

Chapter 1 : On Killing - Wikipedia

On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society [Dave Grossman] on theinnatdunvilla.com
**FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The good news is that most soldiers are loath to kill.*

Regarding media influence, there is also this revelation, released by the " Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence ," which released the results of a study that concluded: The study revealed that during a 21 year period from , the depiction of weapons in newspaper movie advertisements were portrayed less frequently than ever before, despite public belief that movies are more violent today. If you had actually had a legitimate background in psychology you might have had a different perspective on the majority of US school shootings. Dave, do some literature review in this area: There is reason to suspect that the pre-existing psychological condition that prompted medication was the underlying reason for the shooting rampage - not the medication itself. Dave, how badly have you over-simplified this issue? How many other factors have you over-looked? But, there are many other problems associated with what you espouse Colonel Grossman. Anyone who takes the time to examine the facts quickly recognizes that the gun and video game paranoia that you peddle for cash is doing society a big disfavor. Ironically, the media that you frequently malign is just as much a part of the disinformation campaign as you are. The latest data released by the U. Surgeon General and National Institute of Health suggest that youth violence has just dropped to its lowest point in the 25 years it has been chronicled. But, what do we get from Dave Grossman and the liberal media? From the study, " Off Balance: Hollywood Pushing "Avenger" Mentality: You are quite correct that Hollywood is teaching disrespect for authority. There have always been some old movies that lived on the edge, but the old Hollywood code limited them significantly. The number and degree of movies that undermine authority and make a hero out of the criminal something that was forbidden by the "code" that Hollywood lived by up until the early s has increased dramatically. What I said was, "Starting in the late s with movies like "Dirty Harry" and Charles Bronson in the "Death Wish" movies, we began to tell ourselves a new story: Could it be that you were distracted, or were in an area where you had difficulty hearing all of what I said? Michael Medved is a stand-up guy, no doubt. However, his qualifications as a social scientist ARE a bit in doubt. His book, "Hollywood Vs. America" is a beneficial contribution in the cultural debate that consumes people like you and I. However, Medved goes far beyond indicting Hollywood for pushing the "avenger" mentality. In fact, that issue is a mere footnote within a much broader context of his allegations. To take but one thread the "avenger" thread from his thesis would be shallow in the least , if not disingenuous. In fact, a mere glance at the outline of this text illustrates the broad, sweeping nature of his invective against the Hollywood establishment. Outline of "Hollywood Vs.

On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society is a book by Dave Grossman exploring the psychology of the act of killing, and the military and law enforcement establishments' attempt to understand and deal with the consequences of killing.

Summary of "On Combat: Shu Deng acted as a peer reviewer on this piece. Grossman, Dave and Loren W. While Grossman presents the book as a work for military and law enforcement, he does make mention of traditional peace workers in saying, "I hope this book will be of use to the gentle, decent and discerning spirits in the peace movement. Modern conflict zones frequently have no front line, and so anyone working in one would do well to understand the consequences of extreme high stress on most humans. Similarly, an understanding of the lasting effects of combat on those who fight can aid in the process of reintegrating soldiers post-conflict, and can help peace workers sympathize with allied military and civilians in combat zones with whom they may be working closely. Additionally, I would argue that a general understanding of emotional trauma is vital for anyone working in any conflict related field. This summary is organized into sections based on grouping similar themes and subjects together, as well as roughly following the order of presentation by the author.

