

The Violence Paradox

Introduction

Collective violence is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has plagued societies throughout history. It can take many forms, from riots and protests to terrorism and war, and it can have devastating consequences for individuals, communities, and entire nations.

In this book, we will explore the nature, causes, and consequences of collective violence. We will examine the role of political, social, economic, cultural, and global factors in shaping collective violence, and we will discuss strategies for mitigating and preventing it.

We begin by defining collective violence and distinguishing it from other forms of violence. We then examine the historical record of collective violence,

from the ancient world to the present day. This overview provides a foundation for understanding the causes and consequences of collective violence, as well as the challenges of addressing it.

Next, we turn to a more detailed examination of the factors that contribute to collective violence. We consider the role of the state, political parties, social movements, interest groups, and the media in shaping the political context of collective violence. We also examine the role of social inequality, social exclusion, social identity, social norms, and social networks in shaping the social context of collective violence.

Finally, we consider the role of emotions, cognitions, personality, social identity, and social learning in shaping the psychological context of collective violence. We also examine the role of poverty, unemployment, inequality, economic shocks, and economic policies in shaping the economic context of collective violence.

Throughout the book, we draw on a wide range of examples from around the world to illustrate the complex and multifaceted nature of collective violence. We also discuss the challenges of mitigating and preventing collective violence, and we propose strategies for addressing this pressing issue.

Book Description

Collective violence is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has plagued societies throughout history. It can take many forms, from riots and protests to terrorism and war, and it can have devastating consequences for individuals, communities, and entire nations.

In this groundbreaking book, Pasquale De Marco explores the nature, causes, and consequences of collective violence. Drawing on a wide range of examples from around the world, Pasquale De Marco provides a comprehensive analysis of this pressing issue.

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The Violence Paradox is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the causes and consequences of collective violence. It is also a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and activists who are working to prevent and mitigate collective violence.

Chapter 1: The Nature of Collective Violence

Defining Collective Violence

Collective violence is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has plagued societies throughout history. It can take many forms, from riots and protests to terrorism and war, and it can have devastating consequences for individuals, communities, and entire nations.

Defining collective violence is a challenging task, as there is no single agreed-upon definition. However, most definitions share some common elements. First, collective violence is typically defined as involving two or more people who engage in violence against a common target. Second, collective violence is often motivated by a shared grievance or goal. Third, collective violence is typically characterized by a high degree of coordination and organization.

One common definition of collective violence is provided by Charles Tilly, a sociologist who has written extensively on the topic. Tilly defines collective violence as "an episode of physical destruction or damage carried out by more than one person against human or nonhuman targets." Tilly's definition is broad, but it captures the essential elements of collective violence: it involves multiple actors, it is directed against a common target, and it involves physical destruction or damage.

Other definitions of collective violence focus on the motivations of the actors involved. For example, some scholars define collective violence as "the use of force by a group of people to achieve a political, economic, or social goal." This definition highlights the fact that collective violence is often motivated by a desire to change the status quo.

Still other definitions of collective violence focus on the consequences of the violence. For example, some

scholars define collective violence as "violence that results in death, injury, or property damage." This definition emphasizes the harmful effects of collective violence.

No matter how it is defined, collective violence is a serious problem that can have a devastating impact on individuals, communities, and entire nations. It is important to understand the causes and consequences of collective violence in order to develop effective strategies for preventing and mitigating it.

Chapter 1: The Nature of Collective Violence

Historical Examples of Collective Violence

Collective violence has been a persistent feature of human history, taking many forms and occurring in all parts of the world. Some of the most notable examples include:

- **The French Revolution (1789-1799):** This period of radical social and political upheaval in France was marked by widespread violence, including the storming of the Bastille prison, the September Massacres, and the Reign of Terror.
- **The American Civil War (1861-1865):** This conflict between the northern and southern states of the United States over the issue of slavery resulted in the deaths of over 600,000 people, making it the deadliest war in American history.

- **The Russian Revolution (1917-1923):** This series of political upheavals in Russia led to the overthrow of the Tsarist regime and the establishment of the Soviet Union. The revolution was accompanied by widespread violence, including the Red Terror campaign against political opponents.
- **The Holocaust (1941-1945):** This systematic genocide of Jews and other minority groups by the Nazi regime in Germany resulted in the deaths of millions of people. The Holocaust is one of the most horrific examples of collective violence in human history.
- **The Rwandan Genocide (1994):** This genocide of Tutsi people by Hutu extremists in Rwanda resulted in the deaths of over 800,000 people in just a few months. The Rwandan Genocide is a stark reminder of the potential for collective violence even in modern times.

These are just a few examples of the many instances of collective violence that have occurred throughout history. These events underscore the urgent need to understand the causes and consequences of collective violence and to develop strategies for preventing and mitigating it.

Chapter 1: The Nature of Collective Violence

Causes of Collective Violence

Collective violence is a complex phenomenon with a variety of causes. In this topic, we will explore some of the most common causes of collective violence, including political, social, economic, and cultural factors.

Political Causes

Political factors are often a major cause of collective violence. This can include things like government oppression, political instability, and ethnic or religious conflict. When people feel that their government is not representing their interests or is oppressing them, they may resort to violence as a way to express their grievances. Political instability can also lead to collective violence, as competing groups vie for power and control. Finally, ethnic or religious conflict can also

be a major cause of collective violence, as people from different groups clash over their beliefs and values.

Social Causes

Social factors can also play a role in causing collective violence. These can include things like poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. When people feel that they are being left behind or that they are not being treated fairly, they may be more likely to engage in collective violence as a way to express their anger and frustration. Poverty and inequality can also lead to collective violence, as people may resort to violence in order to obtain resources or to improve their economic situation. Social exclusion can also be a major cause of collective violence, as people who feel that they are not part of society may be more likely to engage in violence as a way to gain attention or to express their anger.

Economic Causes

Economic factors can also be a cause of collective violence. These can include things like unemployment, inflation, and economic inequality. When people are unemployed or underemployed, they may be more likely to engage in collective violence as a way to express their anger and frustration. Inflation can also lead to collective violence, as people may protest against rising prices or may engage in violence in order to obtain goods and services that they can no longer afford. Finally, economic inequality can also be a major cause of collective violence, as people may resort to violence in order to obtain resources or to improve their economic situation.

Cultural Causes

Finally, cultural factors can also play a role in causing collective violence. These can include things like cultural norms, values, and beliefs. For example, in some cultures, violence is seen as a legitimate way to resolve disputes or to achieve political or economic

goals. In other cultures, violence is seen as a taboo, and people are more likely to engage in peaceful forms of protest.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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