

The “two hours that shook the world” stripped away a belief in American and continental inviolability. (“Some time ago technology and globalization turned that safe and separate ‘city on the hill’ into an illusion, but it was one we still believed in”³¹). With a sense of “home” safety gone, there were immediate ramifications for the diplomatic, military, intelligence and political fields—not to mention the American psyche. While not everything has changed³², life in the United States—and indeed the world—will never be quite the same again.

The border crisis in the wake of September 11th fits into the category of “mini-shock.” This particular “mini shock” jolted the Canadian economy and Canadian perspectives by precipitating lengthy delays at ports of entry and forcing some Canadian plants to temporarily reduce or shut down production. While conditions at the border improved within days, the desire to avoid any repeat of the situation gave sharp focus to creating and preserving physical and economic security at the border.

³¹ Jessica T. Mathews, “September 11, One Year Later: A World of Change,” *Policy Brief*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Special Edition 18 (August 2002).

³² In the words of Fred Halliday, “There are two frequent responses to any great historical event, both inappropriate if not downright mistaken: to say that everything has changed and to say that nothing has changed. This was true of the earlier watersheds in the modern history of the world: 1914, 1939, more recently the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990. In some respects, society and relations between states went on as before. Beneath a rhetoric of change, states and people went on dealing, trading and living. Indeed, the very drama of these events, even as they precipitated people forward into a new world and into physical and psychological displacement, also drew people back to earlier themes and issues: love and hatred, fear and solidarity, enmities and causes half buried by what seemed to be progress, classic texts of politics, religion, poetry.” Fred Halliday, *Two Hours that Shook the World, September 11, 2001: Causes & Consequences* (London: Saqi Books, 2002), 213.