



TAKSHASHEELA
SCHOOL OF CIVIL SERVICES
(A UNIT OF TAKSHASHILA EDUCATIONAL TRUST)

Editorial Analysis: 25 Years After 9/11

"25 years on, America's response to 9/11 is its biggest self-inflicted hurt"

Summary

The article argues that the greatest long-term damage caused by 9/11 may not have come from the terrorist attacks themselves, but from the way the United States chose to respond. Twenty-five years later, the consequences of the post-9/11 **"War on Terror"** continue to shape American foreign policy, global security and international relations.

Key Takeaways & Long-Term Impact

The article argues that America's response to the 9/11 attacks may have caused greater long-term damage to the United States than the attacks themselves. The subsequent **"War on Terror"**, particularly the **wars in Afghanistan and Iraq**, imposed enormous human, economic and strategic costs while contributing to instability and the rise of new extremist networks. The US also faced criticism for unilateral military interventions, weakened civil liberties, expanded surveillance and controversial detention practices, which damaged its global image and moral authority. Twenty-five years later, the experience highlights the limits of relying primarily on military power to address terrorism and shows how an open-ended security strategy can produce unintended consequences. **The key lesson** is that counter-terrorism requires a balance of military preparedness with diplomacy, international cooperation, rule of law, civil liberties and long-term political solutions.