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Palacký University
Olomouc

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - WORLD TRADE CENTER

Bachelor thesis

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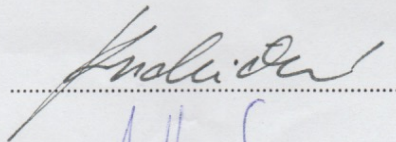
RESEARCH PLAN:

1. About the World Trade Center and Pentagon
2. The attacks 9/11 - 2 planes on WTC, 1 in Pentagon, 4th plane in Pennsylvania
3. After the attacks - what is there now instead of the twins
4. Various theory about the attacks

List of recommended literature:

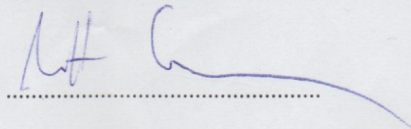
1. Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11 - Thomas Kean, Damon DiMarco
2. 102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the twin Towers - Jim Dwyer, Kevin Flynn
3. Firehouse - David Halberstam
4. 9/11 Simple Facts - Why Official Story Can't Be True - Arthur Naiman
5. The Looming Tomer: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11

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PROHLÁŠENÍ:

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci na téma “11. září, 2001 – Světové obchodní centrum” vypracovala samostatně pod odborným dohledem vedoucího práce a uvedla jsem všechny použité podklady a literaturu.

V dne

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Table of Contents

Introduction	7
1. About the World Trade Center and the Pentagon	8
1.1. The World Trade Center	8
1.1.1. <i>Description of the complex</i>	8
1.1.2. <i>The Twin Towers structure</i>	9
1.2. The Pentagon	9
2. The 9/11 Attacks	10
2.1. After the Attacks	11
2.1.1. <i>New World Trade Center</i>	11
2.1.2. <i>National 9/11 Memorial</i>	12
2.1.3. <i>National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial</i>	12
2.1.4. <i>Flight 93 National Memorial</i>	13
3. Various Theories about the Attacks	14
3.1. Absurd collapse	14
3.1.1. <i>World Trade Center 7</i>	15
3.2. Bombs and missiles instead of airplanes	15
3.2.1. <i>The Pentagon</i>	16
3.2.2. <i>Flight 93</i>	16
3.2.3. <i>Passengers</i>	16
3.3. Hijackers	17
3.4. No extreme measures	17
4. American Life after 9/11	19
4.1. Airport security	19
4.2. The USA PATRIOT Act	20
4.3. Treatment of American Muslims after 9/11	20
4.3.1. <i>War</i>	21
5. Literary Fiction	22
5.1. <i>Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close</i>	22
5.2. <i>Twilight of the Superheroes</i>	25
Conclusion	28
Resumé	30
Bibliography	33
List of Attachments	37
Attachments	38
List of Used Abbreviations	46
Annotation	47

Introduction

The aim of my bachelor thesis is to briefly write something about the history of the World Trade Center and Pentagon, where they are located, what their purpose is, etc. Next I would like to explain the attacks that took place on the 11th of September 2001 and which planes attacked what. Then I will describe how the WTC site is being rebuilt, including the memorials. In the next chapter, I would like to mention several theories about what happened; was it really an attack, or did Americans actually want to destroy the Twin Towers? Lastly, I would like to write about what these attacks meant to Americans and how their lives have changed since. I will include some fiction written by people who were there that day and I will compare it with the event.

Not only is 9/11 a significant day in the history of America, but also the effects after the attacks are important as well. My goal is to describe and further explore how have the attacks and the theories affected the public imagination, and also how it has been used in American literature and how that can affect readers.

1. About the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

1.1. The World Trade Center

The World Trade Center is located in Manhattan, NYC, NY State. The original World Trade Center was a complex of 7 office buildings: South and North towers, also called 1 and 2 WTC and 5 smaller buildings called 3 - 7 WTC. The complex was designed by the American architect Minoru Yamasaki and finished in 1974. In 1994 it was recognised as one of the “Seven Wonders of the Modern World”. In July 2001 the complex was bought by Larry Silverstein.¹ “”

1.1.1. Description of the complex

The South and North towers were mostly known as the Twin Towers, they were a NY icon and known worldwide. The North Tower was finished in 1970 and the South in 1971. Until the year 1974, when the Sears Tower in Chicago was built, they were the tallest buildings in the world. They were built diagonally so they would't block each other's view. The Twin Towers had 110 storeys each. They housed the offices of around 430 companies with 35.000 employees and were daily visited by 200.000 people. On the 107th floor of the North Tower you could find the famous restaurant Windows on the World, and on the same floor in the South Tower you could see the view of Manhattan from The Top of the World Observation Deck.²

Other buildings of the complex were 3 World Trade Center, which was a 22 storey hotel first called The Vista International Hotel and later the New York Marriott World Trade Center Hotel. Then 4 World Trade Center which housed the Commodities Exchange Center, 5 World Trade Center where you would find New York and New Jersey police departments and 6 World Trade Center with US Customs offices. These last three buildings were all low-rise.

¹ “About the WTC site,” World Trade Center, <http://www.panynj.gov/wtcprogress/about-wtc-site.html> (accessed October 11, 2016).

² The information for section 1.1.1. is taken from the sites: “About the WTC site.” and “World Trade Center,” History, <http://www.history.com/topics/world-trade-center> (accessed October 11, 2016).

The last building was 7 World Trade Center. It was a skyscraper with 47 storeys and inside you could find finance offices, investment companies, FBI and CIA. The buildings were built around a plaza with the “Sphere” sculpture in a fountain. Beneath the complex you could find an underground shopping mall, subway and train stations and also gold depositories.

1.1.2. The Twin Towers structure

The buildings were constructed using new engineering methods, that were meant to ensure they could withstand fire, bombings, planes crashing into them and other hazards. They were built sounder than they had to be by law. The structure was basically a tube in another tube. The core and also the edges of both buildings were made of massive steel columns and floor trusses. In the center tube there were elevators, stairwells, etc.³

On February 13, 1975, the North Tower survived a fire which extended to 7 floors and burnt for hours. And on February 26, 1993 there was a bombing in the basement which took lives of six people and injured more than 1.000 others.⁴

1.2. The Pentagon

The Pentagon is a building of the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. It is located in Arlington County, Virginia, USA and it is a designated National Historical Landmark. The building was finished in 1943 and is one of the largest and most effective office buildings in the world. It’s main purpose is to serve as a center for military forces leadership group, where gathered information is analysed and actions planned aiming to secure the country and to be prepared for war and attacks. Around 23.000 civilian and military employees work in the Pentagon. It is called the Pentagon, because of the building’s shape.⁵

³ Arthur Naiman, *9/11: The Simple Facts* (Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint, 2011), 19-22.

⁴ Jesse Greenspan, “WTC Bombing,” <http://www.history.com/news/remembering-the-1993-world-trade-center-bombing> (accessed November 9, 2016).

⁵ “About DoD,” *United States Department of Defense*, <http://www.defense.gov/About-DoD> (accessed October 9, 2016).

