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THE PRECURSORS TO AND  
THE FINAL REFORMULATION  
OF A RECIPROCAL-  
INTERACTIVE THEORY OF  
VIOLENCE & NONVIOLENCE

# Reciprocal Theories of Antisocial & Social Behavior: General Precursors

- ◎ Social learning theories
- ◎ Differential association, identification, and reinforcement theories
- ◎ Imitation and modeling theories
- ◎ General strain theories
- ◎ Relational theories of aggression

# Reciprocal Theories of Antisocial & Social Behavior: Specific Precursors

- Terence Thornberry's Interactional Theory of Delinquency
- James Messerschmidt's Structured Action Theory of Crime
- Charles Tittle's Control Balance Theory of Deviance
- Mark Colvin's Differential Coercion Theory of Crime
- James Gilligan's Germ Theory of Violence
- Jonathan Turner's Theory of Emotionality

# Turner's Theory of Emotionality

## The Four Primary Emotions

Anger, Fear, Sadness

(Negative)

Happiness

(Positive)

## First Order Elaborations (related emotions)

Anger—suspiciousness, abhorrence and  
jealousy

Happiness—wonder, hopeful, relief,  
pride, gratitude, reference  
{empathy}

Anger X Happiness = revenge/vengeance

# Turner's Second Order Elaborations

Anger X Fear X Sadness →  
shame, guilt, and alienation

**Shame & guilt** lend themselves to the emotions of social control

**Alienation** lends itself to the emotions of isolation/estrangement

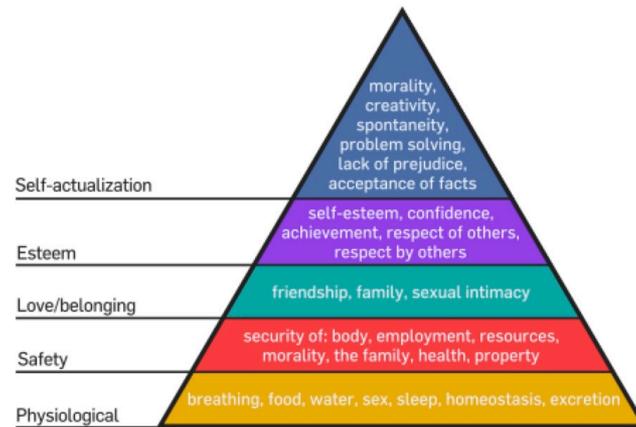
# Turner's Emotionally Ambivalent Outcomes for the Three Negative Emotions may:

- (1) **promote social order** through the motivation of self-monitoring (e.g., guilt, shame) conformity to normative expectations and moral codes;
- (2) **generate other “darker” emotions** such as anxiety, depression, or diffuse anger that may stir pathologies of violent alienation or estrangement, sanctioned and unsanctioned;
- (3) **be collectively reconstructed into positive emotions** and/or hopeful social movements for nonviolent social change.

## The “Darker” Emotions and Psychodynamic Properties of Potentially Violent Behavior

- ◎ Alfred Adler’s “inferiority complex” → produces unconscious desires to compensate for feelings of inadequacy or worthlessness → aggressive to violent conduct
- ◎ John Bowlby’s unfulfilled “attachment” and “psychic need” theories of delinquency → produces discomfort and anxiety that when severe enough → antisocial behavior aimed at restoring emotional equilibrium

# Abraham Maslow's “Hierarchy of Human Needs” and the Potential for Self-Actualization and Nonviolence



# Human Need Fulfillment, Emotionality & Violence and Nonviolence

**Without the satisfaction of safety & love/belonging→ feelings of alienation and under-developed esteem→ there is a lack of identification and empathy→ properties conducive to emotional violence**

**With the satisfaction of safety, love/belonging, and feelings of esteem→ there is achievement, confidence, pride, respect, reference, identification, empathy→ self-actualization and morality→ properties conducive to emotional nonviolence**

# Understanding the Dialectics of Violence and Nonviolence: On Adversarialism and Mutualism

*Rambo and the  
Dalia Lama: The  
Compulsion to  
Win and Its Threat  
to Human Survival*  
(1998) by Gordon  
Fellman

