

Instructions: Do the reading, then go through the questions, think about them, referring back to the reading when necessary, and write short answers (ranging between 1-2 sentences and couple paragraphs) for each. (If you feel you addressed one question in an answer to another, feel free just to refer to that.) Turn in your answers on the day the reading is due. You may discuss these questions with others but all answers should be written in your words (though you may use occasional quotes).

To be turned in:

1. What are your overall thoughts on Chapter 13?
2. What are your overall thoughts on the whole book?
3. Silver says that the mathematics of terrorism resembles the mathematics of earthquakes. What are the main ways they are similar? What are the main ways they are different?
4. What are some issues with the theory that terrorist attacks follow a power law distribution?
5. Analyze the sentence: *The fact that Israel's power-law graph looks so distinct is evidence that our strategic choices do make some difference.*
6. Is Silver suggesting that a more Bayesian viewpoint might have helped us identify the September 11 attack in advance? Do agree with this idea?
7. Does figure C-2 suggest trends in how predictable we found the world throughout the past 100 years? (Try looking at data for predictable and unpredictable with the English fiction and English fiction (2009) corpuses, the latter of which is referenced in Footnote 19, here: <http://books.google.com/ngrams>.)

Not be turned in: (you don't need to write up, but think about if you have time, and we may discuss in class)

8. Do you agree with Silver that the September 11 attacks were not an outlier?
9. What do you think of Allison's assessment of a nuclear attack?