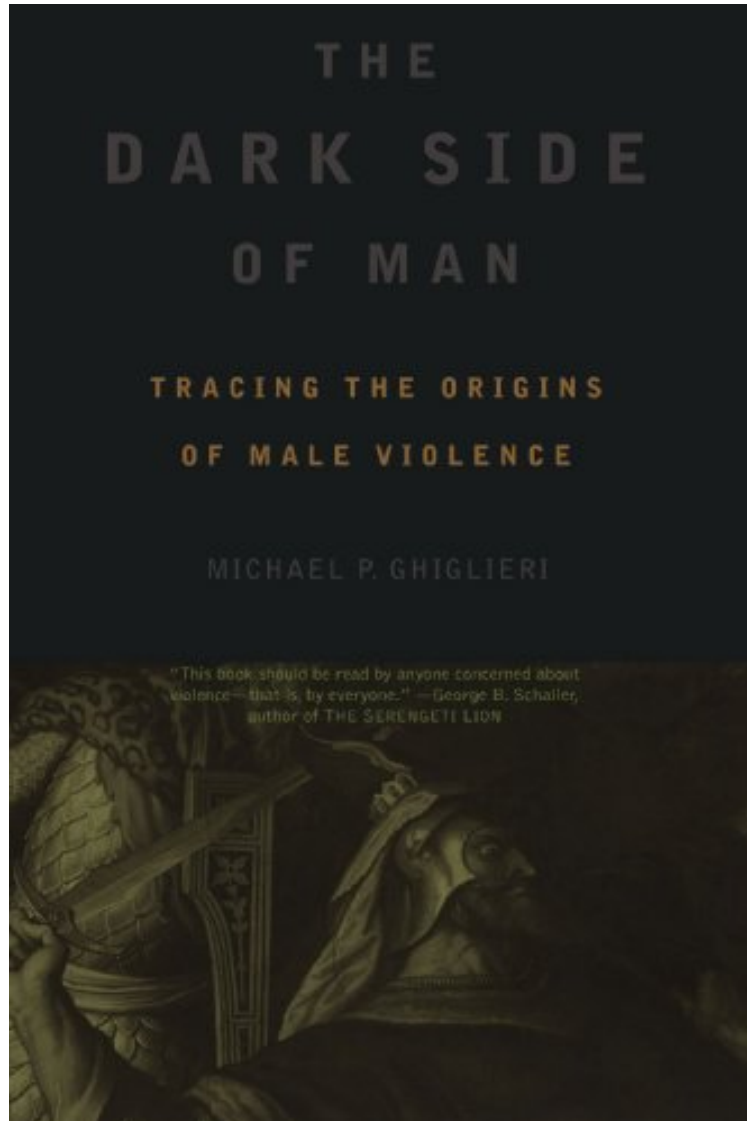


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The Dark Side Of Man (Helix Books)

Michael Ghiglieri, Joshua Bilmes
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Michael Ghiglieri, Joshua Bilmes : The Dark Side Of Man (Helix Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dark Side Of Man (Helix Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Book Examining the More Dismal Sides of Men (and primarily men)By Deaf ZedI consider myself a reasonably avid reader (compared to the 'average' person, at least), and I saw this as recommended reading on a particular website. That, the book's title, some samples, my ability to relate

quite well with my own dark side, and the fact that this wasn't available at my (pathetic) local library were enough for me to spring for a used copy for a few bucks. The book is enjoyable, albeit probably not for everyone. Prudish, priggish types will possibly not like this book. Those obstinately wedded to certain theories rooted in sociology and feminism - namely, those that mostly or entirely discount nature in favor of nurture - will also probably not like this book. Those unafraid of politically incorrect ideas, with open minds, and some occasional patience (e.g. for the few times when the author goes into tediously unnecessary detail) will likely enjoy this book. The book essentially argues that: 1.) men and women ARE different biologically, and these differences are what account for why men (and mostly men) are more violent 2.) much of the "evil" behavior of men (rape, murder, offensive war, genocide) has identical (or worse) manifestations in our closest living genetic cousins, namely chimpanzees and gorillas (though not just) 3.) violent behavior tends to be rewarded, as evidenced by the number of descendants successful warrior-types leave, compared to their less violent brethren 4.) certain political techniques for discouraging violent behavior on a broader scale are (in the author's opinion) better than others 5.) despite man's inherently violent programming, people can be incentivized to cooperate with others, under the right circumstances 6.) we, as a species, need to try to keep our violent side in check. So the book covers a wide range of topics: evolutionary biology, criminology, psychology, political science, economics...even a few war stories and a touch of philosophy. Yet these topics all center on one prime question: why are men so violent? Whether you agree with everything the author argues or not, the bottom line is the book makes for an interesting read, and I recommend it to those with an open mind. One final note: because the book was originally published in 1999, it is obviously a bit dated as of this review. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend it. By Barbara Brown I am a clinical Psychologist and have read this book before. It was of enormous help when I was working with a seriously traumatized Viet Nam Vet a few years back. It helped him understand some of the bizarre behavior on the battle field and why it's so difficult to forgive oneself even if there was nothing that could be done to save a "brother". I couldn't find my old copy and wanted to read it again and share it with my husband as we both struggle with the nature of the extreme violence in the middle east. I highly recommend it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book changed my view. By ideagirl Quite an interesting book with a very different spin on the motivations for rape and violence. It certainly is not light reading but if you like gathering information that can make you a more rounded person this is a good choice. Michael Ghiglieri carefully researched and documented his sources and I found his arguments credible and sensible. He certainly changed my views with his book.

