What actually happened behind the scenes of the 9/11 attack? There are a number of unanswered questions according to Michael Moor’s documentary *Fahrenheit 911*. One of the most significant questions is the actions of the former President, George W. Bush’s. Did he do everything he could to stop the terrorist? There are a many people that are still confused about what really happened during the 9/11 attack. Michael Moor’s documentary *Fahrenheit 911* was written and produced for the purpose of answering these questions. In the introduction, Moore talked about President Bush’s life before he was president. He explained, in detail about his connections with other important world leaders. He also stated that Bush had a definite advantage, because his father had previously served as the president. Next, Moore went on to talk about how Bush got elected. He also talked about what he did while in office, before the 9/11 attack. He clearly explained the reasons why he thought Bush was not a qualified president. Bush was in office for 8 months when the 9/11 attack happened and when it did, he did not respond immediately to the assault. Moore also stated in great detail that the actions Bush did and did not take to respond to the 9/11 attack; he also revealed many unknown facts to the world and believed the truth was hidden about what actually happened. In the documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Michael Moor argued that when George W. Bush became president it was a massive mistake for the people of the United States through examples that gave viewers an emotional response to Bush’s actions.

Before becoming the 43rd president Bush went into the Texas Air National Guard and after, he went into the oil business. The funding for his business was by a friend he met while in the National Guard whose name was James R. Bath. Bath was the person who was “…hired by the bin Laden family to manage their money in Texas and invest in businesses” (*Fahrenheit 9/11)*. Moore added this in his documentary to get rage out of his viewers. Before 9/11 Bush had ties with someone who had direct contact with the bin-Ladens. This is not the only connect he had. Both Bush and his father worked for the Carlyle Group which was“…the same company that counted the bin-Laden family among its investors” (*Fahrenheit 9/11*). Not only did Bush have outside connections but he also had direct connection. Moore included multiple connections Bush had with the bin-Laden family. The purpose of this was to have his viewers feel rage and anger towards Bush and this allows the views to side with Moore on his opinion about Bush as a president. Knowing that the president had a direct connection with the people involved in the tragic event of 9/11 will make people very irritated at Bush. Knowing that the president could have been involved in the murder of over 3,000 people is upsetting to the people and causes them to feel angry about the situation.

Bush also took a position at Harken Energy before he became president. It is said that the reason he was offered this job was not because he was good at his job, but because at that time his father was president. “When you’re the president’s son and you’ve got unlimited access combined with some credentials form prior campaign in Washington, D.C., people tend to respect that. Access is Power” (*Fahrenheit 9/11*). Bush got the job working for Harken Energy because the company knew that if anything were to go wrong for any reason, they would be bailed out of the problem because they had the president’s son working for them. This point is intended to spark angry because American workers are not just “bailed out” when they make a mistake and I is unfair and unjust that Bush was. When Bush was working for Harken Energy, he was advised not to sell any of the stock and only one week later Bush sold $848,000 of Harken’s stock. This is an emotional effect to the viewers because people lose their jobs every day. They lose their jobs for not following the rules, or they may lose their jobs for lack of work. Meanwhile, Bush was able to do whatever he wanted and get away with it. To American citizens this is upsetting because people work very hard every day to support themselves and their families. Some live in constant fear of losing their jobs while Bush can get away with anything and not be punished. Bush clearly took advantage of the situation.

Bush also had connections in winning the election. Some say that the only reason Bush won the election was because of his father. How is this fair to the America people? The election was between George W. Bush and Al Gore and whoever won the electoral votes from the state of Florida won the election. The first announcement was made by CNN saying Al Gore had won the state of Florida. Later, Fox News made the statement that the winner of Florida was George Bush. Once Fox made this announcement all the other channels started to retract their statement and announce it was a mistake that they announce Al Gore had won the actual winner was George Bush. Bush was confident in winning the state of Florida and some wonder if the only reason Florida was called in Bush’s favor was because his brother was the governor of the state. His brother being the governor of Florida and his father being president should have no effect on him winning the election. Moore talks about the family ties Bush had and the reasons Bush may not have truly won the election to play with the viewer’s emotions. To know that the president should not be president is upsetting especially for the Americans that voted for the other candidate. Moore researched and stated ways Bush could have altered the outcome of the election. He also makes the point that Bush cannot be trusted because if he fixed the election. Perhaps he would do anything to better himself? This was added by Moore to also have the viewers lose trust in Bush.