2. The 9/11 Attacks

The official statement says the attacks were perpetrated by 19 Islamic terrorists from an al-Qaeda group led by Osama bin Laden. They hijacked four American planes in the morning of September 11, 2001. The first plane, an American Airlines Flight 11, hit the North Tower at 8:46 a.m. and made a hole from floor 93 to floor 98. The second plane, United Airlines Flight 175, crashed into the South Tower making a hole from floor 78 to floor 84. Both planes were long distance carriers Boeing 767, therefore they had a lot of jet fuel in their tanks. The planes severely damaged the structure of the towers and the jet fuel caused fire which spread and impaired the steel trusses, causing the buildings to collapse. The whole towers fell about an hour later and damaged the other parts of the complex. A 7 World Trade Center burnt for several hours and later that day collapsed as well.⁶

Two-thousand seven-hundred fifty-three people died in WTC that day. There were 1,911 victims from the towers who were killed by the first hits. More than 200 people jumped down due to heat and smoke. Those trapped in the highest floors and still inside or next to the buildings did not survive the collapses. Another 147 people were passengers on the planes. Four-hundred forty-one firefighters, medics and police officers perished. Only 20 people lived through the collapses.

The other two planes were Boeing 757s. The third plane was American Airlines Flight 77 which hit the west side of the Pentagon at 9:37. The crash and fire damaged a part of the building and it took the lives of 184 civilian and military workers together with the victims on the plane.⁷

The passengers in the last plane, United Flight 93, knew what had happened and together with the flight attendants fought the hijackers. The plane spun out of control and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m. Some people phoned from the

⁶ Naiman, *Simple Facts*, 13.

The information for sections 2. and 2.1. is taken from the book: Damon DiMarco and Thomas Kean, *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11* (Santa Monica, CA: Santa Monica, 2007). and from the site “World Trade Center.”

⁷ “Pentagon,” *History*, <http://www.history.com/topics/pentagon> (accessed October 12, 2016).

plane and were passing on information about their situation. The target is not known, but there are speculations that the plane was to be directed to hit the White House or the U.S. Capitol. All 45 people on board died.

2.1. After the Attacks

The fire was burning for hundred more days and it took months to clean everything up. There was nothing left but debris from the Twin Towers and 7WTC and the other buildings of WTC complex were severely damaged, so they had to be demolished. Also surrounding buildings, such as the World Financial Center, Liberty Plaza, St. Nicolas Greek Orthodox Church, Verizon Building and many more had to be demolished or repaired. By May 30, 2002 the whole center was cleaned and there was nothing left but “Ground Zero”. The rebuilding of the new WTC could begin.

Many people were injured during the attacks, some by falling debris or by smoke and fire, others by dust exposure, effects of which in some cases appeared after years later. So apart from a compensation fund for the victims’ families, there is also a health fund signed by President Barack Obama.

2.1.1. New World Trade Center

The new site is not entirely finished, but there are projects and plans for new buildings. The new complex can boast with its memorial and new buildings, like the One World Trade Center also called the Freedom Tower, which is the tallest building in the Western hemisphere. It opened in 2014 and it has 104 stories and One World Observatory at the top three floors of the skyscraper. Another two new buildings are 7 WTC with 52 stories and 4 WTC with 72 stories. With offices of finance, science, law, public relations and many other companies. There is also a new Transportation Hub connecting trains, subway, buses or ferries and a shopping mall under the WTC

buildings. Yet to be completed are 2 WTC and 3 WTC which will have 80 stories or more.⁸

2.1.2. National 9/11 Memorial

The 9/11 memorial is a "green" plaza symbolizing the loss but also hope. There, among many oak trees, you can find the "Survivor Tree", the National Museum with pictures and stories about the victims and that day, remains of the buildings and much more. The main symbol of the victims are two pools built instead of the towers, called the Twin Pools. They are two huge holes in the ground with water fountains. Names of people who lost their lives in 9/11 and 1993 bombing are inscribed in a bronze plate around each of the pools. The names are organized by where the victims were and their relationship to others. The memorial was designed by Michael Arad and Peter Walker who won the WTC memorial competition and it is visited by millions of people from all over the world.⁹

"Tribute in Light", two blue illuminating light beams leading to the sky, was first presented six months after the attacks. Since then, the tribute is held every year on September 11. This date was also set as a Patriot Day in The U.S.A., dedicated to memory of lost lives. Another interesting fact is that the Sphere sculpture from the fountain is damaged but still located in a Battery Park. There is a strong support for it to be moved back to WTC site, but the date has not been set yet.

2.1.3. National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial

This Memorial was built on the 7th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and it stands next to one side of the Pentagon. Its purpose is to help recognise and respect the people who lost their life in the attack. And also for future generations to learn and not forget

⁸ "Office Buildings," WTC, <https://www.wtc.com/about/buildings> (accessed October 20, 2016).

⁹ The information for section 2.1.2. is taken from the site: "Memorial," *9/11 Memorial*, <https://www.911memorial.org/memorial> (accessed October 21, 2016).

about the tragedy. The Memorial consist of “Memorial Unit” benches with names of the victims. Firstly, you will find a stone with inscribed names of the victims and their age with the benches placed according to an age line on a side of the memorial. Thus it is easy for the families and friend to find the name of the deceased. Each bench is made of steel and granite and has a pool with running water and a light under it. The water is stopped every morning at 9:37 (time of the incident) to silently mourn. Names of family members who were killed are inscribed together in a special plate under the memorial unit. Benches are placed in two ways. Those facing the Pentagon are symbolizing the victims who were in the building that day and the ones that are facing the other way, symbolize the victims who were on the Flight 77. The entire place contains many myrtle trees. The memorial was designed by Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman who created the best project.¹⁰

2.1.4. *Flight 93 National Memorial*

To honor the brave passengers on Flight 93, a memorial was built on the crash site in Pennsylvania. It consists of a “Memorial Plaza” with “The Wall of Names” and the story of 9/11 with photos and recordings of phone call made from the plane. Then there is a walkway with memorial groves, one for each passenger and crew. The walkway leads to visitor’s center with museum or learning center. The Wall of Names is a high concrete wall with transcribed names of the victims. It follows the path of the crashed plane. The complex is built to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly.¹¹

The September 11th National Memorial Trail connects all three 9/11 Memorials. On the 15th anniversary of the attacks a bike trail between the Flight 93 National Memorial and Pentagon Memorial was opened.

¹⁰ “The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial,” *Pentagon Memorial*, <http://pentagonmemorial.org/> (accessed November 14, 2016).

¹¹ The information for section 2.1.4. is taken from the site: “Flight 93 National Memorial,” *National Park*, <https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm> (accessed November 27, 2016).

