

Nothing exemplifies this more than how Japan responded following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States or how the United States responded to the terrible tragedy of the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.

The effects of 9/11 and 3/11 will continue to be felt for many years to come. Those effects, however, are not just the pain and suffering caused by man and nature, but the much more enduring bonds of human kinship that we see strengthened whenever nations seize the opportunity to lend a hand in times of need. For the United States and Japan, the cataclysm and the response reminded us of how interconnected we are as people, and how important we are to each other. Whatever else may change in the world around us, our commitment to one another and our cooperation are our common destiny.

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