Michel Chossudovsky is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization. He has acted as an economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has worked as a consultant for international organizations. Professor Chossudovsky has also written books that highlight the historical relationship between the US government and Al Qaeda.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 constitute a fundamental landmark in American history. Millions of people have been misled regarding the causes and consequences of 9/11.

September 11, 2001 opens up an era of crisis, upheaval and militarization of American society.

A far-reaching overhaul of US military doctrine was launched in the wake of 9/11.

Endless wars of aggression under the humanitarian cloak of "counter-terrorism" were set in motion.

9/11 was also a stepping stone towards the relentless repeal of civil liberties, the militarization of law enforcement and the inauguration of Police State USA.

September 11, 2001 marks the onslaught of the "Global War on Terrorism" (GWOT), used as a pretext and a justification by the US and its NATO allies to carry out a "war without borders", a global war of conquest.

At eleven o'clock, on the morning of September 11, the Bush administration had already announced that Al Qaeda was responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC) and the Pentagon. This assertion was made prior to the conduct of an in-depth police investigation.

CIA Director George Tenet stated that same morning that Osama bin Laden had the capacity to plan "multiple attacks with little or no warning."

Secretary of State Colin Powell called the attacks "an act of war" and President Bush confirmed in an evening televised address to the Nation that he would "make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them".

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, without mentioning Afghanistan, pointed his finger at "state sponsorship," implying the complicity of one or more foreign governments. In the words of former National Security Adviser, Lawrence Eagleburger, "I think we will show when we get attacked like this, we are terrible in our strength and in our retribution."

That same evening at 9:30 pm, a "War Cabinet" was formed, integrated by a select number of top intelligence and military advisors. And at 11:00 p.m., at the end of that historic meeting at the White House, the "War on Terrorism" was officially launched.

The tragic events of 9/11 provided the required justification to wage war on Afghanistan on "humanitarian grounds" with the full support of World public opinion and the endorsement of the "international community". Several prominent "progressive" intellectuals made a case for "retaliation against terrorism" on moral and ethical grounds. The just cause military doctrine (jus ad bellum) was accepted and upheld at face value as a legitimate response to 9/11.

In the wake of 9/11, the antiwar movement was completely isolated. The trade unions and civil society organizations had swallowed the media lies and government propaganda. They had accepted a war of retribution against Afghanistan, an impoverished country in Central Asia of 30 million people.

The myth of the "outside enemy" and the threat of "Islamic terrorists" was the cornerstone of the Bush administration's military doctrine, used as a pretext to invade Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention the repeal of civil liberties and constitutional government in America.

Amply documented but rarely mentioned by the mainstream media, Al Qaeda is a creation of the CIA going back to the Soviet- Afghan war. This was a known fact, corroborated by numerous sources including official documents of the US Congress, which the mainstream media chose to either dismiss or ignore. The intelligence community had time and again acknowledged that they had indeed supported Osama bin Laden, but that in the wake of the Cold War: "he turned against us".

The 9/11 Commission Report has largely upheld the "outside enemy" mythology, heralding Al Qaeda as the "mastermind" organization behind the 9/11 attacks.

The official 9/11 narrative has not only distorted the causes that underlie the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings, it has also erased the historical record of US covert support to international terrorism, while creating the illusion that America and "Western Civilization" are threatened.

Without an outside enemy there could be no "war on terrorism". The entire national security agenda would collapse like a deck of cards. The war criminals in high office would have no leg to stand on.

After 9/11, the campaign of media disinformation served not only to drown the truth but also to kill much of the historical evidence on how this illusive Al Qaeda "outside enemy" had been fabricated and transformed into "Enemy Number One".

Professor Michel Chossudovsky