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Q&A: The Taliban and Osama bin Laden 's thum him out What is the Taliban?

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hiury that le heir leader is Mullah aying quaterors Osama bin Laden and his allas Cowo dilignt followers b s still bother or de the Think Campo their claim to be the vanguard of will likely make ie new Sunni Islamic revolu-on greater credibility," accordnt start Sunda ladelphia. ing to a BBC News report. for 193 ya

What is the goal of the Taliban?

10-6 loss The world first noticed the oth comm aliban when they seized the - three int lost fumble September of 1996. It was their ceptions and goal to stamp out corruption and restore peace in the region. arter. the outside of However, their ultimate goal Sept. 12 / was to set up the world's most a teammate's 't throw w day, but did so nd was swol have strictly enforced Islamic w, including public execu-ions and amputations. They miting him iternational press and omen's rights groups by foridding girls and women from oing to school and work. appy Hour .m. - 11:001

The scale of these attacks and the currents of world-wide attention that has occurred, obligates the United States to retaliate, said Dr. James Burk, a professor of sociology and a faculty member of the Military Studies Institute at Texas A&M.

THE BATTALION

Politics

He said the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. were far more serious than the embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. The loss of life and property is far greater, so they require a greater response.

Dr. Brian Linn, a professor of history and the head of the Military Studies Institute, said, "It's not like we didn't respond to the attacks in Africa; we just did it on a smaller, less-publicized scale." Now, this issue is a matter of perspective and scale? he said. "The issues were clear at Pearl Harbor, so warfare was an appropriate response. But it is difficult in this case because we are not living during a time of war." Burk attributes the reason required for retaliation by the United States because this event has a symbolic important

"We're a superpower and if we are vulnerable to attack, then so are they [other democratic nations]," Burk said.-

He added that retaliation is not really the issue, but the concept of securing our values is of utmost importance.

Despite the sentiment of many Americans to retaliate and a common misconception developing among many Middle Easterners, the United States is not targeting a specific group, Linn said.

We are not at war with Afghanistan - we are not threatening a religion or any ethnic group," he said. Linn added, "We are just trying to punish those responsible for the attacks (in Washington, D.C. and New York)."

The position of the U.S. military is a precarious one because it is not at all clear if a country is being taken on, and yet rules of war are being applied to this situation, said Linn.

Taliban

SEPTEMBER 13

Bush says that this

is "the first war of

the 21st century."

Bush label bin Laden

a prime suspect in

the terrorist atacks.

Many Americans are still searching for answers following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. The United States government is looking for those responsible, and the American people are also looking for someone to blame.

KYRGYZETAN

STORIES BY COURTNEY STELZEL

With this knowledge, it is the responsibility of U.S. citizens to understand why Osama bin Laden, a prime suspect in the attacks, and his Muslim militant group believe they have been called to fight a jihad against the United States.

Dr. Anthony Black, a professor of political science and policy at the University of Dundee, Scotland, is an expert on Islamic fundamentalism and the historical events that led up to this militant mind set today.

"If people, especially in the United States, want to make a rational, credible response to the events of two weeks ago, one has to know the causes," Black said. The only way to do that, Black said, is to understand the workings of the Islamic faith, and make a distinction between devout Muslim and those who believe the terrorist attacks were in the name of Allah.

A distinction must also be drawn between Islamic fundamentalists and those who are extremists, Black said. "There is a distinction among fundamentalists who want

to wipe everything clean and start again, and those who activate such an action against the U.S. two weeks ago," Black said.

An Afghanistan concept that gives insight into the actions of the militant Muslim group that carried out the terrorist actions is that Muslims are taught to command the good and condemn the evil.

Black added that during the 19th century, many Muslim intellectuals responded to the painful, but inescapable experience of European dominance.

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION **SEPTEMBER 24 SEPTEMBER 25**

See TALIBAN on page 3B.

SECTION

Thursday, September 27, 2001

Taliban says they are dispatching 300, 000 fighters to defend Afghanistan's border. Attorney General John Ashcroft says 352 people have been arrested or detained in the investigation; another 392 ecople sought for questioning Bush administration Sunday

Monday, September Omar." Calls on Pakistan's promised to present evidence 17. Muslims to fight "the linking bin Laden and his al Qaeda terrorist network.

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Bush freezes

out-going assets

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SEPTEMBER 11

Terrorist attacks in

New York and

Washington D.C.

SEPTEMBER 12

Bush says terrorist

attacks were "acts

of war."

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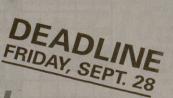
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