

Why Benghazi matters

Congressman Jason Chaffetz in his presentation on Benghazi had several objectives to portray and solidify in the minds of those who were present. I will discuss these points influenced by his opinion, then try and relate these to the terms and trends learned in the previous sections we have learned. Rep. Chaffetz approach on presenting was to provide a very simple outline of the events that occurred in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. He explores the 'before', 'during', and 'after', putting specific blame on the United States government for their lack of response to the situation which would result in 4 U.S. citizens being killed in the terrorist attack, which he believed could very easily been avoided.

Using the method of historical analysis Rep. Chaffetz explained the political climate of Benghazi, and why it was at it's current state of being through specific events. For example the United States helped N.A.T.O. to clean up the area of Benghazi, Libya a few years prior to the event through a military operation that would grant them the space needed to build an "Embassy" there. However once this embassy was erected, it would prove to be the target to 2 different terrorist attacks before the most devastating in September of 2012. Of these two attacks Rep. Chaffetz mentioned the lack of security, personnel, and follow-up on these attacks that were given. In fact, there was none. Alarmingly enough, there were also 2 separate attacks inflicted upon the Ambassador of Britain to Libya, and the Red Cross office. The difference, however, is that those separate attacks were clear enough signs of the unsafe conditions that they left. The United States would stay right where they were which would lead us to the fateful attack early in the morning on September 11, 2012.

Rep. Chaffetz being slightly short on time, and wanting to send home the main point was unable to go into profound detail of the event itself. He was however very keen on mentioning a few very important points he believed could have saved these people. The fact that there were multiple military bases in the proximity of an hour or so, and the response of relief took more than the amount of time it would for us, here in Orem, Utah to arrive to Benghazi. Not to mention that the attack itself was very brutal and that the establishment itself did not meet up to previously set regulations by the United States. We see with this attack which was premeditated by the Al Qaeda, is a clear witness of the radical hatred towards the United States as well as Christians.

Rep. Chaffetz was also quite upset with the aftermath of this event and with those feelings comes his main point, to make this known to the public. He wants justice to be served. The Obama administration has reacted to this event by simply saying it was not their fault, and that it was a 'hoax'. The congressman passionately described the amount of propaganda he feels the United States is selling its citizens on this subject and others. The climax of this whole event is interestingly the lack thereof. Simply nothing has been done, and currently it looks as if Rep. Chaffetz is one of few, if not the only seeking truth and justice to be done on this matter. In light of this event, presentation, and the knowledge learned previously in our chapters of International Relations its becoming very clear the advantages of utilizing the different methods at our disposal. With a historical point of view we can draw conclusions that this was, or could have been foreseen by the already well known terrorist

attacks that have come from our presence in the Middle East. To look at this from a Behavioral point of view, there was also plenty of evidence given where specific events recorded protests of Americans even being in Libya. Thus we see that the techniques of International Relations could have played a role with the information which was given, had an acceptance by those in power, acted.

Personally, having been able to attend a presentation dealing directly with International Relations has opened my eyes to how we truly can foresee events by looking in the past, by looking at the cultural climate, and of course by watching the daily unfolding of events in a specific area. Also with how a Democracy in its modern day and age almost never is in accord with itself, causing these sorts of problems to take a longer amount of time to be acted upon and resolved. My hope is that through continued study of current events, application of methods used in current International Relations class, I may one day be able to come to a position where I can help avoid a future problem, thanks to the tools and knowledge I've obtained through these studies.

Graham Miller, UVU student with Major in Political Science