Review
Reviewed Work(s): Understanding Violence and Victimization by Robert J. Meadows
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Robert J. Meadows’ *Understanding Violence and Victimization* discusses the theories and different types of violence and offenders. The text proposes sensible and reliable responses to crime. It investigates the social, legal and psychological conditions of stalking, harassment, strangers and intimate victimization. Moreover, the book describes victim rights legislation, victim compensation laws, civil justice options, legislation designed to hinder violent recurrent criminal behavior, and personal protection approaches.

Chapter 1 analyzes some of the important theories and data on victimization. It essentially presents criminal victimization, explaining how and why some people are victimized. The chapter also focuses on crime and victimization in schools.

The second chapter investigates domestic violence, acquaintance rape, and stalking. It covers the legal and social issues of such crimes as well as preventive measures.

Chapter 3 looks at stranger violence. The chapter focuses on the circumstances in which people become victims of violence by strangers. It also discusses serial killers, their motives and their victims.

The fourth chapter describes the dynamics of violence at the workplace. It presents theories and reasons for workplace violence. Suggestions are offered on what can be done to decrease the possibility for such violence.

Chapter 5 describes the strategies to prevent victimization in general. It also examines personal defense measures, including the use of firearms. Moreover, the chapter presents the different programs available for crime victims.

Meadows does an outstanding job in his discussion of victimization theories, intimate victimization, stranger violence, and violence at the workplace. He also proposes excellent strategies to prevent victimization.

A weakness does exist in *Understanding Violence and Victimization*. The author, for the most part, only investigates street crimes and the victimization that results from these crimes. He does not discuss white-collar offenses (such as, corporate crimes, political corruption and others) and the victimization that results from these offenses. It is important to look at white-collar crimes because such offenses cause a great deal more physical, financial, and moral harm than all street crimes put together in American society. Moreover, it is important to examine the socioeconomic aspects of persons who tend to be the victims of white-collar wrongdoing. A chapter on white-collar crimes, according to this reviewer, would have been a positive addition to the text.

Overall, I recommend *Understanding Violence and Victimization*. Meadow’s work is a very interesting and informative book and it is a very good resource guide for anyone interested in victimization and violence.

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