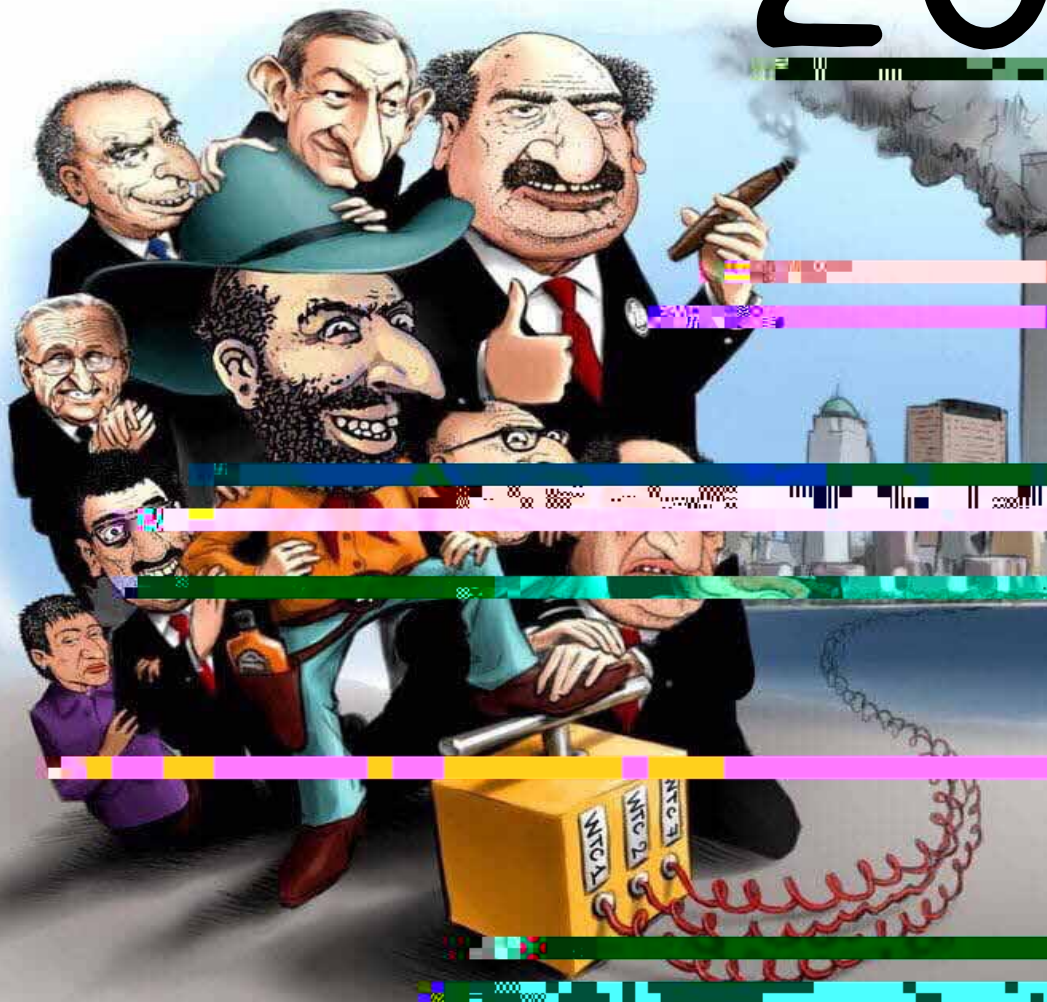


SEPTEMBER 11 CONSPIRACY

2001



ENTER

leadership with a  ach

ED SNIDER SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTE

INTRODUCTION

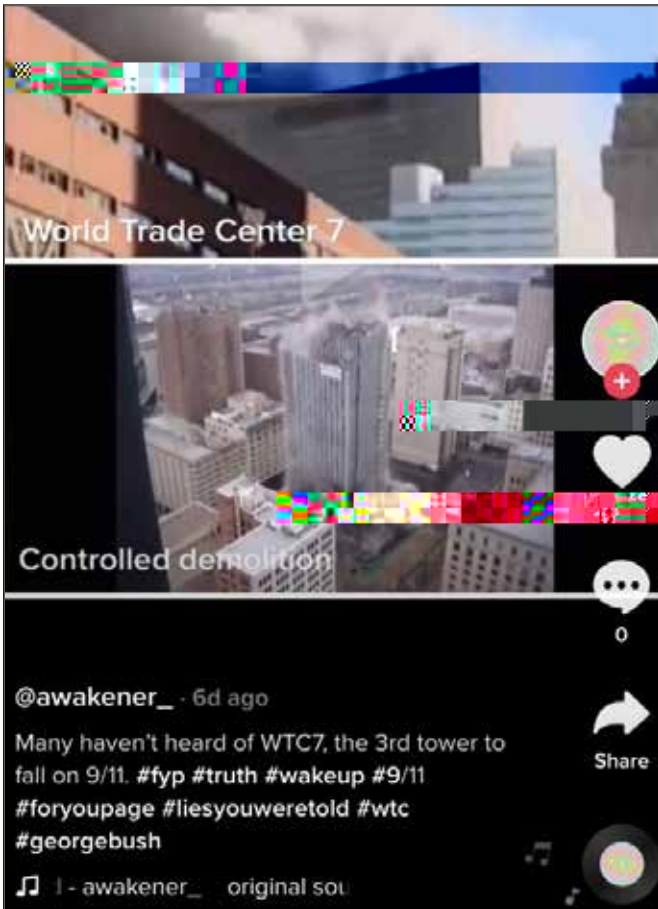
Saturday, September 11, 2021, marks the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States which resulted in the deaths of over 3,000 people. A catalogue of conspiracy theories emerged in the wake of the deadly events, caused by the hijacking of four commercial airliners by Al Qaeda terrorists. 9/11 conspiracies can be found across all major and alternative social media platforms. The content is accessible in a multitude of formats including, videos, articles, podcasts and social media posts. Books and t-shirts are also available for purchase. There are websites with extensive repositories of conspiracy material hosted by groups including Scholars for 9/11 Truth, 9/11 Pilot Whistleblowers and Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth.

Conspiracies about the 9/11 attacks began spreading in the days immediately following the tragedy, as individuals grappled with the enormity of the scale of the events and conflicting information that emerged as authorities and media outlets attempted to understand what had happened. The internet was used to spread many of the key conspiracy theories right from the beginning, and has continued to serve as a space for these communities to flourish. The advent of social media ushered in a new set of digital communities and networks, which served as spaces for like-minded individuals to connect and communicate. Social media has also been utilized by extremists to glorify the attacks and the impact they had on the United States.

This report will outline some of the ways social media continues to be exploited 20 years on to promote misinformation, as well as conspiracies that advance bigoted and prejudiced beliefs and ideologies, especially anti-Semitism.

ALTERNATIVE THEORIES

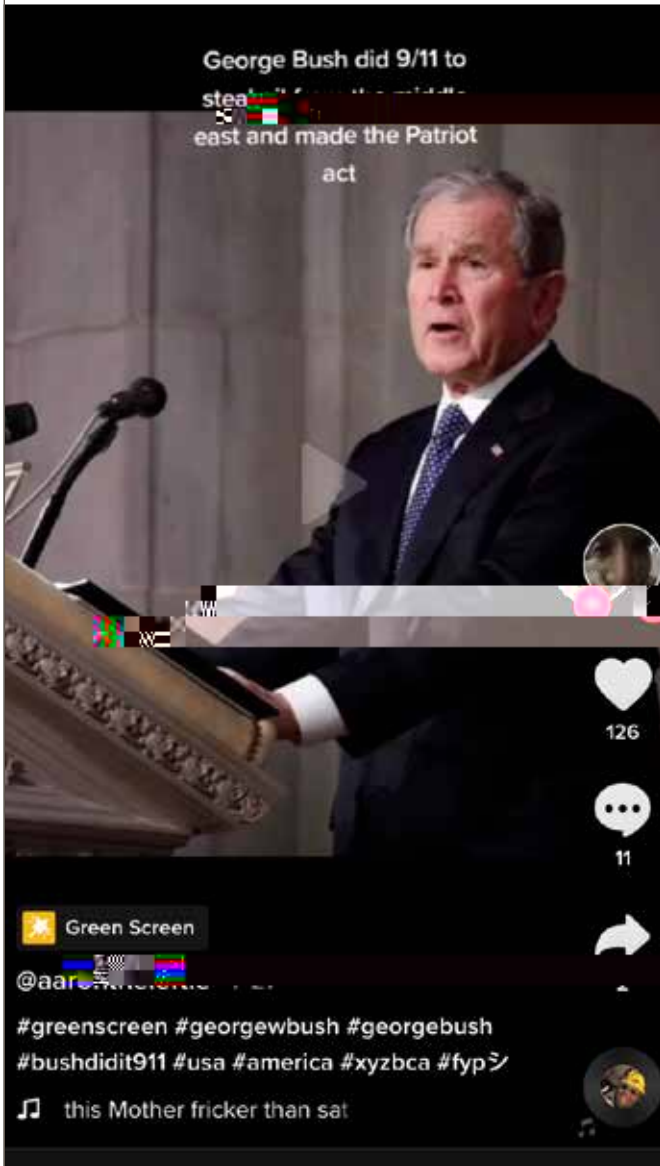
Much of the content within the so-called 9/11 Truth Movement focuses on promoting alternative explanations for parts of the attacks which the believe simply did not happen in the way the mainstream media and government reported.



