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12 Collective Identity: Hatred Bred in the Bone JERROLD POST, DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. The most powerful lens through which to view terrorist behavior is that of group, organizational, and social psychology, with a particular emphasis on collective identity. It deliberately ruins the social fabric of a society by ignoring the common laws of humanity—then many of those with education or financial means flee, and those who remain try to live amid the violence and downward economic spiral. Download Citation on ResearchGate | "When hatred is bred in the bone:" the social psychology of terrorism | Terrorists are not crazed fanatics. Indeed, terrorist groups screen out emotionally unstable individuals--they would be a security risk. Rather it is group, organizational, and social psychology, with particular emphasis on collective identity that motivates terrorist } A common theme in comparative studies of the psychology of terrorism is the need of marginal alienated individuals to join a group of like-minded individuals with a similar world view. The need to belong gives particular force to the power of group dynamics. Paradoxically, a policy of reactive retaliation with the goal of deterring terrorist acts may instead reinforce the mindset of the terrorist.