3. Various Theories about the Attacks

In this chapter, I will write about conspiracy theories which attempts to show us and explain strange and impossible things about the attacks, given in the official report. Experts, evidence and basic knowledge states why it was impossible. The World Trade Center was bought few months before 9/11 by Larry Silverstein who insured the complex against terrorist attacks. And because both towers were hit, he sued to get double the money and he won. Not only Silverstein, but other Americans made a huge profit from it as well. The complex had a new security company (Securacom) in charge of its security, with President Bush's brother Marvin Bush and his cousin Wirt Walker III as a principal and CEO. The same company also secured Dulles Airport from which American Airline Flight 77 took off, United Airlines and Los Alamos National Laboratory where nano-thermite was developed. Another factor is that the towers contained asbestos and there were demands for them to be renovated or demolished, but it was prohibited to demolish them all at once and too expensive to repair/demolish them floor by floor. No thorough investigation was made and the majority of people do not believe the official statement.¹² Among many theories that there are I have selected these to discuss:

3.1. Absurd collapse

This theory argues that a building can not collapse like the towers did unless it is a controlled demolition. Officials said that the upper trusses crushed the ones below, however, the bottom was undamaged and built stronger than the top, so how did it fall straight down? The Towers collapsed in 9 seconds which is very fast and it was symmetrical. Even if it happened as stated in the report the collapse would have lasted longer. Videos and eyewitnesses indicate that the South Tower started to fall off-center, but then just collapsed evenly like the North Tower. Many people also reported that they had seen and heard explosions before the collapse. It never happened before just by fire and a plane crash, even in the North Tower which went through widespread fire in the past. There was also a prototype of the building made and tested and it did not

¹² The information for chapter 3. is taken from the book: Naiman, *Simple Facts*.

collapse.

Furthermore, there were no piles of floors and just a very few bodies found, so we are supposed to believe that they just vanished into dust. Scientists found evidence that suggests there was molten steel and explosive nano-thermite at the ruins, but it was denied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In March 2001 elevator modernizations were done in the Towers and before 9/11 there were a lot of blackouts which would provide access to install explosives. Al-Qaeda could not gain that much access to such high-secured buildings.¹³

3.1.1. World Trade Center 7

The same goes for WTC 7 - it took just 6.5 seconds for the building to collapse due to fire only. Some people said that they heard Silverstein on the phone asking to authorize a demolition of this building, but a demolition like that would take weeks to prepare. It was known that WTC 7 is going down, even on BBC news they announced that the building had collapsed before it actually did.

3.2. Bombs and missiles instead of airplanes

Experienced pilots state that there were no real planes used, because aluminum planes can not entirely penetrate a steel structure. If they would hit the building they would break and crash down. They also said it is impossible to drop, turn and fly a Boeing 767 into a building in such a short time, the same applies to the Pentagon. There were holes in the buildings looking exactly like a plane and its wings, but the wings would break off on impact. This theory also says that there are no records of flights 11 and 77 taking off and that the videos showing a plane hit the South Tower are false. It is more likely that bombs or missiles were used.¹⁴

¹³ “The Evidence,” *9-11 research*, <http://911research.wtc7.net/sept11/evidence.html> (accessed October 18, 2016).

¹⁴ The information for section 3.2. is taken from the site: Baxter Dmitry, “No Planes Evidence,” *Your News Wire*, <http://yournewswire.com/cia-pilot-presents-evidence-that-no-planes-hit-towers-on-911/> (accessed October 20, 2016).

3.2.1. *The Pentagon*

The Pentagon is one of the most highly secured buildings in the world and within a no-fly zone and yet there was no detection or a video of a plane. Only special military airplanes are permitted to the area, it should have been shot down. But no sensor at the Pentagon was on and the plane was not on the radar. Another thing is that the hole in the Pentagon was too small to be caused by Boeing 757, and there were no holes from wings although the building is made of concrete and the Twin Towers had holes in steel. Lastly there were no pieces of that aircraft or bodies found. The official report says that the victims were transported and identified by forensic specialists in Maryland, but some of them were involved in a fraud before. The government basically wants people to believe that everything has vaporized. It is said even by some members of the 9/11 Commission and Defense that the Pentagon was hit by a cruise missile.

3.2.2. *Flight 93*

This plane was said to have crashed in a field in Pennsylvania because of the riot of passengers. Again there was no evidence of Boeing 757, it looked like a big pile of nothing. Eyewitnesses stated that it looked like a small plane or a jet shot by a missile. There was also some debris found miles away, which would not happen if an aircraft crashed into a ground. The only “evidence” are the calls made by the passengers, but they can be false as well.¹⁵

3.2.3. *Passengers*

If there were no airplanes used what about the passengers? This theory reports that the people from Flights 11, 77, 93 and 175 either received new identities and were silenced by insurance or that they were all on the Flight 93 and murdered by the government. Also the crash site of Flight 93 was the only one from which the black box was recovered. There were not even remains of one found at any of the other sites.

¹⁵ Dean Hartwell and Jim Fetzer, “Flight 93,” *Veterans Today*, <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2015/05/01/the-911-passenger-paradox-what-happened-to-flight-93/> (accessed October 18, 2016).

3.3. Hijackers

Although the FBI identified the 19 hijackers involved in the attacks, there is no legal evidence of their identities or that they boarded those planes. The official report also states that a passport of one of the hijackers was found in the ruins of WTC and one in Pennsylvania, which is very hard to believe since everything else was destroyed. It is really interesting that they successfully hijacked four aircrafts. The hijackers were amateur pilots and even experienced pilots said they would not be able to do it. After few years BBC news reported that several of them were found alive.¹⁶

3.4. No extreme measures

Months before 9/11 U.S. officials, the CIA and FBI were warned by some European countries including Britain, about planned attacks on United States of America, but they ignored the warnings. There were no extreme measures made, no special security or increased alert, nothing. The air defense was actually ordered to stay down that day. This looks like the authorities allowed for the attacks to happen. The Pentagon officials canceled their travel plans, also the Mayor of San Francisco received a warning and didn't take his flight. President Bush was at an Elementary School in Florida, business leaders rescheduled their meetings away from the Towers and Larry Silverstein who usually had breakfast at the Windows on the World, wasn't at the complex at all.

After examining these theories, I think that it is very unlikely that the attacks were committed only by the hijackers. The conspiracy theories state a lot of informations which are hard to ignore. The U.S. government was not paying enough attention to warnings about threats. They did not use any extreme measures and because many people in high positions weren't at the complex, in the Pentagon or flying, it looks really suspicious and potentially indicates that it may have been an inside job. I am not convinced about the "no plane theory". Some of the shown evidence makes sense, but I think that planes did hit the Twin Towers. I could believe that the buildings collapsed due to bombs which were installed in the World Trade Center before the

¹⁶ "The Evidence."

attacks. It seems unrealistic, that three buildings could be completely brought down by fire in one day. To summarize it, I think it could have been an attack by terrorists, and that the U.S. government may have contributed to it, either deliberately or accidentally by not protecting citizens as they should have. In my opinion, most of the theories exist because Americans do not want to accept what happened. They are not satisfied and do not want to believe, that foreigners were able to destroy the buildings and to do such a harm to them. This way they do not have a conclusion and it also helps them to get through it.

