

Professor Keith Kendrick



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Nearly half of all rapes and violent crimes are associated with alcohol consumption



What is aggression and why has it evolved?

Is aggression an inevitable trait in all species?



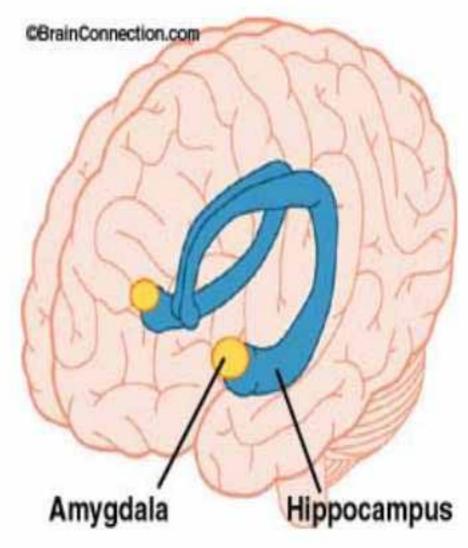




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How is aggression controlled by the brain?



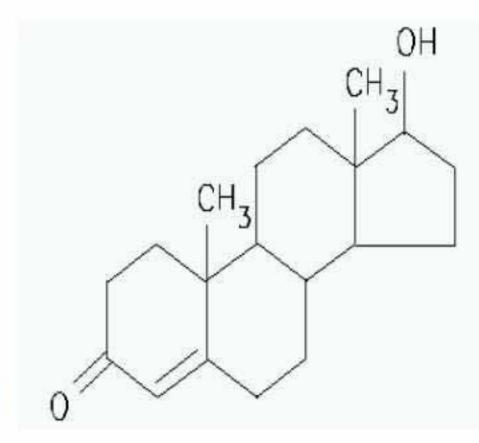
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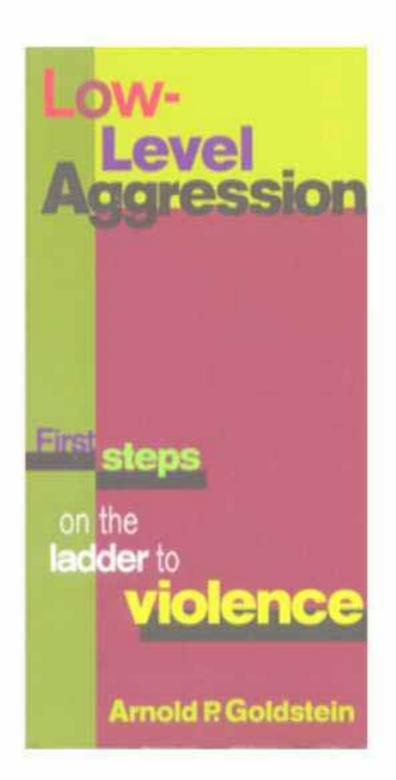
What hormonal, biochemical and genetic factors

may contribute to excessive aggression?



Testosterone

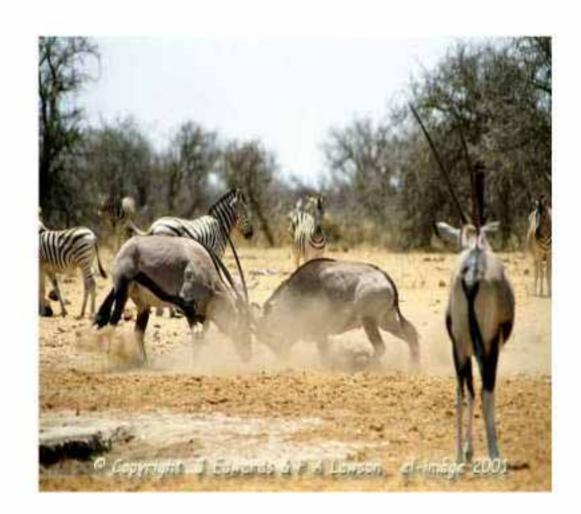
What effects does experience have on levels of aggression?

