



ADVANCE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVE JOURNAL

Available Online: <https://assajournal.com>

Vol. 04 No. 01. July-September 2025. Page#.158-168

Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)

Occurrence of Political Violence in the Boat of Social Alienation, Meaning in Life, and Criminal Attitude

Hayat Muhammad

Department of Psychology, University of Peshawar

Munazza Naveed Khan

Department of Psychology, University of Peshawar

Meamoona Raziq

Department of Psychology, University of Peshawar

Abdur Raheem

PhD Scholar, Department of Education, University of Haripur

ABSTRACT

This study scrutinize relationship between social alienation, meaning in life, criminal attitude and support for political violence among students, prisoners and drug addicts. A total of 354 individuals from multiple subdivisions, prisons and altered drug rehab centers contributed in the study, with a number of male and female defendants. By means of a purposive sampling technique, participants accomplished validated scales: the social alienation scale, meaning in life scale, criminal attitude and support for political violence scale. The study shows that there is positive association between social alienation and support for political violence ($r = .335, p < .001$), meaning in life and support for political violence ($r = .409, p < .001$), criminal attitude and support for political violence ($r = .397, p < .001$), representing that individuals with sophisticated constantly socially alienated, have meaning in life and those people who have criminal attitude incline to practice a bigger support for political violence. Conferring to the learning, those who feel alone or alienated from others, who think of other people as less than human, and those who have a deep purpose in life will use these factors to defend any violent conduct. Future research can also look into defense elements that could lessen the impact of dehumanization and alienation on violent conduct, like social support, community service, or religious survival.

Keywords: Occurrence, Political Violence, Social Alienation, Life, Criminal Attitude

Introduction

In this study we evaluate the incidence of political violence amidst social alienation, lack of life purpose, and deviant mindset. The study starts off through defining what is political violence. It is described as the thoughtful use of power and strength to attain political goals, political violence is characterized by both bodily and mental acts pointed at harming or threatening populations (World Health Organization (WHO), 2002). Political violence challenges individual's capability to involve with, and have self-reliance in, socials and political life by subsidizing to individual's loneliness and detachment from society, worsening individual's trust in others, justice, and government units and consensus itself, and minimizing individual's abilities or readiness to participate in political activities (Sousa, 2013). Political violence, encompassing acts from protests to terrorism, is a growing global concern and this kind of violence has become more

common and more serious. While political, economic, and historical factors contribute, understanding the psychological mechanisms behind individual and group involvement is crucial for prevention. Psychologists study what's happening in the mind. These mental and emotional factors often push people toward violence (Moghaddam, 2005 and Staub, 2011).

Social alienation bring up to the existence of being detached or insulated from society, categorized by mental state of helplessness, normlessness, social insulation, self-estrangement, cultural dissociation, and worthlessness (Seeman, 2001). The danger of violence is a universal worry. In spite of decreasing records of extremist spells globally in the last 3 years, ferocious extremism remains extremely high associated to historical movements (START, 2018a). The occurrence and power of violent attacks dedicated by broadly dissimilar philosophical sects (e.g., far-right and far-left movements, radical Islam) has driven the conception of numerous local anti-fanticism programs and national policies to handle the increase of homebased terrorism (Belanger, 2017).

In light of these universal tendencies, one persistent query for mental health professionals is why are young adults encouraged to join forceful administrations? One view holds that social disaffection is an important defenselessness that induces individuals to chase provision in radical sets (McVeigh, 2015 and Wiktorowicz, 2005) that assure solidarity and purpose to those that follow their ideological necessities (Kruglanski et al., 2014). Accordingly, marginalized and isolated individuals are expected to be at hazard of becoming terrorism employees, specially if there are no substitute vents to their aggression (Simons & Tucker, 2007) (Schumpe et al.-Weapons of peace 2018 and Scumpe et al.-Sensation seeking, 2018).

