

Chapter 1 - Flights 11 and 175: How could the hijackers have succeeded?

From the book, *“The New Pearl Harbor:
Disturbing Questions about the Bush
Administration and 9-11,”* by David Ray Griffin

- “The question you’re not supposed to ask is the most important one” - *Mason Cooley*

Outline of presentation

- FAA background
- Flight 11 timeline
- Flight 175 timeline
- The collapse of the World Trade Center Towers 1 & 2
- The collapse of World Trade Center 7
- Summary
- What can you do?

FAA background

- From the FAA Air Traffic Control regulations, chapter 10:
 - Consider that an aircraft emergency exists when there is unexpected loss of radar contact and radio communications with any aircraft.
 - If an aircraft deviates more than 15 degrees or two miles from a flight course, it is an emergency.
 - If there is any doubt that a situation constitutes an emergency or potential emergency, handle it as though it were an emergency.

Response to an emergency

- The FAA has responsibility to notify NORAD
- NORAD dispatches fighter jets to the aircraft in question - termed an *intercept*
- Intercept is an automatic and routine response to a possible emergency
- Prior to 2001 intercepts required no upper level approval
- There were 67 such intercepts September 2000 to June 2001

Response to an emergency

- Intercept protocol calls for a series of graduated responses to non-responsive aircraft
- Only the final stage (shoot-down) requires top military approval.
- Example: Payne Stewart's 1999 plane crash
 - NORAD notified within minutes of missed turn
 - Jets alongside plane in 14 minutes

Flight 11 timeline

- **7:59 am**: American Airlines Flight 11 leaves Boston Logan airport
- **8:14 am**: fails to respond to an order from an FAA ground controller
- **8:14 am**: radio and transponder go off
- **8:20 am**: FAA ground control observes plane radically depart from course on radar
- **8:21 am**: flight attendants report via radio telephone that the plane has been taken over by hijackers who have killed some people on the flight
- **8:28 am**: plane turns toward New York
- **8:30 am** or **8:40 am** (accounts vary): FAA notifies NORAD
- **8:46 am**: Flight 11 crashes into the World Trade Center North Tower
- **8:52 am**: fighter jets dispatched from Otis AFB in Cape Cod Massachusetts

Problems with Flight 11

- Why wasn't NORAD notified at 8:14 when the transponder went off, or at most by 8:20 when it departed course?
- Once a hijacking was confirmed at 8:28, with deaths on board, why was nothing done for almost 20 additional minutes?
- Once NORAD was notified, why did it take another twelve minutes to launch jets that routinely scramble in three minutes?
- Why were jets dispatched from Otis AFB in Massachusetts 180 miles away?

