



The Dark Side Of Man (Helix Books)

By Michael Ghiglieri, Joshua Bilmes

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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.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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.

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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.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stephen Williams:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand up than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific The Dark Side Of Man (Helix Books) book as starter and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Gordon Rollins:

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Edward Doucet:

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