Lives may be knowledgeable when they are felt to have a meaning elsewhere the slight or fleeting, to have determination, or to have a rationality that exceeds confusion, it acmes the three vital workings- having aims and track in life, the extent to which a person have faith in his or her life has worth, value and position and lastly the intellect that one's life remains categorized by expectedness and routine (Williams, 2019). Humans are continuously demanding to make sense of the things they live and practice. Of this fact are witnesses the Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Maslow, 1943).

Mental health professionals can slant the question of what is meaning in life in two ways. A top-down method, which would suggest first essential hypothetically what meaning in life is and then emerging a extent that will regulate its existence or absenteeism in people; or a bottom-up method, which would suggest first questioning people already what is meaning in life, whatsoever they think it is, and wait for the data to make meaning and point out the important representative of this mental health process. The trick with choosing the top-down tactic is that experts are still not certain what meaning in life means, and by defining it they risk trailing important facets of its definition. The issue with the bottom-up method is that experts may acquire what is meaning in life from the most of the people, but that does not essentially associate with real experience (King & Hicks, 2021). All things measured, the great result originated is the bottom-up method because it incomes to let the figures speak for themselves (Bleidorn et al., 2014), whereas the top-down method is known to let the individual understanding of the researcher explain for all of us what is meaning in life, and this is not sensible until the mutable of attention is adequately studied. In terms of scientific precision, the bottom-up method is considerably better.

Criminal attitude refers to the thoughts, feelings, and beliefs an individual holds about criminal behavior, including whether they view it as acceptable, justified, or even desirable. It encompasses a range of attitudes, from those that support criminal activities to those that disapprove of them. These attitudes can influence an individual's possibility of engaging in criminal behavior (Andrew & Bonta, 2010 and Simon, Simon, & Wallace, 2004). Learning models, mainly social learning concepts which have had the most influence on criminal attitude (Akers, Krohn, Lanze-Kaduce, & Radosevich, 1979), have faith in that misconduct is a determination of discrete socialization, how individuals have been motivated by their participations or associations with family, peer groups, teachers, church, authority figures, and other mediators of socialization. The Social Learning Theory is correlated with the standard work of Bandura (1969) who articulated the philosophies of "stimulus control", strained the stages of demonstrating (Bandura, 1989) and originated the field of "mediated learning" (Bandura & Walters, 1963).

The suggestion advises that most crimes are devoted in groups (Kaiser, 1997; Reiss & Farrington, 1991;). According to Social Learning Theory the consequence of antisocial peers is central to sympathetic the evolution of criminal behavior and supposing criminal actions (see Conway & McCord, 2002; Mills, Kroner & Forth, 2002). Agnew (1991) described that one of the most dependable conclusions with antisocial inhabitants is the association between antisocial peers and antisocial behavior. These findings are valid within criminological mental health (Warr, 1993), child psychology (Monahan, Steinberg, & Cauffman, 2009), and adult psychology works (Gendreau, Little, & Goggin, 1996). However, research about the consequence of antisocial nobles on adult criminals has established reasonably little consideration when connected with research connecting children and adolescents.

Individuals or groups experience greater feelings of alienation from society, they are more predictable to involve in or provision actions of political violence (Gurr, 1970; Della Porta, 1995). Social alienation brings up to the formal of being disconnected or inaccessible from society, characterized by feelings of hopelessness, normlessness, social isolation, self-hostility, cultural disconnection, and meaninglessness. When individuals feel excluded from political processes, ignored economically or culturally, or disregarded by institutions, they may begin to view the system as illegal (Merton, 1938; Atran, 2010). This sense of departure can lead to frustration, bitterness, and a loss of faith in peaceful or independent means of change. Consequently, political forcefulness can be seen as a response to supposed injustice or as an attempt to recover agency and voice (Pape, 2005). Psychological theories such as strain theory and relative deficiency theory support this association, explaining how undelivered needs or congested opportunities can result in aggression and different behavior (Gurr, 1970; Merton, 1938).