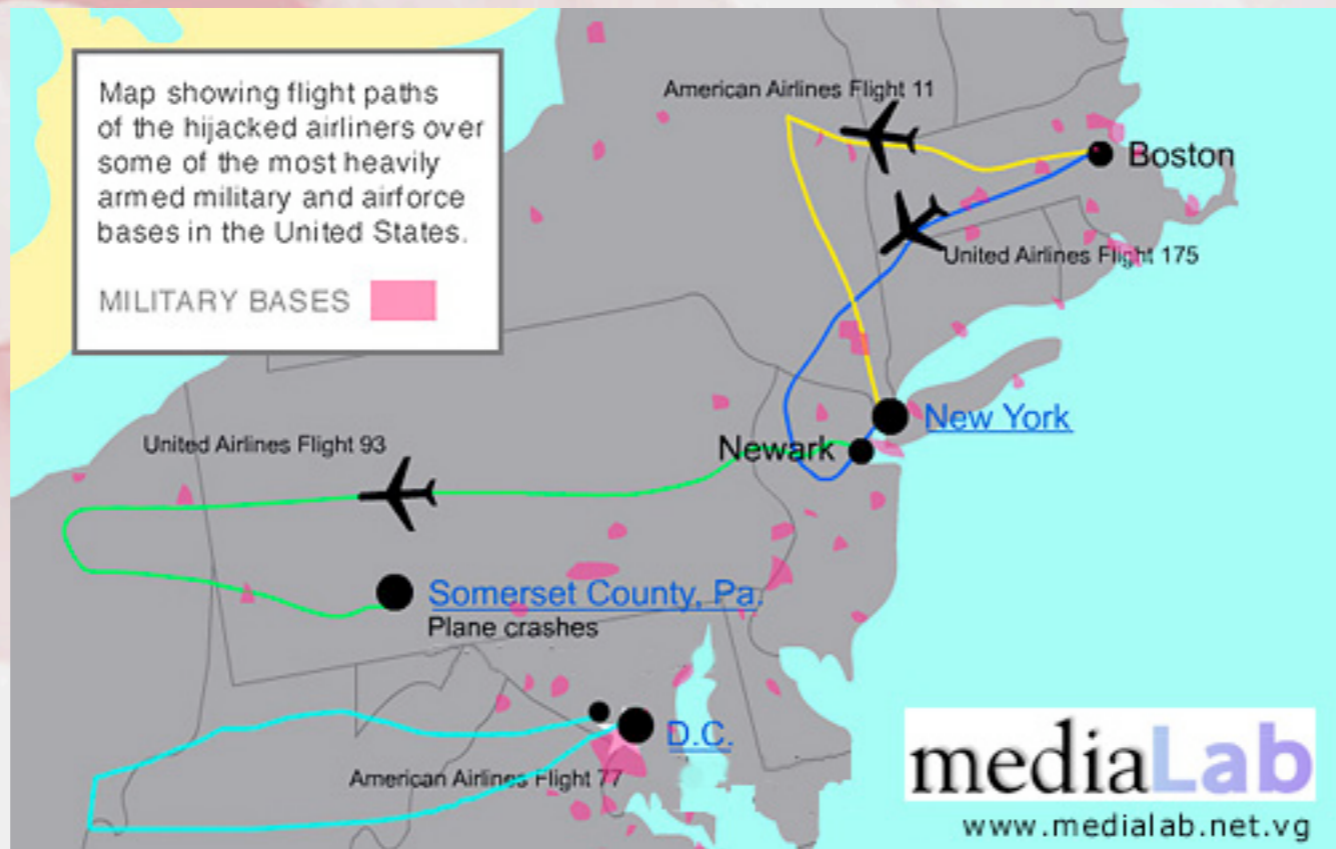
Flight 175 timeline

- **8:14 am:** UA Flight 175 leaves Boston
- **8:42 am:** radio and transponder are turned off, veers off course
- **8:43 am:** NORAD reportedly notified
- **8:46 am:** scramble order given
- **8:52 am:** F-15's take off from Otis AFB (same jets issued for Flight 11)
- **9:03 am:** impacts World Trade Center South Tower

Problems with Flight 175

- Why six minute delay from scramble (8:46) to take-off (8:52?)
- Again, why jets from Otis in Massachusetts instead of from McGuire in New Jersey?
- Why were interceptors not flying fast enough to catch Flight 175?
 - F-15's were 70 miles from Manhattan when Flight 175 impacted at 9:03
 - $(180 - 70)$ miles covered in 11 minutes = only 600 mph
 - F-15's are capable of 1875 mph

Flight paths and military bases of the Northeast U.S.



War games on morning of 9-11

- National Reconnaissance Office in Virginia was running a plane-into-building drill simulation on the morning of 9-11
- NORAD itself was on the second or third day of a large-scale multiple-incident-response exercise called Vigilant Guardian
- Some commanders were originally confused about whether hijack reports were part of the drill
- Readiness should have been better than usual - all desks staffed, planes ready, etc

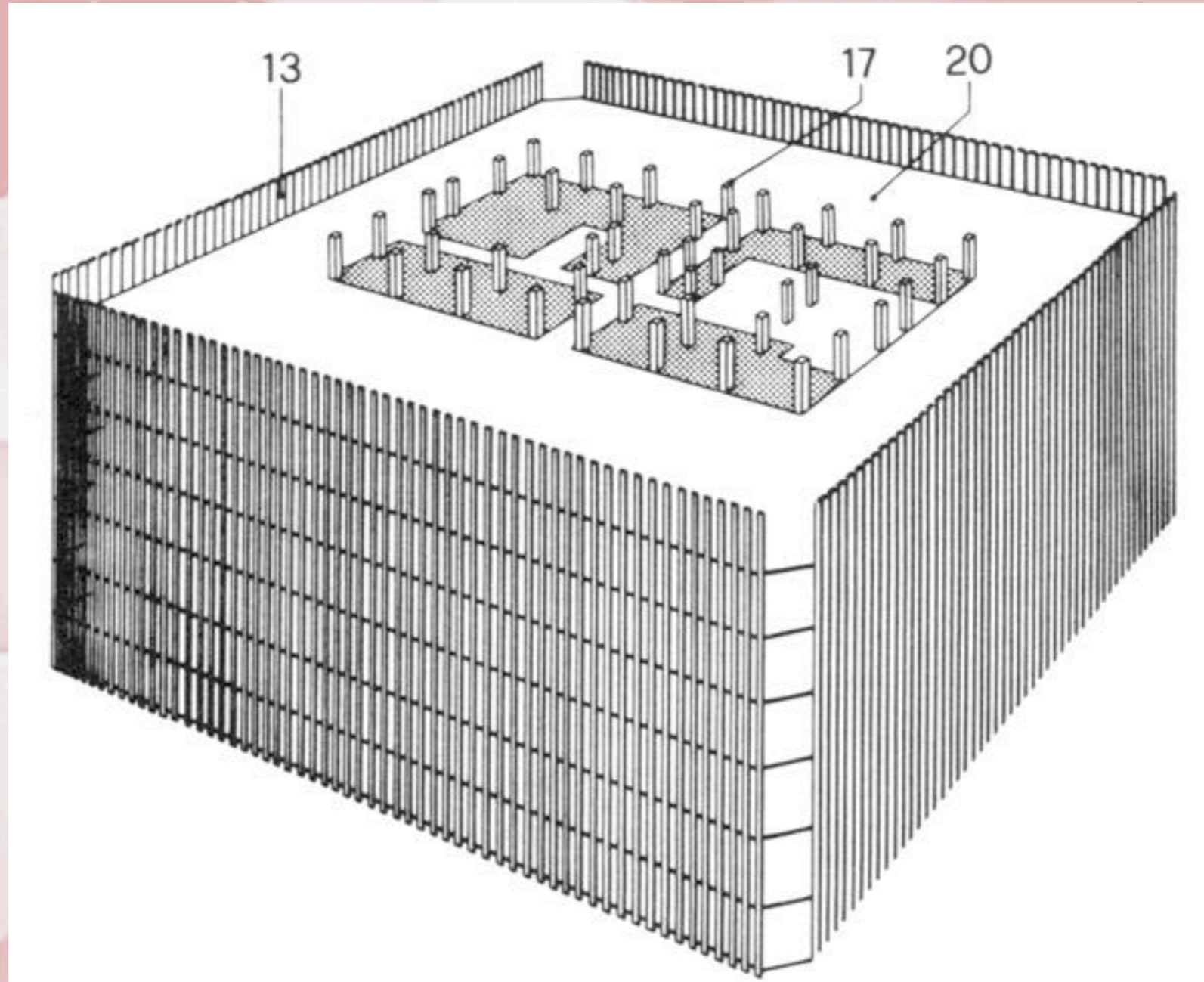
The collapse of World Trade Center Towers 1 & 2