In *The Dark Side of Man*, Michael Ghiglieri, a biologist and protégé of Jane Goodall, takes on one of the most highly charged debates in modern science: the biological roots of bad behavior. Beginning with rape, and moving on to murder, war, and genocide, Ghiglieri offers the most up-to-date, comprehensive look at the male proclivity for violence. In a strong narrative voice, he draws on the latest research and his own personal experiences both as a primatologist and as a soldier to explain that male violence is largely innate, a product of millions of years of evolution. In the process, he debunks many of our most clung-to, politically correct notions: that the differences between men and women are strictly due to socialization, that rape is really about power not sex and that genocide is only possible with a single madman at the helm. Well-argued, evenhanded, yet never dull, this important book illuminates the darkest impulses of the male psyche, and suggests ways for modern society to curb them.

Michael Ghiglieri studies the roots of male violence from a unique vantage: he's a former combat soldier and longtime primate researcher, a protégé of Jane Goodall. In *The Dark Side of Man: Tracing the Origins of Violence*, Ghiglieri uses this background, accompanied by copious scientific and statistical evidence, to construct an explanation of male violence that is often at odds with popular preconceptions. Central to Ghiglieri's argument is that violence is a deeply entrenched behavioral strategy--especially among males--that simply emerges when other strategies fail, a thesis he reinforces convincingly with both anecdotes and hard numbers. And while he recognizes that culture and socialization play important roles in encouraging violence, he maintains that ignoring the powerful biological and evolutionary forces at work is "the single most useless--and dangerous--approach one could take in trying to explain human violence." With extensive sections on rape, murder, war, and genocide, Ghiglieri methodically details our grim heritage, from wilding New Yorkers to wild gorillas. Some of his conclusions are surprising but persuasive--that the goal of rape is actually copulation, not control, for instance. But Ghiglieri's assessment is ultimately a hopeful one: he believes that by understanding and admitting to the biological origins of violence, we are better prepared to deal with it. --Paul Hughes From Publishers Weekly Taking a hard-line evolutionary perspective, University of Northern Arizona anthropology professor Ghiglieri (Canyon) argues that it is possible to explain all facets of violent behavior in humans through a thorough understanding of biology. Via an amalgam of evolutionary theory, criminal justice theory and concepts drawn from sociology and anthropology, Ghiglieri aims to convince readers that men are significantly more violent than women and that this difference stems almost exclusively from genetic differences associated with contrasting reproductive strategies utilized by members of the two sexes. Ghiglieri says that we should "not expect political correctness from this book," and in chapters on rape, murder, war and genocide, he keeps his promise. His

views will be extremely controversial, though they are not particularly well supported. He argues, for example, that contrary to accepted dogma, rape really is about sex rather than about power, that women threatened with rape should resist as strongly as they can and that "rape during war may be an instinctive male reproductive strategy." The book's final section provides Ghiglieri's prescription for dealing with innate violence: we need to stop coddling criminals, increase our rate of execution dramatically, encourage all states to pass legislation permitting the carrying of concealed handguns and create a retributive legal system based on the Judeo-Christian concept of an eye for an eye. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Scientific American Ghiglieri asks if males are born to be violent. "The answer is yes. Aggression is programmed by our DNA." And he examines the forms that male aggression takes: rape, murder, war and genocide. Then he asks if anything can be done about it. Again, yes. "Our intelligence, self-awareness, morality, and culture make us the most amazing and capable beings in the known universe--but not so amazing that we can safely ignore our evolutionary roots in natural selection. These roots are still with us--for evil, as in the lethal and genocidal violence by men, or for good, as in understanding and cooperating to solve the atavistic aggression that is our evolutionary legacy. Our fate lies in our hands." Ghiglieri, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Northern Arizona, is not one to shy from controversy, and it is doubtful that every reader will agree fully with his argument, but he makes it vigorously.