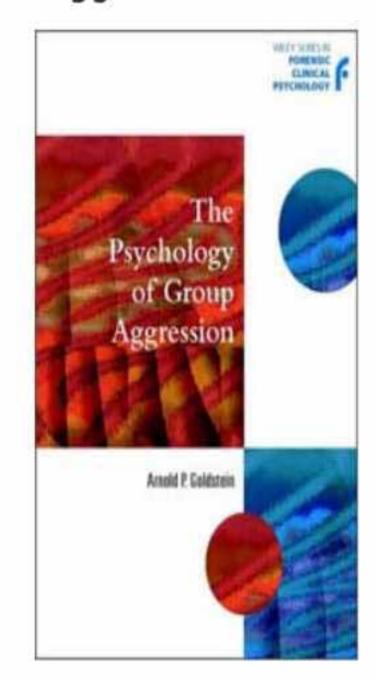


What effects does experience have on levels of aggression?

Why do some species engage in group-based aggression in order to

kill neighbours?





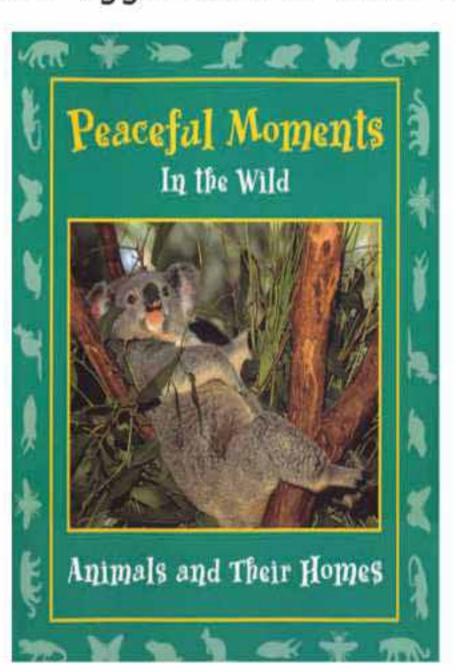
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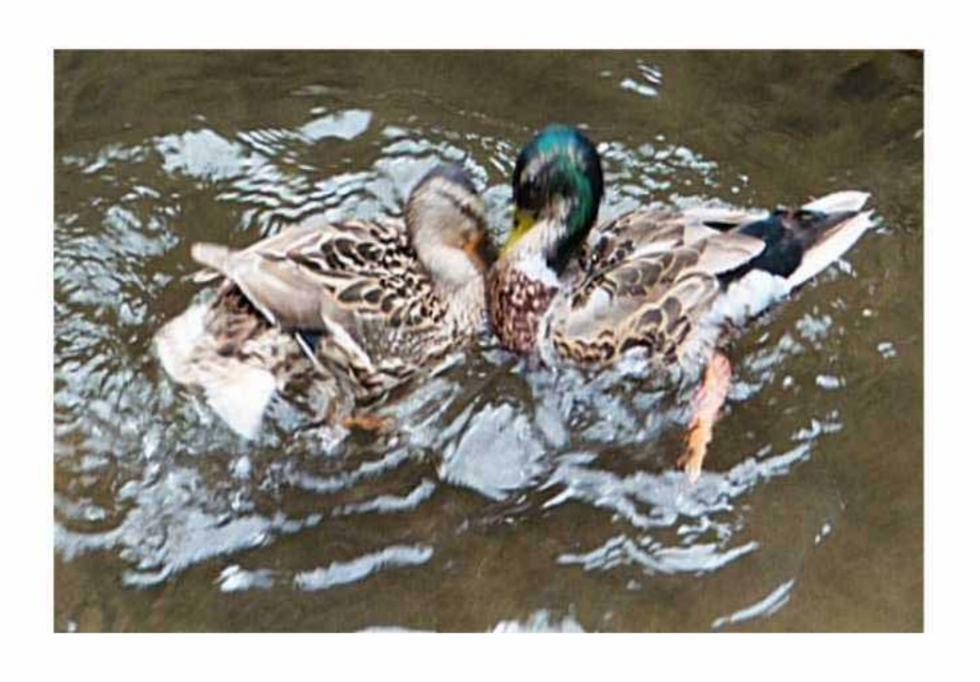
kill neighbours?

Can we learn anything from other species about how to live more peacefully?





