



AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

Peter Bergen: So, when I tried to answer the “why” question, I found that there was usually five elements. One was opposition to American foreign policy. The other one was the desire to belong to something bigger than yourself, which is why people join the Marines or why people—you know, we all want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. There’s also a desire to be a hero in your own story. Everybody wants to be a hero in their own story in some shape or form. There’s a desire to—there’s sometimes a cognitive opening, which is what NYPD called it in their report in 2007, to militant Islam, which can be the death of a parent, loss of a job, feelings that you are being discriminated against. So these are some of the “why” things you can point to. But—

Clifford Chanin, Executive Vice President and Deputy Director for Museum Programs at the 9/11 Memorial Museum: But many people go through that and—

Peter Bergen: Exactly.

Clifford Chanin: —don't take the jump.

Peter Bergen: Exactly. So, lots of people object to American foreign policy. Lots of people have things that go wrong in their lives. Lots of people join something other than a jihadi group. Lots of people find ways to be heroes in their own story without doing something like this. But those were the commonalities in a lot of these cases.