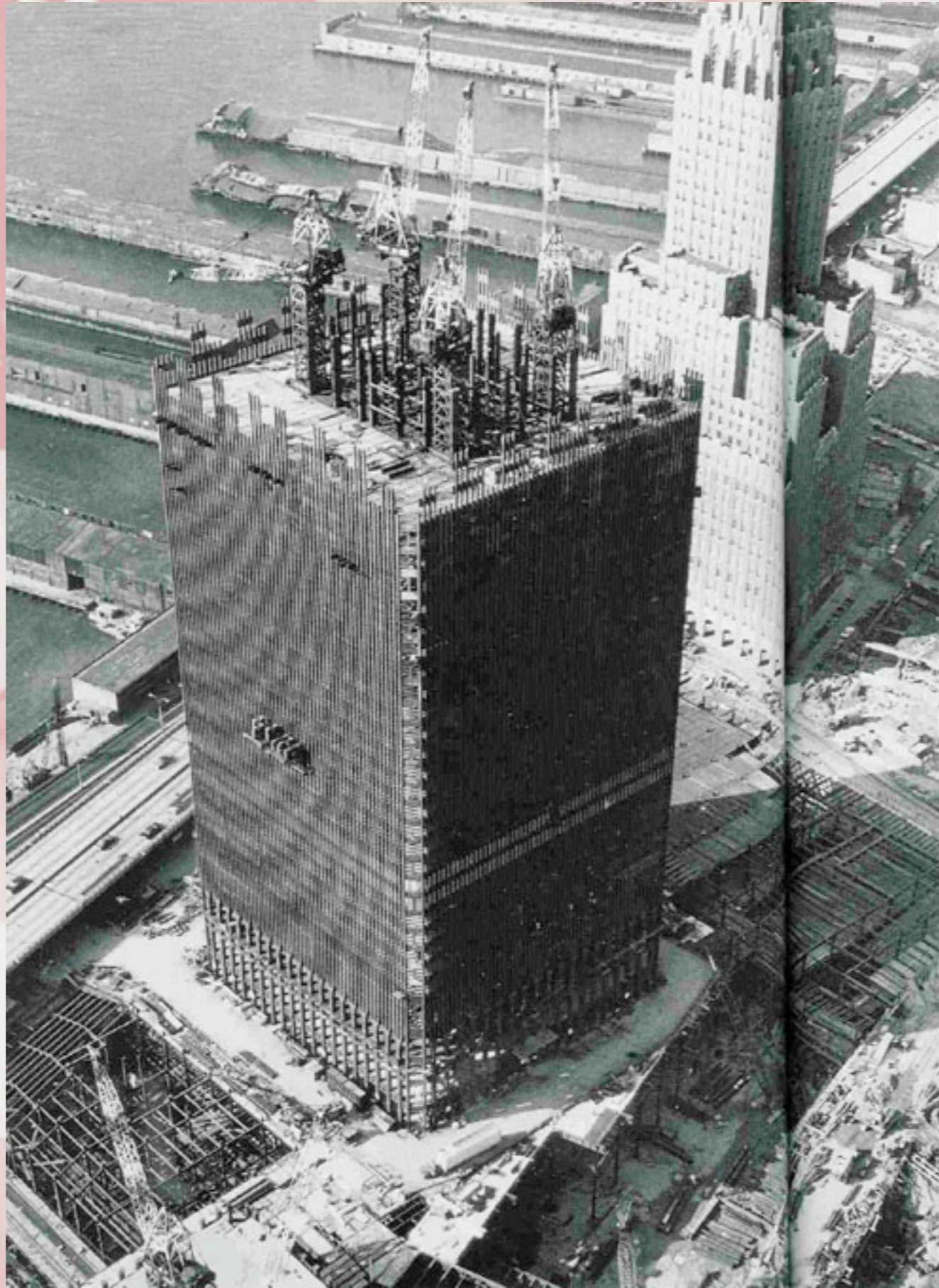
- Official account is that impact plus intense heat from fire weakened buildings
- Some have speculated that heat actually melted supports
- FEMA report of May 2002 declared "the sequence of events leading to the collapse of each tower could not be definitively determined."