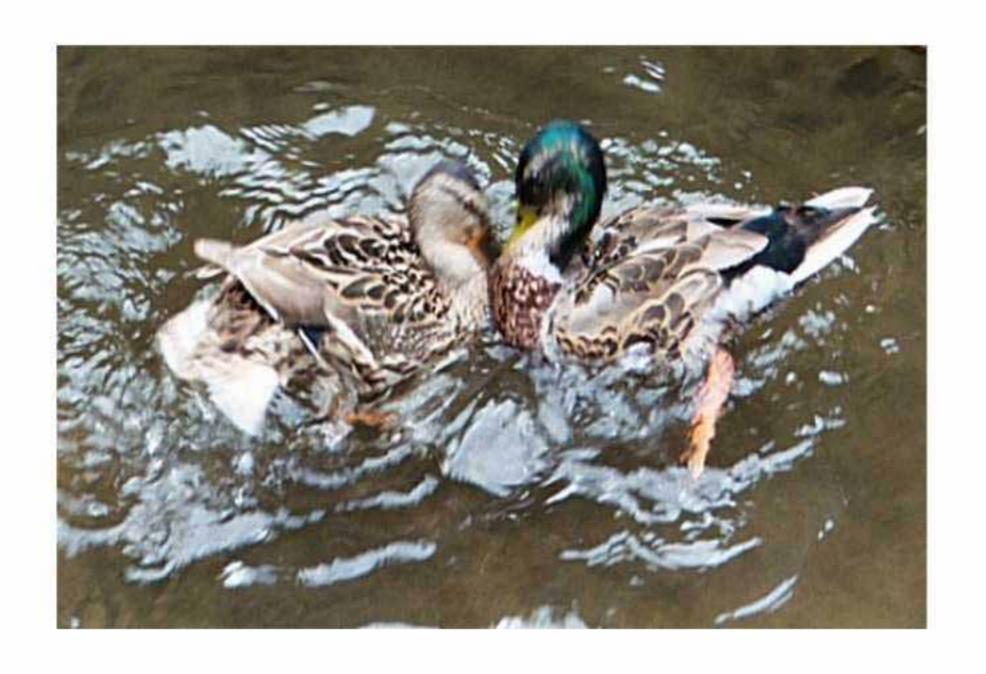
# What is aggression and why has it evolved?

