

# [I believe that...]

The chapter begins with a powerful statement from William J. Crow Jr., the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asserting that Iran holds principal responsibility for a tragic accident, emphasizing the actions of Iran as the proximate cause. This statement reflects the gravity of the incident in question, highlighting the complex geopolitical tensions surrounding it.

In stark contrast, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati counters this claim by attributing the barbaric massacre of innocent passengers to the United States, presenting a narrative that positions Iran as a victim of foreign aggression. This exchange encapsulates the broader discourse surrounding accountability and blame in this tumultuous period, revealing deep-seated animosities and the differing perspectives that fuel ongoing conflicts.

The term "barbaric," defined in the text to originate from ancient Greek, further underscores the historical and cultural connotations of perceived brutality and moral decay attributed to foreign adversaries. This etymology indicates a long-standing pattern of demonization that often accompanies international disputes, framing the involved parties not merely as adversaries but as embodiments of moral and ethical decay in the eyes of the other.

Overall, the chapter captures a moment in time where the narratives surrounding tragic events are entangled in nationalistic rhetoric and historical grievances. It allows readers to glean insight into the dynamics of blame that often obscure the complexities of international relations and the human cost involved in such tragic events. The contrasting views from American and Iranian leaders illustrate the difficulty in arriving at a consensus on accountability, while the term "barbaric" serves as a poignant reminder of the linguistic and psychological tools employed in the articulation of national identity and morality.

Through this examination, the text invites reflection on the broader implications of such tragedies, not merely as incidents with immediate casualties but as events laden with historical significance, national identity, and the often polarized narratives that define them.