Physiological Responses to Extreme High Stress There is a wide range of possible responses and experiences during extreme high stress events. Sharper focus, visual clarity, slow-motion time, temporary paralysis, dissociation, and intrusive thoughts can all occur. When dissociation a detachment from physical and emotional reality occurs, it may be a red flag for the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder PTSD. Loss of bladder and bowel control during moments of intensity is a common occurrence that is rarely discussed. Grossman uses it as an example of the hesitancy people have in discussing natural responses to combat. Studies of World War II show that there were more psychiatric casualties than physical ones. Among individuals participating in combat for longer than 60 consecutive days, 98 percent of them would begin to breakdown emotionally. This can have long term effects. Evidence from the Russian-German battle of Stalingrad suggests that participants died nearly thirty years younger than same aged males who had not endured the fight. The range in responses to high stress result from changes in the autonomic nervous system, the part of human physiology responsible for automatic response to stimulus the sympathetic nervous system and basic bodily maintenance the parasympathetic nervous system. Once the action is over it is followed by a parasympathetic backlash, the body attempting to calm down. Responses to this can vary depending on how prolonged the violence or stress has lasted. Soldiers fighting for hours find themselves exhausted and falling asleep because they have burned all their adrenaline. People who have experienced only a brief violent instance may find themselves unable to sleep for some time. Heart rate increase in response to fear is correlated with a deterioration of motor skills and senses like vision and hearing. Eventually cognitive abilities degrade to a point Grossman calls condition black based off of work done by Bruce Siddle and Jeff Cooper. He gives conditions white, yellow, red, gray, and black, with white being unconcerned and black being overwhelmed. He believes high pressure situations call for condition yellow in which motor and cognitive skills are functioning at peak performance. Condition black is said to be when the heart rate gets above beats per minute because of the influx of adrenaline from stress. At this point vasoconstriction, the tightening of the blood vessels, allows less oxygen to the brain. The mid-brain, the part we share with animals like dogs and bears, takes over. Rational thought goes out the window. During combat situations there are a variety of perceptual distortions caused by biomechanical changes in the body. Depending on the environment the body may focus its attention almost entirely on either audio or visual stimulus, as is the case when hearing becomes sharper in low light situations. Sensory exclusion also occurs when adrenaline masks the pain of an injury until after the stress has passed. Other experiences can present themselves, such as loss of memory and "tactical fixation", during which a person may attempt the same thing over and over expecting a different result each time. There are also memory distortions. People who have participated in extreme high stress situations may remember events incorrectly, believing them to be more negative than they actually were. There can also be an "autopilot effect" during which a person may do things without thought. Distance and

depth perception can also distort. A natural response to prolonged stress is the desire to eat, though at times of high stress, when one is in condition red or higher, the desire to eat is extremely unlikely. Similarly, stress may cause either a pronounced increase or decrease in sexual desires. It is also possible that women will stop menstruating after a particularly stressful incident. Combat Psychology Killing is normally a difficult thing to bring someone to do. By and large people do not like killing, however joy can come from the act. Grossman presents the stages a person will go through after they have killed someone in a combat situation. The first stage is "survivor euphoria", which comes about as a result of the realization that the life taker is still alive. This is followed by a sense of remorse and possible vomiting. The happiness the survivor feels at being alive is difficult to separate from the death of the other party. This can lead to questions of morality and mental health "I just killed and I am happy about it. Does that mean I like killing? The final stage is the prolonged process of rationalization, which becomes necessary when actions in this case killing do not match personal belief systems "killing is wrong". Killers can have different reactions depending on their levels of emotional preparedness and the context of the situation. Grossman holds the belief that no other species kills its own with the frequency of humanity because humans have spent centuries developing better methods to train killers and better killing implements. Physical distance and mobility enable killing. However, killing from a distance also lessens the psychological impact on the target, thus the compliance of an enemy is most difficult to gain through long range assaults like air strikes or artillery, though it should be noted that, according to Grossman, research has shown the accuracy of a weapon directly influences its psychological potency. Crew served weapons, like machine guns and cannons, and proximate leaders also enable killing by serving to diffuse the responsibility for the death through the social group. Posturing is another component of combat. The ornamentation, battle cries, and weapons of a military all serve in an effort to convince the other side that confrontation is foolish. Guns are noted as being particularly effective due to the loud sound produced versus a bow and arrow. This posturing is meant to destabilize the opponent emotionally, possibly ending the fight before it begins. However, historically much of the killing that happens on the battlefield occurs as one side is fleeing. Grossman believes this for two reasons: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder People have different responses to extreme high stress events. What might be traumatic to one person may not affect another. The susceptibility to trauma can be influenced by other prior factors like physical health having an illness that day or interpersonal relationships having a fight with a spouse the night before. Post-traumatic Stress disorder can occur after experiencing a perceived life or death event that caused feelings of fear and helplessness. The symptoms are recurrent lasting at least a month , and can include anger, anxiety, avoidance, withdrawal, sleeplessness, increased arousal, hallucinations, and hypervigilance among others. Grossman gives his description of the typical response to a post-traumatic event: Later that night, you might experience sleep disturbances and nightmares. Some people do not suffer any of these symptoms, some experience several of them, some experience all of them. In the days following the event, you might be preoccupied with what happened as you relive it over and over in your mind You might be angry, sad, irritable, hypersensitive, vulnerable, anxious, scared, self-conscious, paranoid, and afraid of being judged by others. Your thinking might be confused, you might experience difficulty concentrating, and you might have impaired memory. It is normal for sufferers to try and avoid the stimulus that causes them anxiety, but Grossman believes that it can be important not to run from the stimulus, assuming it is no longer presenting a situation of possible death. He uses the backfire of a car being mistaken for a gunshot as an example. If the backfire causes anxiety, the subject should listen to many more backfires to de-condition themselves of the negative response. This can have the effect of de-linking emotion and memory. There are two fundamental reasons for these debriefings. The first reason is to go over the incident and analyze what went wrong and what worked. The second reason is to attempt to deal with the possible memory loss and cognitive distortion that participants and witnesses might have experienced. No one should be forced to participate. It should be communicated that stress is the primary problem, and that while not everyone will have a problem with the stress, those who are mentally healthy can help those with problems recover. The debriefings should take place as soon as possible and be conducted by someone from a similar background, or even better, someone who has been with the group before. The debriefing should be included as part of a larger program of recovery. Focus should be put on

