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First season

The storyline centers on the residents of Jericho, a small northwest [Kansas](#) town, in the aftermath of nuclear attacks on [23 major cities](#) in the United States. The series begins with a visible nuclear detonation of unknown origin in nearby [Denver, Colorado](#). Problems are compounded by loss of power and modern communications, effectively isolating Jericho. Later, power is restored to Jericho by what is alluded to as the efforts of the U.S. government. However, an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) from an unknown source disables all electronics.

While the first few episodes are centered around restoring life after the attacks, about halfway through the season some of the citizens meet with citizens of a nearby town, New Bern. At first, relations are established, resulting in a trade of windmills (for power) built in New Bern's factory for supplies: food from Jericho's farms and salt from its mine (neither of which New Bern could supply on its own). However, relations sour as New Bern scapegoats Jericho for its problems and the mayor eventually declares war, leading to the season's climactic end.

Several themes regularly addressed in the show included the gathering of information, community identity, public order, limited resources, the value of family, hardships of fatherhood, and internal and external threats. The show also features several mysteries involving the backgrounds of major characters, the perpetrators of the attack, and the extent of damage to the United States and its government.

The pivotal character in this story is [Jake Green](#), the 32-year-old son of Mayor [Johnston Green](#). Jake Green fled the town of Jericho five years earlier when he became mixed up with the wrong people and was involved in questionable activity. Jake briefly returns home to claim his inheritance before being stranded by the catastrophe. After a somewhat awkward return home and a tense reunion with his father, Jake steps up to become a leader in Jericho, fighting to protect the town and its citizens. As the people of Jericho struggle to survive in a changed world, most remain unaware that one of the newest residents, [Robert Hawkins](#), knows a lot more about the attacks than he is letting on. It will be revealed that he is in possession of an unexploded nuclear bomb that was supposed to be used in the attack, but how he came to this and exactly what side he is on remains anything but clear.

Second season

The military forces of the new *Allied States of America (ASA)*, which now govern most of what was formerly the Western United States, have restored order to Jericho and its surrounding region, putting an abrupt end to the conflict between Jericho and its rival town, New Bern. As a sense of normalcy returns to town, the plot shifts away from the day-to-day survival to life and political intrigue under the ASA government.

Known only to Hawkins and a select few, the September attacks were neither a foreign nor domestic terrorist act, but a conspiracy of unknown perpetrators within the highest level of the former U.S. government. Hawkins must calculate his every move to avoid capture, to piece together the trail of evidence, and, ultimately, to bring the truth to light before the conspiracy's mastermind buries it forever.

Meanwhile, Jericho's residents deal with the reality of the new ASA government based in [Cheyenne, Wyoming](#). Initially welcomed as saviors, the government's military and mercenary agents transform life in Jericho into a repressive [police state](#), under the leadership of a private security contracting firm, Ravenwood, in turn owned by the company Jennings & Rall, which has major ties to, and sponsors, the leaders of the ASA government. When a Ravenwood contractor kills Bonnie, a deaf farm girl from the outskirts of Jericho, to conceal his embezzlement, the town is put on the edge of open revolt as Jake and the deputies protect Mimi, the only witness to Bonnie's murder, and the embezzlement.

Hawkins unsuccessfully attempts to transport the bomb to his contacts in the reborn [Republic of Texas](#). The ASA military is tipped off and, after a brief chase, seize the weapon. Hawkins narrowly escapes. The ASA military then transport the weapon to Cheyenne for safe keeping.

Hawkins makes contact with Jake, and the two travel to Cheyenne, where they retake the bomb from J&R contractors. Hawkins is wounded in a brief gun battle. The two make it to the Republic of Texas embassy in Cheyenne with the only undetonated bomb (in ASA territory) from the September attacks. The ASA's military is right behind them. The Republic is considered the [swing state](#) in the struggle for power between the Eastern United States, now governed from [Columbus, Ohio](#), and the Allied States; the ambassador manages to secure a small jet to carry Jake, Hawkins, and the device there. While en route, two ASA [F-15](#) fighter jets intercept Jake and Hawkins and order them to turn around or be shot down. When Jake refuses to be escorted back to Cheyenne, the two jets drop back to open fire. Suddenly, two Texas [Air National Guard F-16](#) fighters appear, and shoot down the ASA planes. Jake and Hawkins make it to Texas with the evidence, and Hawkins ominously intones that a Second American Civil War was always coming, and that the two of them have made history by giving the United States a fighting chance in the war to come.