Tower construction

- Built in 1973
- 1300 feet tall, 110 stories
- FEMA report said "... the floor framing system was complex and substantially more redundant than typical bar joist floor systems."
- 47 vertical steel columns in the center of the building
- 240 vertical steel columns around the perimeter
- Designed specifically to withstand impact and resulting fire from large jet airliner

Tower construction details





Problems with official account of collapse

- North Tower was struck first at 8:46 am, yet it collapsed second at 10:28 am (102 minutes)
- South Tower was struck second at 9:03 am, yet it collapsed first at 9:59 am (56 minutes)
- Maximum theoretical temperature achievable by open hydrocarbon fire is $\sim 1800^{\circ}\text{F}$ in ideal conditions
- Fires in the towers were fuel-rich and oxygen-starved, as evidenced by black smoke
- Likely maximum compartment temperature of 1200-1300 $^{\circ}\text{F}$.

North and South Tower fires

- North tower fire was substantial
 - Fuel load entirely contained within building
 - Burned continuously, with flames visible from impact until collapse
- South tower fire not a direct hit (corner)
 - Most fuel burned outside
 - Much less smoke
 - Appeared to die down



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Photos of the South Tower fireball



Tower fires

- Likely not as hot as claimed
- Most of the fuel in Flight 175 burned up in spectacular initial fireball
- Firemen in the buildings, at the floors of impact, reported that fires were controllable
- Never before in history have steel frame buildings collapsed due to fire

North Tower fire photo



Even North Tower fire was hardly a raging inferno, as a woman is visible in opening of crash

Other fires in steel-framed buildings

- Broadgate fire (London, 1990)
 - 14 story steel frame building with composite long-span trusses, composite beams, and composite floor
 - Fire occurred during construction phase
 - No fireproofing
 - No sprinkler system
 - Despite compartment temperatures in excess of 1800°F, steel components experienced 1100°F
 - Structure was distorted and deflected, but no failure

Other fires in steel-framed buildings

- Meridian Plaza fire, Philadelphia, February 1991
 - 38 story steel building
 - Fire started in discarded cleaning rags, grew quickly
 - Building lacked sprinklers, so fire consumed 8 floors over 18 hours
 - Despite being described as the “fire of the century” by Philadelphia officials, no part of the building collapsed



Official account elaborated

- Poor insulation blamed on corrupt Port Authority, which is not subject to building codes
- Specific failure point claimed to be angle clips which held floor joists to columns
- Alleged that floors were built without substantial beams
- "Zipper-like" failure of clips led to sequential failure in a matter of seconds

Problems with elaborated Official Story

- Even this theory seems to require more heat than was observable, especially in South Tower
- Hundreds of joints were required to break simultaneously
- Buildings were observed to fall within 10 seconds, which is nearly free-fall speed: where was resistance of joints at all?
- Rubble pile was only three stories tall; much of the central column should have been left standing
- Still have the reversal of expectations: why did the second tower struck fall first?

