Chapter 1
Motivations Underlying Mass Acts of Violence

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ABSTRACT

This chapter provided a definition of the term mass violence and posited that more mass violence is occurring than is reported. It addressed that living victims suffering the results of exposure to the use of mass violence has not really been addressed. The chapter advised perception is one of the most impacting aspects of interpretation of situations and the decision by the perpetrator to use mass violence, and it also provided critically important information regarding autogenic massacre as relates to mass violence being exclusively by adult, or young adult, males. The chapter went on to discuss the contagious nature of mass violence or murder as researched and the possible effects of violent video games on mass violence. The chapter then addressed the possible connection between mental illness and mass violence. Information was also provided which addressed hydraulic model of aggression as relates to mass violence.

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the intended outcome of this book, relating to mitigating Mass Violence, and managing violent threats in contemporary society, this chapter will address various aspects of Mass Violence. The chapter will also make a strong attempt at providing insight into the various motivations which have been uncovered via research that has been seen to inspire and drive individuals to use mass violence as a way of achieving their wants and desires in our society. When taking the time to break down the various aspects of Mass Violence it appears that the reality of Mass Violence is that there are many different types of motives for mass violence and mass murder as there are individuals who use Mass Violence to commit these horrific acts.

This chapter will also address factors that have been identified over time by researchers that appear to relate to individuals who commit Mass Violence notwithstanding the fact that these individuals are in different geographical locations and from different backgrounds. The following are some of the areas

that this chapter will address while attempting to provide some insight into explaining motivations and actions of individuals who commit Mass Violence (Mullen, & Pathé, 2018).

In trying to provide information regarding Mass Violence this chapter will address one of the most common manners in which to perpetrate this phenomenon which is Mass Shootings. There have been mass shootings in our society with more and more frequency since the middle of the 1960's meaning there has also been Mass Violence being perpetrated by individuals for decades. The chapter will address the fact that the issues of Mass killings can be of a variety of types including family slayings, cult killings, revenge killings, bombing of buildings, and also some being the by-product of other criminal activities. This chapter will further address reasons why the perpetrators indiscriminately kill people in pursuit of a highly personal agenda arising from their own specific social situation and psychopathology from a theoretical perspective (Mullenm, 2004).

The chapter will address the fact that Mass Violence has been on the rise for some time now and the response by law enforcement has been changing year after year based upon the lessons learned from each incident. This phenomenon is influenced by factors such as access to guns, mental illness, the desire for fame, revenge from being bulled, and copycat killing to name a few. However, this chapter will be specifically focusing on what various research scientists cite as being several common and contributing factors such as The Contagious Nature of Mass Murder; The Glorification of Violence in Video Games; and the Need to Act on "red flags" to identify and potentially confine the individuals who commit Mass Violence (Owers, Gomez-Lievano, and Khan et al., 2015).

In the case of Mass Violence the act of Mass Violence resulting in the death of human beings an end goal which is seen as being paramount is the attempt to identified what caused the individuals to perceive what they experience din the manner that they perceived it; to identify as many common triggers (reasons or motivators) for believing there is a need which must be achieved at any cost; to understand the why, the use of Mass Violence is the only method they feel will be successful in satisfying the driving need of the perpetrators, and in the end having a hopeful desire that some form of common indicators, which can be applied to individuals pre-usage of Mass Violence, thus hopefully leading to some percentage of prevention which can possibly be achieved via the results obtained from the study (Collective violence, 2002). It is the authors intent that the information obtained from the data being collected, examined, and presented can assist with addressing issues concerning the perpetrators and the ancillary victims of the Use of Mass Violence in our society.

In this particular chapter there will be a discussion addressing the fact that when examining and trying to understand these types of activities it is paramount that one must always keep in mind that each individual who commits these types of actions truly possesses their own perceived reasons as to why they are doing what they are doing, and what need it is satisfying for them personally. This is critically important because this motivational factor is what needs to be uncovered to assist in determining the motivation which caused the perpetrator to perform the heinous act. Having this in mind this chapter will provide information as to some of the common traits that perpetrators of mass violence possessed, which have been discovered over the years of research having been conducted regarding perpetrators of Mass Violence. There will also be an examination of some of the unique traits that several of these individuals possessed which make them distinctive.

The chapter will begin with an introduction regarding the definition of what comprises Mass Violence, which is extremely important in understanding what is being examined and what is being focused on to hopefully be better understood. Another important part of the understanding of Mass Violence is understanding what is meant by the term Autogenic massacre as used by researchers an individual's involved

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