

**Lesson 34**  
**Intelligence and Warning I: Warning Signs?**

**Readings:**

1. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. [\*The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States\*](#). (New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2004): 254-277.

**Study Questions:**

1. What elements of data did the US intelligence community gather and analyze in the months leading up to the 9/11 attacks? What types of sources generated this intelligence?
2. To what degree was the data specific? Corroborated? Credible?
3. Characterize how the volume and frequency of threat reporting changed over time.
4. How did senior intelligence officials characterize this intelligence? In what form was the intelligence presented to the President?
5. What actions could the US Government have taken based on the intelligence it possessed? What actions did the US Government take? What sorts of actions did "domestic" agencies take?
6. What are the PDB, the SEIB, and the CSG? Who has access to or participates in each?
7. How compelling or specific was the 6 August 2001 PDB?
8. Characterize the activity of the CSG in coordinating the government's response.
9. Characterize the coordination between and the actions of the CIA and FBI.
10. What factors impeded information sharing?
11. Reflecting on the entire reading, how difficult is it for the US Government to uncover specific terrorist plots and take action to prevent them? What things needed to go right for the US Government to have prevented 9/11?