Adversarialism ↔ Mutualism

Adversarialism enables/reinforces Second Order Elaborations of Anger, Fear, and Sadness by promoting:

embodied practices of dehumanization, entitlement, and denigration (i.e. bullying, rape, incarceration)

reflexive discourses of demonization and vilification of the “other” (i.e. gangs, “fags”, immigrants)

the spread of oppression, repression and violence as well as the darker emotions of diffuse anger and rage (i.e. terrorism, torture, genocide)

Mutualism enables/reinforces First Order  
Elaborations of Happiness by promoting

embodied practices and reflexive  
discourses of cooperation, empathy,  
harmony, identification, peacemaking, and  
the general welfare

emotions of unity, connectedness, love,  
joy, compassion, and peace

# On the Reciprocity of Violent and Nonviolent Properties

- ◎ Properties of Violence refer to the essential attributes, characteristics, elements, factors, hot spots, negative emotions, psychic needs, and other conditions that are identified by a full range of ad hoc, developmental, life-course, and reciprocal theories of antisocial behavior.
- ◎ Conversely, properties of violence also include a lack of psychic needs and sufficient positive emotions (associated with the properties of nonviolence).

# The Reciprocal Emotionality of Violent and Nonviolent States of Existence

Emotionality of Violence	Emotionality of Nonviolence
anxiety	happiness
alienation	security
shame	contentedness
humiliation	compassion
mortification	empathy
rejection	hope
abandonment	gratitude
depression	pride
sadness	altruism
anger	mutualism
hostility	relief
Aggregate States of Conscious & Unconscious – “Feelings of Being”	Aggregate States of Conscious & Unconscious + “Feelings of Being”

# On the Reciprocal-Interactive Pathways to Violence and Nonviolence

- ◎ Over time or life courses, the individual and collective properties of violence accumulate across the interpersonal/familiar, institutional/subcultural, and structural/cultural spheres of human interaction.
- ◎ Like other stratified resources such as money, power, and status, properties of violence and nonviolence are reflexive of and/or a product of the uneven distribution of material and of psychic-emotional well being across society.

# Three Hypotheses of the Reciprocal-Interactive Theory of Violence and Nonviolence

- (1) both the properties of violence & nonviolence are accumulative in effect, that is, the more (or less) that these emotions of violence or nonviolence are engaged and in a state of psychic surplus, the more (or less) likely violence or nonviolence will occur;
- (2) when the familiar, subcultural, and cultural pathways to violence or nonviolence overlap, combine, and/or interconnect, the forms of violence or nonviolence will become more or less intense, and conversely, their expressions will become more or less common;
- (3) the properties of and pathways to violence and nonviolence are inversely interdependent and reciprocally related.

# The Reciprocal-Interactive Theory of Violence & Nonviolence argues generally that:

- (1) When the properties and pathways of V&NV common to individuals, organizations, and/or nations converge in time and place, they work accumulatively across the three domains/spheres to reproduce habitual patterns of either violence or nonviolence.
- (2) When...do not converge in time and place, or they are at odds and in conflict with each other, then the patterns of violence and/or nonviolence are mixed and irregular.

## The Reciprocal-Interactive Theory of Violence & Nonviolence argues specifically that:

- (1) as the interpersonal, institutional, and structural interactions of the properties of violence and nonviolence accumulate and reach a “tipping point,” they favor one behavioral direction or course of action over the other, **and**
- (2) as the number of interpersonal, institutional, and structural histories/pathways to violence or nonviolence converge in time and place, **then (at least) three reciprocal-interactive outcomes will occur.**

# The Reciprocal-Interactive Outcomes of the Properties and Pathways to Violence & Nonviolence

- ◎ First, the intensity of violence or nonviolence swells in magnitude.
- ◎ Second, the incidents of violence or nonviolence become more or less prevalent.
- ◎ Third, the differences in the spheres of interpersonal, institutional, and structural violence or nonviolence become less clear or distinct.

# Examples of the Reciprocal-Interactive Theory of Violence and Nonviolence

- ◎ Anxiety and Sexual Coercion
- ◎ Stigma and Gang Violence
- ◎ Shame and Genocide
- ◎ Social Movements as Alternatives to Individual and Collective Violence