4. American Life after 9/11

American life has changed a lot since 9/11. For the first few weeks, people were mostly shocked and in mourning, and they trusted the government more than ever. Everyone was concerned about the others and volunteering to help, either with cleaning Ground Zero or donating food, water, supplies, and more. Volunteers were mostly from New York, but military personnel, marines, police, firefighters and many more came to help from several countries. Many people even joined the army. Later the feelings changed into anger and concern about safety. The trust in government decreased rapidly and people were looking at their lives and country differently. Some people and families drew apart while others got back together. They started to speak again with their fathers, siblings or friends, etc. People were afraid, they panicked about thunderstorms thinking they might be a bomb and every unattended luggage was considered dangerous. Some citizens even moved away from the U.S. On every anniversary of the attacks people are more worried that something might happen again.¹⁷

The ones who were there that day, or lost someone, will never fully recover. Some had to seek professional help, others found things which helped them cope, such as writing poems, music, drawing amongst other hobbies. Despite this, they still think about it a lot, they cry and pray. Americans lost their secure life and they are aware of threats and war, which they haven't been really thinking about before. Thousands of engineers, architects, military pilots, academics, together with afflicted families, people from around the world and even some members of FBI, CIA and from the government are calling for a new investigation. They want to know what really happened and also to prevent it from happening again. New U.S. President Donald Trump supposedly said that he wants to reopen the 9/11 investigation. For now it is all just speculations.

4.1. Airport security

No one was flying at first and many tourists chose not to visit America for a few years. That was also because it was hard to get a visa for many years, especially for travelers from the Middle East. A new airport security body called Transportation

¹⁷ The information for section 4. is taken from the books: DiMarco and Kean, *Tower Stories*. and David Halberstam, *Firehouse* (New York: Hachette, 2002).

Security Administration (TSA) was introduced. The TSA introduces new regulations that included engagement of private security companies at each airport, new body scans and restrictions on what objects could be carried. People had to take off their shoes or go for a pat-down and because of the thorough security they had to wait in long lines. Cockpits were made more secure and pilots, if they were trained and had a license, could carry a gun. These rules still apply today and TSA is constantly improving them.¹⁸

The airport security wasn't the only one to be enhanced. Security in other buildings was improved as well. Security badges are needed to enter a building where you work and guests must sign in. Offices were equipped with emergency packages containing dust mask, light, emergency whistle and blanket, water and energy bar. In some houses people made emergency plans in case something happens.

4.2. The USA PATRIOT Act

Another precaution was The USA PATRIOT Act announced few days after the attacks by President Bush. In 2011 it was extended by President Barack Obama. This Act permits government to search your property without a warrant and "suspected terrorists" can be arrested or imprisoned for undescribed period of time. This also applies to anyone providing them with food or shelter. The act allows the FBI to intercept and search through emails, phone conversations, medical, travel and bank records, etc. It also permits deportation of non-citizens.¹⁹

4.3. Treatment of American Muslims after 9/11

Thousands of Muslims in the United States were arrested or deported, many were fired from their jobs or lost their businesses, students were expelled, harassed and bullied. Most of them stayed at home as much as possible, because they were too afraid to go out. Others were not going to mosques anymore, some women stopped wearing a

¹⁸ The information for section 4.1. is taken from the site: "Transportation Security," *TSA*, <https://www.tsa.gov/timeline> (accessed October 18, 2016).

¹⁹ "The USA PATRIOT Act," *Department of Justice*, <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ll/highlights.htm> (accessed October 24, 2016).

headscarf and many men stopped wearing turbans. Among the people killed on 9/11 there were around 60 American Muslims. Today, Muslim citizens make only 1% of the American population. Some of them made it into politics or media.²⁰

4.3.1. War

After 9/11 American President George W. Bush announced a “War on Terrorism” to eliminate threats and leaders with their terrorist groups. He appealed to other countries to join and within a month The U.S.A. started bombing in Afghanistan, later in Iraq and other countries with Islamic terrorist links. After the attacks Osama bin Laden hid and he was at large until May 2, 2011 when he was killed by the U.S. forces in Pakistan. Today the only open war is against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, concentrated on two cities Mosul and Rakka. Mosul is completely surrounded and access to water and roads for supplying the city had been destroyed. It can take weeks to defeat them, but the army against Mosul is much stronger. In Rakka it is much more difficult and slower, so it might take months to defeat them. By vanquishing these cities, the last powerful terrorist groups will be defeated.²¹

²⁰ DiMarco and Kean, *Tower Stories*. and Brian Michael Jenkins, “War on terror,” *The Rand corporation*, <http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/09/fifteen-years-on-where-are-we-in-the-war-on-terror.html> (accessed October 19, 2016).

²¹ Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (London: Penguin Books, 2007)., Jenkins, “War on terror.” and “Mosul,” *Novinky.cz*, <https://www.novinky.cz/hledej?w=mosul&ref=search&submit=Hledej> (accessed December 2, 2016).

5. Literary Fiction

In this chapter I am going to discuss literary fiction inspired by the attacks and the life after the attacks with the 9/11 topic. I have chosen two books. The first book is called *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer and the second one is a short story called *Twilight of the Superheroes* by Deborah Eisenberg. Firstly, I am going to describe the plot of each story and then I am going to compare it with September 11, 2001.²²

5.1. *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close is narrated by a nine-year-old boy Oscar Schell whose father Thomas is killed in the North Tower of the World Trade Center complex. The story covers the time before, during and after the attacks, together with stories about their family and friends. Oscar lives with his mom. His grandmother (mother of Thomas) lives in an apartment across the street. There are glimpses of Oscar's grandfather whom he didn't meet until two years after his father's death. Glimpses about his life; his suffering during World War II; how he met grandmother and why he left her; or how he lost his voice.

Thomas ran a family jewelry business outside the World Trade Center, but on the morning of September 11, 2001 he had a meeting at the Windows on the World restaurant in the North Tower. When the planes hit, kids were sent home from school, so Oscar got home around 10 a.m. and he found phone call messages that his father left. They all said that he is fine, that they are waiting for the firemen, that they will be evacuated and not to worry. Last time he called Oscar wasn't able to pick up the phone, so he just heard his dad asking repeatedly if anyone was there and then it cut off at the time when the building collapsed.

²² The information for chapter 5. is taken from the books: Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (London: Penguin, 2006). and Deborah Eisenberg, *Twilight of the Superheroes: Stories* (NY: Picador, 2006), 1-42.

One thing that helped him through his loss, was writing letters to many people like Stephen Hawking; He eventually responded. For his mom he made jewelry from beads symbolizing Morse code of the last messages that dad sent.

Oscar was a boy who loved inventing things and figuring out clues which his dad always hid for him. A year after 9/11 Oscar found a key in his dad's closet. The key was in an envelope which had written "black" on it. He found out that it opens some kind of safe-deposit box, but didn't know which one, so he decided to find it out. It was a long, interesting journey and he met many people along it. After several months he found out who does the key belong to and that it was just a coincidence that his dad had it in his closet.

For forty years, Oscar's grandfather sent an empty letter to grandma every day after he left. When their son Thomas died, he sent her a letter saying "I am sorry". Then he came back and stayed with her without anyone knowing. She said he is just a Renter, but they thought he was grandma's imaginary friend. Two years later Oscar first met him and eventually became friends with him, although he had no idea he was his grandfather.