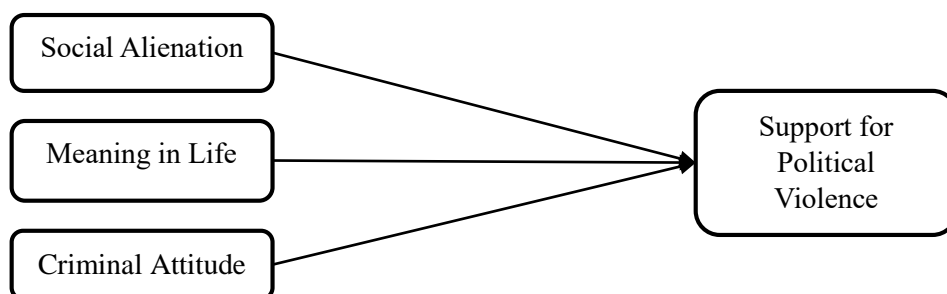
Social identity theory also proposes that alienated individuals are more probable to accept fundamental group identities that authorize their objections and inspire challenging actions (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Empirical indication further supports this relationship, with studies presenting that communities facing high levels of elimination, mainly among youth or ethnic minorities, often experience higher rates of political conflict and forcefulness (Klandermans & Mayer, 2005). Therefore, addressing social alienation through wide-ranging policies, community engagement, and institutional trust-building is crucial for reducing the risk of political violence. The importance of meaning in life and political violence has a extended records in the field of psychology. Psychology suggests that humans have a crucial need to find meaning and

significance in their lives, and when this need is unfulfilled or vulnerable, individuals may pursue alternative sources of purpose, sometimes through identification with essential political or religious groups (Kruglanski et al., 2014). This process is described by the “quest for significance” theory, which postulates that the desire to matter and be valued can motivate people toward extreme actions, including political violence, especially if these actions are outlined as heroic or morally justified within a particular ideology (Atran, 2010).

Psychological research also specifies that when individuals arise meaning from collective narratives that highlight victimhood, injustice, or sacred values, their commitment to these causes strengthens, sometimes leading to self-sacrificial violence (Webber et al., 2018). In this way, meaning in life, while generally a positive psychological resource, can unexpectedly fuel political violence when it is tied to rigid, identity-based beliefs and when peaceful means of addressing grievances seem ineffective (Victoroff, 2005). Understanding this dynamic is crucial for developing psychological interventions aimed at preventing radicalization by promoting alternative, prosocial sources of meaning.

Both criminal attitude and political violence involve cognitive and behavioral forms that justify or normalize the use of unlawful or aggressive means to achieve certain goals. Criminal attitudes refer to beliefs and value systems that overlook rule-breaking, disregard for authority, and the use of violence or pressure (Walters, 2015). When individuals or groups develop such attitudes, they become more prone to engaging in political violence because they see it as a genuine tool for social or political change (Horgan, 2008). Psychological theories, such as the social learning theory, explain that these attitudes are often learned through contact to environments where violence and criminality are stabilized or rewarded (Bandura, 1977). Moreover, political violence can be viewed as an extension of antisocial tendencies found in criminal behavior, where the motivation is linked to perceived grievances, frustration, or the desire for power and control (Pratt & Cullen, 2005). Empirical studies also show that individuals with criminal mindsets are more likely to join radical or aggressive groups that engage in political violence, as these groups often provide a sense of identity and justification for their violent actions (Borum, 2011). Thus, understanding the overlay between criminal attitudes and political violence is essential for psychological interventions aimed at prevention and rehabilitation.

