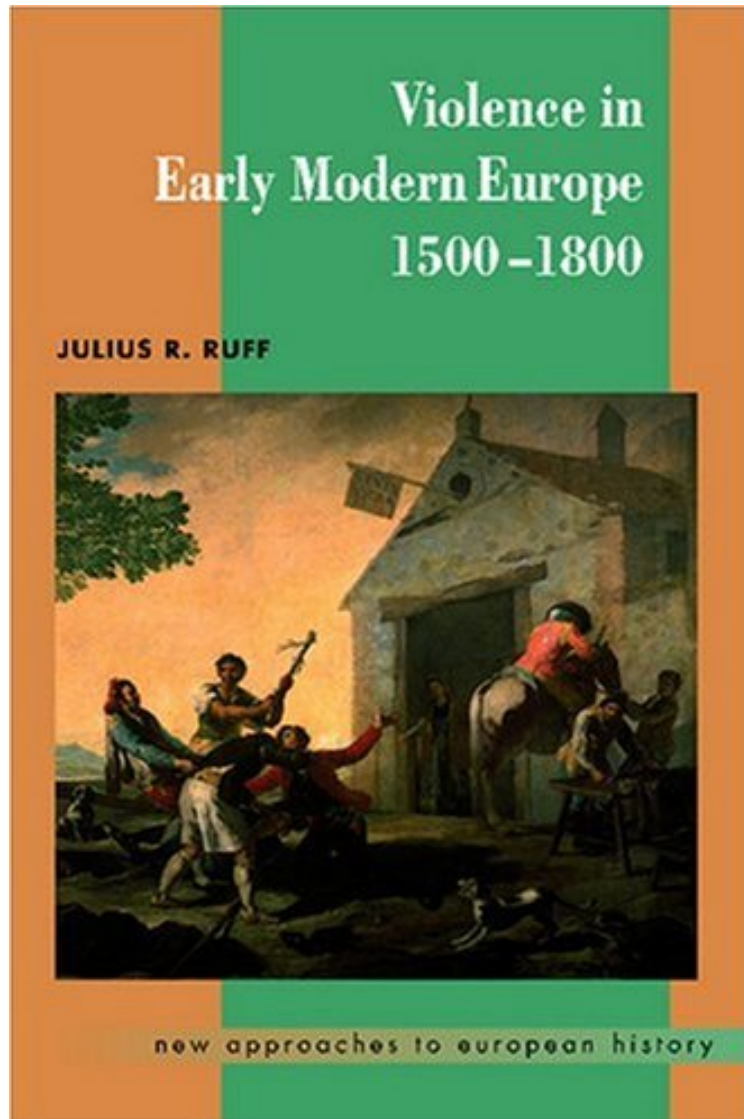


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## Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500-1800 (New Approaches to European History)

*Julius R. Ruff*

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**Julius R. Ruff : Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500-1800 (New Approaches to European History)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500-1800 (New Approaches to European History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review of Julius Ruff's Violence in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800 By Jake Barteau I just completed this book yesterday. Julius Ruff gives a solid background into the

unpredictability of violent human nature in the Early Modern Period in Europe (1500-1800) and backs up his claims with many primary source examples. He argues that the past was a lot more violent than today, and through the civilizing process, a school of thought under Norbert Elias, the world became much more civil, as people began to use manners, settle disputes through legal channels, and the like. Europe as a whole, and the world for that matter, dealt with violent episodes, and most took it as a part of life. Ruff continues in his work that through the state government and religion, man became more pacified, and settled disputes in a non physical manner. What makes this book interesting is its examples of violence, the different groups who committed violence, and the institutions that attempted to curb violence. Ruff's work is not an easy read, but most satisfying if you are a student of European history, humanities, or social science, and have an interest in Early Modern Europe, crime studies, and sociology. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The old good times were violent times. By Cesar Gonzalez Rouco Perhaps History nowadays insists so much in reproducing the economical aspects of past societies that it becomes sometimes rather an abstract overview of life, as if everything depended on the play of the impersonal forces of supply and demand. In this case, the author provides us with a refreshing approach to a somewhat not enough studied phenomenon, that of violence, leading us to abandon the idyllic idea that any past time was better. With this well documented book he reconstructs some of the least attractive aspects of our ancestors life, i.e., those related to violence of common life. His goal is to asses the nature and extent of violence in early modern times in Western Europe (basically, England, France, Germany, Italy, the Low Countries, Scandinavia and Spain), to examine its causes and to weigh the reason for its generally decreasing incidence until the 20th century. The period covered (1500 to 1800) has been chosen because of two reasons: 1) to identify slow, but real evolution in the violence of Europeans, individually and collectively, over three centuries; and, 2) more important, however, our period encompasses an era of extraordinary changes in Western Europe. Social and economic historians have now come to understand that many of these changes had profound impacts on violent behavior and state responses to it, which we will gauge in this book . I have rated this book four stars. Considering its content, I think it should be five; considering its readability, three.

This book offers a broad-ranging survey of violence in western Europe from the Reformation to the French Revolution. Julius Ruff summarizes a huge body of research and provides readers with a clear, accessible, and engaging introduction to the topic of violence in early modern Europe. Ruff examines the role of the emerging state in controlling violence; the roots and forms of interpersonal violence; violence and its impact on women; infanticide; and rioting. His book will be of great value to students of European history, criminal justice sciences, and anthropology.

"...well written, clearly organized and laced with engaging evidence makes it an even more welcome contribution to the growing field of violence studies. Ruff's methodology is informed by cutting-edge concerns while giving well-established classics due credit and/or criticism. The result is a clear distillation of decades of detailed research and scholarly debate...This is an excellent achievement and a valuable addition to the field of violence history: it will be a useful summary and reference for specialists and a clear introduction to students or general readers interested in the topic of violence." *Journal of Social History*"[This] theoretical and historical tapestry...designed to be accessible to readers at the undergraduate level, effectively sums up key issues that need to be considered by all students of history...Ruff is strong in his vivid and well-documented analysis...[this book] promises to be a valuable resource." *Comitatus*"Julius R. Ruff's book is a solid addition to Cambridge University Press's New Approaches to European History series.... the book is both an excellent comparative introduction to a significant area of early modern cultural and historical studies and a useful reference work for those already familiar with the scholarship in the area." *Renaissance and Reformation*"Ruff constructs a wide-ranging, clearly-argued, and well-written analysis of how violence functioned [...]an engaging text that should be considered for use in courses on early modern social and cultural history and recommended for those wanting a thorough introduction to the topic." *H-FRANCE*About the Author Julius Ruff is Associate Professor of History at Marquette University. He is the author of *Crime, Justice and Public Order in Old Regime France* (1984) and co-author of *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence*, 4th edition (2000).