de-linking emotions from memories, not simply exposing emotional trauma. Debriefing should be done soon after the incident, though allowing participants to sleep before may help their long term memory. Breathing is presented as a way to control the autonomic nervous system during times of increased stress. This can be used during debriefs to de-link memories and emotions, and during traumatic incidents to lessen the impact of the fight or flight response and decrease heart rate. Grossman advocates for autogenic breathing, which is also known as combat or tactical breathing. This process entails inhaling through the nose for four seconds, holding the breath for four seconds, exhaling for four seconds, and once again holding for four seconds. This is repeated until the heart rate begins to decrease. It is important to be ready to respond to a survivor of a high stress incident, including soldiers returning to a domestic setting. Grossman presents the ideas of a U. Grossman also takes from Dr. Artwohl the recommendations to initiate contact and offer support to the victim without demanding information about the event, listen non-judgmentally being careful of facial expressions , stay away from alcohol or coffee and avoid making jokes about the incident, and provide encouragement as they try to return to normal life. Grossman points out that PTSD rates may be higher than previous wars because we are catching more sufferers, and that we are doing a better job of treatment. Further, he says that recovering from PTSD can make you stronger as it provides stress inoculation, admitting that he "prefers to emphasize positive expectations. To him it comes down to a mentality that is prepared and even eager to confront instances of interpersonal conflict. It is necessary to avoid the denial that bad things do happen, and instead think clearly about what actions should be taken in high intensity situations. Training as realistically as possible is important.