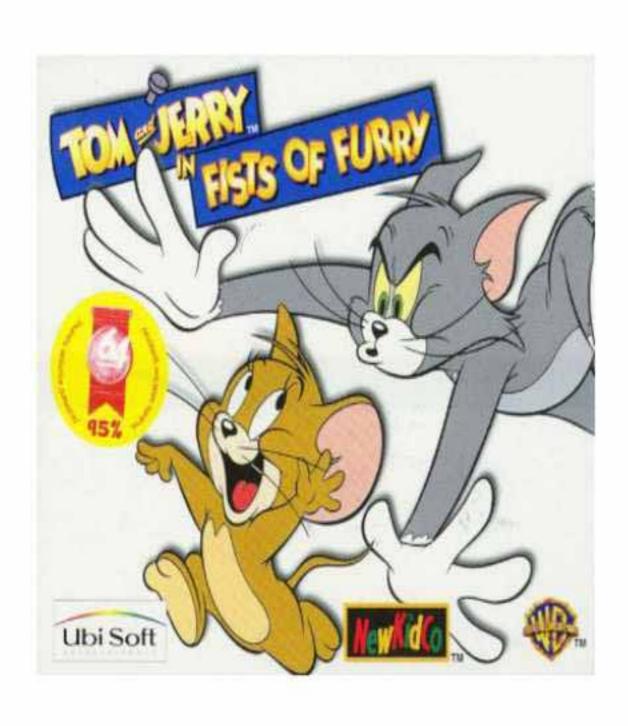


# What is aggression and why has it evolved?

#### Aggression:

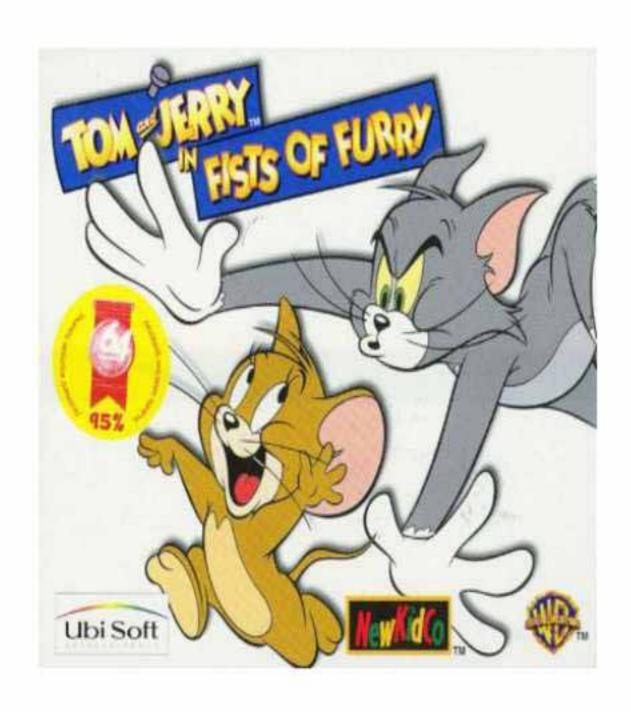
'Overt behaviour intended to inflict damage on another individual'







For humans affective aggression tends to be reactive and predatory aggression tends to be proactive





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Predatory aggression is no longer about putting food on the table

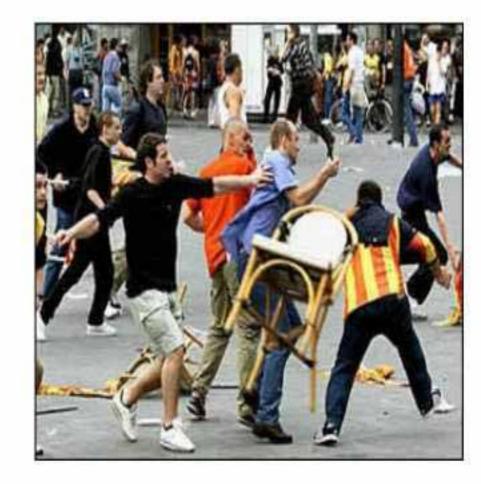


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Premeditated acts of aggression towards people or property are

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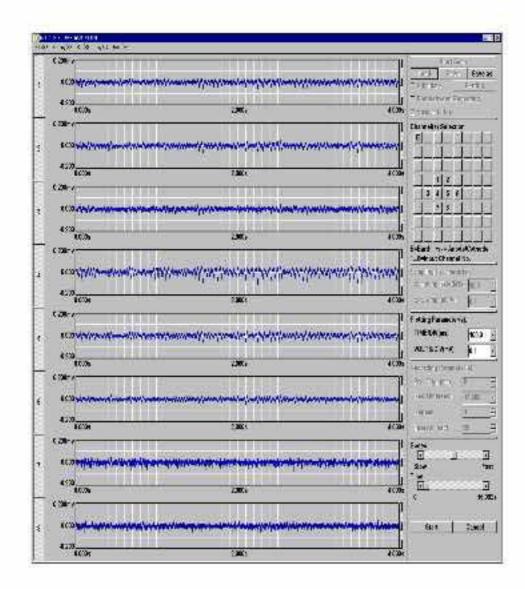
Pathological killers often seem to operate in predatory mode



# Some physiological characteristics of violent criminals

Criminals, murderers and psychopaths are often hypoaroused

They may have lower heart rates, skin conductance and slower frequency brain waves (EEG)





# Some physiological characteristics of violent criminals

Criminals, murderers and psychopaths are often hypoaroused

They may have lower heart rates, skin conductance and slower frequency brain waves (EEG)

A chronic state of underarousal may be aversive, and crime could provide a buzz!

