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Why Is Violence Not The Answer

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DALE FINLEY

Virtuous Violence Verso Books

Offers an alternative picture of the causes of human violence, showing strategies for change through concerted societal action.

Evaluating Gun Policy Springer Nature

In 1978, the Social and Demographic Research Institute of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, received a grant from the National Institute of Justice to undertake a comprehensive review of the literature on weapons, crime, and violence in the United States. The purpose of the project is best described as a "sifting and winnowing" of the claims and counterclaims from both sides of the Great American Gun War - the perennial struggle in American political life over what to do, if anything, about guns, about violence, and

about crime. The review and analysis of the available studies consumed the better part of three years; the results of this work are contained in this volume. The intention of any review is to take stock of the available fund of knowledge in some topical area. Under the Gun is no different: our goal has been to glean from the volumes of previous studies those facts that, in our view, seem firmly and certainly established; those hypotheses that seem adequately supported by, or at least approximately consistent with, the best available research evidence; and those areas or topics about which, it seems, we need to know a lot more than we do. One of our major conclusions can be stated in advance: despite the large number of studies that have been done, many critically important questions have not been adequately researched, and some of them have not been examined at all. Much

of the available research in the area of weapons and crime has been done by advocates for one or another policy position. As a consequence, the manifest intent of many "studies" is to persuade rather than to inform. We have tried to approach the topic from a purely agnostic point of view, treating as an open question what policies should be enacted with regard to gun, or crime, control. Thus, we have tried to judge each study on its own merits, on the basis of the routine standards normally applied to social-scientific research, and not on the basis of how effectively it argues for a particular policy direction. It would, of course, be presumptuous to claim that we have set aside all our own biases in conducting this study. Whether or not our treatment is fair and objective is clearly something for the reader, and not us, to decide.

Summer of Violence Prometheus Books

Conceived at a time when biological research on aggression and violence was drawn into controversy because of sociopolitical questions about its study, this volume provides an up-to-date account of recent biological studies performed -- mostly on humans. A group of scientists recognized the importance of freedom of inquiry and deemed it vital to address the most promising biological research in the field. The focus on biological mechanisms is not meant to imply that biological variables are paramount as a determinant of violence. Rather, biological variables operate in conjunction with other variables contributing to aggression or violence, and a complete understanding of this phenomenon requires consideration of all influences bearing on it. This book will familiarize readers with the rapidly growing and increasingly significant body of knowledge on the biological bases of human antisocial, aggressive, and violent behaviors. The editors concentrated on biological influences that support the basic physiological and biochemical processes of the brain and did not cover those biological influences that impact on the health of the individual such as head injury, pregnancy and birth complications, diet, and exposure to lead and other toxins. They focused on biological influences to illuminate their role in the complex behavioral phenomenon of violence. Three different approaches to the biological study of human antisocial, aggressive, and violent behaviors are represented -- genetic, neurobiological, and biosocial. Representing each of these three approaches, individual chapters from investigators in psychobiology, biological psychiatry, and basic-clinical neurosciences address the most recent experimental findings, methods, theory, and common misconceptions in the biological study of aggression and violence. The areas of primary focus are behavior and molecular genetics, neurochemistry and hormones, neuroimaging, psychophysiology and developmental psychobiology. Generally speaking, investigators following these different approaches have experience in different scientific backgrounds, select different methods, generate different analyses, employ different conceptual definitions for some of the same terms, and assume a different philosophical stance in attempting to explain violence. Nevertheless, all are united in their efforts to understand the biological underpinnings of violence. This book then assumes a comprehensive approach wherein different levels of analysis and different approaches

inform each other. It is clear from the studies reported that aggression and violence are multidetermined phenomena and understanding them requires an interdisciplinary approach spanning economic, sociopolitical, psychological, sociological, and criminological as well as biomedical considerations. Nature (biology) and nurture (experience, context) are fundamentally inseparable in explaining aggression and violence; biology may affect experience or context, but experience or context also influences biology. Both need to be studied in a search for explanations of this phenomena.