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Two oft-quoted works in the military, law enforcement, and increasingly, civilian self-defense world are *On Killing* and *On Combat*, both by Lt. Dave Grossman. Indeed, *On Killing* was updated in to include observations on 21st Century issues. *On Combat*, 3rd Ed. Both are useful tools that may appeal to different tastes. *On Killing* by Lt. David Grossman just celebrated 20 years in publication. Eve Flanigan *On Killing* recounts the lessons of history, sometimes ancient history think Alexander the Great. It displays in exquisite literary detail, a wealth of data on exactly how humans, mostly humans at war, have planned, executed, and responded to the act of killing on behalf of society. It even addresses the lessons we learn from hunting game, and from the observation of predator animals, through multiple filters of survival, to cultural mores, and everything in between. Grossman provides interesting, sometimes gut-wrenching, anecdotes to exemplify the numbers. Beginning with Vietnam veterans, many of those anecdotes are first-person accounts from his own recorded interviews. *On Killing* gets to the very core of some of the notions that people of every background and every political stripe have questioned, espoused, or denied. The subtitle of the book is the psychological cost of learning to kill in war and society, and Grossman, who is both former Army Ranger and psychologist, manages unlike any other non-fiction author to capture both the glory and pain of war so that the reader comes to understand the individual and cultural treatment of killing in a new way. Grossman exquisitely navigates the material with compassion and an apolitical voice that is rare in any media today. Thanks in no small part to veterans like the ones Grossman interviewed, my life has thus far been free of the direct experience of war. The extremely broad territory covered in this book offers opportunities for reflection on both societal and personal values. My path has been made clearer thanks to this book. Grossman himself narrates, a great advantage as points are emphasized just as he intends. Of the two books, this one was a great start for me, having a background in developmental psychology and public health. Notwithstanding that *On Combat* was yet to be published at the time. Eve Flanigan *On Combat* will appeal to folks who are more into action than backstory. Each book does cover some of the same territory. However, *On Combat* makes use of more current examples of crime and conflict, often involving law enforcement, one or a few officers at a time, and not troops by the thousands as are often referenced in the predecessor book. It provides information about the spectrum of expectable, sometimes unavoidable physical and psychological sequelae that unfold during and after a deadly-force encounter. Both of these books are good reading, even for the non-gun owner. By the time *On Combat* came home with me, there was nothing so new it was surprising. But it did lend a lot of practical advice that I use today. Anyone doing good work is going to develop enemies. Grossman is no exception. Here are my two cents: He cites historical data sets that number mostly in the thousands, if not tens of thousands, and that is a very good indicator, scientifically speaking, that his observations are valid. People who have good things to prove rarely have time to grouse. Grossman signs a book for a reader. Two-thousand fifteen marked 20 years since the publication of *On Killing*. At least some of our national and state leaders are coming to realize and teach, however sheepishly, that sometimes, good people must fight and perhaps kill in order that evil not prevail.

Chapter 4 : Dave Grossman (Author of On Killing)

Lt. Col Dave Grossman is the author of On Killing and On Combat as well as several science fiction books. In Lt. Colonel Grossman retired from the military as Professor of Military Science at Arkansas State University.

Col Dave Grossman In this fascinating interview Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman talks about the reality of killing another human being. Through years of research in the armed forces, Grossman has developed a big picture of the actual process and cost of using lethal force. Here are the highlights. There is an enormous social taboo, reinforced all our lives, that combat requires them to overcome. This change occurred because they did a better job of desensitizing soldiers to violence and shooting at other human beings before combat. Grossman says there are two filters in the brain that have to be crossed before a person will kill someone else. The first is the forebrain—the conscious rational mind that enters combat knowing what is necessary. The second is the midbrain, which is activated under stress. Prior to the change in military training, this second filter was what was preventing soldiers from deliberate killing. Alarming, Grossman claims that we are currently desensitising our society to acts of violence in the same way the military did. By associating images of human suffering and death with entertainment, through movies and first person shooter video games, we are removing that second filter in the brain and conditioning an indifference that makes it easier to take aim at other human beings. This, according to Grossman, explains the spiralling rates of school shootings, homicide and assault in America. So what does all this have to do with self defence? First, it is important to recognise that despite identifying a dangerous situation with your logical brain, you may still have trouble using the necessary force to defend yourself. How easy is it for you to deliberately cause injury to another human being? Second, the chances that you may find yourself in a situation where it is necessary to defend yourself are on the rise. Pretending that bad things only happen to other people is not a useful response. How ready are you to deal with a physical threat to yourself or a loved one? Third, your best response is conscious and deliberate preparation. This does not mean playing lots of first person shooter games. It means practicing physical self defense scenarios regularly and conditioning a response that allows you to take violent action in the right circumstances. Spar with someone who is actually trying to hit you. Roll with someone who is actually trying to choke you out. Get used to being in situations where you have to move and think quickly to protect yourself. It may just save your life.