A's Top Yankees — Rain Helps Giants Beat Mets SPORTS FINAL





015-771-1111 SECIMIS



# The Gunman's Grudge

Killer's Letter Shows Depth of His Anger



Message found on body

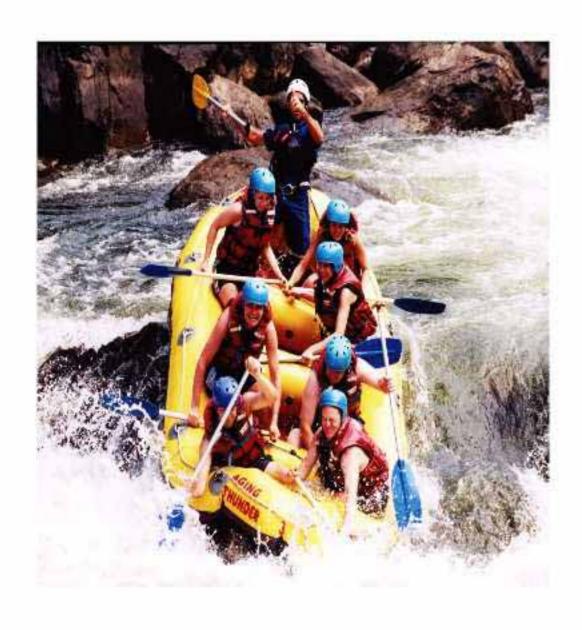
a Thursday before eacing his own ble in a stake will of a Sen Francisco

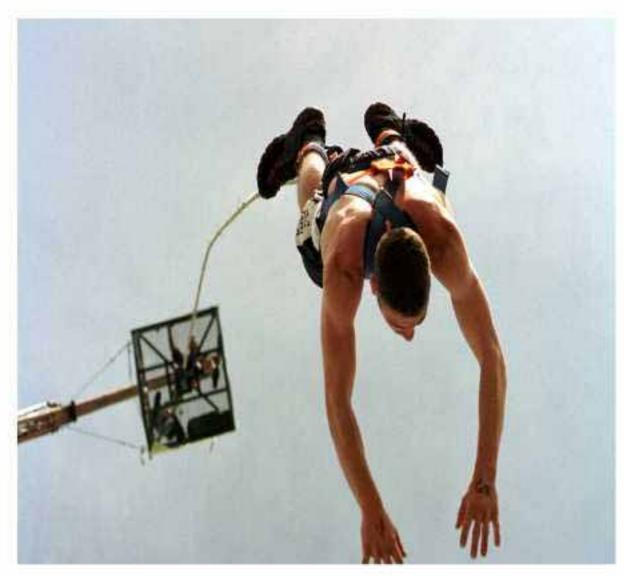
#### ON THE SHOOTINGS

books Swap for ear an

# Some physiological characteristics of others

Extreme sports activities may be a better option!





# Some physiological characteristics of others

Individuals in some professions seem to benefit from underarousal.....