Man posts on social media contend the destruction of 7 World Trade Center as a controlled demolition, including this, video from TikTok.

Alex Jones' InfoWars is a hotbed of conspiratorial material. Much of his content has been banned from mainstream platforms such as YouTube, but can easily be found on alternative, video-hosting sites such as BitChute and Odysee. On BitChute, a recording of Jones' 17th anniversary show on September 11, 2018, begins with Jones' claiming that 7 World Trade Center was destroyed in a controlled demolition. The BitChute InfoWars channel has over 142,000 subscribers.

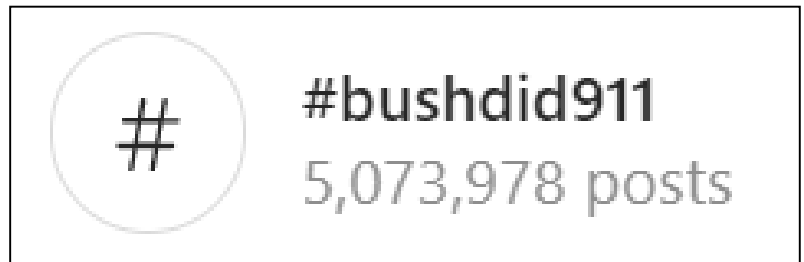




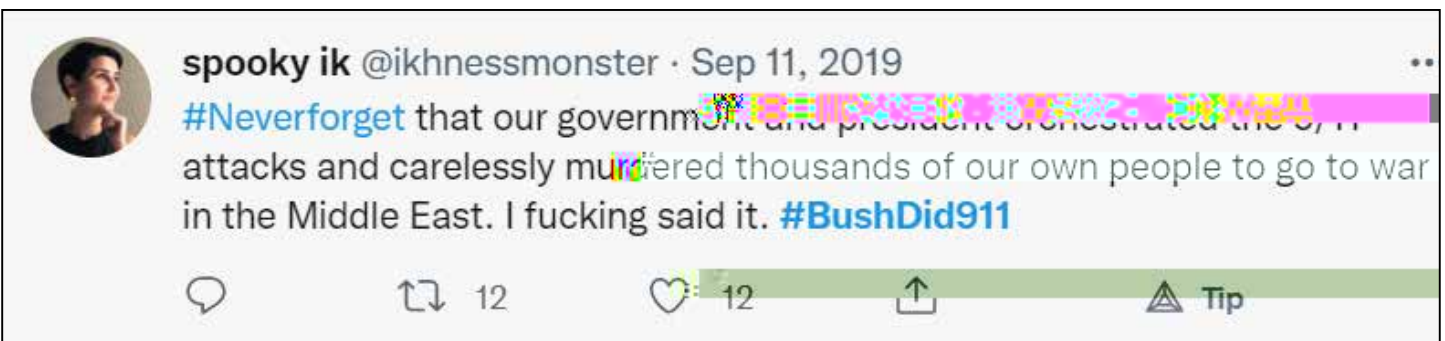
INSIDE JOB

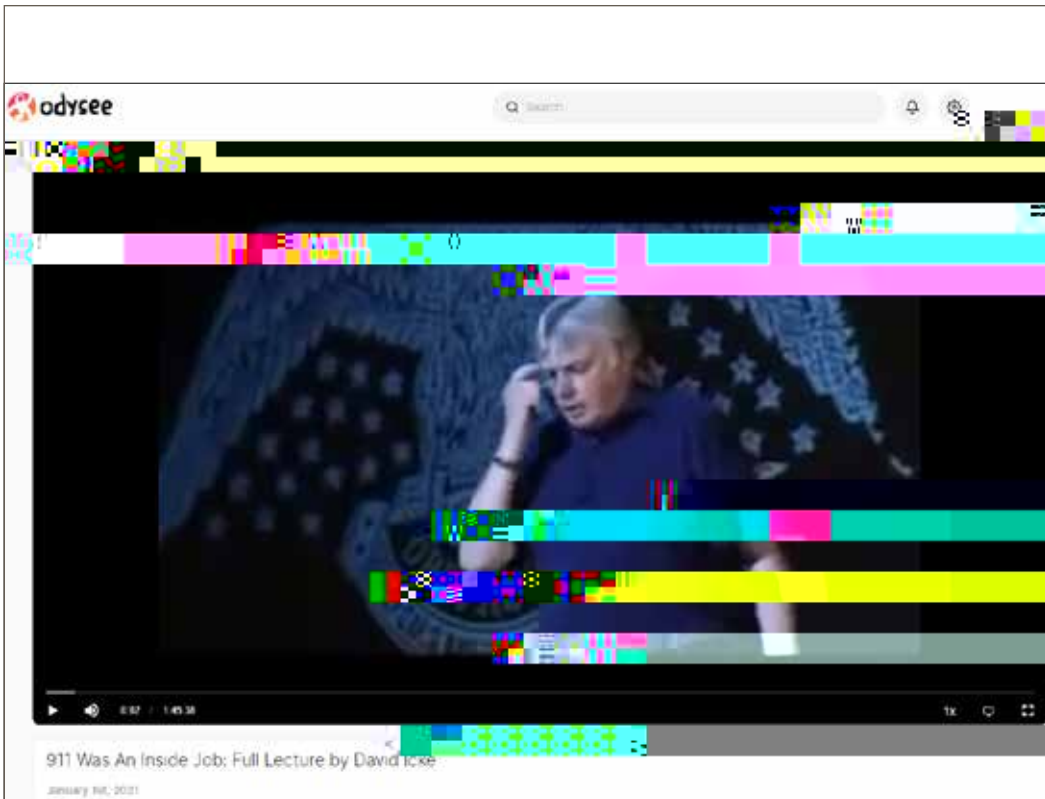
Some supporters of the 9/11 conspiracy movement believe it was an inside job, orchestrated by the United States government. Some refer to the attack as a false flag event, an event committed with the intent of pinning responsibility on another party.

Believers of this conspiracy contend that President Bush and the United States government had prior intelligence about possible terrorist attacks and chose not to act on the information. This video from TikTok argues President Bush used 9/11 as a pretense to invade the Middle East in order to access oil reserves, and to increase surveillance of US citizens using legislation such as the Patriot Act (2001). The hashtag #bushdid911 has over 5 million posts on Instagram (as of 08/27/21).

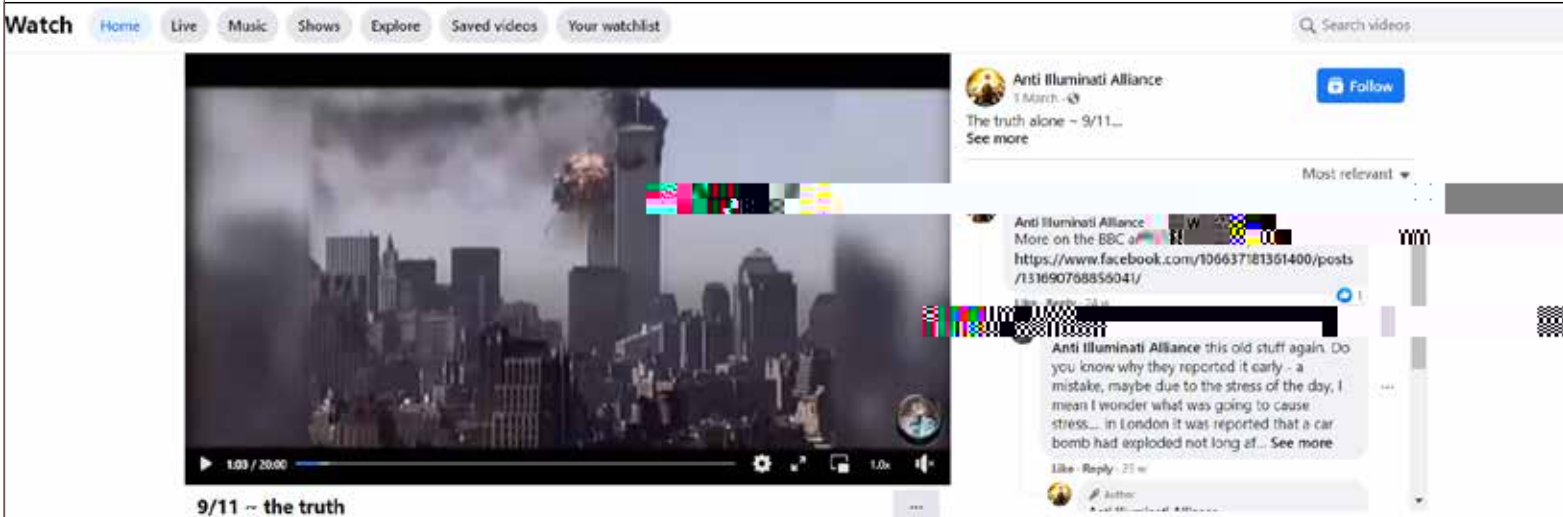


This tweet below from September 11, 2019, contends that President Bush and the government orchestrated the attacks to go to war in the Middle East, using the hashtag #BushDid911.