Chapter 5 : Killology Research Group | Bio

On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society by Dave Grossman The good news is that most soldiers are loath to kill. But armies have developed sophisticated ways of overcoming this instinctive aversion.

This alone should be cause for the author to tread carefully. The fact is that "Men against fire" remains to this day to be a very controversial document. Yet, Grossman expects us to accept this study without any reservation. In my opinion, therein lies the greatest and perhaps fatal flaw of principal idea presented in "On Killing". True, effectiveness of rifle musket fire, or rather lack thereof, is discussed extensively by both of those authors. Another thing that made me raise an eyebrow are his multiple references to snipers and fighter aces. The first is his prime example of "killers" enabled by distance and barrier of technical aids between themselves and their victims telescope and thermal sights. Dislike for snipers is so intense that it is even displayed by soldiers on his own side! That in itself limit the pool of possible fighter aces to a very small group of people. As for enjoyment of the kill, I invite both readers of this review and Mr. Grossman himself to study films and images of pilots made immediately after their return from successful sortie. My impression is always that as they demonstrate with their hands the maneuvers they and their opponents made during the dogfight, their joy seems to derive from outwitting a skilled foe and proving that they were better than the opponent, not from the fact that they possibly killed another human being. The last issue that I have with this book is this - there are several occasions where Grossman refers to Greek and Roman military organizations. As a student of military history since more than twenty years ago, I found those references uniformly suspect or just plain wrong. Supposition that centurions were equivalent of modern officers, controlling and motivating common soldiers from the rear lacks, to our best knowledge, any factual foundation. In fact, if one is to draw any conclusions from primary sources that on several occasions mention disproportionately high casualty rates among centurions and optios, it is easy to come to the conclusion that Roman "commissioned officers" led by example and from the front. It is also incorrect that Greeks refused to use missiles - Rhodian archers and Cretan slingers were regarded as professionals of highest quality, while every Greek city-states fielded significant numbers of peltasts, light infantry missile troops equipped with javelins. Last part of "On Killing", where Grossman dooms all of western civilization and USA in particular to the fate similar to that of Lebanon or former Yugoslavia, all because of violent movies and video games needs to be mentioned, but not analyzed. Fourteen years have passed since this book has been published - teenagers that grew up with Freddie Krueger and Doom are now grownups and in key places of our societies. Violent videogames sharing commonality with military training have become even more realistic, even more engaging and are even more popular than ever before. And yet, the armageddon of violence failed to occur. I feel that in itself is proof enough that Grossman was incorrect in his assumptions on that specific point. After this massive critique it may come as a surprise that I think that "On Killing" is very valuable book. My reason for reading this book was on both occasions to try to gain better understanding about why men fight in armed conflicts. It manages to a certain degree to make a very difficult topic a little bit more understandable to "common audience". For that fact alone it needs to be recommended for anyone with the interest in the topic. Grossman must have read a very different book than I did, if he on basis of its contents makes claim that ACW soldier was one of the most well-drilled and trained of his times. If anything, Griffith states quite emphatically that this was anything but the case.

Chapter 6 : The Col Dave Grossman Debate - How Mistaken Is He?

death and killing were always before you " either as a participant or a bored spectator " and no one could deny that it was a vital, essential, and common aspect of daily human existence.

Chapter 7 : Full text of "On killing : the psychological cost of learning to kill in war and society"

DOWNLOAD PDF ON KILLING DAVE GROSSMAN

*Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and renown author Dave Grossman essentially created the field of killology. His books *On Killing* and *On Combat* have made an entire generation of military, law enforcement, and first responders more ready for the stressful, sometimes violent situations they face.*

Chapter 8 : On Killing by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman Book Report/Review

David Allen Grossman (born 23 August) is an American author who has specialized in the study of the psychology of killing (a discipline which he labels "killology").

Chapter 9 : On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society by Dave Grossman

On Killing Summary & Study Guide Dave Grossman (author) This Study Guide consists of approximately 34 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of On Killing.