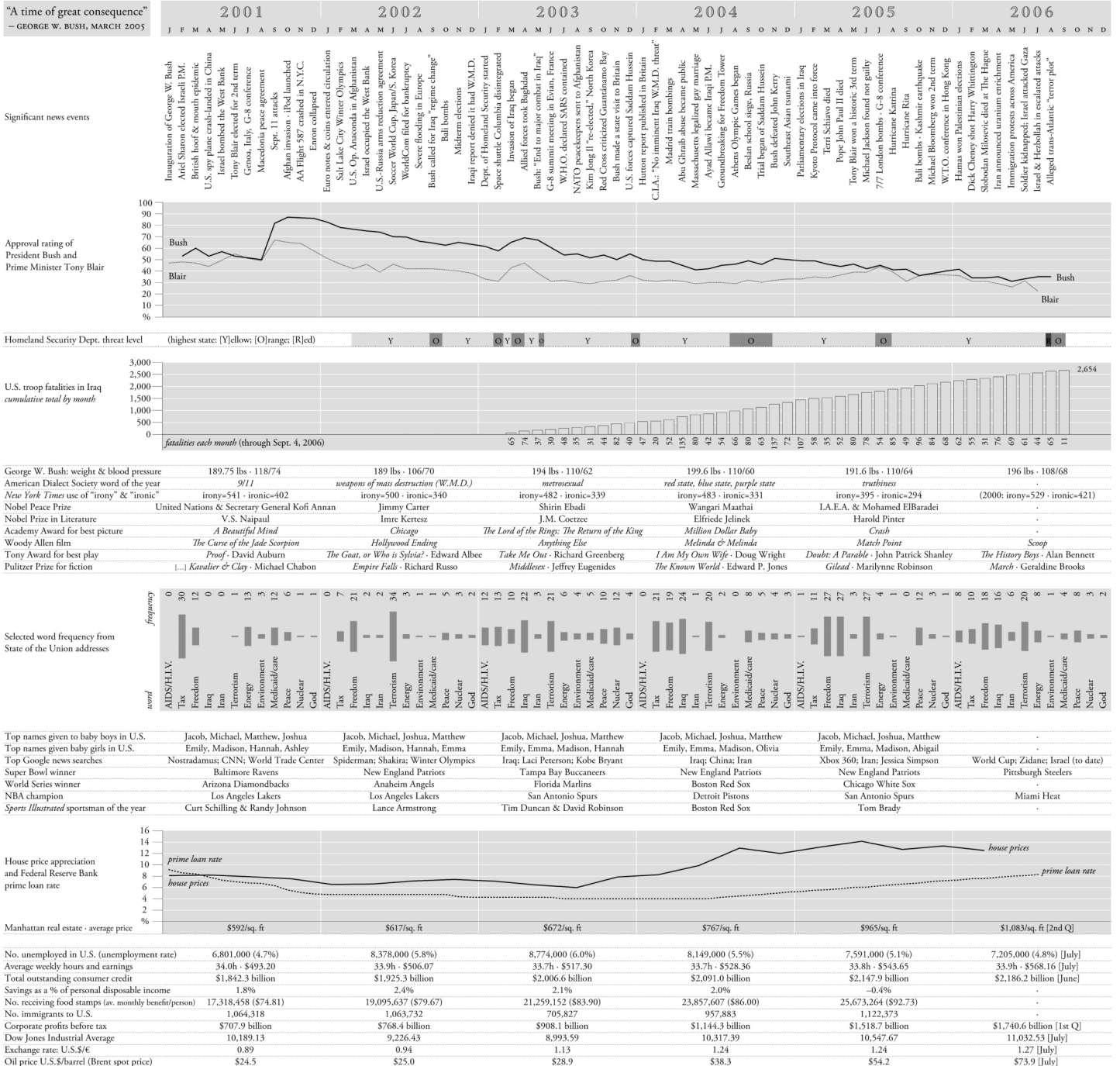


Five Years of Consequence

It's been nearly five years since 9/11, but it seems like a lifetime. Certainly, a lifetime's worth of events for America and the world — elections and insurgencies, hurricanes and tsunamis, attacks and threats of attack — have unfolded with such speed that it can be hard to sort through, or even recall, everything of consequence. The chart below is an attempt, admittedly selective and incomplete, to survey the first five years of our post-9/11 world — a world that is certainly new, though not always brave.



Debate & dispute surround some entries. Approval rating of Bush, source: *New York Times*/CBS News Poll: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?" Approval rating of Blair, source: Mori: "Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr. Blair is doing his job?" Homeland Security threat level varies by area; for details see www.dhs.gov. U.S. troop deaths in Iraq, source: Dept. of Defense, the Brookings Institution. *New York Times* use of "irony" and "ironic" based on a search of its electronic archive. Bush's weight and blood pressure are taken from White House reports of his annual physicals. Most popular baby names, source: U.S. Social Security Administration. Word frequency is analyzed from White House transcripts of Bush's State of the Union addresses and, in 2001, his budget message before a joint session of Congress. Word counts is calculated using all relevant iterations of a word, for example: "tax" includes "rates", "taxpayer(s)", "taxcut(s)", "taxation", etc. Google searches use slightly different selection criteria for some years, source: Google. House price appreciation data from same quarter one year earlier, source: Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight. Manhattan real estate prices for average 8 per square foot for co-ops and condos, source: Prudential Douglas Elliman. Unemployment is for >16's as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Average weekly hours and earnings are in current \$, total private nonagricultural. Food stamps is for average participation in the fiscal year, source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Immigration figures for legal permanent residents, source: Office of Immigration Statistics. Other financial indicators from the Federal Reserve, the Economic Indicators of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, and the British Treasury.