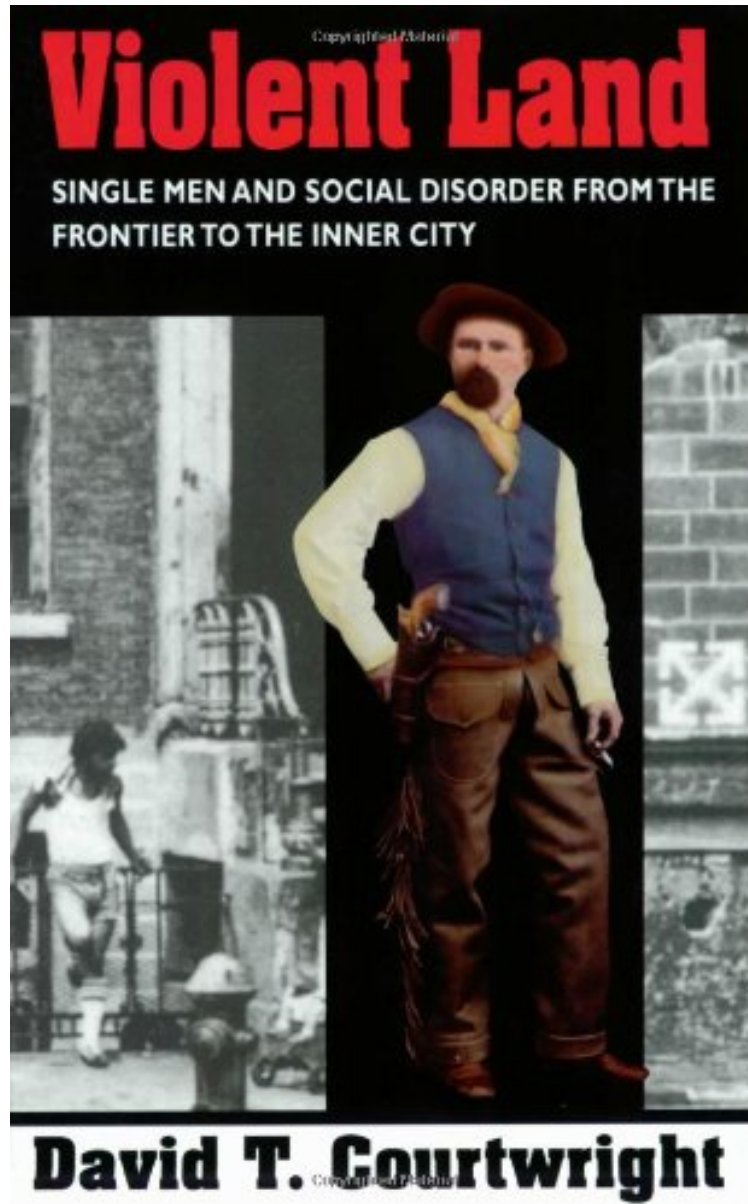


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# Violent Land: Single Men and Social Disorder from the Frontier to the Inner City

David T. Courtwright

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#1373070 in Books David T Courtwright 1998-02-11 1998-02-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.131, 1.25 #File Name: 0674278712372 pages Violent Land Single Men and Social Disorder from the Frontier to the Inner City | File size: 30.Mb

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## Men and Social Disorder from the Frontier to the Inner City:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Violent but PainlessBy Rabid ReaderAll history books should be written as this one is--it's engaging and lively in its premise that when large groups of (especially) young, unattached men get together...violence ensues, and that this was/is the social dynamic responsible for, among other things, the WILD West.You may or may not agree with these ideas, but it should make you think of history in a new way. History need not be understood as simply the action-reaction paradigm we're all taught in our (boring) high school classes, but instead as the result of subtle interacting factors: biology, culture, language, and who-all knows what.I strongly recommend this book, particularly if you think you "hate" history0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ShockingBy JustinGreat read and a lot of information that gets better and better.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A gift for my son who is doing family historyBy KayThis book is a gift. I know my son will be thrilled with it. Thanks for the fast service. Fantastic

This book offers an explosive look at violence in America--why it is so prevalent, and what and who are responsible. David Courtwright takes the long view of his subject, developing the historical pattern of violence and disorder in this country. Where there is violent and disorderly behavior, he shows, there are plenty of men, largely young and single. What began in the mining camp and bunkhouse has simply continued in the urban world of today, where many young, armed, intoxicated, honor-conscious bachelors have reverted to frontier conditions.Violent Land combines social science with an engrossing narrative that spans and reinterprets the history of violence and social disorder in America. Courtwright focuses on the origins, consequences, and eventual decline of frontier brutality. Though these rough days have passed, he points out that the frontier experience still looms large in our national self-image--and continues to influence the extent and type of violence in America as well as our collective response to it.Broadly interdisciplinary, looking at the interplay of biological, social, and historical forces behind the dark side of American life, this book offers a disturbing diagnosis of violence in our society.

.com The presence of women and the institution of marriage are two of the most important factors in determining levels of violence and disorder in American life, writes David T. Courtwright in this historical and contemporary study. They socialize young men, who are responsible for most of the irresponsible (often criminal) behavior in the United States and elsewhere. When one or both of them has been lacking--on the American frontier, in early immigrant communities, and in today's inner city--social pathologies have erupted. This fascinating analysis gets to the real "root causes" of gross misconduct, and makes a rare contribution to the way we think about violence, disorder, and crime.From Library JournalCourtwright (history, Univ. of North Florida) has written a timely book on one of the most hotly debated issues, violence in America. Observing historical, biological, and social origins of the problem in the United States, Courtwright squarely lays blame on males ages 12 to 28. Paralleling the findings of David Blankenhorn's in *Fatherless America* (LJ 1/95), the author finds that violence stems most frequently from young men without fathers or families and from bachelors. Courtwright states that historical patterns of violence that flowed from a high point during the frontier days, ebbed in the 1940s and 1950s, and resurged in the 1990s can be related to the strength of family relationships. To control violence, we must therefore support the family unit. Courtwright's theories of violence will no doubt provoke controversy, but his book is a valuable addition to the body of literature for public and academic libraries.?Michael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Libs., Ind.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistWhether in the cowboy bunkhouse of the last century or the gang crack house of this one, young men have often wielded guns and knives to deadly effect. Documenting this male violence requires scholarship; explaining it requires cultural insight. Courtwright combines both in a work of compelling timeliness, showing that the same kind of male aggressiveness that once flared into brawls in Dodge City and Abilene is now erupting in the form of drive-by shootings in our inner cities. Young men have often indulged in mayhem when living outside the restraints of family and marriage. In a nation where pistols are cheap and ethnic sensibilities raw, these rootless males have rarely lacked the means or the motive to shed blood. Courtwright credits women and marriage with the eventual pacification of the cowboy culture. But how, he asks, can society bring the fatherless, spouseless males terrorizing the inner city under the same civilizing influences? No one who cares about America's future can ignore Courtwright's disturbing thesis. Bryce Christensen