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World Civilization 1

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Research and Writing

Throughout history, huge shocks have challenged civilizations' resilience and capacity to adjust to change. Two notable disruptions that stand out in the contemporary period are the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the COVID-19 epidemic that raced over the globe in 2020. In this essay, I will examine these two events in terms of the disruption itself, people's reactions, and the ideals that arose as a result.

On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the assaults, including civilians, first responders, and military personnel. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States experienced a great sense of national togetherness and solidarity. People gathered together to mourn the deaths, support the victims' families, and express sympathy with one another. The slogan "United We Stand" became a national rallying cry.

However, in the aftermath of the assaults, there was also a sense of divisiveness. Some blamed Islam and Muslim Americans for the attacks, which resulted in an increase in hate crimes and discrimination against this minority. Furthermore, the government's response to the attacks was contentious and divided, including the invasion of Iraq, the Patriot Act, and the deployment of enhanced interrogation methods.

Patriotism, nationalism, and a sense of communal responsibility for national security developed as ideals in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. However, there was also an increase in fear, xenophobia, and a willingness to give up civil freedoms in the name of security.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, causing widespread illness, death, and disruption. The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, quickly spread to other countries and led to lockdowns, travel restrictions, and other measures to slow its spread.

In response to the epidemic, the United States had a varied reaction. Some individuals followed public health rules and took precautions to protect themselves and others, while others refused and rebelled. The reaction was frequently political, with some politicians downplaying the virus's seriousness and opposing steps to halt its spread.

Individualism, personal responsibility, and skepticism of authority and experts were among the ideals that arose in the aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic. There was also a strong sense of community and solidarity, with people banding together to help one another at a tough period.

Finally, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the COVID-19 outbreak were two big upheavals that put American society to the test. While these events contributed to a sense of national togetherness and solidarity, they also served to emphasize existing differences and tensions. Following these events, the ideals that formed represented a complicated combination of patriotism, terror, individualism, and community. As we confront new challenges and disruptions, it is critical that we learn from our mistakes and move toward a more inclusive, resilient, and compassionate society.

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