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# Parallels between New York, Boston Marathon terrorist bombings

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REUTERS

**New York City bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami (left) and Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.**

By **Matt Rocheleau**

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There are several parallels between the [terrorist bombing in New York City](#) and attempted bombings in New Jersey this past weekend, and the terrorist bombing at the [Boston Marathon in 2013](#).

Here are some:

- The use of pressure cookers and backpacks — In both cases, makeshift bombs were planted by filling pressure cookers with shrapnel. Backpacks were believed to be used to transport the explosive devices.
- Manhunt, surveillance video, public release of photo, shootout with police — In both cases, police spent hours on edge, reviewing surveillance footage to help them in the search for suspects, then later released photos and asked for tips from the public, ultimately ending their pursuit only after a gunfight.



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- Suspects were in their 20s, born in foreign countries, but immigrated here and became citizens or permanent residents — The 28-year-old suspect in the New York case, a naturalized US citizen, was born in Afghanistan. One of the Boston bombers, who was born in Kyrgyzstan, had become a naturalized citizen, while the other, who was born in Russia, was a permanent resident seeking US citizenship.
- Overseas trips were made by suspects prior to the attacks — In the New York case, the suspect had made a series of trips to Pakistan in recent years, and potentially to Afghanistan, too. And some friends have said his personality changed noticeably upon his return, becoming more serious and religiously devout. In the Boston case, one of the bombers had made multiple trips to Russia and seemed to grow increasingly religious and radical upon return.

It remained unclear Tuesday whether the alleged New York bomber was aware of, or inspired by, the

## Boston attack — or whether he came up with his plan on his own.

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