

Delve Deeper into *The Oath*

A film by Laura Poitras

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary *The Oath*.

Filmed in Yemen and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, The Oath interweaves the stories of Abu Jandal, Osama bin Laden's former bodyguard, and Salim Hamdan, a prisoner at Guantánamo facing war crimes charges. Directed by Laura Poitras, The Oath unfolds via a narrative rife with plot reversals and betrayals that ultimately leads to Osama bin Laden, 9/11, Guantánamo and the U.S Supreme Court.

ADULT NONFICTION

9/11

Bamford, James. *The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America.* New York: Doubleday, 2008. Bamford documents the Bush administration's move towards using domestic surveillance as a weapon in the war on terror, illuminating the debate about civil liberties and America's security post-9/11.

DiMarco, Damon. *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11.* Santa Monica: Santa Monica Press, 2007. DiMarco brings a unique collection of stories from New Yorkers who survived the collapse of the World Trade Center Towers. Woven throughout this oral history are acts of heroism and the tremendous sense of loss and grieving felt by so many people.

Friend, David. *Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11.* New York: Picador, 2007. Emmy Award-winning Director David Friend offers a perspective on the terrorist attack from the lenses of amateur and professional photographers who were present in New York on 9/11. Commentary is provided about the ethics of photographing such a tragedy and how images of such tragedy are used by media and government to support political agenda.

Hersh, Seymour. *Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib.* New York: Hapercollins, 2004. Legendary investigative reporter Seymour Hersh criticizes the Bush administration's policies surrounding the Abu Ghraib scandal and national security initiatives in a post-9/11 world.

Mayer, Jan. *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals.* Doubleday, 2008. Uncovering details that led to the legalization of torture and the creation of a domestic surveillance program, Mayer sheds new light on the extent to which the administration subverted the law and challenged American ideals.

Sands, Philippe. *Torture Team: Rumsfeld's Memo and the Betrayal of American Values.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. Sands exposes the Bush administration's decision-making that led to the legalization of torture and the disregard for international humanitarian law.

Shenon, Philip. *The Commission: The Uncensored History of the 9/11 Investigation.* USA: Twelve: Hatchette Book Group, 2008. *The New York Times* reporter Philip Shenon reveals startling details about the 9/11 investigation and tells the inside story of the federal commission proceedings.

Spencer, Lynn. *Touching History: The Untold Story of the Drama That Unfolded in the Skies Over America on 9/11.* New York: Free Press, 2008. Based on interviews and archives, flight instructor Spencer provides an account of 9/11 from the perspective of air-traffic controllers and Air National Guard fighter pilots. The challenges of bad communications and misdirection encountered by the pilots are brought to light.

Suskind, Ron. *The One Percent Doctrine: Deep Inside America's Pursuit of Its Enemies Since 9/11.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Dick Cheney set the stage for the Bush administration's policy

surrounding torture when he announced that even if there was "a one percent chance" that a threat was real "we have to treat it as a certainty in terms of our response". Suskind reveals details surrounding this "one-percent" doctrine, and more largely, the administration's counterterrorism efforts.

Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.* New York: Vintage, 2007. *New Yorker* journalist Lawrence Wright conducted hundreds of interviews to provide a history of the events that led up to 9/11. He asserts that 9/11 was preventable had agencies such as the FBI, CIA and NSA been working in collaboration to share intelligence.

Jenkins, Bonnie. May, Ernest R. Zelikow, Philip D. *The 9/11 Commission Report.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, July 2004.

With a directive from the president and congress to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the 9/11 attacks, the "National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States" has issued a detailed, impartial account of what happened and why.

Afghanistan

Coll, Steve. *The Bin Ladens: An Arabian Family in the American Century.* New York: Penguin Press, 2008. Steve Coll tells the story of the rise and fall of the bin Laden family, shedding new light on the family circles from which bin Laden sprang.

Coll, Steve. *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001.* New York: Penguin Press, 2004. Steve Coll reveals startling details surrounding the CIA's involvement in the evolution of the Taliban and Al Qaeda in the years prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Ewans, Martin. *Afghanistan: A Short History of Its People and Politics.* New York: Harper Perennial, 2002. Martin Ewans, former British diplomat in Afghanistan, offers



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several thousands of years of Afghan history through 9/11. The history and happenings of the country during the 20th century, (specifically the 1990's) sheds light on how and why the Taliban came to power.

Griffiths, John C. *Afghanistan: Land of Conflict and Beauty*. London: Andre Deuthsch, Ltd., 2009.

The history, culture, politics and economy of Afghanistan are revealed through this survey beginning with the time of Genghis Khan and ending with the rise of the Taliban.

Isby, David. *Afghanistan: Graveyard of Empires: A New History of the Borderland*. Neptune: Pegasus, 2010.