Oscar's mom tried to talk to him and do the things he did with his dad, but he didn't want to. He blamed her that she doesn't miss dad, because he hasn't seen her crying. He hasn't even told her about the messages which dad sent or anything about the key. The key made Oscar feel close to his dad and he thought that if he figures it out, he would get some kind of closure. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. At the end of the book, he tells his mom everything and they cry. He hasn't miraculously got over the loss of his dad, but he got a bit better and through his adventure he gained new relationships.

This story is describing the 9/11 event as it really happened. It was mentioned that grandma was watching television and she saw everything. The first burning tower and how the second plane hit the other tower. A lot of black smoke coming out of the towers or people on the higher floors waving their shirts from the windows. Then millions of pieces of paper were flying everywhere together with gray dust and smell.

People on the streets were watching it on TV's in the windows of stores and it was televised for a long time. All of this can be seen in the 9/11 videos and eyewitnesses described it exactly like this. Oscar's mom called police and fire departments, newspaper, but everyone was busy and no one knew anything. This was also written about in documentary books including: *Tower Stories* and *Firehouse*.

Another similarity is the trauma this family went through. The Schell's buried their father even when they had no body. It was inconceivable for Oscar, but his family needed to do that to get a closure and they thought it would help Oscar as well. Not everyone, but a lot of people were burying empty coffins to accept that their loved one is not coming back. Everyone who lost someone that day dealt with it in a different way and for a different period of time, but all of them were mourning, struggling and could never forget.

Oscar becomes afraid to ride in elevators, fly in airplanes, of crossing bridges, fireworks, people who look of Arabic decent, unattended luggage and a lot more. As mentioned in the previous chapter everyone was or still is afraid of something, and like writing letters helped Oscar to get past the situation, others found writing and drawing helpful as well. And thanks to literature like this, people can also find support in reading. The book is told by three perspectives, which might help more generations through such time.

I could relate to Oscar, because I lost my father few years ago and the grief will never go away. It will only hurt a bit less with time. Reading this story did help me a little. I was not struck by the attacks at the time, because I was very young when it happened, but now, I do realize what terrible things are happening.

5.2. Twilight of the Superheroes

This short story is about two men Nathaniel and his uncle Lucien. They look back on September 11. How they reacted and how it changed their outlook on life. Also about their friends, family and how they all have different view on things now. In the first part, there is Nathaniel thinking about his future grandchildren and what he would tell them about the new millennium.

That day, Nathaniel and his friends were eating a breakfast on a terrace with a view on the World Trade Center. The apartment they were staying at belongs to Yoshi Matsumoto who let them use it while he is away. The sky was blue and then out of nowhere something flashed, the sky got inflamed and smoke surrounded the city. Tiny pieces of debris were falling into their drinks while they watched the disaster and little figures jumping from the towers.

There was chaos everywhere. The city was being evacuated and everyone was supposed to pack an emergency bag. People were searching for their families and friends, they filled police stations and streets around the site. Lucien was far away, but when he heard what was going on, he also went to Ground Zero to look for Nathaniel. After the towers collapsed everything got covered in ash and there were blackouts all over the city.

Nathaniel who had seen everything, started to think about the future and to worry about his life and that he might not even have children, let alone grandchildren. It took him a long time to have breakfast on the terrace again. Everything was the same, except a blank spot instead of the towers. Lucien on the other hand already went through a trauma when his wife died of cancer. He was able to empathize with the despair and loss of others, yet, he became pessimistic about everything and wondering of what is going to happen to the world.

Even months after the attacks, they still could not believe it happened. New York City had an open wound. People changed, they were miserable, nervous and uncomfortable. Washington was dropping bombs on Afghanistan and Iraq and

everything just seemed unbelievable. This all is of course right, but as stated in documentary books, people were also helpful and concerned about others.²³

In this story we can also find descriptions of a hole bursting with flames, black smoke, city covered in ash, debris and people falling, everything being televised, phones overloaded or that no one knew what was going on. These facts of the event were also stated in the previous literature.

This story is mostly about how the attacks changed Americans and their country, not only individuals. It described how the Manhattan skyline changed and how the empty spot reminds people of the terror. People's experiences can not really be compared, because everyone suffered differently. In my opinion, a difference between this story and real-life is, that most people who weren't in the complex and hadn't lost anyone that day weren't struggling as much as the main characters. They were of course miserable and afraid, but they eventually moved on. For example, Yoshi Matsumoto was not as affected by it. He said that he is coming back to New York, now that everything is back as it was, but Manhattan will never be the same.

Every generation went through something different during the attacks. We can see it compared here, because Nathaniel, Lucien and other characters are from different generations, so they were processing it in their own ways and they remember it differently. Americans did not believe that something like that could happen to them, but it did and therefore they are not superheroes anymore.

The death of Lucien's wife and how he dealt with 9/11 points out that people who went through a trauma before were coping with the situation in a different way and it reminded them of past tragedy. It is also indicated in the previous story, where one chapter is about Oscar's grandpa and his suffering during WWII and after. Both authors are Jewish and they have different perspective than others. Perhaps, because of the Holocaust and other horrors that happened to them, they are more used to bad things.

²³ DiMarco and Kean, *Tower Stories*.

I think that in other short stories from the collection written by Deborah Eisenberg, she inserts brief moments about 9/11. It is not about stories from that day, but about personal stories which happened around that time and after it, so the characters might be affected by it.

Both of the stories have a similar theme, and that is: how do people act in the attacks and after them. Reading books like that might help people get through a trauma and to process the situation. The stories were written from different perspectives and generations, which might reach to a wider audience.

Conclusion

The aim of my Bachelor thesis was to write about the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. To describe the WTC complex before and after and also how it all happened. Then to discuss several conspiracy theories, how American life changed after the attacks and to compare literary fiction with the 9/11 topic. My goal was to describe and explore how the theories and literature affected the public imagination of Americans.

The first chapter describes the World Trade Center complex before the attacks, what could be found there, and structure of the Twin Towers. Then the Pentagon was discussed along with the purpose of the Department of Defense. The second chapter deals with the attacks: how it all happened, who is responsible, or what was damaged. Another part of this chapter is about the new World Trade Center and Memorials, which are in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The third chapter lists some conspiracy theories. The absurd collapse of the Twin Towers and WTC7. That bombs and missiles were used instead of airplanes, mainly on the Pentagon. Facts about the hijackers and that no extreme measures were used to protect The United States of America. The fourth chapter describes American life after 9/11 including how people changed and what the attacks meant to them. It is also about increased security, mainly in airports. The USA PATRIOT Act was introduced, the War on Terror began and how American Muslims were treated. In the final chapter I chose two books of literary fiction: *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer and *Twilight of the Superheroes* by Deborah Eisenberg and I compared them with the event and real stories of people who were there that day or lost someone.

