Cindy Combs opens Chapter 4 with the following questions:

- What kind of person becomes a terrorist?
- Is there any way to tell who is likely to become a terrorist?
The reason these two questions are relevant are somewhat obvious:

If we can determine the types of individuals who are drawn to terrorism, we can better predict those who are most likely become terrorists in the first place...

As Combs argues, “this could be an extremely useful tool for governments...in coping with terrorism”
Rather than lecture about terrorist profiles I will allow you guys to work in groups to discuss whether it is possible to develop one.

I will briefly identify some of the major theories explaining terrorism as well as a few other important things related to profiling.
Let’s start with some highlights from Combs chapter on terrorist profiles...
Frederick Hacker suggests three categories of people who commit terrorism:

1) **Crazies** (emotionally disturbed)
2) **Criminals** (about personal gain)
3) **Crusaders** (about collective cause)

**What are the differences between criminals & crusaders?**
Question: Can we generalize about a “typical” terrorist?

O’Balance suggests we can:

1) Dedicated (not casual/part-time)
2) Brave (death/torture/jail a possibility)
3) No pity/emotion (kill for “higher purpose”)
4) Fairly high intelligence
5) Fairly high sophistication
6) Reasonable education/knowledge (english language-College)
Question: Why do people become terrorists today?

Combs suggests:

1) **Simplicity** - they see world in black & white terms/they good, us evil
2) **Identification** - group identity/identify with suffering of others w/n larger “group”
3) **Revenge** - identification with the suffering of others is often linked with the desire to avenge “wrongs” done to identity group
Demographic Trends in Group Membership

1) **Age**-active terrorists tend to be young; leaders are older than followers
2) **Education**-Mark Sageman argues 60% have college education; but terrorist followers are now younger so they’re less educated
3) **Economic Status**-Formerly most came from middle class; today’s terrorist followers come from destitution & leaders from mid-upper classes
4) **Gender**-Most followers and leaders are men; however, more and more women are becoming terrorists/suicide bombers (black widows)

*Is there a typical demographic pattern? Not really BUT*...
Question: What do the authors of Super-Freakonomics say about such patterns?

**
Terrorist Theories

**Let’s briefly examine some theories/explanations for terrorism**
Theoretical Perspectives

1) Poverty:
Theoretical Perspectives

2) Brainwashing:
   a. Religion-
   b. Laghriss Twins-
Theoretical Perspectives
3) Immature/Ignorant:
Theoretical Perspectives
4) Irresponsible:
Theoretical Perspectives
5) Sexually Frustrated:
Theoretical Perspectives
6) Out of the Diaspora:
Theoretical Perspectives

7) Friendship/Kinship:
Theoretical Perspectives
8) A Select Group:
In conclusion then, what does a typical terrorist look like? What would Combs or Sageman argue?

Typology of the “Typical” Terrorist