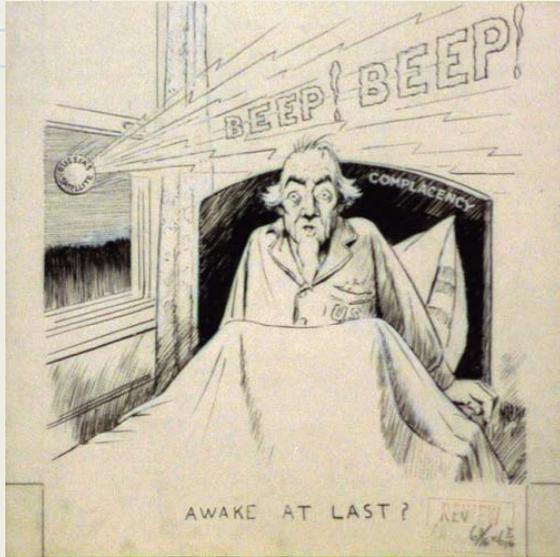
# Pearl Harbor

- Aerial attack- presence of jet fuel
- Pearl Harbor Attack death toll: 2,402
- Attack on military rather than civilian area
- Source of the attack easily determined - tied to a specific state
- America joined an ongoing war
- Full shift into wartime production





# Period of National Anxiety



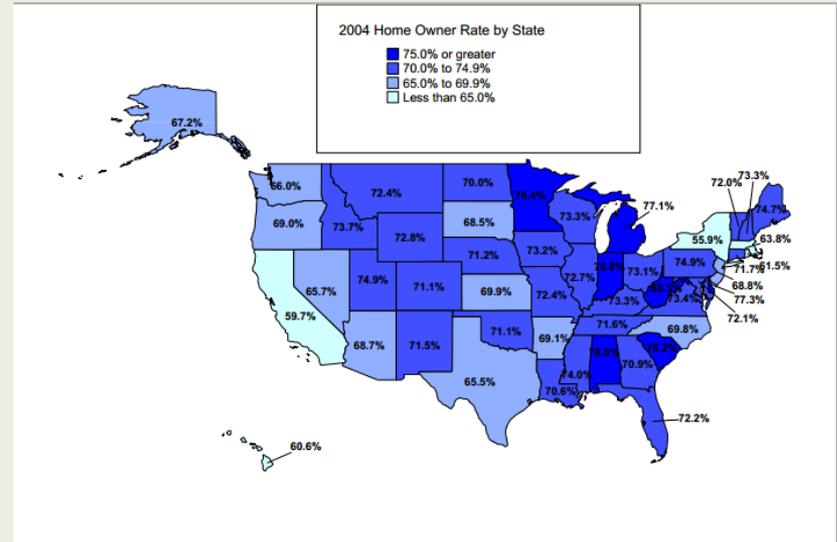
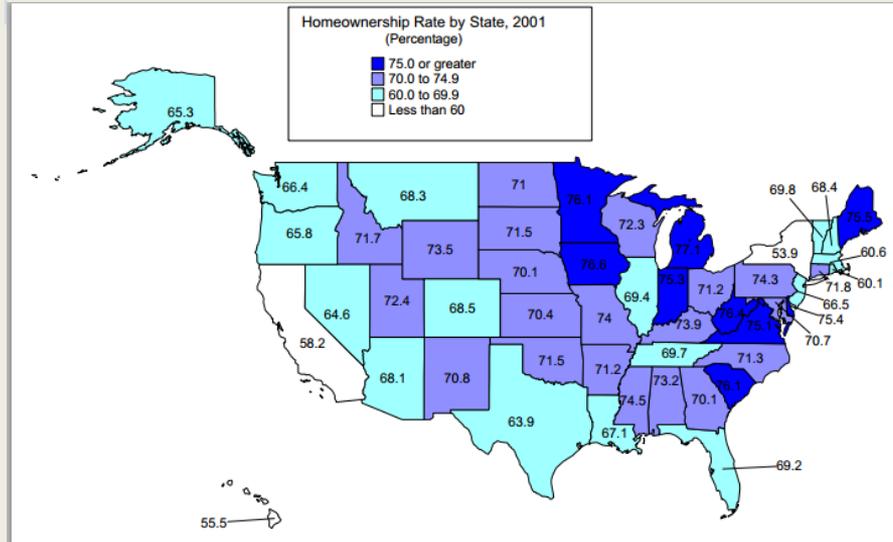
- The Cold War was the best parallel for the level of anxiety felt by Americans after September 11th.
- Played on nuclear fears
- Ground Zero - the point directly above, below, or at which a nuclear explosion occurs. ([Merriam Webster Online](#)), also used to refer to World Trade Center rubble
- Anxiety leads to major policy changes, such as the creation of NASA and Department of Defense during Cold War and the Department of Homeland Security after September 11th

# Freedom to Spend

- American consumerism was a show of superiority as well as a way to fend off recession
- Consumerism and capitalism represented important American freedoms
- “Take your families and enjoy life, the way we want it to be enjoyed.” -President George W. Bush, O’Hare Airport, Sept 27, 2001