In conclusion, I do think that it could have been an attack by terrorists, and that the U.S. government may have contributed to it, either deliberately or accidentally by not protecting citizens as they should have. But many of the theories are not true and they are made up, because Americans do not want to believe that someone could hurt them and in a way, it also helps people. In a similar way, literature might help one to get through a trauma.

I was little when the attacks happened: I wasn't struck by it, so I can't say that it changed or affected me in any way at the time. Now that I have learnt more about what happened and is still happening in the world and because it was such a huge tragedy and because of the unexplained things, I think, that the investigation should be reopened.

I dealt with and described all the stated topics, therefore I consider the purpose of my work completed. This Bachelor thesis can be used for later purposes. Especially the conspiracy theories, because the 9/11 investigation might be opened again.

Resumé

Cílem této bakalářské práce bylo popsat útoky, které se staly 11. září 2001 ve Spojených státech amerických. Rozvést konspirační teorie a jak se po katastrofě změnil život v Americe. Dále uvést co teorie představují a jaký má vliv příslušná literatura. Bakalářská práce obsahuje pět kapitol, z nichž každá je zaměřená na určitý aspekt související s útoky.

První kapitola se zabývá popisem Světového obchodního centra a Pentagonu. Světové obchodní centrum v New Yorku se skládalo ze dvou identických mrakodrapů, hotelu a dalších čtyř budov s kanceláři. Řečeno je k čemu budovy sloužily, kolik lidí tam bylo zaměstnáno a také silná, inovativní struktura tak zvaných ‘‘Dvojčat’’. Dále je uvedena budova Pentagonu ve Virginii a úloha Ministerstva obrany Spojených států amerických, která v Pentagonu sídlí.

Druhá kapitola popisuje teroristické útoky tak, jak byly uvedeny v oficiální zprávě; kdo útoky způsobil, jaká letadla byla použita a kam narazila. Zabývá se kolapsem Dvojčat a budovy 7, poškozením Pentagonu a havárií letadla v Pensylvánii. Dále je napsáno, co všechno bylo důsledkem kolapsu zničeno a kolik bylo ten den zabito lidí. Také je uvedeno, jak je centrum přestavěno dnes; nový mrakodrap, budovy, doprava, muzeum nebo dva bazény s vodopády symbolizující památku obětem. Památník je postaven také u Pentagonu a v Pensylvánii. Každý památník je něčím specifický. Jména obětí jsou vyryta okolo bazénů, ve Virginii na lavičkách a v Pensylvánii na zdi. Všechny památníky jsou spojeny speciální stezkou.

Třetí kapitola uvádí různé konspirační teorie, které vysvětlují, proč se to nemohlo stát tak, jak uvádí vyšetřovací komise. Zda to byl opravdu teroristický útok, nebo jestli za tím stojí Američané. Také proč teorie existují a jak ovlivňují lid. První konspirační teorie se zabývá absurdním pádem budov a uvádí důkazy fyziků a inženýrů, proč je nemožné, aby se budova zřítila pouhým nárazem letadla a ohněm.

Další teorie popisuje, že byly místo letadel použity bomby a střely. Mnoho zkušených pilotů uvedlo, že by nezvládli s tímto letadlem klesnout, zatočit a narazit s takovou přesností do obou věží, za tak krátký čas. Dalším faktem je, že letadlo z hliníku

těžko prorazí ocelovou strukturu. Také nebyly nalezeny žádné části letadel, jak ve Světovém obchodním centru, tak v Pentagonu ani v Pensylvánii.

Další konspirační teorie se zabývá údajnými únosci letadel. Nebyly doloženy žádné důkazy o jejich identitě, ani že nastoupili do letadla a hlavně někteří z nich byli po letech nalezeni živí.

Poslední uvedená teorie zdůrazňuje, že měsíce před 11. září byly americké státy opakovaně varovány před teroristickými útoky. Varování ale byla ignorována a nebyla zajištěna žádná extrémní opatření. Vysoce postavení lidé však byli mimo tyto budovy, nebo zrušili své letecké plány. Tato fakta nasvědčují, že šlo pravděpodobně o vnitřní záležitost.

Čtvrtá kapitola se věnuje životu obyvatel Ameriky po útocích; co pro ně útoky znamenaly a jak se změnil jejich život. Nejprve popisuje, jak lidé reagovali ihned, dále po delší době a co některým pomohlo. Také uvádí, jak byla zvýšena ochrana na letištích, v kancelářských budovách nebo v domácnostech. Dále je uvedeno, co je to vlastenecký zákon, nebo jak se změnil život muslimů v Americe. Poslední část této kapitoly popisuje vyhlášení války proti terorismu prezidentem Georgem W. Bushem.

Pátá kapitola porovnává literární fikci s tématem 11. září. Je zde uvedena kniha *Neuvěřitelně hlasitě & nesmírně blízko* od autora Jonathana Safrana Foera a krátká povídka *Twilight of the Superheroes* od Deborah Eisenbergové. Nejdříve je popsán děj každé z nich a poté jsou porovnány. První příběh je o malém chlapci Oskarovi, kterému byl zabit otec při kolapsu Dvojčat. Vykresluje život Oskara a jeho rodiny před, během a po útocích.

Povídka je o dvou mužích a jejich přátelích. Vzpomínají na katastrofu a přemýšlí o budoucnosti a o životě. V obou případech je popsán den útoků tak, jak se skutečně stal. Najdeme zde rozdílné věkové kategorie, takže uvidíme, jak se s neštěstím vyrovnaly různé generace. Rozdíl mezi fikcí a skutečností je, jak postavy vnímaly 11.9 a jak se smířily se ztrátou a utrpením. To však jde porovnat těžce, protože každý člověk se s tímto dnem vypořádával jinak. Tyto knihy mohou pomoci lidem překonat trauma.

Závěr shrnuje konspirační teorie a mé stanovisko na toto téma. Vzhledem k tomu, že americká vláda neprojevila snahu v zastavení útoků a díky spoustě zřejmých faktů, si myslím, že útoky byly sice spáchány teroristy, ale že americká vláda byla také zapojena. Kvůli tomu, že to byla tak obrovská tragédie a kvůli tolika nejasnostem, bych znovu otevřela vyšetřování. Závěr uvádí cíl mé bakalářské práce a také shrnuje jednotlivé kapitoly. Uvedeno je, zda jsem splnila zadané téma a zda může být práce použita pro další účely.

