

A Regional Tragedy

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The Mumbai ordeal is finally over, but the recriminations have just started. Where did the terrorists really come from, what were their objectives and more importantly what does this mean for South Asia and the subcontinent? The incident has been dubbed India's 9/11 but will the response be the same as America's? One hopes not, but from the outset it seem both India believes in the Bush Doctrine just as much as the man himself.

Right after 9/11 all eyes were on the States and Bush did not disappoint, he gave the grieving world a wake up call that will be remembered well after he passes away. He trained his sights on Al-Qaeda and then Osama Bin Laden. His make believe paper trial then led him to Iraq where his policy of pre-emptive action was used to its fullest and ultimately horrendously damaging effects. Ravi Shankar Prasad, a Member of Parliament from the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party has even been quoted as saying, "It (the attack) is an Indian variant of 9/11, and today India needs to respond the way America did." While the Bush Doctrine believes in pre-emptive attacks, that attack took the form harsh and questionable words from the Indian government. The verbal attack was as vicious as the American military was on Iraq, and the results could prove to be just as damaging.

Less than 18 hours after the attacks started, the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh claimed that the attacks probably had a foreign hand and we all know too well whose hand he is pointing at. India has long blamed Pakistan its apparent militants for attacks in India and by pinning this, the boldest attack on Indian soil ever; he has done more than just stoke a fire, he has essentially put diplomacy on the far end of the table. That is not to say that there will be a war between the nations, but a war like atmosphere has been created and that does not bode well for the region. What prompted Manmohan Singh to make such outrageous comments? Well firstly it went down well with an Indian public that readily blames Pakistan for its terrorist problems and it also deflected attention away from the India's inept