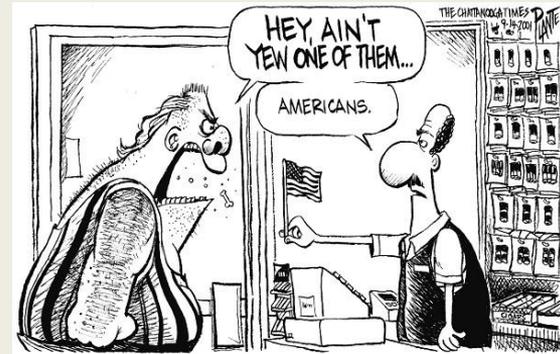


# Home Ownership Rates in 2001 and 2004



# Fear of Infiltration

- McCarthyism and the Red Scare
- “Since September 11th, the American people have been an important set of eyes and ears in our investigations.” -FBI Director Bob Mueller
- Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS)
- Anti-Muslim sentiment
- Rise of hate crimes towards those of Arab and Middle Eastern descent



# Protectors and Caregivers

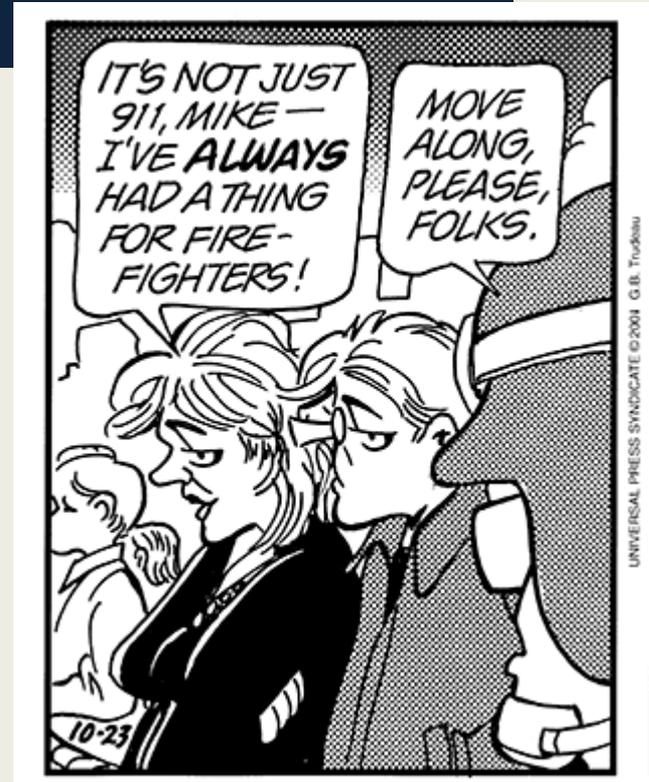
- Rising emphasis on complementarian gender roles of a male breadwinner and female caregiver
- Male confidence tied to national confidence
- Rose as a contrast to Soviet gender roles



Image Source: <http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21573548-forget-traditional-family-there-are-now-three-distinct-models-associated> , <http://www.ivy-style.com/x-marx-the-spot-the-treasure-of-the-hsm-archives.html>

# Hunks and Heroes

- “After a few iffy decades in which manliness was not the most highly prized cultural attribute, men -- stoic, muscle-bound and exuding competence from every pore -- are back.” - Patricia Leigh Brown, “Heavy Lifting Required: The Return of Manly Men,” New York Times, 28 Oct. 2001.
- “In three decades, feminism has done a back flip. Once men in uniform were the oppressors. Now they’re trophy mates.”  
- Maureen Dowd, “Hunks and Brutes,” New York Times, 28 Nov. 2001.



# Female Heroes of September 11th



Female first responders on September 11th as featured in Women at Ground Zero by Susan Hagen and Mary Carouba



Kathy Mazza- Port Authority Police Captain, Died in WTC



Terri Tobin- New York City Police Department



Moirra Smith- NYC Police, Died in WTC



Sandra Bradshaw - Attendant on Flight 93



Honor Elizabeth Wainio - Attendant on Flight 93

# Vulnerable Victims

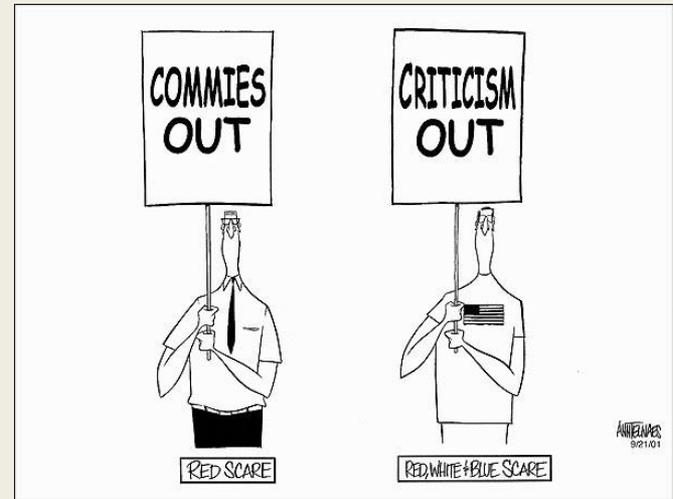
- ‘It’s hard to imagine a more poignant description of vulnerability” -People Magazine on Lisa Beamer
- Emphasis on motherhood
- Expected to be politically neutral
- Return to clearly defined roles was comforting



# Constructing Security



- Focus on home and family life
- Refrain from government criticism
- Strictly enforced stereotypes sort friend from foe
- Surge in American patriotism



# Embracing Diversity after September 11th

- “Ultimately, America’s answer to the intolerant man is diversity...” -Robert Kennedy
- We must reexamine how we portray concepts of heroism and patriotism.
- We are a country made great by it’s freedom and diversity. Let us celebrate those concepts when we remember September 11th.



Photographer: Fiona Abound,  
Captain America: Vishavjit Singh of [Sikhtoons.com](http://Sikhtoons.com)





Thank You for Listening

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