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Auszug aus:

*America and the Fear of Terrorism - The Boston Terrorist
Attacks (April 15th, 2013)*

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**Titel:**

Arbeitsblatt aus der Reihe „School-Scout – aktuell“

America and the Fear of Terrorism – The Boston Terrorist Attacks (April 15th, 2013)**Bestellnummer:****Kurzvorstellung:**

- Dieses englischsprachige Arbeitsblatt für den direkten Einsatz im Unterricht befasst sich mit den Terroranschlägen beim Boston Marathon vom 15. April 2013. Die Terroranschläge und der Umgang der amerikanischen Öffentlichkeit und Politik werden in diesem Material anhand von Aufgaben analysiert.
- Die Terroranschläge gaben jedoch auch den Ausschlag zu einer erneuten Debatte zur Sicherheit bei Großveranstaltungen. Auch in Deutschland nahmen Politiker und Medien dieses Thema auf. Die Schüler sollen hier Argumente für und gegen ein Mehr an staatlicher Überwachung gegenüberstellen.
- Komplettiert wird das Arbeitsblatt durch das Transskript der Rede von US-Präsident Barack Obama zum Gedenkgottesdienst für die Opfer von Boston.

Inhaltsübersicht:

- 1. Terror at the Boston Marathon
- 2. Investigation and Manhunt
- 3. America after the Bombings
- 4. Public Surveillance and Security
- Barack Obama's speech at the memorial service
- Ausführliche Lösungshinweise



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The manhunt that followed their identification led to partial lockdown of some areas of Boston. Killing a police officer during their escape and leaving another one injured, Tamerlan Tsarnaev was finally brought to a hospital after an exchange of fire where he was pronounced dead. Being suspected to be in the area of the suburb Watertown, his younger brother Dzhokar Tsarnaev was surrounded by authorities on April 19th and brought to the hospital after suffering from gunshot wounds.

The chase of the Tsarnaev brothers was one of the biggest in US history and paralyzed one of the largest metropolitan areas in the east coast for more than a day. In total, more than 9,000 police officers, FBI agents and Swat team members swept the streets for the two suspects. Local and national media, as well as various social media outlets such as *Twitter* or *Facebook* fueled hysteria concerning the chase of the two suspects by constant updates. The manhunt for Dzhokar Tsarnaev in particular, which led to a complete lockdown of Watertown, turned the streets into a warzone with a massive contingent of tanks, military personnel, and snipers. Since many stores were unable to open due to the lockdown, the consequences of the bombing could also be felt economically.

3. *Who was actually involved in the manhunt? Describe their procedure to capture the two suspects.*

3. America after the Bombings

The terrorist attack of Boston is the first severe attack on American soil since 9/11. Although far less people have been injured and killed in the attack, the bombings left Americans mourning and in deep sadness. Whereas the aftermath of 9/11 was predominantly characterized by anger and



President Obama addressing the Boston terrorist attacks
(commons.wikimedia.org / White House)

patriotism, President Obama stressed to await the results of the police investigation before making assumptions about who is to blame for the deaths and injuries.

Attending a memorial service in Boston, Obama gave a speech that outside the US was conceived as ‘American optimism’ in the face of fear and terror. According to Obama, mourning those who have died can only be done by not allowing terrorists to control American public life. Sport events like the

Boston marathon must continue in the future to uphold strength and courage in the face of cowardly attacks.

4. *Read the speech that Barack Obama gave at the memorial service in Boston.¹ Summarize some of the main points that Obama stresses in his speech.*

¹ See appendix for transcript of speech.