The case for demolition as cause of collapse

- Towers would need to be brought down before fires went out
- South Tower had less fuel in building, thus was first to die down
- Rubble was very small, much of it reduced to dust
- Steel debris was small and broken at joints
- Some witnesses, including firemen, reported explosions
- Explosions were reported at ground level before collapse

Photo: ejection of debris



September 11, 2001

Photo © 2001 Bill Biggart

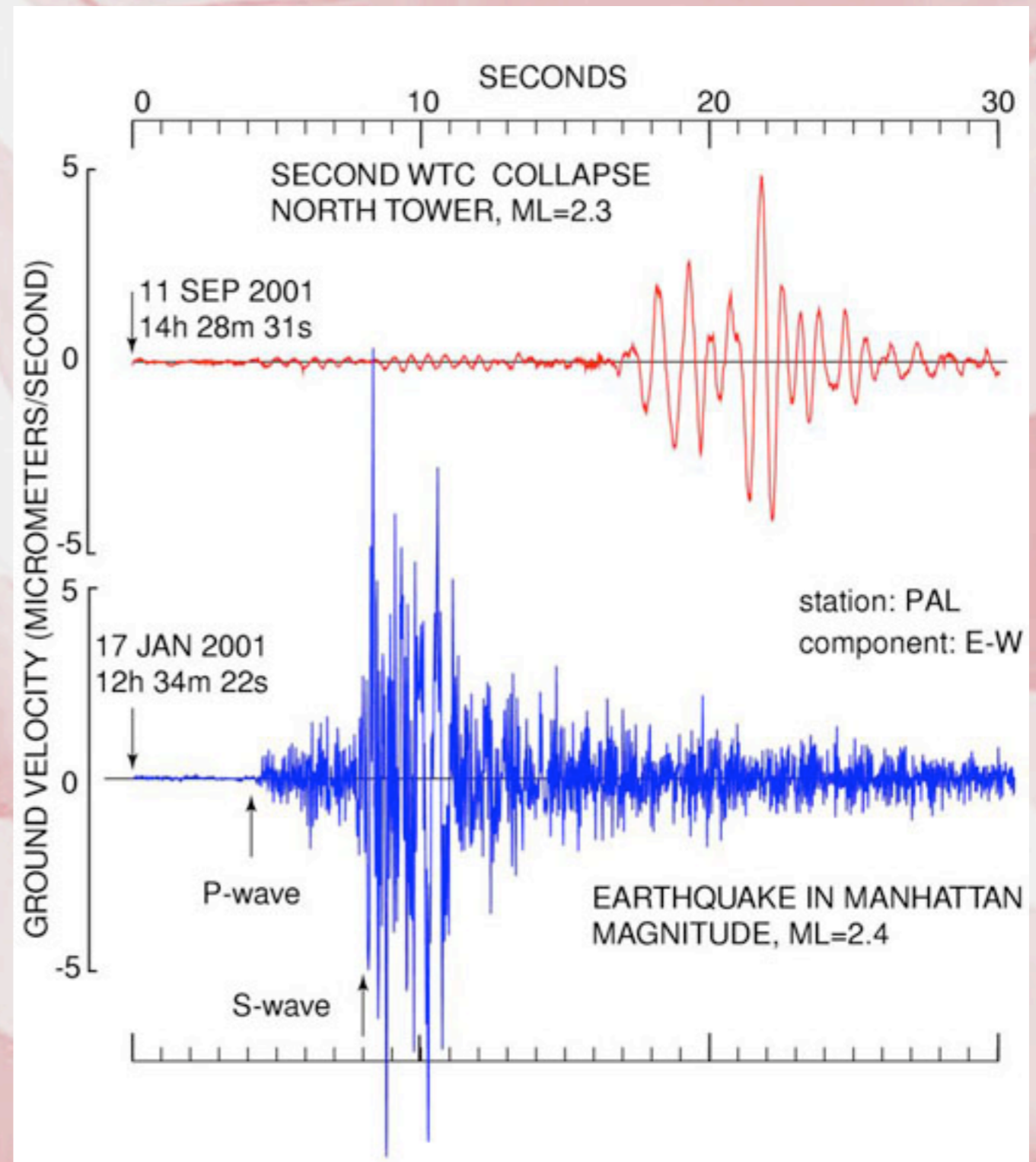
- Debris was observed ejected below collapsing wave at extremely high speed, consistent with use of explosives

Video: observe flashes in floors below collapse wave



Seismic evidence of demolition

- Columbia University Earth Observatory recorded seismic data
- Seismic data shows shocks increasing for first five seconds, then dropping abruptly, then tapering off



Interpreting seismic data

- Demolition is done with a progressive series of charges - first five seconds
- Demolition would work from top down - video evidence supports this
- Charges would have to be strongest at the bottom - hence increasing intensity
- Tapering phase was the remainder of collapse itself

Cover-up

- Controlled Demolition, Inc. given contract to clean up WTC site
- Debris removed quickly and shipped to China
- Architectural drawings showing steel structure have not been released to independent investigators
- Bill Manning, editor of Fire Engineering trade magazine, called investigation into collapse "a half-baked farce"
- Mayor Bloomberg has steadfastly refused to release any data such as emergency radio recordings, even when the victim's families have consented

Summary: case for demolition

- Variety of circumstantial evidence
- Not conclusive for the case of North and South Towers
- Controversial
- One of best sites for research on this topic is <http://www.plaguepuppy.net/>