Conceptual Model



Method

Participants

The population of this study where we collected data from different location and different people i-e form prisoners, drug addicts and college students. Total 354 individual were involved in participation; data was collected from four different place. The data collected from people out of which prisoners were 33.1% (n=117), drug addicts were 13.8% (n=49), students were 24.9% (n=88) and online participants were 28.2% (n=100). Out of all the participants 79.7% (n=282) were males and 20.3% (n=72) were females. Based on education 23.4% (n=83) were bachelors students, 70.6% (n=250) have done FSc, 5.1% (n=18) have done Matric, 0.8% (n=3) were masters students. Of the participants 34.7% (n=123) were married and 65.3% (n=231) were unmarried. From the participants 105 individuals were prisoners and only 2.5% (n=9) participants mentioned that they some type of mental illness. The treatment of participants, their anonymity, the acquisition of their free and informed consent, and the maintenance of complete confidentiality were all conducted following ethical principles. The purposive sampling method was used in the study and collected data.

1. Social Alienation

Social alienation was analyzed with 6 items scale industrialized by (Bélanger et al., 2019). Every item was given to be done on a 7 points Likert style scale reaching from (1=Not agree at all, 7=Very strongly agree). The value of Cronbach alpha was satisfied.

2. Meaning In Life

Meaning in life was analyzed with the 10 items meaning in life scale recommended by (Steger et al., 2006). Every item was desired to be completed on a 7 points Likert design scale fluctuating from (1= Not agree at all, 7 = Very strongly agree). The Cronbach alpha value was satisfied.

3. Criminal Attitude

Criminal attitude was measured using six items scale established by (Bélanger et al, 2025). The sample items (e.g., "Do what you want to do, even if it's contrary to the law." and "There are operative ways of getting a existing extra than using crime" reverse-score; $M = 5.72$, $SD = 1.02$, $\alpha = 0.66$). Participants given their answers or responses on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (Not agree at all) to 7 (Very strongly agree).

4. Support For Political Violence

Support for political violence ($M = 2.06$, $SD = 1.32$; $\alpha = .71$) was distinguished using three objects taken from Bélanger, Moyano, et al.'s scale (2019). The item was needed to be score on a 7 points likert design scale ranging from (reverse-scored; 1 = not agree at all, 7 = strongly agree). The value of Cronbach alpha was satisfactory.

Procedure

In initial stage was taking permission from the authorities of the concern organization\institution. Purposive sampling technique was used to approach students, prisoners and drug addicts in the second step. In the third step, individuals were provided with a comprehensive explanation, emphasizing the voluntary role of their participation and clarifying that no academic credit would be granted as an incentive for participating in the research survey. Questionnaires were distributed among participants, with which spending approximately 15 to 20 minutes on completion. Following the conclusion of data collection, all questionnaire

responses were concluded, and the data were inputted into data management software, namely SPSS and AMOS, and subsequently subjected to analyzation.

Analytic Approach

SPSS and AMOS were used to conduct statistical studies. Descriptive statistics were computed based on the sample's characteristics. Regression analyses were used to determine whether the social alienation, meaning in life and criminal attitude significantly predicted support for political violence. For this study, the reliability of scales according to Cronbach's alpha was satisfactory.

Ethical approval

Informed consent was taken from the participants, and explained the participants about the purpose of the current research. No such committee exists in our institute; therefore, all the ethical procedures were taken into examination during the entire process.

Result

The study aims relationship between social alienation, meaning in life, criminal attitude and support for political violence among students, prisoners and drug addicts.

Table 1. Regression Analysis between Social Alienation, Meaning in Life, Criminal Attitude and Support for Political Violence.

Variables	B	95%CI		SE B	β	R^2	ΔR^2
		LB	UB				
						.271	.271***
Constant	5.54	[1.03	10.05]	2.28			
Social Alienation	.189*	[.037	.341]	.077	.168*		
Meaning In Life	.267***	[.121	.413]	.074	.253***		
Criminal Attitude	.277***	[.149	.405]	.065	.280***		

Note. CI = Confidence Interval

*** $p < .001$

The table 1 shows that shows that the overall model is significant and explained 27.1% of the variance in support for political violence ($R^2 = .271$, $\Delta R^2 = .271$, $p < .001$). Social Alienation was found to be a significant positive predictor of political violence ($B = .189$, $SE = .077$, $\beta = .168$, $p < .05$). Moreover, it shows that individuals with higher levels of social alienation were more likely to engage in political violence. Meaning in life also significantly predicted support for political violence ($B = .267$, $SE = .074$, $\beta = .253$, $p < .001$), showing that greater meaning in life is strongly associated with increased political violence. Furthermore, criminal attitude emerged as the strongest predictor ($B = .277$, $SE = .065$, $\beta = .280$, $p < .001$) those with criminal attitudes more likely to political violence.

