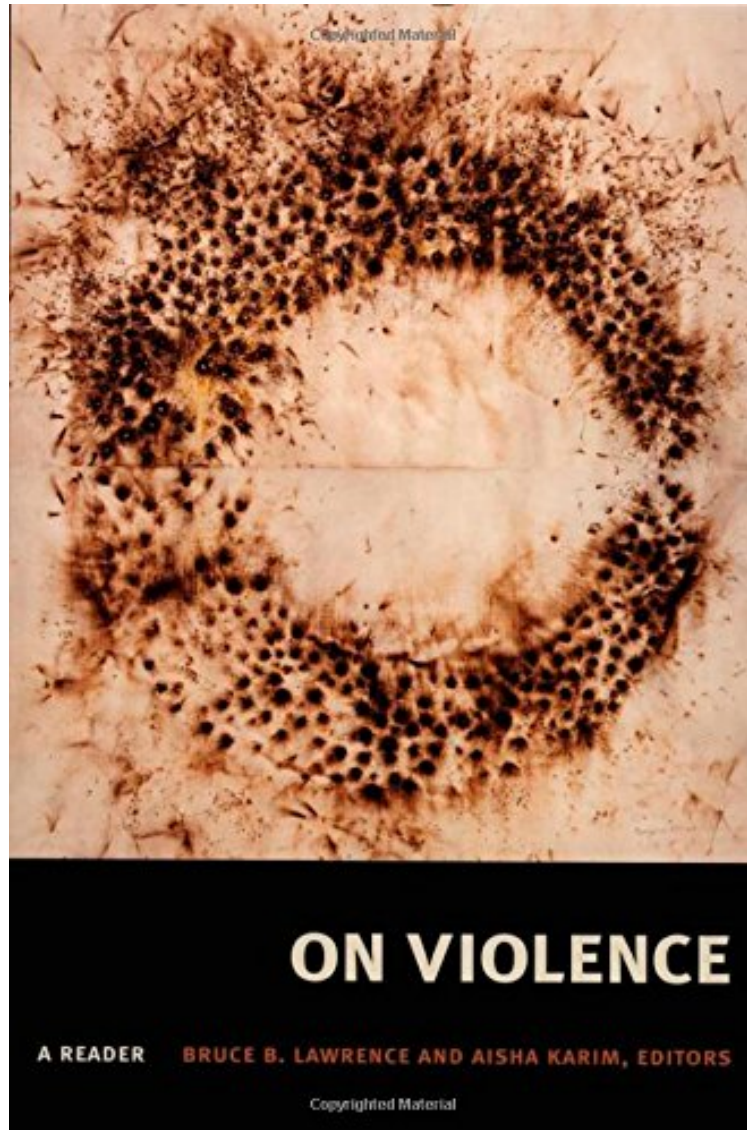


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On Violence: A Reader

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From Brand: Duke University Press Books : On Violence: A Reader before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Violence: A Reader:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy Desra This book was exactly what I was expecting. Needed it for a class and the condition was good. Definitely a good textbook if you're studying the history of violence and it's dialectic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. There is some good thinking here from well-known intellectual figures By Incubus This is an interesting collection but nevertheless slightly disappointing. There is some good thinking here from well-known intellectual figures, but some of the chosen authors - for instance Foucault - are

not notable writers on the subject of violence. Classic essays from the likes of Sorel, Elias, Fromm, Zizek, Toch, Wieviorka, Bollas, Dews and others could have replaced the weaker entries to make a stronger collection. It looks like the authors have chosen to collate a list of their favourite authors who have made some remarks on violence rather than research the subject thoroughly and pick the seminal writers. An interesting collection, but not a definitive one.

This anthology brings together classic perspectives on violence, putting into productive conversation the thought of well-known theorists and activists, including Hannah Arendt, Karl Marx, G. W. F. Hegel, Osama bin Laden, Sigmund Freud, Frantz Fanon, Thomas Hobbes, and Pierre Bourdieu. The volume proceeds from the editors contention that violence is always historically contingent; it must be contextualized to be understood. They argue that violence is a process rather than a discrete product. It is intrinsic to the human condition, an inescapable fact of life that can be channeled and reckoned with but never completely suppressed. Above all, they seek to illuminate the relationship between action and knowledge about violence, and to examine how one might speak about violence without replicating or perpetuating it. On Violence is divided into five sections. Underscoring the connection between violence and economic world orders, the first section explores the dialectical relationship between domination and subordination. The second section brings together pieces by political actors who spoke about the tension between violence and nonviolence Gandhi, Hitler, and Malcolm X and by critics who have commented on that tension. The third grouping examines institutional faces of violence familial, legal, and religious while the fourth reflects on state violence. With a focus on issues of representation, the final section includes pieces on the relationship between violence and art, stories, and the media. The editors introduction to each section highlights the significant theoretical points raised and the interconnections between the essays. Brief introductions to individual selections provide information about the authors and their particular contributions to theories of violence. With selections by: Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, Osama bin Laden, Pierre Bourdieu, Andr Breton, James Cone, Robert M. Cover, Gilles Deleuze, Friedrich Engels, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Sigmund Freud, Mohandas Gandhi, Ren Girard, Linda Gordon, Antonio Gramsci, Flix Guattari, G. W. F. Hegel, Adolf Hitler, Thomas Hobbes, Bruce B. Lawrence, Elliott Leyton, Catharine MacKinnon, Malcolm X, Dorothy Martin, Karl Marx, Chandra Muzaffar, James C. Scott, Kristine Stiles, Michael Taussig, Leon Trotsky, Simone Weil, Sharon Welch, Raymond Williams

This volume provides a long-needed anthology of major writings related to the subject of violence. The readings include excerpts from classic contributions of Marx and Freud along with pieces by modern thinkers such as Girard and Bourdieu and social activists from Gandhi to bin Laden. The selections are skillfully chosen to address a central theme, that violence always takes place in a context. The readings explore the idea that social, internal, ritualized, and other forms of violence are part of the processes of life and not necessarily anomalies. This is a thoughtful and arresting set of essays on an important topic that will be useful in the classroom and much discussed in the public forum. Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara, author of *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*