World Trade Center 7

- Witnesses report major explosion in building shortly after impact of Flight 11 on North Tower
- Not hit by any airplane
- Not even hit by much debris
- Somehow caught fire (not reported until 4:10 pm)
- Firemen did not fight fire, sprinkler system failed, pump failed and spread diesel fuel
- Collapsed totally within its own footprint at 5:20 pm

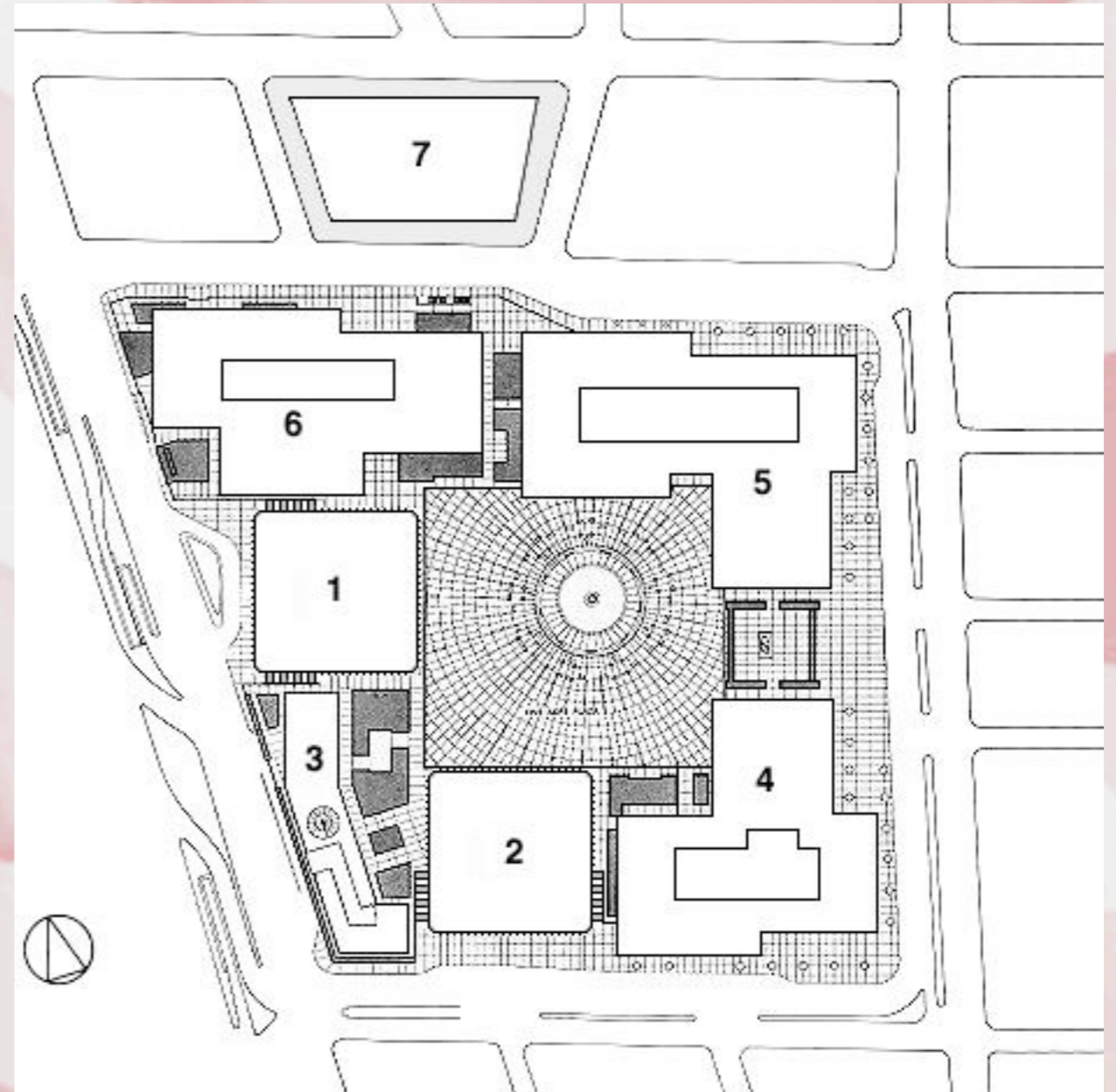
World Trade Center 7

- 47 stories
- Modern steel-framed construction
- Tenants included:
 - Mayor Rudy Giuliani's emergency command post
 - Northeast regional office of the Securities and Exchange Commission
 - Extremely large and well-staffed CIA station



