

# VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

## Historical & Comparative Perspectives

Edited by Hugh Davis Graham & Ted Robert Gurr

Preface by **MILTON S. EISENHOWER**

Revised Edition

The year 1968 saw the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the deaths of untold thousands of young American soldiers in Vietnam. Campuses and central cities were surging with unrest. Policemen were cracking heads outside the Democratic Convention in Chicago. The outcry of a stunned public led President Johnson to establish the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, headed by Milton S. Eisenhower, to look into the nature of violence as a feature of American life.

The commission's report — VIOLENCE IN AMERICA — became an instantaneous best seller when it was released a year later. Edited by historian Hugh Davis Graham and political scientist Ted Robert Gurr, it offered "an uncompromising portrait of a nation whose past was often marred by violence, but showed by comparison to other nations that the American experience — though more extensive and voluminous — was neither unique nor beyond explanation and remedy."

The decade since the publication of VIOLENCE IN AMERICA has seen radical changes in American society and American violence. We have lived through Kent State, Charles Manson, the attempted assassination of George Wallace, Son of Sam, Patty Hearst, and the invasions of Laos and Cambodia. Vietnam and campus unrest have been supplanted in the news by militant ethnic groups, skyjackings, skyrocketing handgun sales, and a perpetually rising crime rate. Watergate, the Korean influence-buying scandal and CIA disclosures have changed our view of our government and how it enforces its own laws. Clearly, VIOLENCE IN AMERICA needed to be updated and reinterpreted.

Now, a decade after the original VIOLENCE IN AMERICA, editors Graham and Gurr have done just that, in twenty chapters - nine of them entirely new, the others completely revised - attempting to redefine VIOLENCE IN AMERICA ten years after the chaos that was 1968. Their conclusions will be of vital interest to all concerned with the interpretation of America's turbulent past, and the assessment of its future.

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Individuals have tended to think of themselves as working, or at least concentrating on knowledge creation, knowledge diffusion or knowledge utilization. As a result, these three subfields studying knowledge have evolved independently of each other. KNOWLEDGE: CREA-

TION, DIFFUSION, UTILIZATION will provide the first forum for communication among individuals in these divergent areas as well as a context in which to develop research, methodology, and practices which establish much-needed linkages between them.

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