Answers to reading check #15

1. What kind of threat was the American military in the Pacific most concerned about up through December 6, 1941? And what strategic action did they take as a result?

   Sabotage – "attack from within" – from someone on the Hawaiian Islands. An air attack was not (pardon the pun) even on their radar screens. Therefore, they ordered all the aircraft and seacraft in Pearl Harbor to be tightly packed in a single location, since it would presumably be easier to protect one large target from sabotage than many little ones.

2. Thomas Schelling (of Schelling Segregation Model fame) says that we have a tendency to confuse the unfamiliar with *what*?

   The improbable.

3. What term does former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld use to refer to "gaps in our knowledge that we don't know exist?"

   "Unknown unknowns."

4. What did Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union, say was the purpose of terrorism?

   He said that the purpose of terrorism was to terrorize! (Not to maximize body count or property damage, but to instill fear.)

5. The mathematics of terrorist attacks closely resemble the mathematics of what other phenomenon? And what kind of statistical distribution do events in both domains follow?

   Earthquakes. In both domains, the frequency of events of varying magnitudes seem to follow power law distributions.