Violence and Aggression in Sporting Contests Basic Books

The truth is, warfare shouldn't happen - and most of the time it doesn't. Around the world there are millions of hostile rivalries at any given moment and yet only a tiny fraction erupt into prolonged fighting. Most books on conflict forget this. So in those rare instances of war, what broke down and kept the sides from compromise? From unchecked interests and intangible incentives, through uncertainty commitment problems and misperceptions, this peerlessly authoritative and thought-provoking book shows that there are only so many logical possibilities for why we fight and how by knowing them we can act to prevent war altogether. Drawing on the latest research in behavioural economics; gripping, counterintuitive examples from the long history of warfare around the world; and distinguished professor Christopher Blattman's own experience in warzones, we see, for example, how queens have waged war more than kings; that the homicide rate in the ganglands of Medellin, Columbia is lower than you think; and that even monkeys have an innate righteousness. In an accessible, intuitive structure framed around causes and solutions, *Why We Fight* is a hopeful book, with answers to some of history's most important questions. In an age of growing isolationism and the weakening of global institutions, this book couldn't be timelier.

A Savage Order Vintage

Despite the scope of the threat they pose to Mexico's security, violent drug-trafficking organizations are not well understood, and optimal strategies to combat them have not been identified. While there is no perfectly analogous case to Mexico's current security situation, historical case studies may offer lessons for policymakers as they cope with challenges related to violence and corruption in that country.

Mexico Is Not Colombia Viking

By analytically decoupling war and violence, this book explores the causes and dynamics of violence in civil war. Against the prevailing view that such violence is an instance of impenetrable madness, the book demonstrates that there is logic to it and that it has much less to do with collective emotions, ideologies, and cultures than currently believed. Kalyvas specifies a novel theory of selective violence: it is jointly produced by political actors seeking information and individual civilians trying to avoid the worst but also grabbing what opportunities their predicament affords them. Violence, he finds, is never a simple reflection of the optimal strategy of its users; its profoundly interactive character defeats simple maximization logics while producing surprising outcomes, such as relative nonviolence in the 'frontlines' of civil war.

Aggression and Violence Bloomsbury Publishing

I Am Not Your Victim: Anatomy of Domestic Abuse, Second Edition, vividly details the evolution of domestic violence during the 16-year marriage of author Beth Sipe. Encouraged to publish her story by her therapist and co-author, Evelyn J. Hall, Beth relates the background and events leading up to and immediately following the tragic act of desperation that ended the life of her sadistic perpetrator. Beth's subsequent mishandling by the police, the military, a mental health professional, and the welfare system illustrates how women like Beth face further revictimization and neglect by the very systems that should provide support and assistance. Insightful commentaries written by experts in the field follow Beth's story and deepen readers' understanding of the causes and process of spousal abuse, why battered women stay, and the dynamic consequences of domestic violence. This updated edition includes new commentaries and an epilogue that tracks what happened to Beth in the years following the book's publication. Author Beth Sipe would love to hear your comments about the book. She is also available for speaking engagements and can be reached at bethsipe1@yahoo.com.

No Visible Bruises University of Georgia Press

It was over a decade ago that experimental psychologists and media-effects researchers declared the debate on the effects of violent video gaming as "essentially over," referring to the way violence in videogames increases aggressive thoughts, feelings and behaviors in players. Despite the decisive tone of this statement, neither the presence nor popularity of digital games

has since diminished, with games continuing to attract new generations of players to experience its technological advancements in the narration of violence and its techniques of depiction. Drawing on new insights achieved from research located at an intersection between humanities, social and computer sciences, Gareth Schott's addition to the Approaches in Digital Game Studies series interrogates the nature and meaning of the "violence" encountered and experienced by game players. In focusing on the various ways "violence" is mediated by both the rule system and the semiotic layer of games, the aim is to draw out the distinctiveness of games' exploitation of violence or violent themes. An important if not canonical text in the debates about video games and violence, *Violent Games* constitutes an essential book for those wishing to make sense of the experience offered by games as technological, aesthetic, and communicational phenomena in the context of issues of media regulation and the classification of game content "as" violence.