World Trade Center 7

- 355 feet away from North Tower

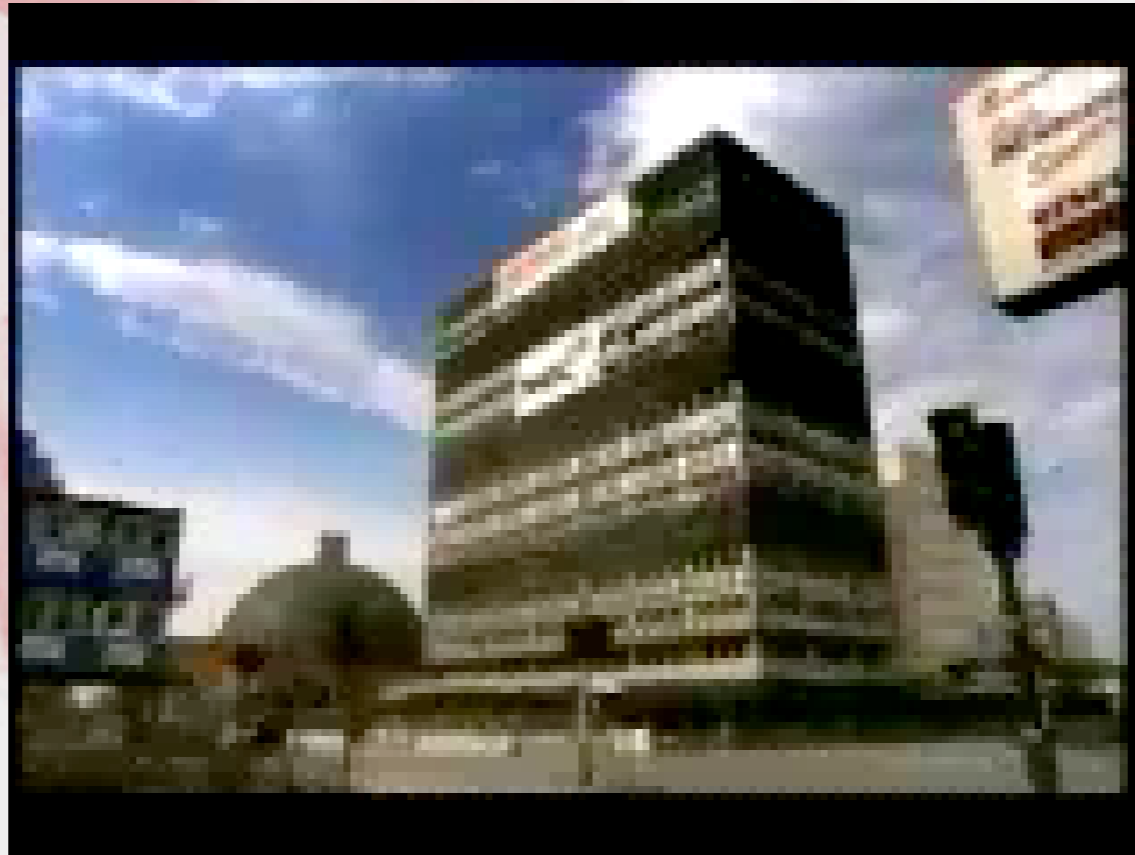


CBS video showing collapse of World Trade Center 7



- Note squibs (cutting charges going off down the right side of the building)

**Compare with video of
controlled demolition**



Problems with Official Story of WTC 7

- Buildings 4, 5, and 6 also had fires, did not collapse
- Collapse was smooth and total, just like demolition
- Despite building's asymmetrical internal steel structure, collapse was even
- Fell within its own footprint, no sagging
- Hot spots in the rubble and molten steel reportedly found
- One of the best sites on this topic is <http://www.wtc7.net/>

Summary: complicity?

- No forensic investigation, evidence quickly removed - at least official complicity in cover-up
- If involved in demolition, even of just WTC-7, proves foreknowledge and active planning by intelligence agencies
- Failure to intercept planes in direct contradiction of standing regulations - points to involvement at least by the Pentagon in attacks

Unanswered questions

- To Richard Myers and Ralph Eberhard, the military generals responsible for the United States air defense on 9-11:
- Why did the U.S. air defense system fail to follow standard operating procedures for errant air craft, such as were long in place before Sept. 11th?
- Under these automatic procedures, the U.S. air defense system sent jet fighters to intercept errant planes 67 times in the year prior to 2001; what was the average response time of these routine intercept actions?
- Who set the date of the Vigilant Guardian war-game exercise, and when was it set?

Unanswered questions

- Other relevant data that should be released:
 - The original passenger manifests of the four flights, including documents such as boarding passes and other paper and electronic receipts
 - Full, uncensored data from any undamaged cockpit voice recorders and “black boxes”
 - Full records of phone calls placed from hijacked planes
 - Deployment and readiness plans in effect on Sept. 11th for bases responsible for air defense such as Otis, Langley, Andrews, and other air force bases in NE U.S.

So, what can you do?