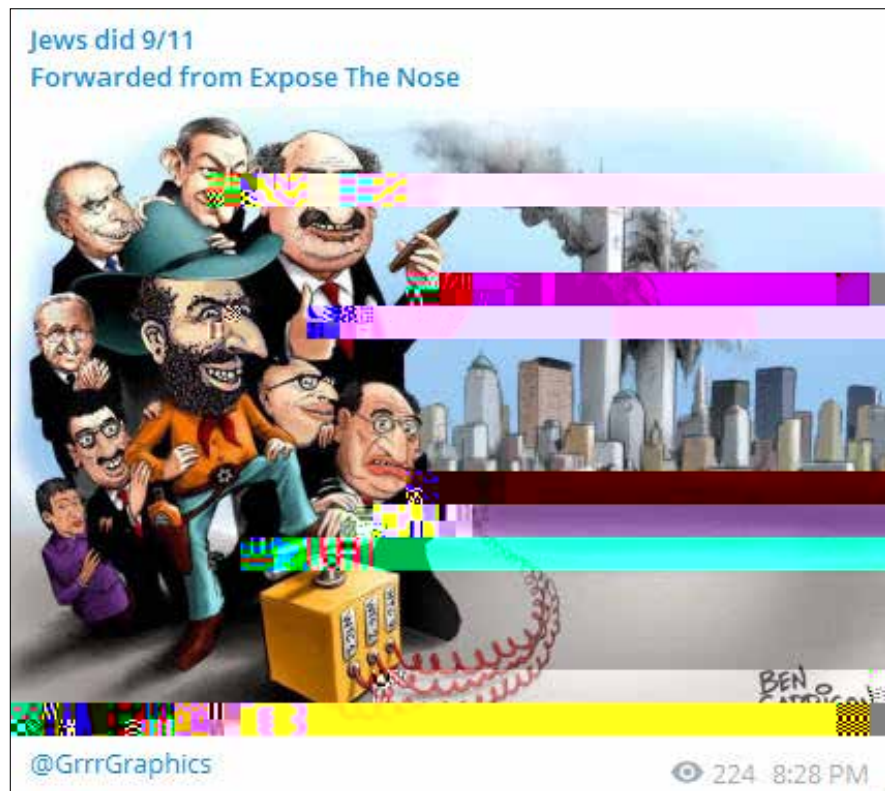
While YouTube has taken steps to remove some of the 9/11 conspirac material that as preioul hosted on their platform, this content has found audiences on other alternati e platforms. These platforms ha e er limited restrictions on hat can be shared. Videos such as 911 Was An Inside Job b notorious English anti-Semite and conspirac theorist, Da id Icke, are a ailable to, ie on Ody see.



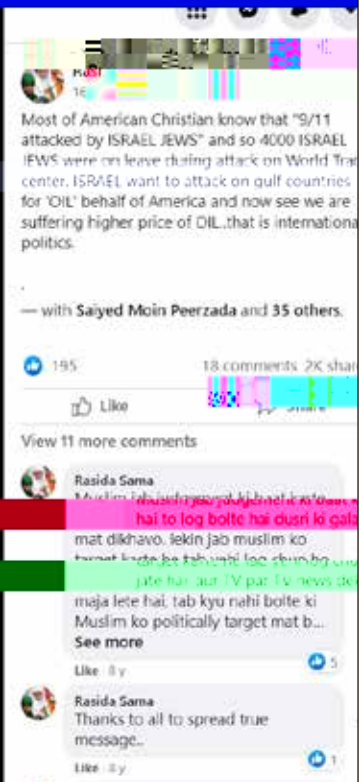
Ho e er, mainstream platforms like Facebook continue to be used to host 9/11 conspirac material, ith users uploading content as recentl as March 1, 2021. This, ideo from the Anti Illuminati Alliance has been, ie ed o er 67,000 times (and is still online as of 8/30/21), and posits man ke 9/11 conspiracies, including the false claim there ere no planes used in the attacks.

“JEWS DID 9/11”

One insidious conspiracy that is promoted to spread anti-Semitism is the belief that the Jews did 9/11. This conspiracy is a modern-day update of historic anti-Semitic tropes that accuse Jewish people of committing evil acts for financial and political gain. Many of these conspiracies are promoted within far-right extremist circles, but wider belief about Jewish complicity in the 9/11 attacks can be found in more mainstream spaces.



Another conspiracy peddled in more mainstream spaces such as Twitter, contends that 4,000 Jewish people employed at the World Trade Center remained at home on 9/11, because they were forewarned about the attacks. This is a complete fallacy, as numerous Jewish people were murdered in the 9/11 attacks, but it is promoted as part of a Jewish conspiracy to suggest they used their knowledge of the attacks to keep safe, and manipulated the situation for financial advantage.



This posting from Facebook has remained online since 2012, and has been shared over 2,000 times. This also contends that Jewish people had prior knowledge of the attacks and stayed at home. The text on this poster has been added using photo-editing software. The post specifically claims that the Jewish people are Israel Jews and that the attacks were orchestrated by Israel on behalf of America to gain access to oil deposits.

This PDF book is readily available for free download via Telegram. The 80-page book titled *How the 9/11 Conspiracy Can Be Utilized by Convinced Anti-Semites to Manipulate News Events and Material to Further Evidence Their Anti-Semitic Beliefs* was written by Matthew Hale. Hale is an American neo-Nazi and white supremacist who led the Creative Movement, and is currently serving 40 years in prison for soliciting the murder of a federal judge. This book evidences how the 9/11 conspiracy can be utilized by convinced anti-Semites who manipulate news events and material to further evidence their anti-Semitic beliefs.

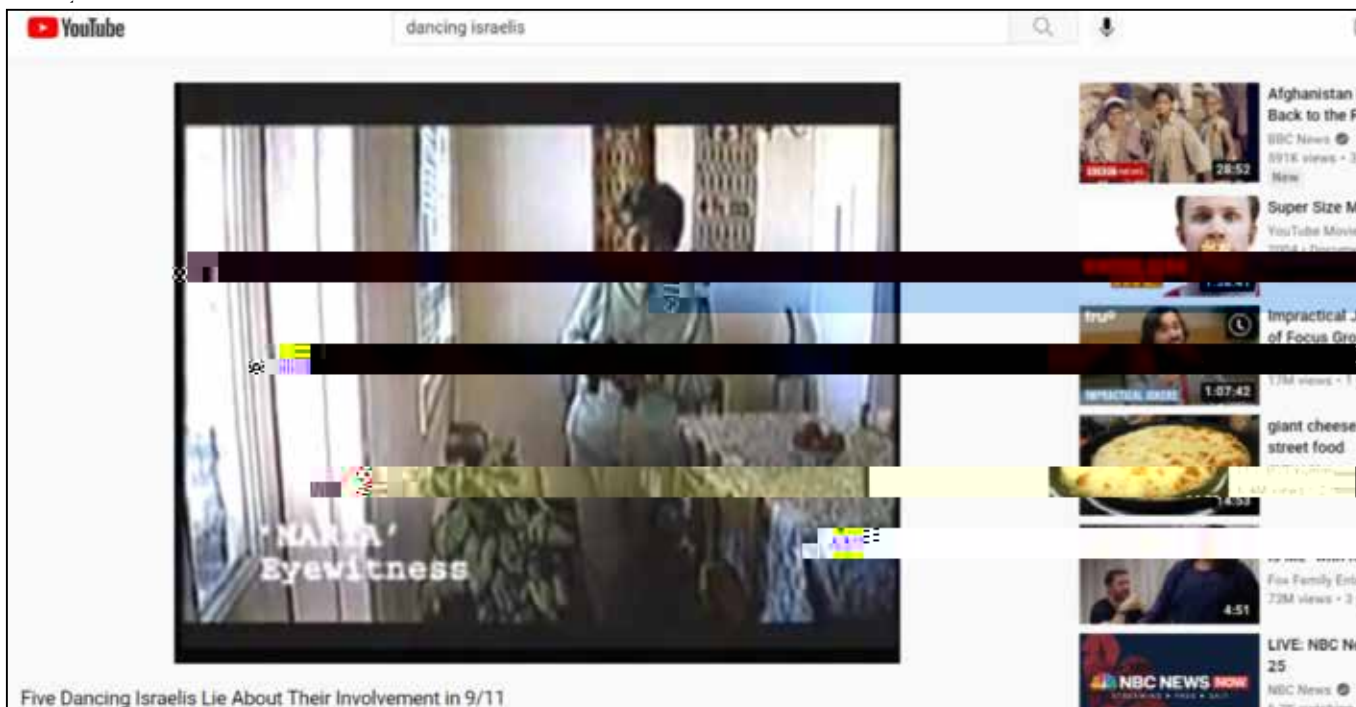
American Jewish businessman Larr Silberstein has repeatedly been the target of anti-Semitic conspiracies over the past ten years. Silberstein purchased the World Trade Center in April 2001, and sought compensation from his insurance company after the property was destroyed. Silberstein has been painted as a cunning, money-grubbing Jew who purchased the property, and then organized the attacks to gain a multi-billion dollar payout, as these posts from Instagram and Telegram suggest.