Table 2 - Evaluation Table of Correlation among Variables of the study model (N=354)

Variables	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5
Social Alienation	26.34	4.97	-	-	-	-	-
Meaning in Life	25.08	5.29	.413**	-	-	-	-
Criminal Attitude	24.45	5.65	.266**	.312**	-	-	-
Support for Political Violence	24.00	5.60	.335**	.409**	.397**	-	-

$p < .001$ *. Correlation is significant at level of 0.01 (2-tailed).

The findings of correlation table shows that there is positive correlation between social alienation and meaning in life ($r = .431$, $p < .001$) which means that individuals with higher level of social alienation are associated with higher perceived meaning in life. Social alienation is positively associated with criminal attitude ($r = .266$, $p < .001$). Furthermore, social alienation is as well as positively associated with support for political violence ($r = .335$, $p < .001$). This means that all variables are positively and significantly associated with one another, predicting that higher level of social alienation, greater perceived meaning in life and stronger criminal attitude are related with increased support for political violence.

General Discussion

The present study examines whether social alienation, meaning in life and criminal attitude predict political violence. Our result provided the overall support for hypothesis as all three variables are significant predictor of political violence in regression analysis, which explain 27.1% variance in support for political violence.

Firstly, social alienation was found to be the significant predictor of political violence ($B = .271$, $p < .001$), which means that individuals who has more interaction and connection with socially alienated peer groups are more likely to engage in support for political violence. This means that Individuals with strong links to socially alienated peer groups may feel misunderstood or downgraded, leading them in the direction of seeking validation through extremist ideologies (Borum, 2004). These individuals may sight political violence as legitimate tool to express their frustrations and drive change in their environment, particularly if they feel omitted from mainstream societal participation (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

On the other hand, there were positive significant association between social alienation and political violence ($r = .431$) which reveals that individuals who feel socially isolated are more prone to support or engage in political violence. This finding not only confirms existing theories but also provides new evidence within the specific cultural and social context of the current study. It highlights social alienation as a meaningful psychological factor contributing to violent political behavior, emphasizing the importance of development addition and social connectedness to reduce the risk of radicalization.

Meaning in life was found to be the significant predictor for the support of political violence ($B = .267$, $p < .001$), and it shows a positive and significant correlation between meaning in life and political violence ($r = .409$, $p < .001$). The findings suggests that individuals may drive a sense of

purpose or identity through engagement in political extremism. According to the results, this relationship specifies that when individuals lack personal or societal fulfillment, they may engage in extremist ideologies as a way to find meaning and direction in life (Kruglanski et al., 2014). This supports the theory that violent extremism can serve as a way to significance for those who feel marginalized or disconnected. The results of this study highpoint the psychological demand of political violence for some individuals and underline the need for interventions that promote healthy sources of meaning and identity (Webber et al., 2017).

Criminal attitude emerged as the strongest predictor for political violence ($B=.277$, $p<.001$), and have positive correlation between criminal attitude and political violence ($r=.397$, $p<.001$). Criminal attitude may reduce empathy and it allows individuals to justify and defend their extremist acts, such as political violence, individuals with more accepting views of criminal behavior are also more likely to support violent political actions.