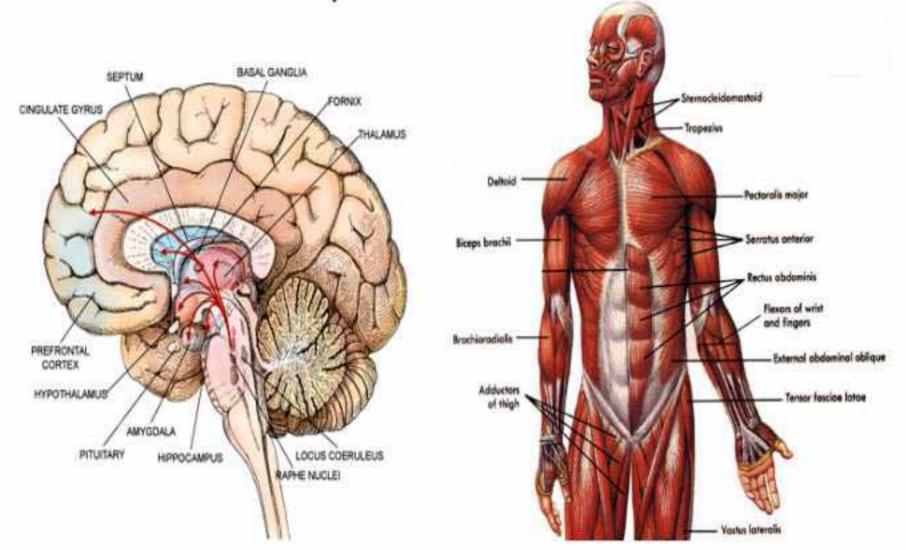


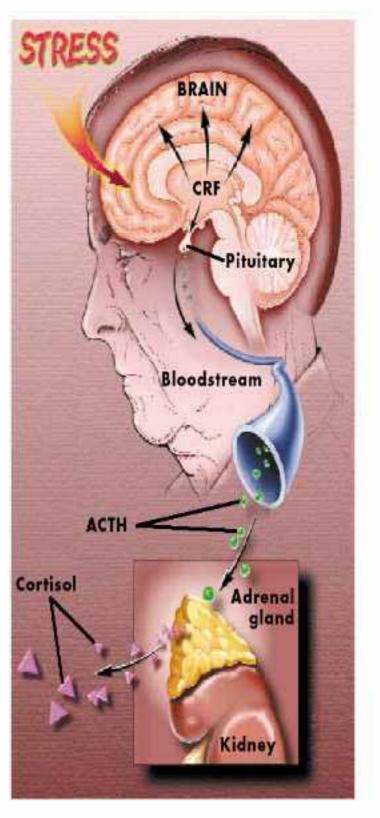
Why have most species developed an affective aggression response?



Why have most species developed an affective aggression response?

An affective response will mobilise stress hormones and improve defense

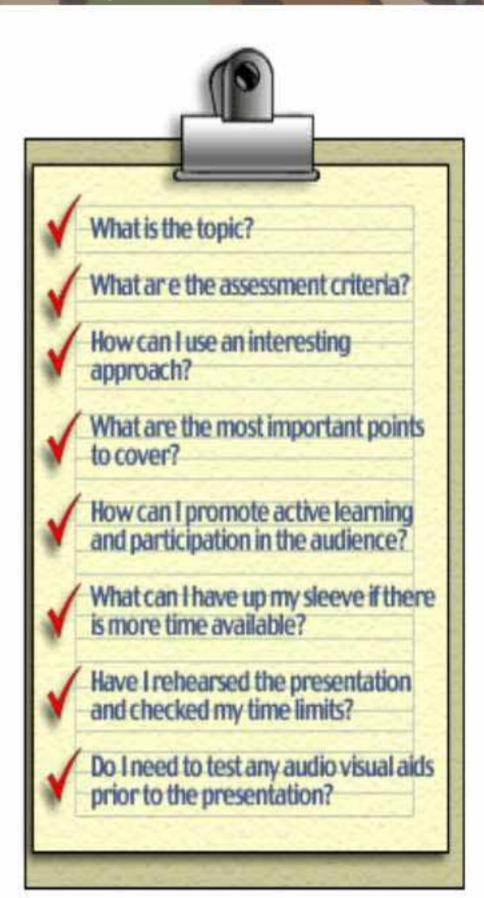




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Better risk assessment for offensive action

