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Subject: Tactics and strategy of research/politics: applied to BW  
Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 18:26:52 EDT  
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Gratuitous thought, but as we seem to have some convergent interests, I wanted to be sure we shared frames of reference in

Schelling - Strategy of Conflict  
Jervis - Perception and misperception in international politics

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Of course a lot of "sending messages" to others is bolstering our own self-confidence and resolve. During the cold war, we had to be mad to pursue MAD; and without it we would have been salami-sliced 1 mm. at a time.

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I have a very practical problem down your alley: how to reinforce the moral norms [sic] that have so far (as I read it) been the main reason we have not experienced [even more extreme] dis-civility wrt to the use of terrible biological weapons. See editorial appended: (Your thoughts welcome)

I have a related interest in promoting self-protective, hygienic behavior like washing hands; though if I believe last Sunday's NY Times the polls might say that has almost been overdone. I don't in fact believe it: a fraction of the population may be obsessed, and most of it is still contaminating the food we eat.

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[JAMA] Editorial - August 6, 1997

Infectious Disease and Biological Weapons: Prophylaxis and Mitigation (JAMA. 1997;278:435-436)

Joshua Lederberg