More of what's referred to as criminal attitude may also hence considered as attitude that is directed towards norms apart from ones embodied with inside the criminal law. Thus the individuals who feel socially alienated are more likely to adopt auspicious views towards the criminal behavior. This association aligns with social control theory, which states that reduced social bonds heighten the possibility of deviant acts (Hirschi, 1969). Socially isolated individuals tend to be devoid of important relationships with civic frameworks like family, school, or community, which results in absorbing anti-social behavior (Leary, 1990). Furthermore, chronic states of social exclusion may breed an attitude of discontent and an inclination to defy social order, thus enhancing the propensity to rationalize and endorse criminal behavior (Baumeister & Leary, 1995).

Conclusion

Our study concludes that social alienation, meaning in life, and criminal attitude meaningfully predict support for political violence. Individuals who feel detached from society or find purpose through extremist beliefs or more likely to justify and engage in violent actions. Criminal attitude was the strongest forecaster, highlighting how antisocial ideologies can normalize such behaviors. These findings underline the need for inclusive social engagement and healthy identity building to minimize radicalization. Addressing these psychological factors is critical for endorsing peace and saving political violence.

References

- Agnew, R. (1991). The interactive effects of peer variables on delinquency. *Criminology*, 29(1), 47–72. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.1991.tb01058.x>
- Akers, R. L., Krohn, M. D., Lanze-Kaduce, L., & Radosevich, M. (1979). Social learning and deviant behavior: A specific test of a general theory. *American Sociological Review*, 44(4), 636–655. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2094581>
- Andrews, D. A., & Bonta, J. (2010). *The psychology of criminal conduct* (5th ed.). Anderson Publishing.
- Atran, S. (2010). *Talking to the enemy: Faith, brotherhood, and the (un)making of terrorists*. HarperCollins.
- Bandura, A. (1969). *Principles of behavior modification*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Bandura, A. (1989). Human agency in social cognitive theory. *American Psychologist*, 44(9), 1175–1184. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.44.9.1175>

- Bandura, A., & Walters, R. H. (1963). *Social learning and personality development*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1995). The need to belong: Desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation. *Psychological Bulletin*, 117(3), 497–529. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.117.3.497>
- Bélanger, J. J. (2017). The rise and fall of violent extremism: The science behind community-based interventions. In C. Köpetz & A. Fishbach (Eds.), *The motivation-cognition interface: From the lab to the real world. A Festschrift in honor of Arie W. Kruglanski* (pp. 170–195). Routledge.
- Bleidorn, W., Klimstra, T. A., Denissen, J. J. A., Rentfrow, P. J., Potter, J., & Gosling, S. D. (2014). Let the data speak: A response to Terracciano (2014). *Psychological Science*, 25(4), 1051–1053. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797614521015>
- Borum, R. (2004). *Psychology of terrorism* (NCJ No. 208552). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf>
- Conway, K. P., & McCord, J. (2002). A longitudinal examination of the relation between co-offending with violent accomplices and violent crime. *Aggressive Behavior*, 28(2), 97–108. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.90011>
- Della Porta, D. (1995). *Social movements, political violence, and the state: A comparative analysis of Italy and Germany*. Cambridge University Press.
- Gendreau, P., Little, T., & Goggin, C. (1996). A meta-analysis of the predictors of adult offender recidivism: What works! *Criminology*, 34(4), 575–608. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.1996.tb01220.x>
- Gurr, T. R. (1970). *Why men rebel*. Princeton University Press.
- Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of delinquency*. University of California Press.
- Kaiser, G. (1997). *Kriminologie: Ein Lehrbuch* (11th ed.). C.F. Müller.
- King, L. A., & Hicks, J. A. (2021). The science of meaning in life. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 72(1), 561–584. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-072420-122921>
- Klandermans, B., & Mayer, N. (2005). Radical right-wing populism in Western Europe: Into the mainstream? *European Journal of Political Research*, 44(1), 203–204.
- Kruglanski, A. W., Gelfand, M. J., Bélanger, J. J., Sheveland, A., Hetiarachchi, M., & Gunaratna, R. (2014). The psychology of radicalization and deradicalization: How significance quest impacts violent extremism. *Political Psychology*, 35(S1), 69–93. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12163>
- Leary, M. R. (1990). Responses to social exclusion: Social anxiety, jealousy, loneliness, depression, and low self-esteem. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 9(2), 221–229. <https://doi.org/10.1521/jscp.1990.9.2.221>
- McVeigh, T. (2015, June 13). 'Recruiter' of UK jihadis: I regret opening the way to ISIS. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/13/godfather-of-british-jihadists-admits-we-opened-to-way-to-join-isis>
- Merton, R. K. (1938). Social structure and anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672–682.
- Mills, J. F., Kroner, D. G., & Forth, A. E. (2002). Measures of criminal attitudes and associates (MCAA): Development, factor structure, reliability, and validity. *Assessment*, 9(3), 240–253. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191102009003003>
- Moghaddam, F. M. (2005). The staircase to terrorism: A psychological exploration. *American Psychologist*, 60(2), 161–169. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.60.2.161>

