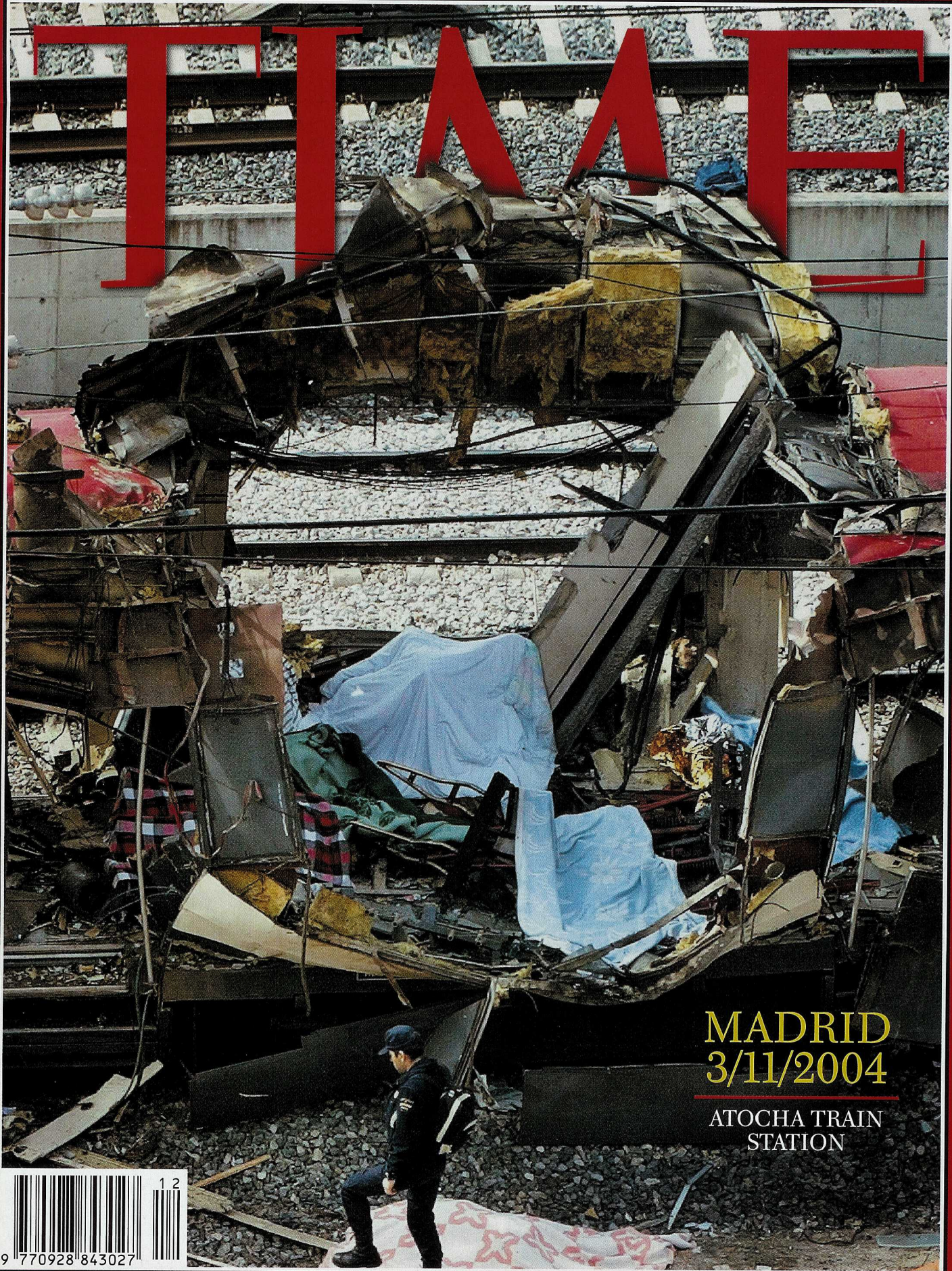


# TIME



## MADRID 3/11/2004

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 CHILE (include tax) ..... \$3,900.00  
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**MASS PROTESTS**  
Mourners in Madrid's Cibeles Square; across Spain, millions took to the streets



**“It is a response to your collaboration with the criminals Bush and his allies. There will be more if God wills it. You love life, and we love death.”** —TAPE FOUND NEAR A MADRID MOSQUE

PETER DEJONG—AP

To be fair, it wasn't just politics that led the Spanish government to see the attacks through an ETA prism. The Feb. 29 arrest of the alleged ETA operatives with their vanload of explosives was not the only recent attempt foiled by Spanish police. Last Christmas Eve, Spanish police foiled an attempt by two ETA operatives to blow up a train bound for another of Madrid's major train stations, Chamartín. They caught one trying to put a suitcase packed with 62 lbs. of the explosive Titadine on the train before it left and later found another suitcase with 44 lbs. of the explosive already on board. And on Dec. 19, 2002, two men were apprehended carrying 287 lbs. of an unidentified explosive that police said the men had planned to place throughout Madrid and then detonate simultaneously.

If the style and scope of the Madrid attacks differed from some of the established ETA patterns, that may just be an indication that the group has changed a great deal. Since the arrest of most of ETA's top tier in a series of joint counterterrorist operations by France and Spain over the past decade, control may have passed to a generation of

younger leaders who may be radical—or just plain inexperienced—enough to commit an atrocity like last week's train attacks in Madrid. A report on trends in terrorism published in December 2002 by the Council of the European Union, the E.U.'s ministerial-level policymaking body, cites the alarming rise within ETA of younger men from inside the culture of *kale borroka*, the Basque term for “street violence.”

But public outrage over the attacks suggests that if ETA was behind them, it may have signed its own death warrant. “Some people think we drink champagne when attacks happen,” says Ainhoa Osinalde, spokeswoman for Pagotxeta, a pro-independence group close to Bata-suna, the banned party often described as ETA's political wing. “That's not true. We have to do everything we can to stop these things from happening again.” Many moderate Basque nationalists share ETA's goal of independence while condemning its terrorist tactics, but even the few people who still support the armed struggle will likely be repulsed by the Madrid carnage.

Even before al-Qaeda claims of respon-

sibility, intelligence experts in Washington saw bin Laden's fingerprints in the wreckage. “There's no doubt in my mind it's al-Qaeda,” said a senior FBI counterterrorism veteran. Wherever this investigation leads, the war on terrorism has taken yet another deadly new turn. As a U.S. intelligence official notes, the absence of suicide bombers in Madrid is a sobering development. “You don't have to kill yourself to blow something up,” this official says. Since suicide bombers are a finite resource, terrorists could be more inspired than ever to mount devastating attacks by remote control. In other words, Madrid rolled out an innovation that other terrorists will surely copy, says Tarine Fairman, who retired last month as a top international counterterrorism agent at the FBI. “They've introduced a technique that we knew about and were concerned about,” he warns, “but are not prepared to deal with.”

—Reported by Timothy J. Burger, Viveca Novak and Elaine Shannon/Washington; Bruce Crumley/Paris; Walter Gibbs/Oslo; Helen Gibson/London; Samuel Loewenberg and Jane Walker/Madrid; Scott Macleod/Cairo; Pelin Turgut/Istanbul; and Enrique Zaldúa/San Sebastián