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List of Attachments

Figure 1: World Trade Center – before 9/11

Figure 2: World Trade Center – after 9/11

Figure 3: WTC Structure

Figure 4: Map of the Flights

Figure 5: Damaged City of NYC

Figure 6: Attack on the Pentagon

Figure 7: Manhattan Skyline before 9/11 – Twin Towers

Figure 8: Collapse of the World Trade Center

Figure 9: Manhattan Skyline 9/11 – Ground Zero

Figure 10: Manhattan Skyline after 9/11 – One World Trade Center

Figure 11: WTC Memorial

Figure 12: Victim Names

Figure 13: The Tribute in Light

Figure 14: The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial

Figure 15: Wall of Names – Flight 93 Memorial

Figure 16: Hole from Flight 11 in the North Tower

Attachments

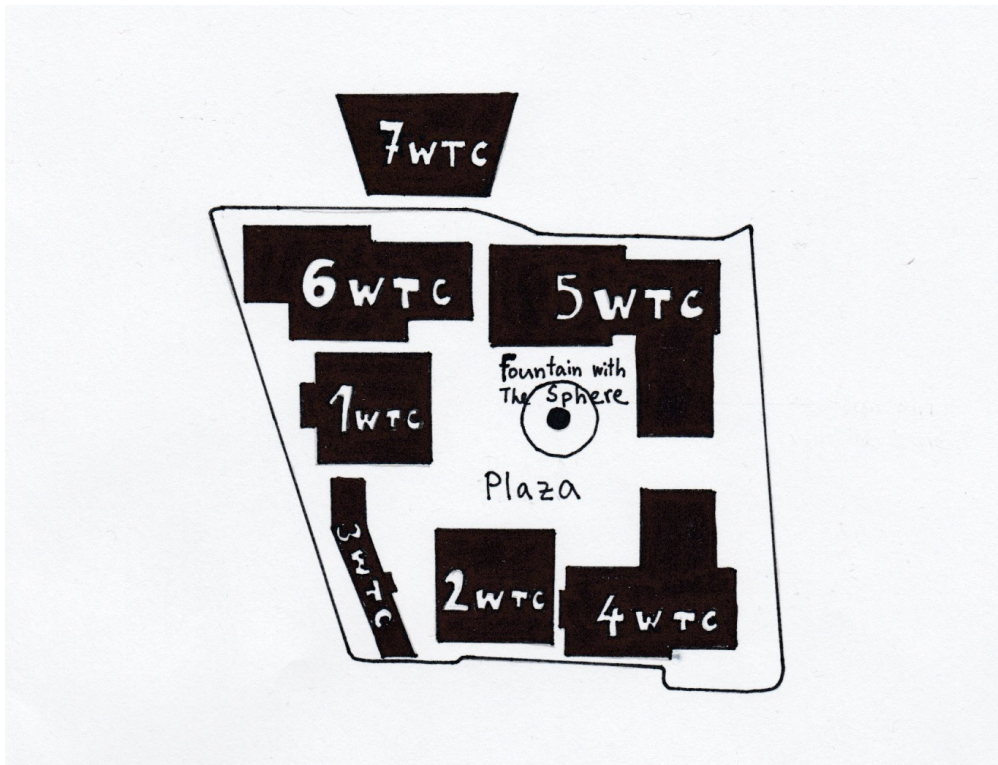


Figure 1: World Trade Center – before 9/11 (Kudličková, 2016); Page 8

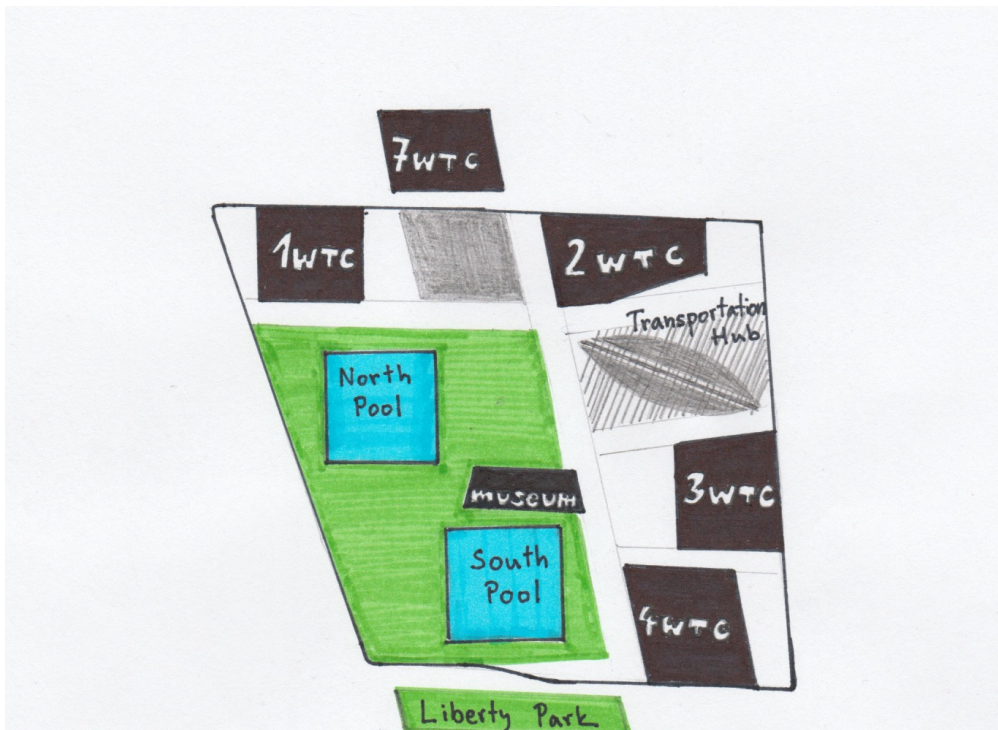


Figure 2: World Trade Center – after 9/11 (Kudličková, 2016); Page 11

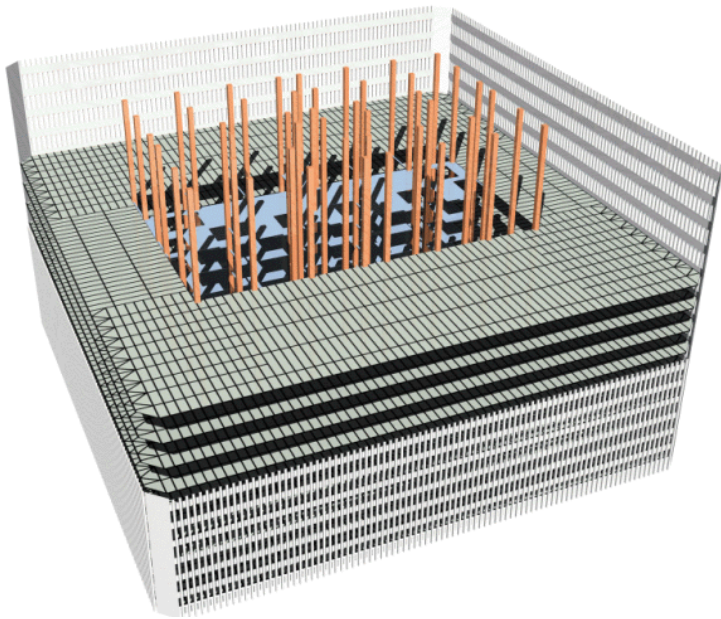


Figure 3: WTC Structure,²⁴ Page 9



Figure 4: Map of the Flights,²⁵ Page 10

²⁴ Thomas W. Eagar and Christopher Musso, “Why Did the World Trade Center Collapse? Science, Engineering, and Speculation.” *Jom* 53 (no.12, 2001), http://911research.wtc7.net/disinfo/experts/articles/eagar_jom/eagar_0112.html (accessed November 28, 2016).