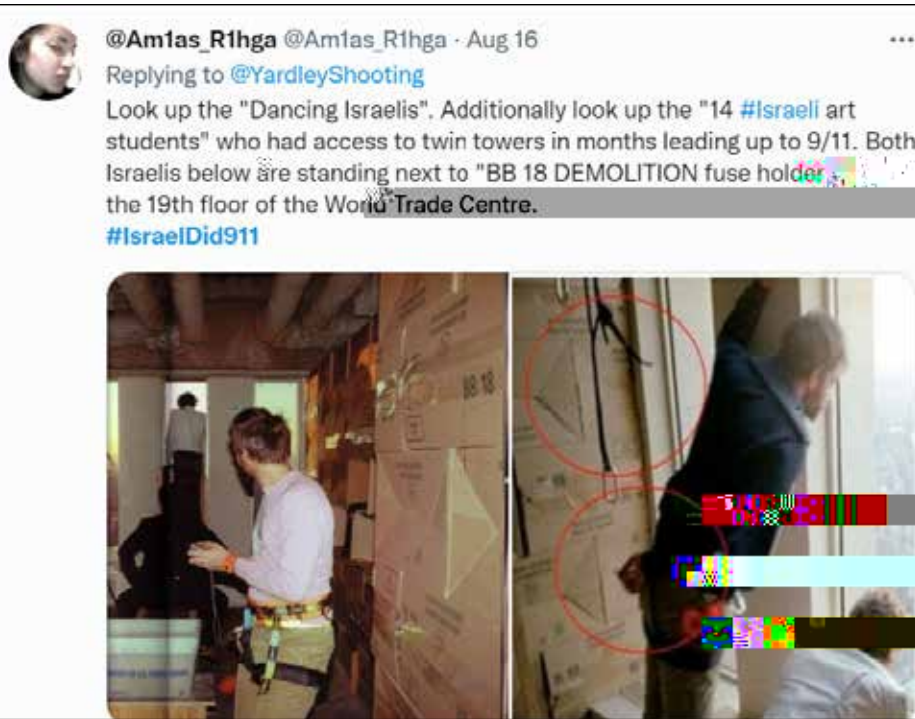


“ISRAEL DID 9/11”

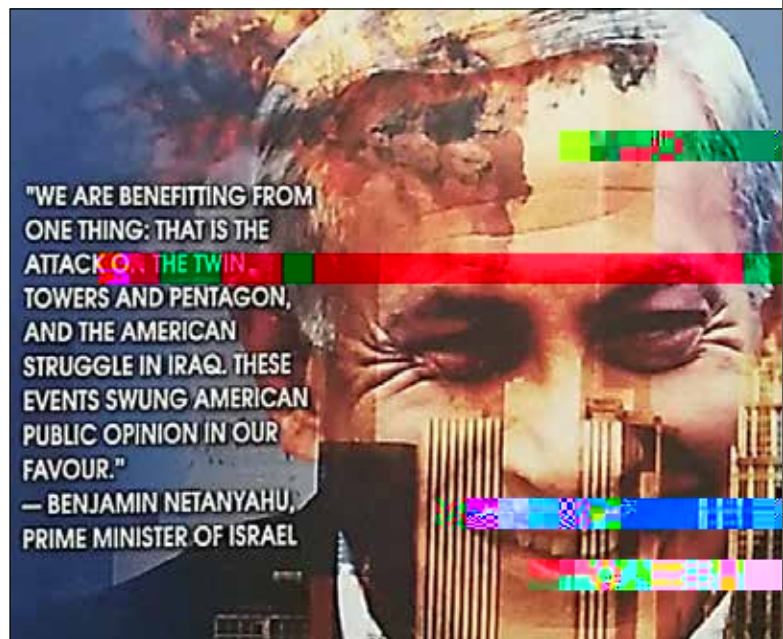
Man of the posts on social media blame Israel for the 9/11 attacks. Some of these posts demonize Israel and Israelis, utilizing typical anti-Semitic tropes that posit Israel as the main weapon organized Jewish uses to control the world.

One of the most long-standing conspiracies is the Dancing Israelis, which surfaced in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. Videos on YouTube and BitChute continue to promote the debunked claim that 5 Israelis with connections to Mossad were seen celebrating close to the site of the attacks, suggesting they had prior knowledge of the attacks or were even responsible for the orchestration.

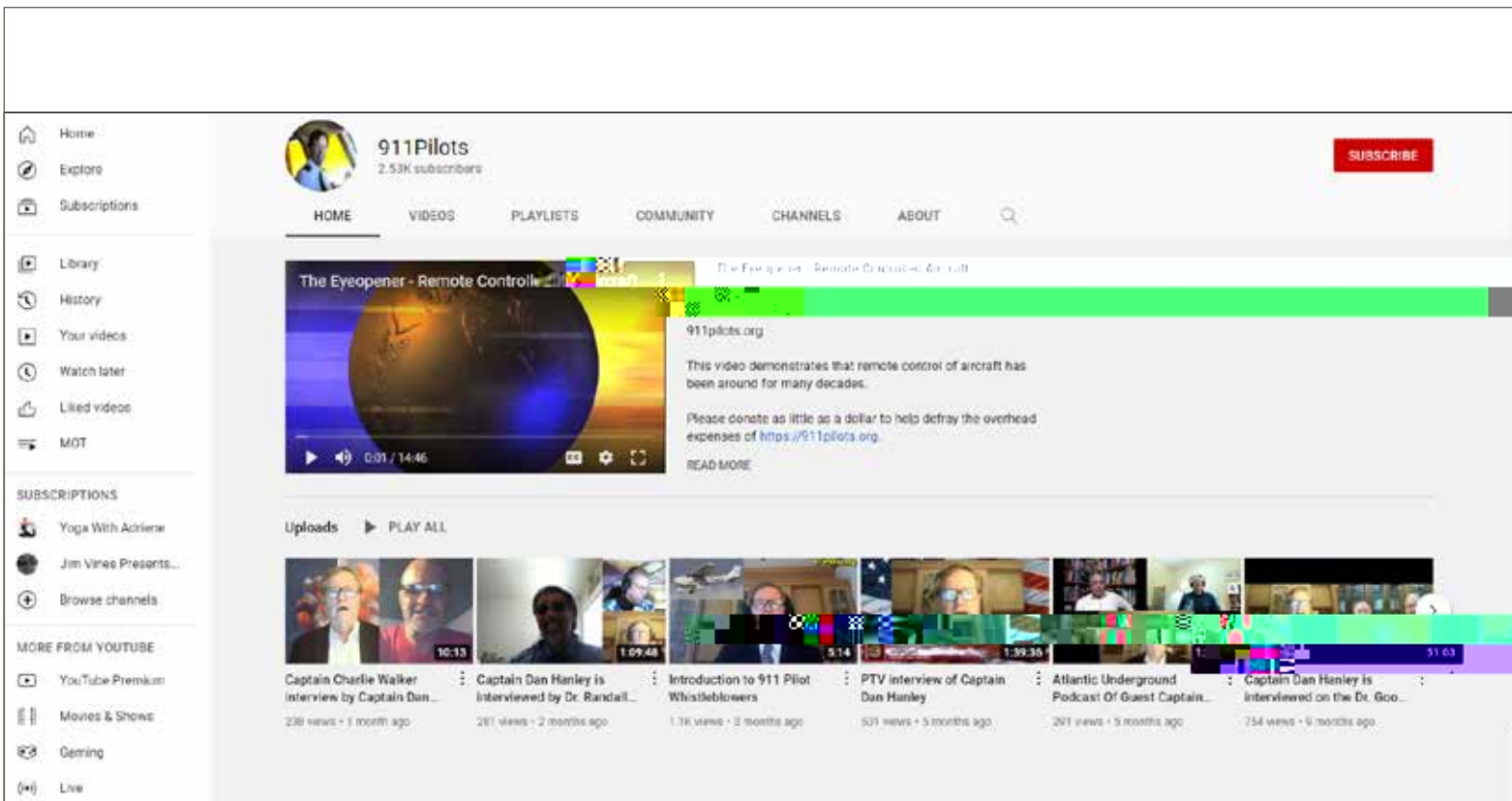




Another common conspiracy (as seen in the Twitter post here) claims that a group of Israeli art students gained access to the World Trade Center, and planted fuses that could have been used to detonate the towers on September 11, 2001.



