

September 12, 2001

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Dear Editor:

Yesterday's tragedy is horrific beyond words. Victims' and their families' losses are unspeakable.

When retaliation is countenanced, some perspective, though, is needed. Tuesday's reprehensible terrorist attack was not unprecedented, unless by definition (which is the art of myth making, otherwise known as propaganda).

Lest we forget (though President Roosevelt forbade as unconscionable such attacks until his death, but President Truman authorized):

- Tokyo, March 9, 1945. In one night of indescribable terror, over three hundred American pilots for hours systematically slaughtered 100,000 innocent civilians and wounded hundreds of thousands, with 2000 tons of incendiary bombs;

- Hiroshima, August 6, 1945. In one detonation, the American B-29 *Enola Gay* instantaneously injured or incinerated 135,000 non-combatants;

- Nagasaki, August 9, 1945. One American atomic bomb maimed or massacred 64,000 infants, children, middle-aged and senior citizens.

There were over 80 Japanese cities bombed by American incendiaries, with incalculable loss and woundings of civilian lives.

Lest we choose willful ignorance about America's worldwide terrorism: "must reads" would include the following meticulously documented publications, all by American authors: *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*, by William Blum (Common Courage Press, 2000); *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*, by William Blum (Black Rose Books, 1998); and *The "Terrorism" Industry*, by Edward Herman and Gerry O'Sullivan (Pantheon Books, 1989).

Terrorism, like war, is hell. No matter who is responsible. No matter who are victims. "A rose by any other name..."

Lest we fail to take heed: Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and it is us!"

Sincerely

Wayne Northey