

Quora - John Davis asks : Why were the Twin Towers chosen for the attack on 9/11?



Quora User : Realist - Written 25 Feb, 2013

The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center stood as an unmistakable landmark on the New York City skyline. As much as the Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty, the WTC was a landmark with tremendous symbolic value and history.

That fateful day, the WTC was chosen for three primary reasons:

1. Symbolic Importance

In addition to the myriad other motivations for their actions, al-Qaeda wanted to send a message with their attacks. In short, they wanted to send the message that the U.S. seat of military power (Pentagon), economic power (World Trade Center), and political power (U.S. Capitol Building) were all vulnerable to the ruthlessness and scope of al-Qaeda's ideology.

2. Economic Ramifications

Al-Qaeda recognized that a successful attack had the potential to shock the U.S. economy. As we saw, the collapse of the buildings in New York City contributed to a stock market crash as well as lasting economic pain centralized in the heart of American commerce.

3. Body Count

Al-Qaeda was interested in producing mass casualties with their attacks. This motivation drove them away from low-impact attacks on places like the White House or the Statue of Liberty. It was more attractive for al-Qaeda to attack locations which had very high civilian populations ... namely office buildings at mid-morning.

Quora user : Bruce Feldman, Real Estate Consultant in NY. - Written 25 Oct, 2011

Because targeting the Twin Towers over other potential targets had the greatest capacity for spectacular collateral damage, the highest visibility of effect, and was the most representative of the intended focus: the U.S. financial system's oil-driven, capitalist economy; the U.S. government; and the U.S. military.

Other potential New York targets, such as the Empire State Building, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, etc., would simply not have had the same potential to instill fear into ordinary American citizens as did bringing down the Twin Towers.

(Source : <http://www.quora.com/Why-were-the-Twin-Towers-chosen-for-the-attack-on-9-11>)