Other social media posts, such as those from Instagram and Telegram above, suggest Israel purposefully tries to divert attention by claiming to be a victim of 9/11. This posting uses popular hashtags including #911insidejob and the anti-Semitic #snagogueofsatan to promote their beliefs. Another post from Telegram paints Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel as the key beneficiaries of the 9/11 attacks, juxtaposing a smiling Netanyahu over the burning Twin Towers.



ORGANIZED 9/11 CONSPIRACY GROUPS

Multiple groups organized in the wake of the September 11 attacks. The brought together professionals purportedly from different areas of expertise to promote alternate explanations for the events. These groups include Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice and 9/11 Pilot Whistleblowers. Many of these groups have profiles on social media, and utilize these platforms to spread conspiracy theories about 9/11 attacks.

Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth has approximately 500,000 followers on Facebook, and regularly posts content promoting conspiracies about the attacks. The utilizes Facebook features including Facebook Live to broadcast webinars to thousands of viewers every week. A PDF guide titled 9/11 Reality, authored by the Architects and Engineers group, is available for download from websites including Archi.e.org. This alternative guide was purportedly meant to be handed out at the 9/11 Memorial Museum's opening by the Architects & Engineers group in May 2014.¹¹ Similarly, 9/11 Pilot Whistleblowers has an active YouTube channel with over 2,500 subscribers.



Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth

@ae911truth - Local business

Learn More

Home 9/11 Explosive Evidence - Experts Speak Out More

About

More than 3,000 architects and engineers demand a real investigation into the destruction of all three WTC skyscrapers on 9/11.
492,225 people like this
497,400 people follow this
<https://ae911truth.org/>
(510) 292-4710
ae911truth@ae911truth.org
Local business

PINNED POST

Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth
"This family are not conspiracy theorists. We only want the truth, and justice for Geoff." — Matt Campbell, brother of Geoff Campbell, who perished on 9/11
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/_/family-killed-9-11...



Family of Brit killed in the 9/11 terror attacks demand new inquest

776 77 comments 143 shares
Like Comment Share

Abdulwahab Kasim Ibrahim
TRUTH should be shown to the world about this Murderous Agenda of the dangerous Paras embedded deep into the Western Countries Governments bodies... Ask yourselves Who benefited from this very Clear Covert Operation and false flag for a War Agenda... See more
Like Reply 11m

OTHER POSTS

Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth

Photos



Videos

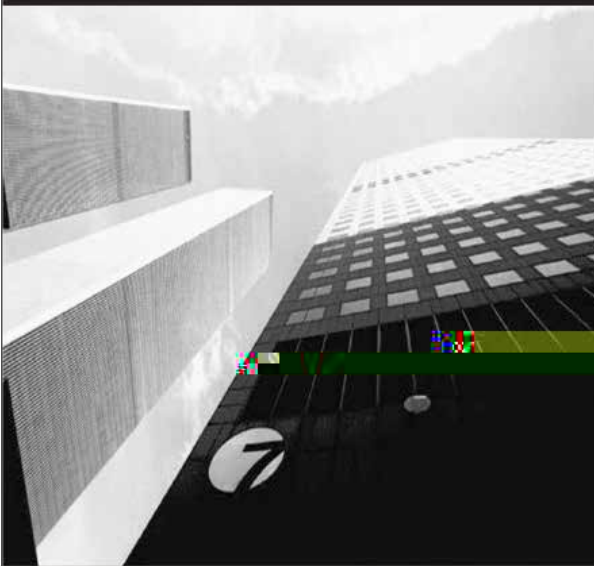


9/11: An Architect's Guide | Part 3: The T...

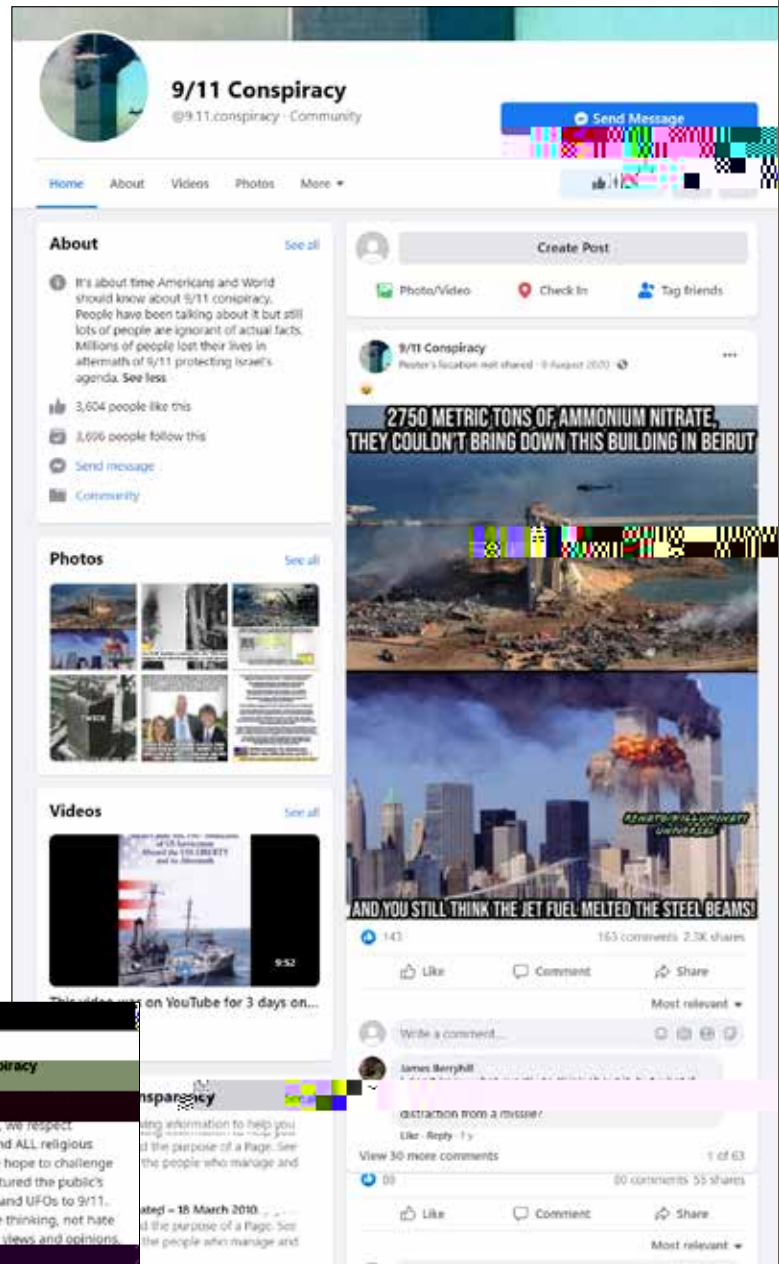
9/11 REALITY

Welcome to the first other story about 9/11

VISITOR GUIDE FOR TRUTH SEEKERS



Alongside organized groups, social media also provides fertile ground for like-minded individuals to connect on pages and groups dedicated to discussing the 9/11 attacks. These groups can be found on Facebook, as well as on discussion forums such as Conspirac on Reddit, which has over 1.6 million members.

