

The original bibliography, drawn up quickly in the week after the attack, led concerned readers to books on subjects ranging from Terrorism, the World Trade Center, and Emergency Management to International Law, the Islamic Religion, the Middle East and Central Asia, and Religious and Political Fundamentalisms. The new Books for Understanding: September 11, 2001 retains many of the same subject areas—reflecting the areas of greatest public interest in those early days.

A new bibliographic section, “After September 11,” presents the many works of research, analysis, and reflection that university presses have since published, expanding our understanding of what happened that day and how it has affected the world.

Among the scholarly and general interest titles in the bibliography are:


• Bagpipe Brothers: The FDNY Band’s True Story of Tragedy, Mourning, and Recovery, by Kerry Sheridan (Rutgers University Press, 2003). Another title of importance in 2001, Twin Towers by Angus Kress Gillespie, was published by Rutgers.

• Before the Next Attack: Preserving Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism, by Bruce Ackerman (Yale University Press, 2006).


• Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad by Natana J. Delong-Bas (Oxford University Press, 2004).

The Books for Understanding program was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director
of Penn State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. “University and scholarly publishers are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to understanding new and difficult situations,” said Peter Givler, AAUP Executive Director, on the posting of the list in 2001. “One of our core missions is to serve society and scholarship through the dissemination of basic research and analysis – as well as promoting works that assist in the understanding of cultures, policies, and historical consequences throughout the world.”

The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of university presses, provides cooperative marketing opportunities, and helps its members respond to the changing economy and publishing environment. These presses are active across the United States and abroad, and publish in a range of scholarly disciplines including the humanities, arts, science and technology, and social sciences.