The Better Angels of Our Nature SAGE Publications

This book uses the theory of social movements and first-hand interviews to create a new analysis of religiously motivated political violence in the modern world. Examining the movement to restore Sharia law to a dominant place in the Egyptian government, the movement to make abortion illegal in the United States, and the religious effort to secure territory in Israel, the author contends that religion becomes violent not because of ideology or political context alone, but because of the constantly evolving relationship between them. The ebb and flow of opportunities for political access ensures that secularization and religion, although polar opposites, depend on each other to define themselves. As a result, while their respective degrees of influence will inevitably undulate over time, both will remain a part of the political process for some time. Thus, a full understanding of both is critical to a meaningful understanding of the political process. Much work has been done to understand secular social movements as part of the political process, and consequentially researchers now know a great deal about the motivations, resources and timing of secular social movements. Considerably less research has been done in the field of religious social movements and this book fills that gap in the literature. This book will be of great interest to students of political violence, religion, sociology, and Politics and International Relations in

general. Jennifer Jefferis is Assistant Professor in the Department of Government, Regent University, USA, and has a PhD in Political Science from Boston University.

A Pattern of Violence Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Explores the differences between crime and lethal violence and proposes targeted responses to a national homicide rate that far exceeds that of other industrialized nations

American Violence Knopf

"Women have made significant inroads into politics in recent years, but in many parts of the world, their increased engagement has spurred physical attacks, intimidation, and harassment intended to deter their participation. This book provides the first comprehensive account of this phenomenon, exploring how women came to give these experiences a name - violence against women in politics - and lobbied for its increased recognition by citizens, states, and international organizations. Tracing how this concept emerged inductively on the global stage, the volume draws on research in multiple disciplines to resolve lingering ambiguities regarding its contours. It argues that this phenomenon is not simply a gendered extension of existing definitions of political violence privileging physical aggressions against political rivals. Rather, violence against women in politics is a distinct phenomenon involving a broad range of harms to attack and undermine women as political actors. Drawing on a wide range of country examples, the book illustrates what this violence looks like in practice, as well as catalogues emerging solutions around the world. Issuing a call to action, it considers how to document this phenomenon more effectively, as well as understand the political and social implications of allowing violence against women in politics to continue unabated. Highlighting the threats it poses to democracy, human rights, and gender equality, the volume concludes that tackling violence against women in politics requires ongoing dialogue and collaboration to ensure women's equal rights to participate - freely and safely - in political life around the globe"--

Properties of Violence Cambridge University Press

In the popular misconception fostered by blockbuster action movies and best-selling thrillers--not to mention conventional explanations by social scientists--violence is easy under certain conditions, like poverty, racial or ideological hatreds, or family pathologies. Randall Collins challenges this view in *Violence*, arguing

that violent confrontation goes against human physiological hardwiring. It is the exception, not the rule--regardless of the underlying conditions or motivations. Collins gives a comprehensive explanation of violence and its dynamics, drawing upon video footage, cutting-edge forensics, and ethnography to examine violent situations up close as they actually happen--and his conclusions will surprise you. Violence comes neither easily nor automatically. Antagonists are by nature tense and fearful, and their confrontational anxieties put up a powerful emotional barrier against violence. Collins guides readers into the very real and disturbing worlds of human discord--from domestic abuse and schoolyard bullying to muggings, violent sports, and armed conflicts. He reveals how the fog of war pervades all violent encounters, limiting people mostly to bluster and bluff, and making violence, when it does occur, largely incompetent, often injuring someone other than its intended target. Collins shows how violence can be triggered only when pathways around this emotional barrier are presented. He explains why violence typically comes in the form of atrocities against the weak, ritualized exhibitions before audiences, or clandestine acts of terrorism and murder--and why a small number of individuals are competent at violence. Violence overturns standard views about the root causes of violence and offers solutions for confronting it in the future.

The Rise of Organised Brutality Oxford University Press, USA

While there is a tacit appreciation that freedom from violence will lead to more prosperous relations among peoples, violence continues to be deployed for various political and social ends. Yet the problem of violence still defies neat description, subject to many competing interpretations. *Histories of Violence* offers an accessible yet compelling examination of the problem of violence as it appears in the corpus of canonical figures - from Hannah Arendt to Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault to Slavoj Žižek - who continue to influence and inform contemporary political, philosophical, sociological, cultural, and anthropological study. Written by a team of internationally renowned experts, this is an essential interrogation of post-war critical thought as it relates to violence.