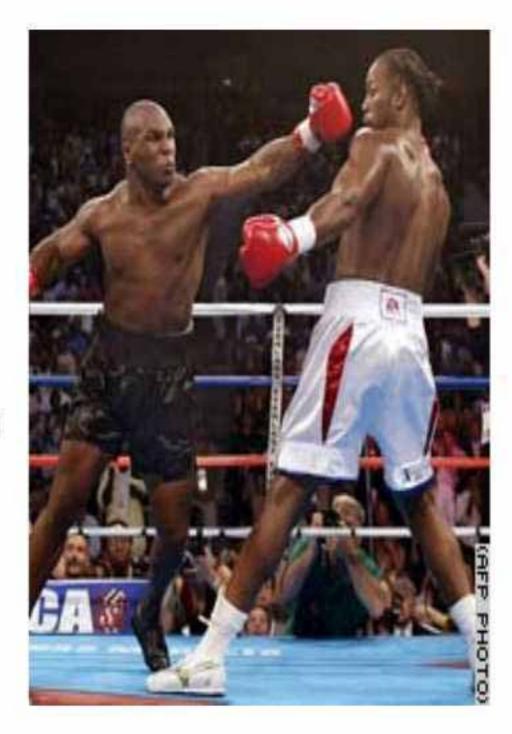


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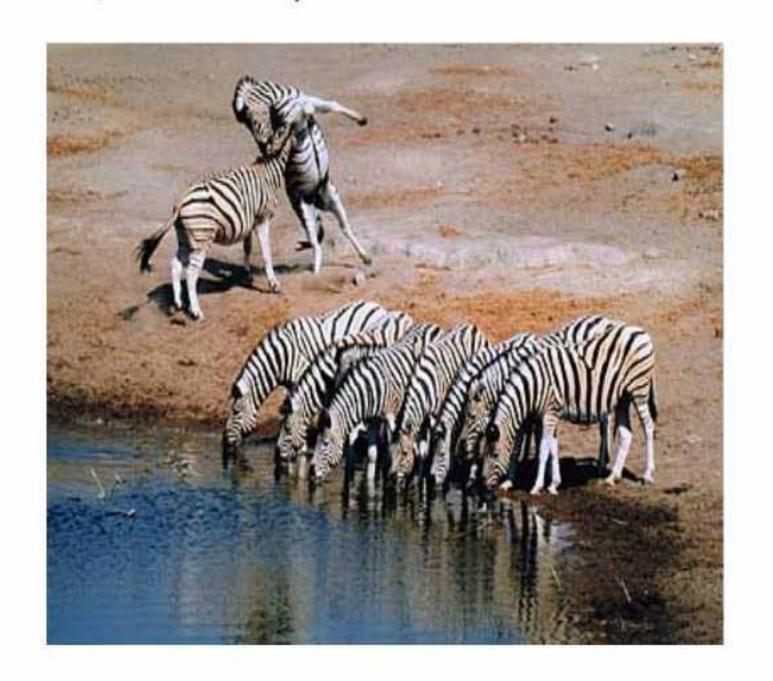
Better risk assessment for offensive action

