

ABSTRACT

DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE: A PARTIAL REPLICATION

Every society has or will experience some form of violence. Historically, the use of violence has been explained from a variety of perspectives: sociological, biological, attitudes of fear, and cultural. This study partially replicates on the West Coast of the United States a comparative study of the different responses to violent situations previously explored in Japan and the South and Midwest regions of the United States. It explores how the availability of weapons plays a role in the willingness to engage in violent behavior and to what degree; how cultural differences account for differences in violence; how the fear of victimization could effect violent behavior; how the thresholds for violence, indicating at what point people were willing to engage in violence vary; and how the differential attitudes towards police use of violence may justify an individual's own use of violence.

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