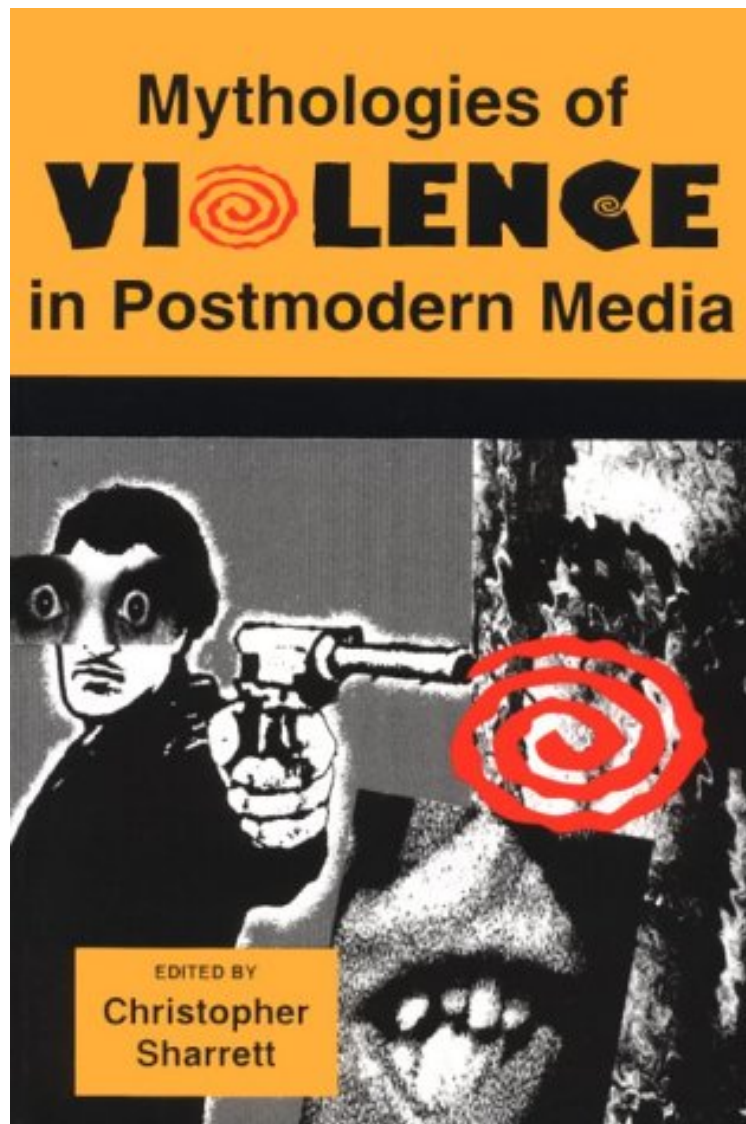


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Mythologies of Violence in Postmodern Media (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series)

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From Brand: Wayne State University Press : Mythologies of Violence in Postmodern Media (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mythologies of Violence in Postmodern Media (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series):

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating and reasoned critique of media violence
By Alessandro Bruno
Contemporary media criticism, according to Gregory Sharrett removes itself from an analysis of society's activities and focuses only on lived experience as text or discourse. It seems as if criticism is concerned with the sole purpose of demonstrating the degree to which media violence alone is responsible for producing violent social behavior neglecting arguments related to political economy, sociology or history. The apolitical nature of violence in contemporary film supports the idea that visual violence is an end in itself and that it is being exploited. However, modern Western society itself has become more fragmented and is characterized by flagrant individualism. Ultimately, most contemporary film violence does little more than to reflect current values. It fails to offer alternatives in the same way as the Western political spectrum has become essentially monolithic. In a way, modern violent cinema reflects Francis Fukuyama's famous remark - and title of his bestseller - 'the end of history', that was intended to illustrate that the collapse of Communism in the early 90's left society with only one model, the Western capitalist one, for success. Ideologies, alternative constructs are bound for failure.

Violence has been a topic of continued concern within American culture and society. Although there have been numerous sociological and historical studies of violence and its origins, there is relatively little systematic analysis of violence within media representation, even as this issue becomes preeminent within public discourse. This anthology examines a number of issues related to violence within the media landscape, using various methodologies to suggest the implications of the increasing obsession with violence for postmodern civilization.

About the Author
Christopher Sharrett is an associate professor of communications at Seton Hall University. He is the editor of *Crisis Cinema: The Apocalyptic Idea in Postmodern Narrative Film* (Maisonneuve Press, 1993).