²⁵ “The Flights,” *FBI*, <https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/about-us/ten-years-after-the-fbi-since-9-11/the-flights> (accessed November 27, 2016).

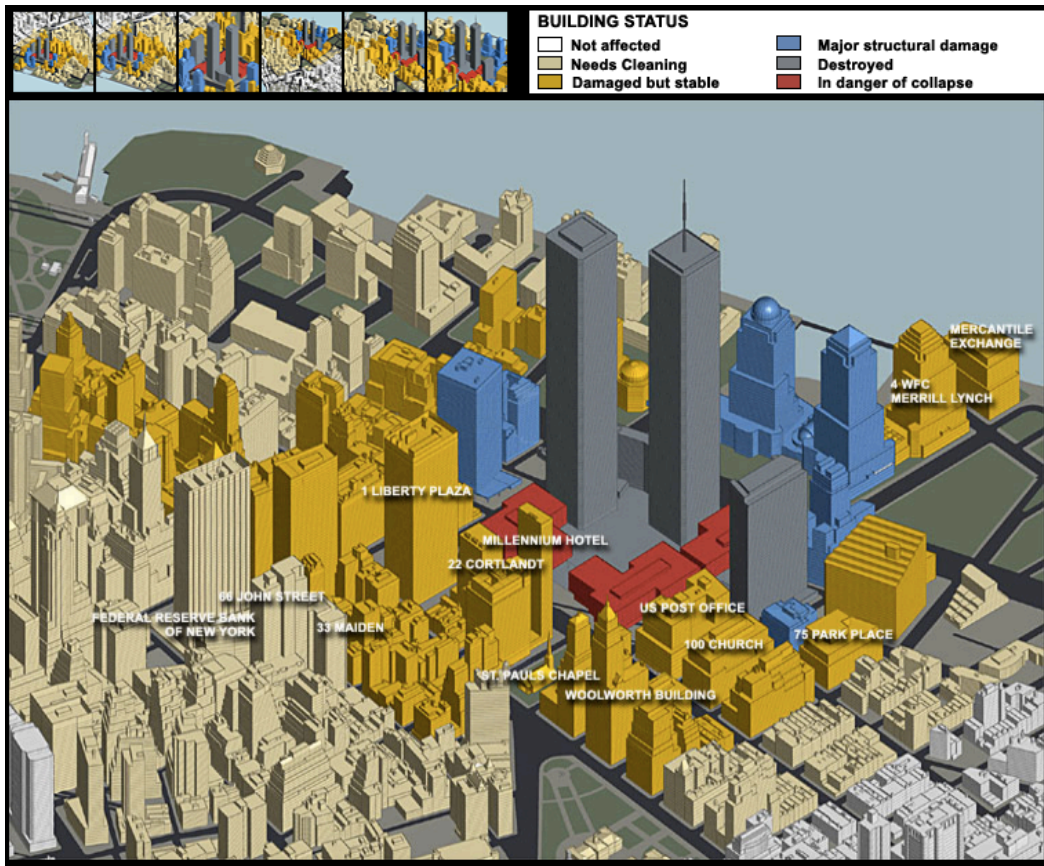


Figure 5: Damaged City of NY,²⁶ Page 11



Figure 6: Attack on the Pentagon,²⁷ Page 10

²⁶ “Damaged city,” *CNN*, <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/damage.map.html> (accessed November 26, 2016).

²⁷ Cedric H. Rudisill, “Department of Defense,” *Construction Business Owner*, <http://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/management/workforce-management/september-2014-secrets-pentagon-renovation-programs-success> (accessed November 27, 2016).



Figure 7: Manhattan Skyline before 9/11 – Twin Towers,²⁸ Page 23



Figure 8: Collapse of the World Trade Center,²⁹ Page 10

²⁸ The photos for figures 7, 9 and 10 are taken from the site: David Monderer, “Manhattan skyline,” *Photos: WTC*, <http://www.photosmorning911.com/> (accessed November 27, 2016).

²⁹ Greg Semendinger, “WTC collapse,” *Daily mail*, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1249885/New-World-Trade-Center-9-11-aerial-images-ABC-News.html> (accessed November 27, 2016).



Figure 9: Manhattan Skyline 9/11 – Ground Zero, Page 11



Figure 10: Manhattan Skyline after 9/11 – One World Trade Center, Page 24



Figure 11: WTC Memorial (Janská, 2013); Page 12



Figure 12: Victim Names (Janská, 2013); Page 12



Figure 13: The Tribute in Light,³⁰ Page 12



Figure 14: The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial,³¹ Page 12

³⁰ Gary Hershorn, “The Tribute in Light,” *Boston*, http://archive.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/09/911_in_2010_remembrance_and_re.html (accessed November 27, 2016).

³¹ Mike Myers, “the 9/11 National Pentagon Memorial,” Washington, <https://washington.org/DC-guide-to/pentagon-memorial> (accessed November 27, 2016).



Figure 15: Wall of Names – Flight 93 Memorial,³² Page 13



Figure 16: Hole from Flight 11 in the North Tower,³³ Page 15

³² “Flight 93 National Memorial.”

³³ Gene Boyars, “Smoke from the Twin Towers,” *Tragedy Of 9/11*, <http://www.history.com/topics/world-trade-center> (accessed November 14, 2016).

List of Used Abbreviations

9/11 – World-known term for September 11, 2001 attacks

BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation

CIA – Central Intelligence Agency

FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

TV - Television

The U.S.A. – The United States of America

USA PATRIOT Act – Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate

Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001

WTC – World Trade Center

WWII – World War Two

Annotation

KUDLIČKOVÁ, Halina, Bachelor thesis advisor PhDr. Matthew Sweney, Ph.D. *September 11, 2001 - World Trade Center*. [Bachelor thesis]. Olomouc: Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc, 2016. (47 pages; 16 attachments)

This Bachelor thesis deals with the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. It describes what the buildings looked like before and after the collapse and how it all happened. Part of the thesis is about several conspiracy theories, people's opinions about them, and about how American life changed after the attacks. It also includes comparison to a work of literary fiction on the 9/11 topic.

KEY WORDS: World Trade Center, Pentagon, attacks, flights, conspiracy theories, life after 9/11, trauma, special measures, literary fiction

Anotace:

KUDLIČKOVÁ, Halina, vedoucí bakalářské práce PhDr. Matthew Sweney, Ph.D. *11. září, 2001 – Světové obchodní centrum*. [Bakalářská práce]. Olomouc: Filozofická fakulta, univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, 2016. (47 stran; 16 příloh)

Předložená bakalářská práce pojednává o útocích 11. září 2001 v Obchodním Světovém Centru a v Pentagonu. Je tu popsáno jak budovy vypadaly před a po kolapsu a jak se to vše stalo. Část práce je o konspiračních teoriích, názoru lidí na ně a jak se americký život změnil po útocích. Také je zahrnuto porovnání literární fikce s tématem 11. září.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA: Světové Obchodní Centrum, Pentagon, útoky, lety, konspirační teorie, život po 11.9, trauma, speciální opatření, literární fikce