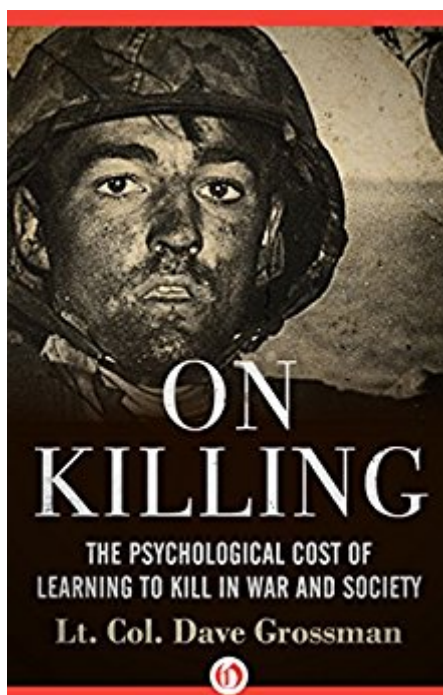


The book was found

On Killing



Synopsis

A controversial psychological examination of how soldiers' willingness to kill has been encouraged and exploited to the detriment of contemporary civilian society. Psychologist and US Army Ranger Dave Grossman writes that the vast majority of soldiers are loath to pull the trigger in battle. Unfortunately, modern armies, using Pavlovian and operant conditioning, have developed sophisticated ways of overcoming this instinctive aversion. The mental cost for members of the military, as witnessed by the increase in post-traumatic stress, is devastating. The sociological cost for the rest of us is even worse: Contemporary civilian society, particularly the media, replicates the army's conditioning techniques and, Grossman argues, is responsible for the rising rate of murder and violence, especially among the young. Drawing from interviews, personal accounts, and academic studies, *On Killing* is an important look at the techniques the military uses to overcome the powerful reluctance to kill, of how killing affects the soldier, and of the societal implications of escalating violence.

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Customer Reviews

Lt. Col. Grossman's systematic and thoughtful study of why people kill -- and why they do not -- is important. His analysis on the role of conditioning on overcoming the natural resistance to killing another person provides helpful insight into how and why American society has become increasingly violent in recent decades. The last few chapters, which takes the lessons learned in the rest of the book and applies them to American society, ought to be required reading for those who insist on blaming the tools of violence for the existence of violence. Thanks, Lt. Col. Grossman, for studying this topic with such rigor and for explaining your work so cogently.

As a police officer I just went through a major shooting incident. As I read this book, Col. Grossman went through it with me. He described to a tee every emotion I experienced. Reading this book was extremely helpful.

An interesting study on killing during war, from the Civil War to the present. Contrary to what one sees through Hollywood's eyes, there is an extreme reluctance for one human being to kill another, even in time of war. Further, the author's findings help explain PTSD, a frequent result found in our combat veterans. Then applied to our society's current ills, he identifies the logical explanation for random mass murders and other mayhem. Overall, it's a thought-provoking read.

very good book, well researched.....when it comes down to actually taking the life of another.....its easier from a distance, as opposed to close up and personal. I was a medic during VietNam,.....I can attest to the horrors of battlefield wounds.....it is not a pretty sight. On Killing hits the nail on the head.

An excellent explanation about the psychology killing. It is frightening as he explains the Pavlovian conditioning given to modern soldiers and police.

Well written and methodically developed. I'd known for a long time that the firing rate of the front line infantry in WWII was very low and it was interesting and insightful to read the background on the emotional and mental health behind those who fight at close quarters. I found it reassuring that it is actually hard to get people to kill each other. The last part about the impact of violent games and media felt a bit more preachy and a bit less tangible.

As a combat veteran from RVN and a career Infantry Officer I found this read to be interesting and should be reading for young men and women thinking about going into the service, especially one of the combat arms and for the spouses and partners of military members. His references gave the book credibility. Enjoyed the book.

This is subject that people need to know. I see the comments when a robber is killed by a shop keeper. They are all excited about a bad guy biting the dust. The shallow idiots never think about the effect on the shooter. This should be required reading for all Hollywood producers. I have heard him speak and he really understands the world as it really is not as we want it to be. Worth the time to read. We are surrounded by killing on a daily fact of life. it seems like a good idea to understand this aspect of life.

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