Appendix: Transcript of Barack Obama's speech at the memorial service

- On Monday morning, the sun rose over Boston. The sunlight glistened off the State House Dome. In the commons, in the public garden, spring was in bloom. On this Patriot's Day, like so many before, fans
- 5 jumped onto the T to see the Sox at Fenway. In Hopkinton, runners laced up their shoes and set out on a 26.2-mile test of dedication and grit and the human spirit.
- And across this city, hundreds of thousands Bostonians lined the streets to hand the runners cups of water, to cheer them on. It was a beautiful day to be in Boston, a day that explains why a poet once wrote that this town is not just a capital, not just a place. Boston, he said, is the perfect state of grace.
- 10 And then, in an instant, the day's beauty was shattered. A celebration became a tragedy. And so we come together to pray and mourn and measure our loss. But we also come together today to reclaim that state of grace, to reaffirm that the spirit of this city is undaunted and the spirit of the country shall remained undimmed.
- To Governor Patrick, Mayor Menino, Cardinal O'Malley and all the faith leaders who are here, governors
- 15 Romney, Swift, Weld and Dukakis, members of Congress, and most of all, the people of Boston and the families who've lost a piece of your heart, we thank you for your leadership. We thank you for your courage. We thank you for your grace.
- I'm here today on behalf of the American people with a simple message.
- Every one of us has been touched by this attack on your beloved city. Every one of us stands with you.
- 20 Because, after all, it's our beloved city, too.
- Boston may be your hometown but we claim it, too. It's one of America's iconic cities. It's one of the world's great cities. And one of the reason(s), the world knows Boston so well is that Boston opens its heart to the world.
- Over successive generations, you've welcomed again and again new arrivals to our shores; immigrants who
- 25 constantly reinvigorated this city and this commonwealth and our nation. Every fall, you welcome students from all across America and all across the globe. And every spring, you graduate them back into the world - a Boston diaspora that excels in every field of human endeavor.
- Year after year, you welcome the greatest talents in the arts, in science, research. You welcome them to your concert halls and your hospitals and your laboratories to exchange ideas and insights that draw this
- 30 world together.
- And every third Monday in April, you welcome people from all around the world to the hub for friendship and fellowship and healthy competition - a gathering of men and women of every race and every religion, every shape and every size - a multitude represented by all those flags that flew over the finish line.
- 35 So whether folks come here to Boston for just a day, or they stay here for years, they leave with a piece of this town tucked firmly into their hearts. So Boston's your home town, but we claim it a little bit too. I know this - I know this because there's a piece of Boston in me. You welcomed me as a young law student across the river - welcomed Michelle too. You welcomed me - you welcomed me during a convention when I was still a state senator and very few people could pronounce my name right.
- 40 Like you, Michelle and I have walked these streets. Like you, we know these neighborhoods. And like you, in this moment of grief, we join you in saying: Boston, you're my home. For millions of us, what happened in Monday is personal. It's personal.
- Today our prayers are with the Campbell family of Medford. They're here today. Their daughter Krystle was always smiling. Those who knew her said that with her red hair and her freckles and her ever-eager
- 45 willingness to speak her mind, she was beautiful, sometimes she could be a little noisy, and everybody loved her for it. She would have turned 30 next month. As her mother said, through her tears, this doesn't make any sense.

- 95 And that's what the perpetrators of such senseless violence, these small, stunted individuals who would destroy instead of build and think somehow that makes them important - that's what they don't understand.
- Our faith in each other, our love for each other, our love for country, our common creed that cuts across whatever superficial differences there may be, that is our power. That's our strength. That's why a bomb
- 100 can't beat us. That's why we don't hunker down. That's why we don't cower in fear.
- We carry on. We race. We strive. We build and we work and we love and we raise our kids to do the same. And we come together to celebrate life and to walk our cities and to cheer for our teams when the Sox, then Celtics, then Patriots or Bruins are champions again, to the chagrin of New York and Chicago fans. The crowds will gather and watch a parade go down Boylston Street. And this time next year on the third
- 105 Monday in April, the world will return to this great American city to run harder than ever and to cheer even louder for the 118th Boston Marathon.
- Bet on it.
- Tomorrow the sun will rise over Boston. Tomorrow the sun will rise over the - this country that we love, this special place, this state of grace.
- 110 Scripture tells us to run with endurance the race that is set before us. As we do, may God hold close those who've been taken from us too soon, may he comfort their families and may he continue to watch over these United States of America.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10004466/Boston-marathon-bombs-transcript-of-Barack-Obamas-speech.html>

2. *What do you know about Boston? What role does the city play in American history?*

- Boston is one of the oldest cities in the United States
- International centre for higher education; many colleges and universities (most popular one is the University of Harvard)
- Scene to several of the key events in the American Revolution: Boston Massacre; Boston Tea Party; Siege of Boston; thus the City of Boston has played a crucial role in American battle for independence

3. *Who was actually involved in the manhunt? Describe their procedure to capture the two suspects.*

- Many law enforcement agencies were involved in the manhunt: FBI, CIA, NSA; Boston Police Department
- Analysis of the actual crime scene; analysis of thousands of photos and video material
- Taskforce asked the public to get involved and help to identify the two suspects
- Boston was under lockdown with no public transportation; people were advised to stay inside and not to open doors; no trains would arrive or leave Boston so the suspects could not leave the city

4. *Read the speech that Barack Obama gave at the memorial service in Boston. Summarize some of the main points Obama stresses in his speech.*

- President speaks on behalf of all American people who all offer condolences to the victims of the bombings and their families
- Boston is considered to be an “iconic city”; Boston as a city that welcomes many students every year
- President talks about his time as a student in Boston; he stresses that the bombing at the marathon is therefore personal for him and millions of others as well
- Obama addressed those who are injured and promised them that they will be able to run again
- Americans won’t be terrorized; especially not in Boston
- Answer to hatred and terror: friendship, love and compassion; a free and open society will only grow stronger
- Obama praises those who have helped the injured and opened their homes to “total strangers”
- Obama urges American public to carry on with their lives and continue to attend sport events like the Boston Marathon



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