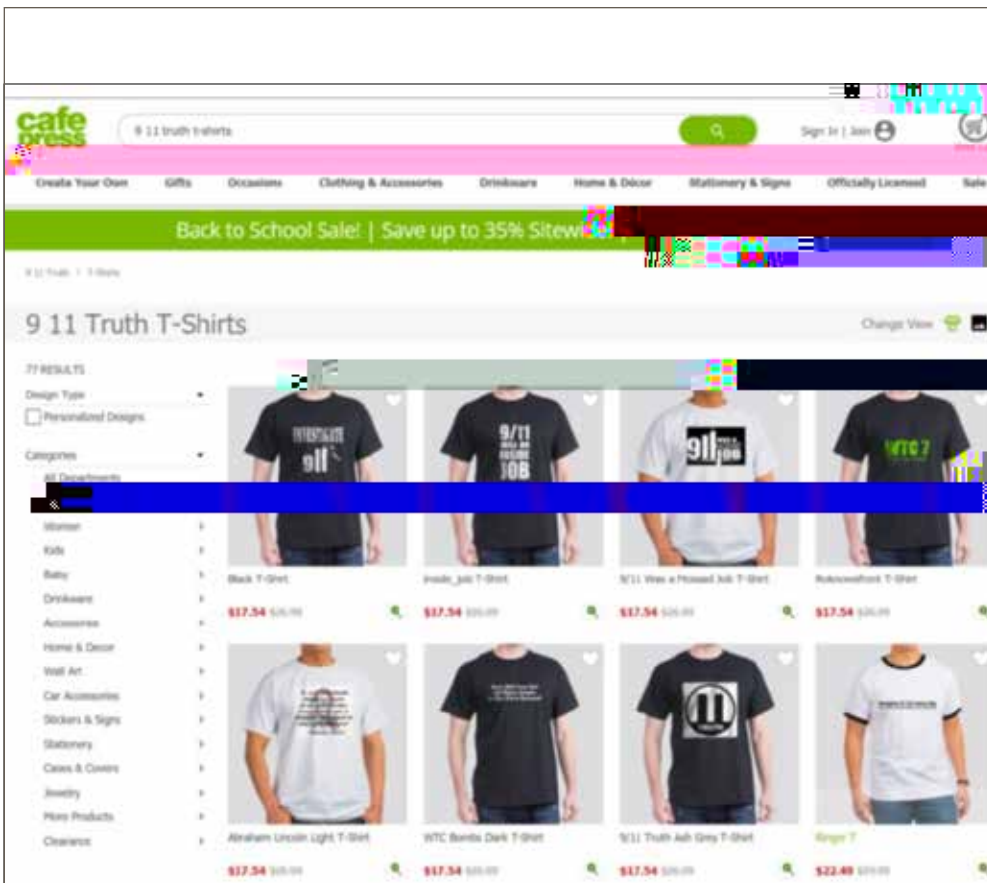


The screenshot shows the Amazon product page for the book "Alice in Wonderland and the World Trade Center Disaster: Why the Official Story of 9/11 is a Monumental Lie" by David Icke. The book is available in Kindle Edition for \$11.66 and Paperback for \$29.95. It has 276 ratings and is described as "Essential reading for the background to current world events!". The author's bio states: "Since that horrendous day of September 11th 2001, the people of the world have been told the Big Lie. The official story of what happened on 9/11 is a fantasy of untruth, manipulation, contradiction and anomaly. David Icke has spent well over a decade uncovering the force that was really behind those..."

SELLING 9/11 TRUTH

In addition to feature-length documentaries such as Loose Change, there is a significant industry that sells books and films promoting 9/11 conspiracies. Amazon readily sells numerous books that promote 9/11 conspiracies, written by prominent conspiracy theorists including David Icke and Christopher Bollyn. Amazon also promotes similar books to customers who have viewed this type of material on their website.

The screenshot shows the Amazon product page for the book "Solving 9-11: The Deception That Changed the World" by Christopher Lee Bollyn. The book is available in Paperback for \$24.99. It has 282 ratings and is described as "An independent analysis of the events of September 11, 2001. Includes historical and geo-political background and examines the motivation of the people who played key roles in the destruction of the evidence and the obstruction of justice for the families of the victims." The page also displays technical details: 362 pages, English, published by Christopher Bollyn on April 12, 2012, with dimensions of 6 x 0.81 x 9 inches and ISBN-10 0985322586.

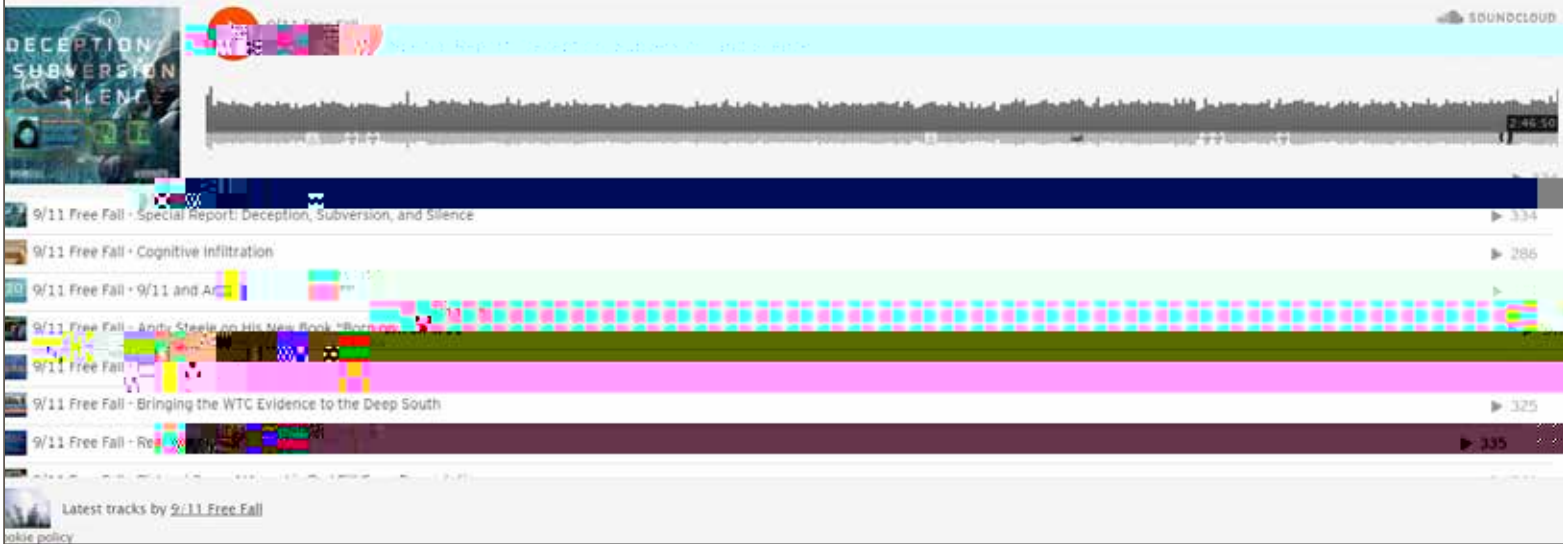


T-shirts promoting the 9/11 Truth Movement, including slogans such as 9/11 as an inside job and How did they get all those bombs in the towers are available for purchase on Cafe Press. Cafe Press has sold other offensive items in the past, including merchandise such as goggles with images of Auschwitz-Birkenau printed on them.

PODCASTS

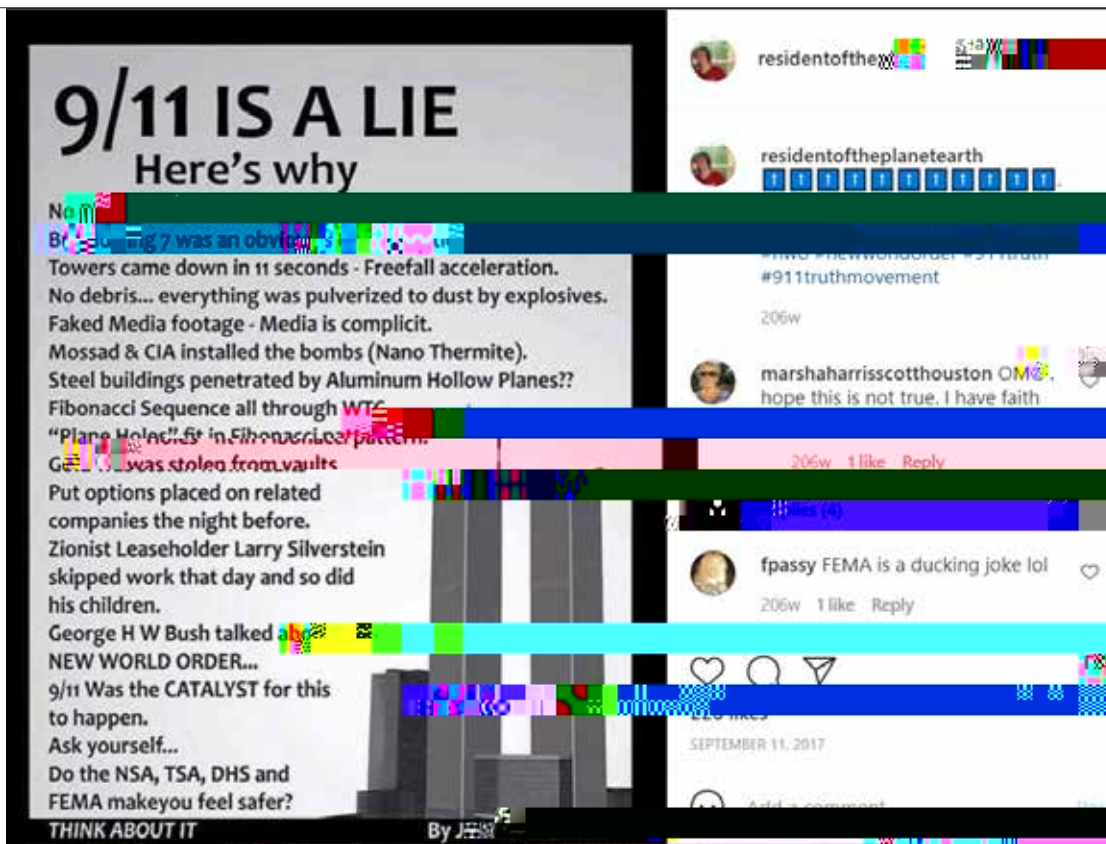
There are several podcasts available from different platforms including Soundcloud and Apple Podcasts that are dedicated to providing extensive discussion and analysis of the attacks, promoting alternative theories and explanations. Visibility 9-11 has over 130 episodes and claims to explore the many facets of the 9-11 attacks which contradict the governments [sic] official story, the massive cover-up which is currently under a – [and the] taking of liberties here at home.