The first eight months that Bush was in office was extremely stressful for him and a lot of things went wrong so the president went on vacation, a lot. It is said that in the first eight months of Bush being in office he was on vacation “…42 percent of the time” (*Fahrenheit 9/11*). Approximately half of the first eight months that Bush was president he was enjoying himself, not working to help the American people. How is this fair to Americans that work everyday of their life to support their families? Most Americans take one if any vacations per year, and the president went on a vacation for approximately four months out of eight. This fact causes the viewer to have an emotion of annoyance because the one person that is running our country is on vacation just as much as he is working. This is one reason for the viewers to side with Moore’s view that Bush was not a very good president.

The most important piece of information that Moore added to his documentary was about Bush’s previous knowledge about the 9/11 attack. On August 6, 2001 Bush was given a security briefing that stated that “Osama bin Laden was planning to attack America by hijacking airplanes” (*Fahrenheit 9/11*). This information was titled "Bin Laden Determined to Attack Inside the United States." Now the question is why Bush did not take any action to this information immediately. Bush simply ignored this statement and a month later the America people paid the unlimited price for Bush’s decision. On September 11, 2001 the United States of America was under attack. Bin Laden did exactly as he warned and attacked the United States twin towers of the World Trade Center by hijacking America plans killing over 3,000 innocent people and maybe all this could have been avoided if Bush paid more attention to his job and was working more than 58 percent of the time. This strikes various emotions to the viewer’s feelings. They feel things such as anger, betrayal, and sadness. How could the president ignore something so big? Maybe it was because it was someone he knew on the title of that security briefing. There are many questions going through the viewer’s minds makes them upset and wonder why 9/11 was not stopped. Moore planned to do just that and he put this information in the documentary knowing that is would cause the viewers to feel many different emotions towards Bush after knowing this.

After the tragic event Bush should have done a lot of things differently and put more effort into his job, but he didn’t. There are many things that Bush did not do while in office. When the 9/11 attack happened many were upset and angry, the United States of America wanted justice and this could have been done by finding the attacker and punishing him for his actions. America citizens wanted this done right away because they were hurt and afraid. Bush should have started the investigation right away, but he didn’t. President Bush waited nearly a month before he began looking into the 9/11 attack. Could this be because of his direct ties with terrorist or his past experiences with James R. Bath? The one thing that America wanted was to have justice and know that the people responsible for the attack would be caught and punish accordingly, but Bush choose to the situation for a month. What better way to make the America people upset then to ignore a tragic event that killed over 3,000 people including children, parents, grandparents. The heart breaking even just took place and Bush chose to not do anything about it at first.

In Fahrenheit 9/11 Moore gave terrific examples and proved his statements with facts that he did his research on. Any statement he gave was backed up with supporting evidence. Moore’s documentary was base on George W. Bush and his failures as a president and used emotion to convince the viewers of his argument. He gave examples throughout the entire movie of things Bush did and did not do during his presidency that made his a “…lame-duck president” (*Fahrenheit 9/11*). Moore’s argument was well presented and he made many of his points interesting in an entertaining manner that kept his audience interested the whole time.

The movie Fahrenheit 9/11 was a documentary based on the September 11th attack, and how Bush did nothing to prevent this from happening. Bush did not pursue and chase the person responsible for the attack after it happened. The argument about the 9/11 attack and what really happened was presented in an educational manner. Moore’s emotional affects of the viewers causes them to be angry and upset with the things Bush did and allows them to see that Bush was not a good president.

Work Cited

*Michael Moore, Fahrenheit 9/11, 2004*