Violence Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

Annotation This book captures the human face of the frontlines, revealing both the visible and the hidden realities of contemporary war, power, and

international profiteering in the 21st century.

Shadowed Ground Cambridge University Press

This provocative thesis calls violence the driving force not just of war, but of politics and even social stability. Though violence is commonly deplored, political scientist Ginsberg argues that in many ways it is indispensable, unavoidable, and valuable. Ginsberg sees violence manifested in society in many ways. "Law-preserving violence" (using Walter Benjamin's phrase) is the chief means by which society preserves social order. Behind the security of a stable society are the blunt instruments of the police, prisons, and the power of the bureaucratic state to coerce and manipulate. Ginsberg also discusses violence as a tool of social change, whether used in outright revolution or as a means of reform in public protests or the threat of insurrection. He notes that even groups committed to nonviolent tactics rely on the violent reactions of their opponents to achieve their ends. And to avoid the threat of unrest, modern states resort to social welfare systems (a prudent use of the carrot instead of the stick).

Emphasizing the unavoidability of violence to create major change, Ginsberg points out that few today would trade our current situation for the alternative had our forefathers not resorted to the violence of the American Revolution and the Civil War.

Under the Gun Rand Corporation

Honor and violence are major themes in the anthropology of the Middle East, yet--apart from political violence--most studies approach violence from the perspective of honour. By contrast, this important study examines the meanings of lethal conflict in a little-studied tribal society in Pakistan's unruly North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and offers a new perspective on its causes. Based on an in-depth study of local conflicts, the book challenges stereotyped images of a region and people miscast as extremist and militant. Being grounded in local ethnography enables the book to shed light on the complexities of violence, not only at the structural or systemic level, but also as experienced by the men involved in lethal conflict. In this way, the book provides a subjective and experiential approach to violence that is applicable beyond the field locality and relevant for advancing the study of violence in the Middle East and South Asia. The book is the first ethnographic study of this region since renowned anthropologist Fredrik Barth's pioneering study in 1954.

Politics without Violence? Univ of California Press

Is religion inherently violent? If not, what

provokes violence in the name of religion?

Do we mischaracterize religion by focusing too much on its violent side? In this

intriguing, original study of religious

violence, Prof. Hector Avalos offers a new

theory for the role of religion in violent

conflicts. Starting with the premise that

most violence is the result of real or

perceived scarce resources, Avalos

persuasively argues that religion creates

new scarcities on the basis of unverifiable

or illusory criteria. Through a careful

analysis of the fundamental texts of

Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism,

Dr. Avalos explains how four scarce

resources have figured repeatedly in

creating religious violence: sacred space

(e.g., the perception by three world

religions that Jerusalem is sacred); the

creation of holy scriptures (believed to be

privileged revelations of God's will); group

privilege (stemming from such beliefs as a

chosen people or predestination, which

also creates a group of outsiders); and

salvation (by which concept some are

accepted and others rejected). Thus,

Avalos shows, religious violence is often

the most unnecessary violence of all since

the scarce resources over which religious

conflicts ensue are not actually scarce or

need not be scarce. Comparing violence in

religious and nonreligious contexts, Avalos

makes the compelling argument that if we

condemn violence caused by scarce

resources as morally objectionable, then

we must consider even more objectionable

violence provoked by alleged scarcities

that cannot be proven to exist. He also

examines the Nazi Holocaust and the

Stalinist Terror, which have been

attributed to the pernicious effects of

atheism or secular humanism. By contrast,

Avalos pinpoints underlying religious

factors as the cause of these horrific

instances of genocidal violence. This

serious philosophical examination of the

roots of religious violence adds much to

our understanding of a perennial source of

widespread human suffering. Hector Avalos

(Ames, IA) is associate professor of

Religious Studies at Iowa State University,

the author of five books on biblical studies

and religion, the former editor of the

Journal for the Critical Study of Religion,

and executive director of the Committee

for the Scientific Examination of Religion.

Summary the Gift of Fear Prometheus

Books

From the battlefield at Gettysburg to the

Oklahoma City block where the Alfred P.

Murrah Federal Building once stood, sites

of violence and tragedy have left indelible

marks on the American landscape. Some

have become places of pilgrimage, where

visitors mourn losses, learn lessons from

the tragedy, and experience renewal.