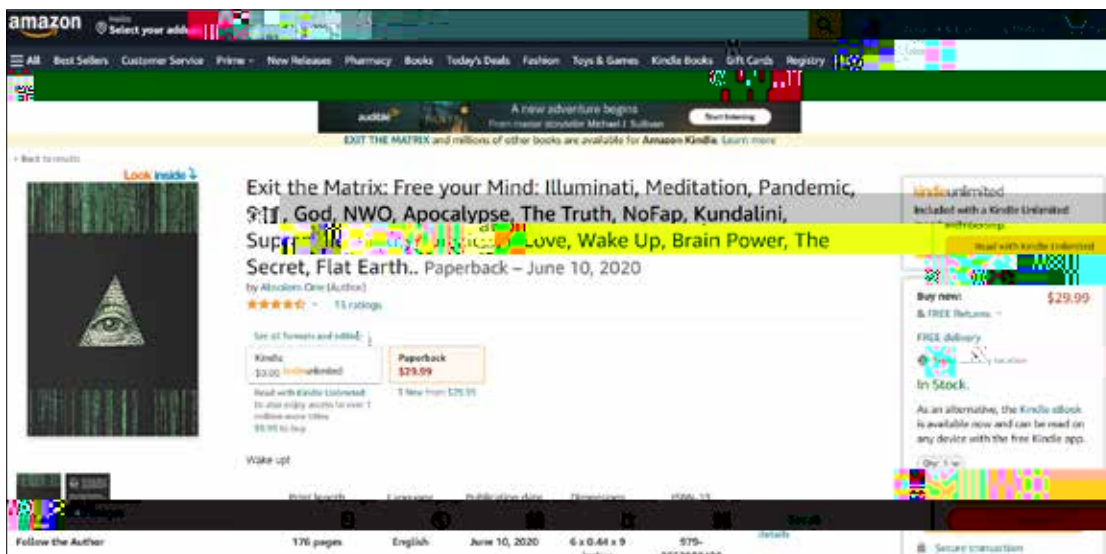


CONVERGENCE OF CONSPIRACIES

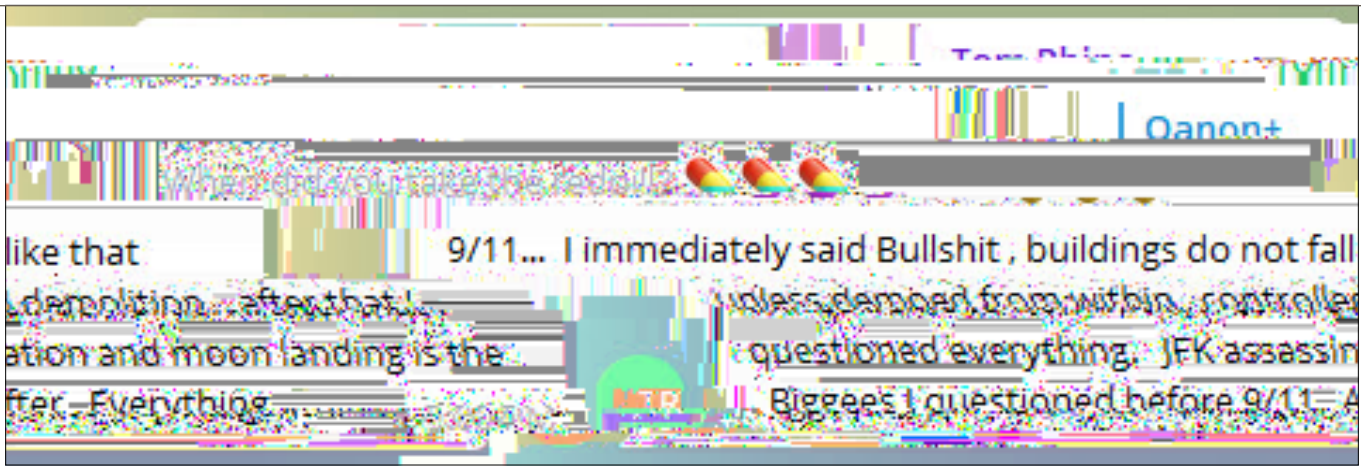
Many of the posts and individual profiles that promote 9/11 conspiracies also promote other conspirac theories. Many profiles promote the idea of a New World Order (NWO), a secret totalitarian world government, which is responsible for key world events including the September 11 attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic. Believers of the NWO conspirac contend that it is being orchestrated in order to enslave humanity, removing basic human rights and the autonomy of individual citizens.



Posts such as this from Instagram from September 2017 (still online as of 08/30/21) show how the many different conspiracies surrounding 9/11 intersect, and how the event is considered a catalyst for a New World Order.



The book, 'Exit the Matrix', is available for free on Amazon's Kindle Unlimited service. It combines many of these conspiracies into one publication, showing how events such as 9/11 fit into a wider conspiratorial network of events, movements and beliefs.



This post from a QAnon Telegram group with over 53,000 subscribers evidences how 9/11 acted as a red pill agent for some users. Taking a red pill is a term taken from the movie *The Matrix* where individuals claim they are redpilled when they are awakened to the truth about the world they live in.¹¹¹ This member claims that 9/11 was the reason they became aware of the false reality the state and media was feeding them. Their belief in 9/11 conspiracies led them to question the reality of events such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Apollo moon landings.



This group from Russian social network VKontakte, is titled 'JEWS did 9/11 and the Holocaust is a lie'. The group has approximately 1,700 members, and contends that a Jewish World Order (a Jewish controlled NWO) exists. This user also contends that the Holocaust is also a lie, seemingly concocted by the Jews also. This group utilizes conspiracies about 9/11 and Holocaust denial to promote anti-Semitism.



GAMIFICATION OF 9/11

There are games and ideas that exist online that simulate the attacks of September 11, 2001.

08:46 (the time the first tower was hit on 9/11) is a free, virtual reality game designed to be used with Oculus Rift (VR gaming device) that simulates the experience of an office worker in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



Roblox, a gaming platform popular with children under 16, had several user-created experiences that simulated the attacks of 9/11. In one particular game, the user could take the controls of an airplane, with the aim of crashing it into a replica of the World Trade Center as many times as possible. Roblox has removed harmful 9/11 content from their platform, and has policies in place to counter the misuse of their services.



