



From Pennsylvania's green fields to the deep blue above the Pentagon, the collapse of the Twin Towers from the 9/11 attack has left a strong impression on Americans. The attack was not just on physical buildings, but it was an attack on the fundamental principles of America. That morning in 2001 started normally, but the world changed dramatically after the attack. The term "9/11" is more than just a date; it is a reminder for all who remember its impact. It shapes how we remember the past, understand today, and look to the future. This essay will talk about "Echoes of the Twin Towers: How America Continues to Remember 9/11." The 9/11 attack still affects many aspects of American life even after 20 years. The reminders of 9/11, whether physical, mental, or institutional, cannot be denied.

## **Emergence of Commemorative Practices: Memorialization and Public Mourning**

Historically, practices of memorialization and public mourning as we know them today began to take shape during the Victorian era (mid to late 19th century). One of the most notable shifts in commemorative practices was the development of public cemeteries. Before this period, the dead were traditionally buried in churchyards, but the rapid population growth and urbanization of the 19th century led to overcrowding. The advent of public cemeteries provided a new space for memorialization that was accessible to all societal classes. These commemorations not only served as a place for personal mourning and remembrance but also became public spectacles.

### **The Evolution and Importance of Commemorative Practices**

This can be seen in how we remember the Twin Towers. The U.S. gathers to remember 9/11 in different ways—yearly events, art displays, and through the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. These acts honor those who died and make us think about what a big effect the event had. Remembering 9/11 has grown in size and depth, going from basic rituals to sharing stories that educate and move people. Teach the young and visitors about what happened on 9/11, discuss security in our country, and show respect for grieving families. These are the reasons we remember 9/11 today. The ways we remember show the pain and strength of a whole country.

### **Understanding Public Mourning and the Role of Memorialization in Society**

Joining together in grief helps people to understand and recover from big events like 9/11. Remember the Twin Towers. Once a sign of America's strong economy, they became symbols of American sorrow and strength after their fall. The act of remembering is important in shaping the story of public grief and memory. It keeps alive the memory of the dead and encourages a common feeling of belonging and togetherness. For example, in honor of 9/11, every year victims' names are recited, lights shine in memory, and Ground Zero is preserved.

## **Institutional Remembrance: The Role of the 9/11 Memorial Museum**

It is located where the World Trade Center stood and tells the stories of the victims, survivors, and rescuers, as well as those affected by the terrible attacks. Institutional remembrance means preserving and expressing a group's memories through physical or symbolic reminders. These reminders influence how society remembers significant events. The 9/11 Memorial Museum is a perfect example of this. Learn and

experience! The museum is filled with stories, artifacts, and testimonies, capturing the tragedy of that day and the grief that swept the nation. But it also shows the strength and togetherness that allowed America to recover. The museum stands as a reminder of the Twin Towers and shares the memories of that unforgettable day with every visitor. The museum is not just about remembering. It also encourages visitors to reflect and learn from such a devastating event.

## **Political Implication: How 9/11 Shapes American Foreign Policy**

After 9/11, America implemented a harder approach to fighting global terrorism, influencing its relations with other countries. Before the attacks, there wasn't a severe concern about terrorism as a threat to American national security. However, the horrific 9/11 attacks demanded a reevaluation of these beliefs. Declare a global 'war on terror' in response. America's first step was invading Afghanistan to eliminate the Taliban and wipe out Al-Qaeda. Eventually, Saddam Hussein's Iraq became a target due to suspicions of having mass-destruction weapons. America also expanded its international surveillance to foresee and prohibit likely attacks. Despite intentions to guarantee national security, these tactics were often criticized for infringing on data privacy and basic human rights. The 2002 formation of the Department of Homeland Security and the disputed Patriot Act highlighted America's new approach to anti-terrorism, domestically and internationally. The refugee crisis, due to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, is another major political outcome of 9/11. The United States' intervention in the Middle East and controversial immigration laws have faced criticism and harmed foreign relationships. America's reputation for being a global power focused on peace and democracy has faced challenges due to its forceful 'war on terror.'

## **Art, Media, and Popular Culture: The Twin Towers in Collective Memory**

Art, media, and pop culture all help us remember and understand 9/11. In art, the Towers are often depicted in serious and symbolic ways to provoke emotions or beliefs. Many artists use pictures of the Towers to represent the pain, bravery, and determination of the American spirit. See the Twin Towers in art as a way of reflecting and discussing the feelings left by 9/11. In the media, repeating the terrible images of the collapsing Towers ensures that this moment remains in our memories. The media covers the events of 9/11 while also honoring those who were lost, keeping the memory of the Towers and the events of the day alive. Over the years, footage of the Towers continues to be used in recaps, documentaries, and reports so that this event remains current. In pop culture, the Twin Towers have become symbols. They've shown up in movies, books, music, and other expressions of culture tied to 9/11.

## **In Closure**

Ground Zero, the former towers' location, pays tribute to the victims with their names permanently displayed on the memorial. Make sure to visit the museum; it has artifacts from that tragic day and teaches younger generations about it. The One World Trade Center has been built and stands tall, symbolizing America's strength and showing that we may have been shaken, but not broken by hardship. This is how we honor our history: by remembering our tragic past while showing off our resilient present and future.