English

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<u>Discuss events that have changed the world, such as, 9/11, COVID-19 pandemic. Write your own personal "before' and "after" story, or do a personal reflection on events which have changed the direction of your life.</u>

There are many events in human history that have affected all of us. The First and the Second World War, the attack on the Twin Towers and the COVID-19 pandemic for example. All of those events changed or will change our behavior, our actions and our way of thinking.

Before the First World War, most people were confident and maybe a little megalomaniac, but during the war they also got to know its dark side. Many people lost friends and relatives, were driven out of their homes and had to give up their freedom. This time was oppressive and horrendous for the most humans. After the wars were over, there was relief and joy. This event caused that at the beginning of the Second World War, more and more people refused to serve in the army. The hippie culture came into being. The Second World War had a bigger impact than the first one. Large areas were bombed and millions of people were killed by bombs and guns. After this war, everyone tried to keep peace. Money had to be paid for reparations, and monuments are still stationed to commemorate this terrible time. Many people changed their mindset and became more open to other cultures or countries. The National Socialists were seen as evil and many people fought for the fight against racism. Nevertheless, many people still had racist views. There are, of course, people who have kept their old ways of thinking or changed differently.

The terrorist mass murder on September 11, 2001 is another event that has changed the world. Before the attack, people knew of many different attacks, but never those with so many deaths. Such an attack seemed inconceivably and even impossible. You felt safe and didn't noticed the threats. I wasn't alive at this time, but I know from other people that they couldn't believe the terrible news when they heard them. Over time, they realized that the attack was real. They were shocked and many people grieved. Even today, a memorial can be found at this place to commemorate the dead. From this moment on, the terror networks were taken more and more seriously. Some people no longer felt safe when they walked through large crowds and were afraid that they would become a victim of a terrorist attack. In addition, many foreign-looking people were insulted after the attack because the terrorists were Muslims. That is why the US president George Bush demanded for more tolerance. This attack also strengthened the common ground. (Meaning) Civilians tried to help those affected by the attacks with donations or other gestures. In many countries there were minutes of silence, funerals and demonstrations against hate. People from all over the countries mourned together. Combating discrimination has become an important and major issue.

I was not alive during the world wars and this attack, but I was and I am still alive during the COVID-19 pandemic. This event also seemed impossible. There was no worry about any viruses that could affect the whole world. Even as the virus spread, I still believed that it would be gone soon. I can remember that when the schools were closed, I still thought that everything would be back to normal after the Easter holidays. Now I hope that we can return to normality next year. The time in quarantine influenced me a lot. I could not meet my friends and had to stay in the house. As a result, you learn more and more to appreciate the little things and to get by with less. Although school was not my favorite place before, I am always happy when I can visit it now. I can finally see my friends again and can also work more concentrated. I also learned to become more organized through homeschooling and to better organize my work assignments. I found new ways to deal with the restrictions. For example, I call my friends more often, which I've rarely done before. I also ride my

bike more often, which I want to continue after the pandemic. In general, I think that everyone is becoming more and more dependent on electronic devices.

After the pandemic, I think a lot will change. People will be more digital, take diseases more seriously and generally appreciate smaller things more. Furthermore, I also hope that domestic flights will no longer be possible after this time because you can meet via video conference. This is cheaper and also more environmentally friendly.

To conclude you can say that there have been many events in the past and that there will be many events in the future that will affect the whole world. Although these events are usually associated with bad memories, they also have advantages. Through them, you hold more together and you learn to deal better with such a situation.