David Isby, defense analyst and former advisor to President Reagan, offers insightful research into Afghanistan's history, current political situation, and US and NATO policies affecting Afghani rule. The country's social and economic crises are also examined through the issues at their core, such as terrorism, the drug trade, corruption, and regional rivalries.

Jones, Ann. *Kabul in Winter: Life without Peace in Afghanistan*. New York: Picador, 2007.

The New York Times contributor Ann Jones reports on her experiences as an aid worker in post-9/11 Afghanistan. She provides a chilling account of the subservient lives of Muslim women and the violence they are subjected to in their daily lives, such as forced marriage, rape, and physical abuse.

Seierstad, Asne. *Bookseller of Kabul*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2004.

Norwegian journalist Seierstad draws on her experience from living with an Afghan family to provide a stark portrait of the lives of Afghans recovering from war after the fall of the Taliban. After living with the Khan family of Kabul for several months and traveling incognito under the veil of a burqa, Seierstad provides rare insight into the daily life of a typical Afghan family.

War in Afghanistan

Filkins, Dexter. *The Forever War*. New York: Alfred K. Knopf, 2008.

Beginning with the rise of the Taliban and continuing with the 9/11 attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Filkins tells the complex story of this conflict from the front lines of the battle against Islamic fundamentalism.

Jones, Seth G. *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Seth Jones, political scientist for the RAND Corporation, chronicles the insurgency in Afghanistan and its detrimental effect on both Afghanistan's future and America's interests. The roots of insurgency and the Taliban are surveyed as well as past invasions into the country by British and Russian military.

Junger, Sebastian. *WAR*. New York: Twelve, 2010.

Junger chronicles his experience as an embedded reporter with Second Platoon, Battle Company through eastern Afghanistan. Following the Platoon for most of its 15-month deployment, Junger witnesses war firsthand through firefights, ambushes and casualties, and even survives an IED attack on the convoy he was riding in.

Richie-Melvan, Sharon & Vines, Diane. *Angel Walk: Nurses at War in Iraq and Afghanistan*. Portland: Arnica Publishing, 2010.

Stories about the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) officers that respond to the wounded on the battlefield are retold by a retired ANC colonel. Nursing professor Vines discusses the coping mechanisms used by nurses in the field to deal with mass trauma and the programs instituted to address post-traumatic stress disorders for troops returning to civilian life.

Stanton, Doug. *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*. New York: Scribner, 2010.

Journalist Stanton chronicles the elite contingent of U.S. mounted soldiers deployed in Afghanistan's mountains to fight alongside the

Northern Alliance against the Taliban. Included are accounts from soldiers and the many obstacles they face, including insufficient military equipment, unreliable air support, outdated maps and lack of food.

Guantanamo

Cucullu, Gordon. *Inside Gitmo: The True Story Behind the Myths of Guantanamo Bay*. New York: Harper, 2009.

Based on a series of personal events, this retired army colonel provides an account of daily life of prisoners and guards at this infamous prison. Details about all aspects of prison life are exposed, including the treatment of prisoners, interrogation techniques, medical care and even the food served to prisoners.

Greenberg, Karen J. *The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days*. New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2009.

The period from December 2001 through March 2002 at Camp X-Ray, a facility that housed suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban operatives captured in Afghanistan, is uncovered. Insight is provided into how the detainee camp at Guantanamo Bay was transformed into a symbol of American brutality.

Khan, Mahvish Rukhsana. *My Guantánamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me*. New York: Public Affairs, 2008.

Khan, an American born to immigrant Afghan parents, volunteers to translate for Afghan prisoners held at Guantanamo. Through this experience, her Afghan heritage is validated as well as the freedoms of living in America.

Smith, Clive Stafford. *Eight O'Clock Ferry to the Windward Side: Seeking Justice In Guantanamo Bay*. New York: Nation Books, 2008.

Human rights attorney and Legal Director of the UK charity *Reprieve* reveals injustices perpetrated in the name of national security and its cost to America's democracy. His clients include 40 detainees in Guantanamo Bay and several prisoners on death row.



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U.S. & Arab Relations

Jamal, Amaney & Naber, Nadine. *Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11: From Invisible Citizens to Visible Subjects.* Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2007.

Amaney and Naber address the issues of U.S. imperialism in Arab homelands and anti-Arab racism. This book contends that the events of 9/11 are not the beginning, but are rather the turning point of Arab Americans' struggle with race and multiculturalism in the U.S.

Lawson, Fred. *Constructing International Relations in the Arab World.* Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2006.

Lawson provides an analysis of the effects of nationalist leaderships in several Arab countries and its consequence on diplomatic and strategic relations.

Makdisi, Ussama. *Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations: 1820-2001.* New York: PublicAffairs, 2010.