GLORIFICATION OF 9/11 ATTACKS

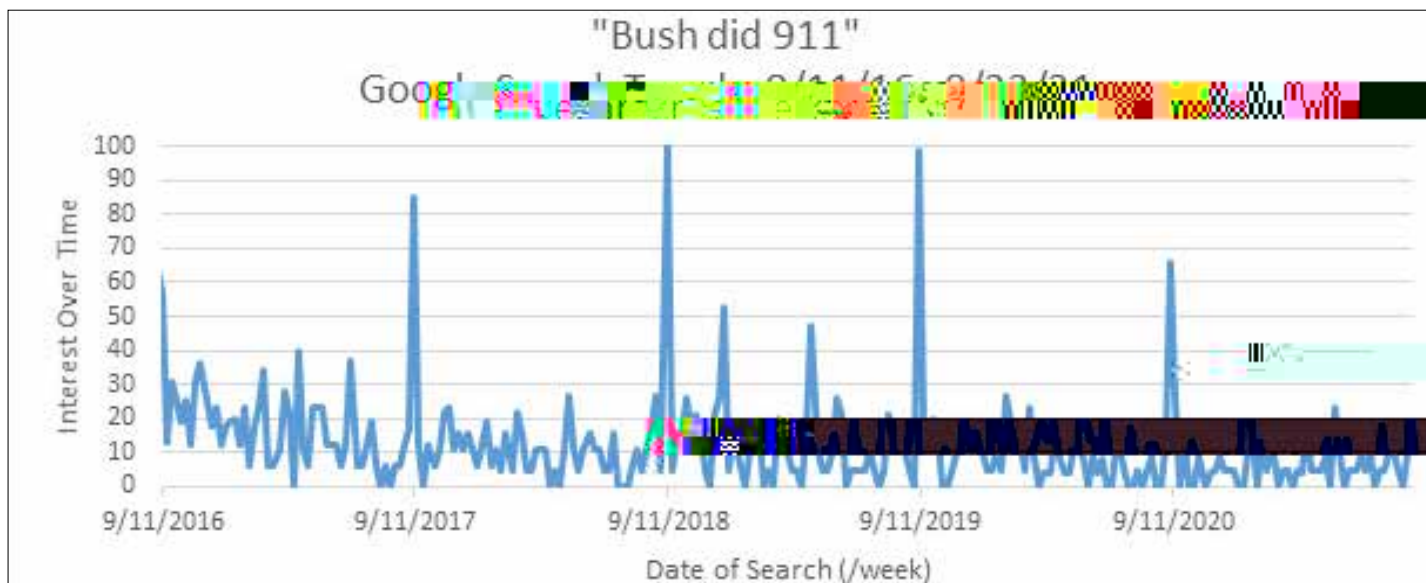
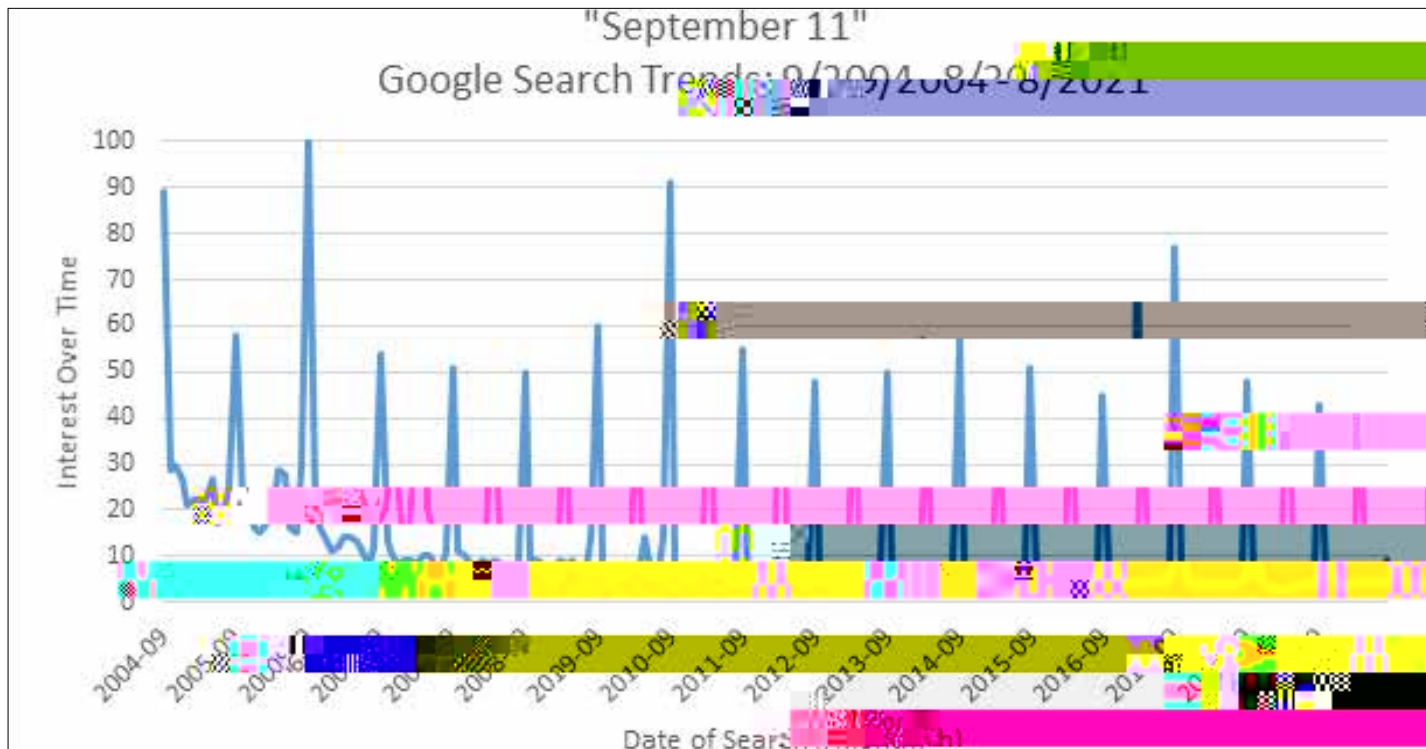
Social media and the internet is also used to glorify the events of 9/11, celebrating the attacks on the USA and the deaths of thousands of people.

Many of these posts are shared on the anniversary of the 2001 attacks, such as this post from Telegram channel, Greenbird Media on September 11, 2017. Al-Qaeda distributes propaganda and posts glorifying the so-called martyrs of 9/11, particularly the hijackers and orchestrators of the attacks. Al-Badr Media is the media arm of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and they released the video below on Telegram to commemorate the anniversary of the attacks. A series of articles written by Osama bin Laden's son-in-law and former spokesman, Sulaiman Abu Ghayth, titled 'Why Do We Fight America', were first released in 2002, and have been republished and distributed online several times in the years since. The articles attempt to justify the attacks by claiming they were in reactions to years of US oppression against Muslim countries.



SEARCH INTEREST

One of the main concerns regarding the volume of content promoting 9/11 conspiracies is the ease of access to this information online. Every year, surrounding 9/11, internet searches peak around the anniversary of the attacks, meaning more individuals seeking information are liable to come across material promoting these conspiracies and associated bigoted content.

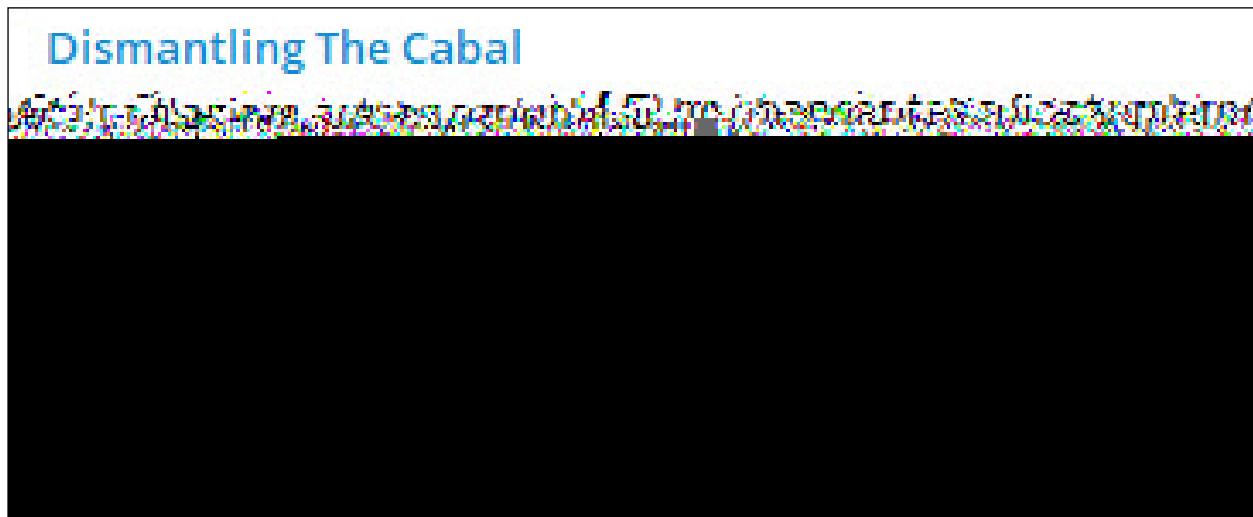


Data from Google Trends highlights this. Every year (since 2004 the first year data is publicly available), searches for information on Google including the term, September 11 peaks in the month of September. Over the past 5 years, worldwide Google searches using the terms, Bush Did 911 peak around the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

CONCLUSIONS

The social media platforms examined in the research for this report enforce a wide range of different moderation policies on material pertaining to conspiracies and hate speech. Alternative platforms such as Telegram and BitChute have fewer limited policies on the types of material that can be shared using their services. Mainstream platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok have extensive community standards prohibiting hate speech on their services, but there is little or no mention of conspiracy theories specifically. Conspiracy theories tend to be encompassed into policies focused on content manipulation or misinformation. Facebook prohibits violence-inducing conspiracy networks, and other platforms such as YouTube prohibit misleading material that could lead to harm. YouTube also utilizes a redirect method, displaying a link to an Encyclopedia Britannica entry on September 11 on videos that appear to promote misinformation about the events. Amazon prohibits the sale of offensive products, but there are limited restrictions on the content of books that can be sold via their platform.

Despite the efforts being made by mainstream platforms to curtail the spread of misinformation and harmful content, it is clear that specific policies pertaining to conspiracy theories and networks could be better enforced. Changes to policy enforcement and community guidelines could help in reducing the amount of misleading and often hateful material available online, distorting the memory and historical record of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.



In the weeks leading up to the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, conspirators in online spaces began sharing the idea that a new false flag attack could be orchestrated on September 11, 2021.

THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) is a Jewish global human rights organization dedicated to researching the Holocaust and hate in a historic and contemporary context. The Center confronts anti-Semitism, hate and terrorism, promotes human rights and dignity, stands with Israel, defends the safety of Jews worldwide, and teaches the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations. With a constituency of over 400,000 households in the United States, it is accredited as an NGO at international organizations including the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE, Organization of American States (OAS), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) and the Council of Europe.