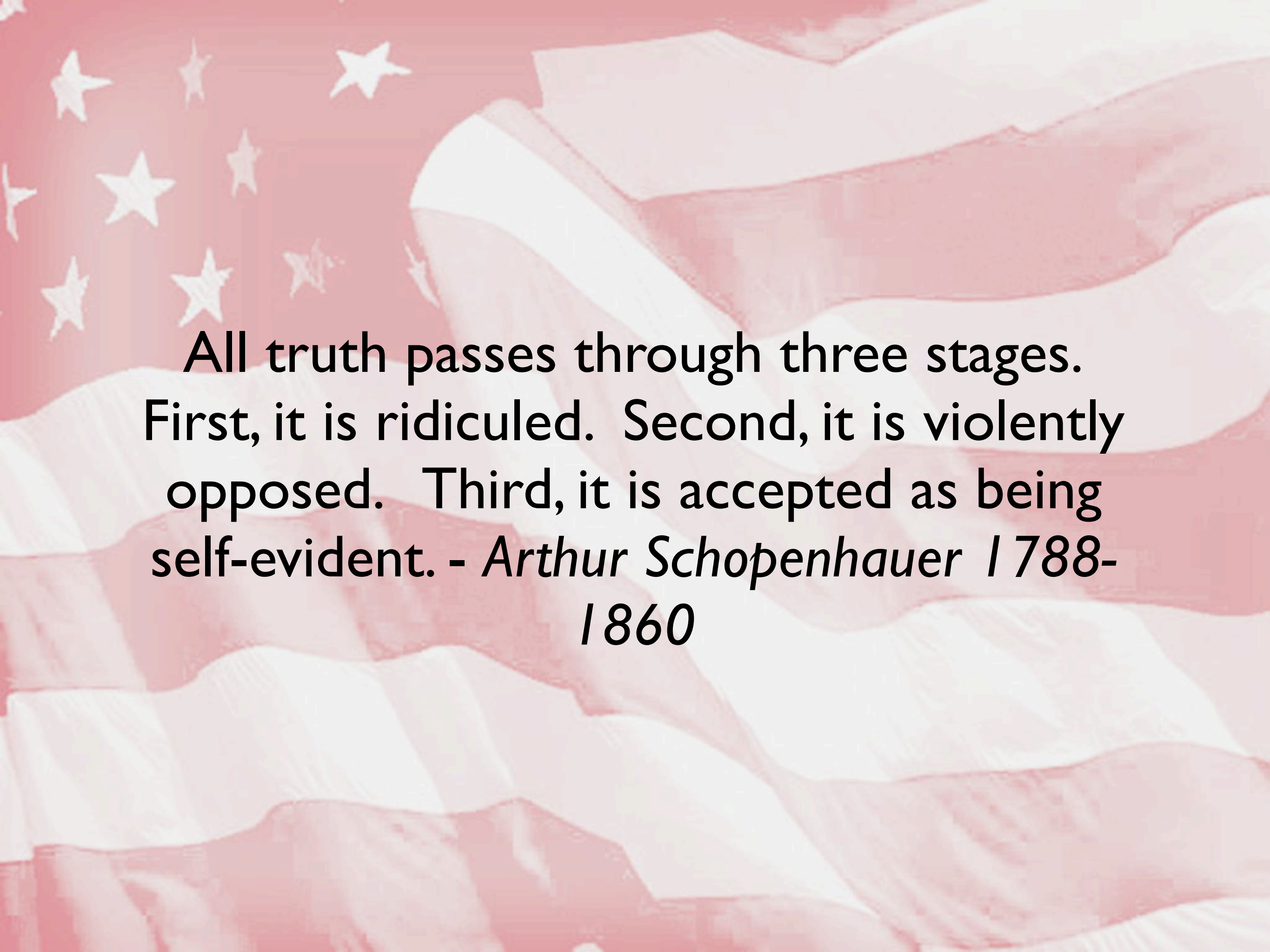
An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory.

- *Friedrich Engels 1820-1895*

- Write to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the U.S. (aka Kean Commission)
 - <http://www.9-11commission.gov/>
 - 301 7th St. SW, Room 5125, Washington, DC 20407
- Call or write your senator and representative
 - Find your senator or representative by going to <http://www.congress.org/>

So, what can you do?

- Write a letter to your hometown newspaper raising questions that are not being addressed by the Kean Commission
- Join an action-oriented organization like the one at <http://www.911visibility.org>
- March in the streets with signs questioning the official story
- Host an evening presentation for friends and family featuring Barrie Zwicker's video, "*The Great Deception*"
 - <http://www.viewerplus.com/Splash.asp?Stat=Vision>

The background of the image is a stylized, semi-transparent American flag. The stars are white and arranged in a grid pattern, while the stripes are a light red color. The flag appears to be waving or draped across the frame.

**All truth passes through three stages.
First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently
opposed. Third, it is accepted as being
self-evident. - *Arthur Schopenhauer 1788-
1860***