Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror
Episode: "The System Was Blinking Red"

This episode focuses on the events leading up to the attacks. This episode explores the failures of intelligence agencies to connect the dots and prevent the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Pre-Attack Environment
1. What were some of the early warning signs and intelligence reports that indicated a potential threat from al-Qaeda before 9/11?

2. How were these warning signs interpreted by different intelligence and law enforcement agencies?

3. What challenges existed in sharing information between agencies?

4. Who were the key figures and organizations involved in the counterterrorism efforts leading up to 9/11?

5. What were the perceived weaknesses in US intelligence and security at the time?

Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda
6. What insights does the documentary offer into Osama bin Laden's motivations and the development of al-Qaeda?

7. How did al-Qaeda's operations and planning evolve leading up to the 9/11 attacks?

Key Missed Opportunities and Failures

8. The title "The System Was Blinking Red" implies warning signals were present but ignored. What specific instances of missed opportunities or intelligence failures are highlighted in the episode?

9. What role did the lack of a cooperative counterterrorism strategy play in the inability to prevent the attacks?

10. How did the US government's initial response to terrorism prior to 9/11 compare to what happened afterward?

11. How do old recordings and interviews help the viewer understand the chaos of that day? Provide 1 Example.

12. What lesson does this episode teach us about preventing future attacks?