Others became empty places where

nothing remains to commemorate or even

to mark the occurrence. In this pioneering

book, Kenneth E. Foote explores how and

why Americans have memorialized--or not--

the sites of tragic and violent events.

Drawing on years of travel and reflection,

he traces the history of sites spanning

three centuries and every region of the

United States. Foote deduces that

Americans usually react to the scenes of

tragedy in one of four ways. Many places

undergo public sanctification, such as

Memphis' Lorraine Motel, where Martin

Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. Some

are simply designated with a marker,

while others are rectified and returned to

normal use. Those that produce shame

and revulsion are often obliterated and left

empty. These differing reactions to sites of

violence offer an important new

perspective to the debate over violence in

American society.

Ending the Cycle of Violence BRILL

Compared with other developed nations,

the United States is unique in its high

rates of both gun ownership and murder.

Although widespread gun ownership does

not have much effect on the overall crime

rate, gun use does make criminal violence

more lethal and has a unique capacity to

terrorize the public. Gun crime accounts

for most of the costs of gun violence in the

United States, which are on the order of

\$100 billion per year. But that is not the

whole story. Guns also provide

recreational benefits and sometimes are

used virtuously in fending off or

forestalling criminal attacks. Given that

guns may be used for both good and ill,

the goal of gun policy in the United States

has been to reduce the flow of guns to the

highest-risk groups while preserving

access for most people. There is no lack of

opinions on policies to regulate gun

commerce, possession, and use, and most

policy proposals spark intense

controversy. Whether the current system

achieves the proper balance between

preserving access and preventing misuse

remains the subject of considerable

debate. *Evaluating Gun Policy* provides

guidance for a pragmatic approach to gun

policy using good empirical research to

help resolve conflicting assertions about

the effects of guns, gun control, and law

enforcement. The chapters in this volume

do not conform neatly to the claims of any

one political position. The book is divided

into five parts. In the first section,

contributors analyze the connections

between rates of gun ownership and two

outcomes of particular interest to

society—suicide and burglary. Regulating

ownership is the focus of the second section, where contributors investigate the consequences a large-scale combined gun ban and buy-back program in Australia, as well as the impact of state laws that prohibit gun ownership to those with histories of domestic violence. The third section focuses on efforts to restrict gun carrying and includes a critical examination of efforts in Pittsburgh to patrol illegal gun traffic and a re-examination of the effects of permissive state gun-carrying laws. This section also features the first rigorous—and critical—analysis of Richmond's Project Exile, which serves as one model for the national Project Safe Neighborhoods program. The fourth section focuses on efforts to facilitate research on gun violence, including a database on state gun laws and the ongoing development of a nationwide violent-death reporting

system. The book concludes with an examination of the policy process. Differences in opinion about gun policy flourish partly because of the lack of sound evidence in this area. The contributors to this volume demonstrate that skilled and dispassionate analysis of the evidence is attainable, even in an area as contentious as firearm policy. For pragmatists who wish to reduce the social burden of gun violence, there is no acceptable alternative.

Fighting Words Springer Science & Business Media

From a Harvard scholar and former Obama official, a powerful proposal for curtailing violent crime in America Urban violence is one of the most divisive and allegedly intractable issues of our time. But as Harvard scholar Thomas Abt shows in *Bleeding Out*, we actually possess all the tools necessary to stem violence in our cities. Coupling the latest social science

with firsthand experience as a crime-fighter, Abt proposes a relentless focus on violence itself -- not drugs, gangs, or guns. Because violence is "sticky," clustering among small groups of people and places, it can be predicted and prevented using a series of smart-on-crime strategies that do not require new laws or big budgets. Bringing these strategies together, Abt offers a concrete, cost-effective plan to reduce homicides by over 50 percent in eight years, saving more than 12,000 lives nationally. Violence acts as a linchpin for urban poverty, so curbing such crime can unlock the untapped potential of our cities' most disadvantaged communities and help us to bridge the nation's larger economic and social divides. Urgent yet hopeful, *Bleeding Out* offers practical solutions to the national emergency of urban violence -- and challenges readers to demand action.

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