- Monahan, K. C., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2009). Affiliation with antisocial peers, susceptibility to peer influence, and antisocial behavior during the transition to adulthood. *Developmental Psychology*, 45(6), 1520–1530. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0017417>
- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). (2018a). *Global terrorism in 2017*. https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_GTD_Overview2017_July2018.pdf
- Pape, R. A. (2005). *Dying to win: The strategic logic of suicide terrorism*. Random House.
- Reiss, A. J., & Farrington, D. P. (1991). Advancing knowledge about co-offending: Results from a prospective longitudinal survey of London males. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 82(2), 360–395. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1143797>
- Schumpe, B. M., Bélanger, J. J., Giacomantonio, M., Nisa, C. F., & Brizi, A. (2018). Weapons of peace: Providing alternative means for social change reduces political violence. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 48, 549–558. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.12546>
- Schumpe, B. M., Bélanger, J. J., Moyano, M., & Nisa, C. F. (2018). The role of sensation seeking in political violence: An extension of the significance quest theory. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000223>
- Seeman, M. (2001). Social alienation. In N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of the social & behavioral sciences* (Vol. 21, pp. 14295–14300). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B0-08-043076-7/04254-1>
- Simons, A., & Tucker, D. (2007). The misleading problem of failed states: A “socio-geography” of terrorism in the post-9/11 era. *Third World Quarterly*, 28, 387–401. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436590601153887>
- Sousa, C. A. (2013). Political violence, collective functioning and health: A review of the literature. *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, 29(3), 169–197. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13623699.2013.813109>
- Staub, E. (2011). *Overcoming evil: Genocide, violent conflict, and terrorism*. Oxford University Press.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33–47). Brooks/Cole.
- United Nations Development Programme. (2016, July 14). *Preventing violent extremism through promoting inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity: Discussion paper (Global meeting report)*. UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Preventing%20Violent%20Extremism%20by%20Promoting%20Inclusive%20%20Development.pdf>
- Victoroff, J. (2005). The mind of the terrorist: A review and critique of psychological approaches. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(1), 3–42.
- Warr, M. (1993). Age, peers, and delinquency. *Criminology*, 31(1), 17–40. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.1993.tb01120.x>
- Webber, D., Kruglanski, A. W., Molinario, E., & Jasko, K. (2017). Ideologies that justify political violence. In C. W. Leach (Ed.), *The social psychology of inequality* (pp. 168–184). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-50820-2_9

Webber, D., Schimel, J., Martens, A., Hayes, J., & Faucher, E. H. (2018). Motivated meaning and the psychology of extremism: A goal-regulation approach. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 114(4), 552–575.

Wiktorowicz, Q. (2005). *Radical Islam rising: Muslim extremism in the West*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Williams, L. A. (2019, February 13). Having a sense of meaning in life is good for you. So how do you get one? *UNSW Newsroom*. <https://www.unsw.edu.au>

World Health Organization. (2002). *World report on violence and health*. World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en