Award-winning author and Rice University Professor Ussama Makdisi explores why Arabs once had a favorable view of America and why they no longer do. The case is made about how American missionaries laid the foundation for the initial Arab discovery of America and how past and current U.S. policy decisions fuel anti-American sentiment throughout the Arab world.

Orfalea, Gregory. *The Arab Americans: A History.* New York: Olive Branch Press, 2005.

Orfalea provides a detailed account of three major waves of Arab immigration to the U.S. beginning in the late 1800's through the present. Through hundreds of interviews and a quarter century of research, past and present Arab American experiences, including the impact of 9/11 on the Arab community, are chronicled.

ADULT FICTION

Bearden, Milt. *The Black Tulip: A Novel of War in Afghanistan.* New York: Random House, 2002.

In this suspenseful novel about a former CIA officer in Afghanistan who must hook up with a colonel in the KGB, Milt Bearden draws on his experience as a former CIA agent during the U.S. covert war efforts in Afghanistan during the 1980's.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner.* New York: Riverhead Books, 2004.

This debut novel gives insight into Afghanistan during the 1970's through the lives of two boys, Amir, a son of privilege and Hassan, a servant to the wealthy. Amir looks back on his actions that changed their bond of friendship forever and tries to make amends for his past.

Hirsh, M.E. *Kabul.* New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2002.

The turbulent 1970's in Afghanistan is brought to life through Mangal Anwari, a rebel planning to lead a coup against the king and gain a powerful position in the new military government. When the threat of a Russian invasion looms, his family's life changes forever.

Jones, K.R. *The Ghosts of Guantanamo Bay.* Fredericksburg: Seacay Publishing, 2006.

Jones presents a mystery about casino fortunes hidden on the American base after Castro assumed power.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Bantin, Erinn. *Afghanistan: The People.* New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2003.

For upper-elementary school readers, this is a survey of the land, people, and culture of Afghanistan. Topics presented include: Early history, Islam, War on Terrorism, ethnic diversity, and various aspects of Afghan culture.

Curtiss, A.B. *The Little Chapel that Stood.* Escondido: Oldcastle Publishing, 2003.

Elementary school readers are given an account of how historic St. Paul's chapel, located directly across from the World Trade Center, withstood the tragedy of 9/11 without even a pane of broken glass. Immediately following the attacks, it was

turned into a service center for emergency workers on the site.

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers.* New York: Square Fish, 2007.

Gerstein brings us a lyrical account chronicling Frenchmen Philippe Petit's tight rope walk between Manhattan's World Trade Center towers on August 7, 1974. This uplifting story is a tribute to this impressive individual and a memorial to the towers and the lives associated with them.

Kalman, Maira. *Fireboat.* New York: Puffin, 2005.

The heroic role of the John J. Harvey fireboat in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks is delicately conveyed in an age-appropriate manner for the youngest reader. Illustrations of the equipment, crew, and NY harbor help the reader understand how this historic fireboat was put into action.

Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin. *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time (The Young Reader's Edition).* New York: Puffin, 2009.

This adaptation for middle school readers recounts the events that led up to the author's creation of *Pennies for Peace*, a charitable foundation dedicated to building schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Winter, Jeanette. *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan.* San Diego: Beach Lane Books, 2009.

This picture book for young readers focuses on the changes in the lives of Afghani women after the Taliban came to power in 1996. After Nasreen's parents disappeared she withdrew from life, until her grandmother sent her to a secret school where she discovered the outlawed world of art, literature and history.

FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Winter, Jeanette. *September Roses.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.

For the youngest of readers, Winter depicts a tale of two South African sisters traveling with several thousand roses for a flower show in New York when the



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9/11 terrorist attacks occur. They are stranded in the city and are eventually offered a place to stay, and in return, take their roses to Union Square to create a memorial.

FILMS/ DOCUMENTARIES

***102 Minutes that Changed America.* A film by the History Channel. A&E Television Networks, 2008. TRT: 100 min.**

This documentary presents personal accounts and reactions to the tragic events of 9/11 from people around New York.

***9/11.* A film by James Hanlon, Jules Naudet, and Rob Klug. Paramount, 2002. TRT: 112 min.** Originally intended to be a documentary about the daily routine of a rookie New York City fireman, this film documents the tragic events of 9/11 which were unexpectedly caught by the filmmaker's camera.

***National Geographic: Inside 9/11.* A film by Alex Flaster. National Geographic Pictures, 2006. TRT: 280 min.** This four-hour mini-series reveals an in-depth comprehensive picture of the day that redefined our nation.

***National Geographic: Inside Guantanamo.* A film by Jon Else and Bonni Cohen. National Geographic Pictures, 2009. TRT: 90 min.** Else and Cohen provide unprecedented access to the detainees and guards in Guantanamo.