Increased chance of avoiding a fight

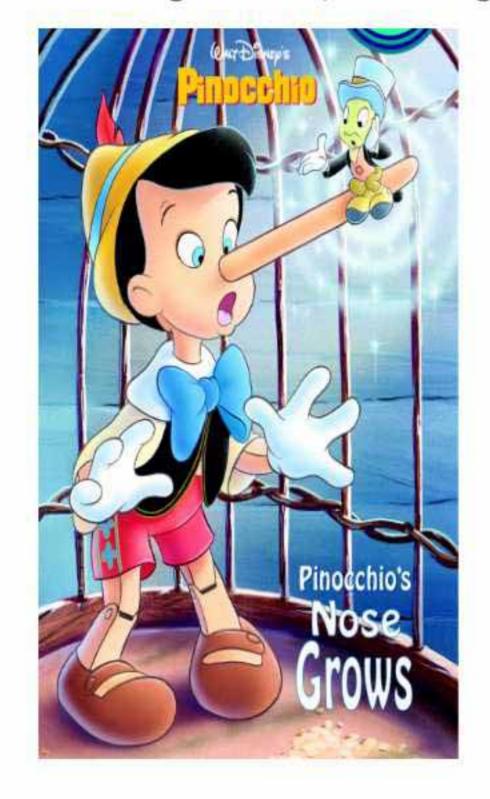


A key aim of aggression is to dominate over someone or something

It is used to obtain/control key resources of survival or reward value



We also use negotiation, cheating and deceit

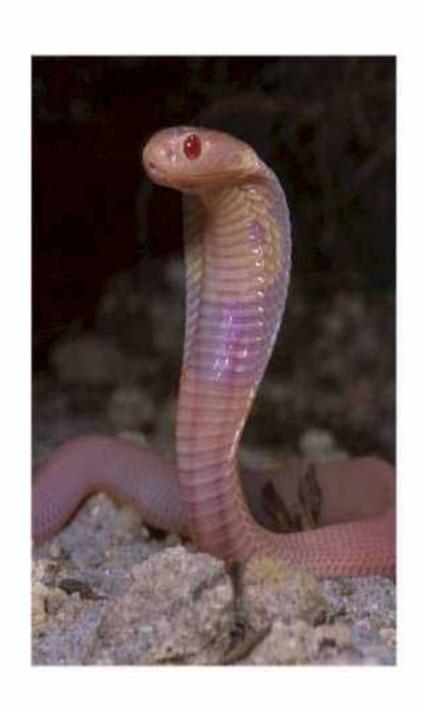




Physical aggression does not necessarily lead to social dominance



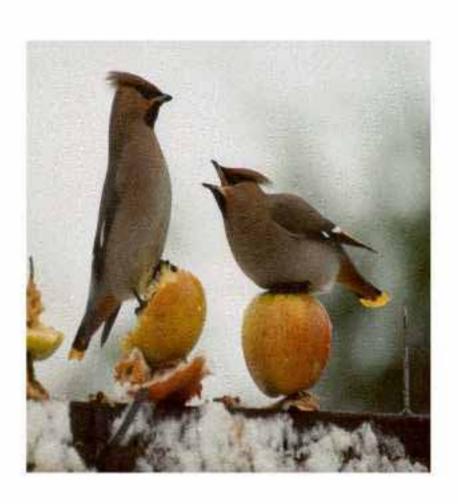




Physical aggression does not necessarily lead to social dominance

For most species real physical aggression is relatively rare



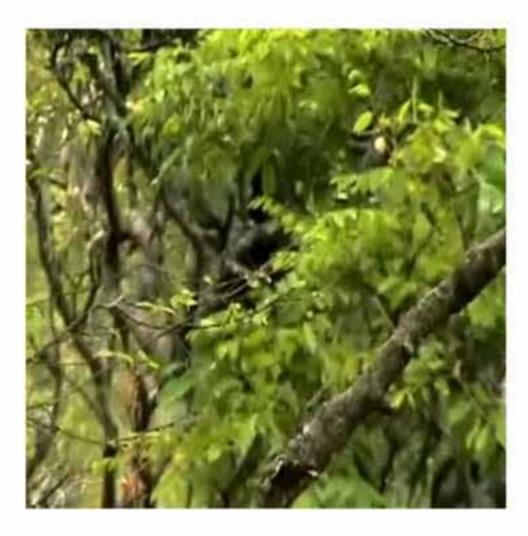


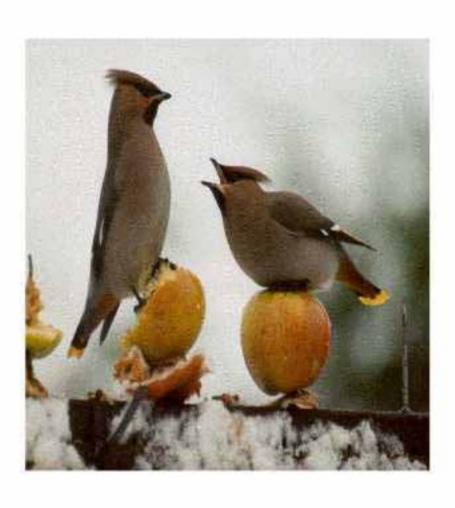
Physical aggression does not necessarily lead to social dominance

For most species real physical aggression is relatively rare

Threat displays and submissive gestures are used extensively





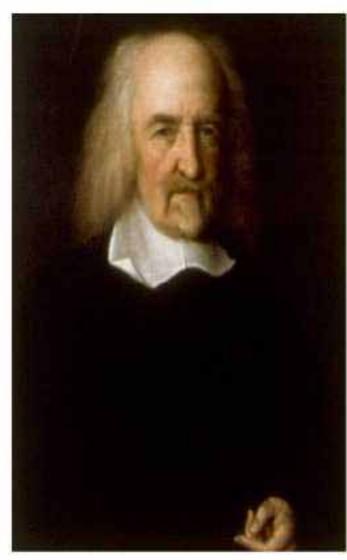


### Aggression and literature

'So that in the nature of man, we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, competition; secondly, diffidence; thirdly, glory

'The first maketh men invade for gain; the second, for safety; and the third, for reputation'

Thomas Hobbes 'Leviathan' (1651)



# Is aggression an inevitable trait in all species?

There are two opposing views of aggression:

Like other motivated behaviours it is an inherited spontaneous tendency – i.e. it is in our 'nature'



Freud



Konrad Lorenz



Churchill



Pinker

# Is aggression an inevitable trait in all species?

There are two opposing views of aggression

Violence is learned behaviour and therefore avoidable



Bandura



Watson

# The Seville statement





#### The Seville statement

It is scientifically incorrect to say:

We have inherited a tendency to make war from our animal ancestors

War or any other violent behaviour is genetically programmed

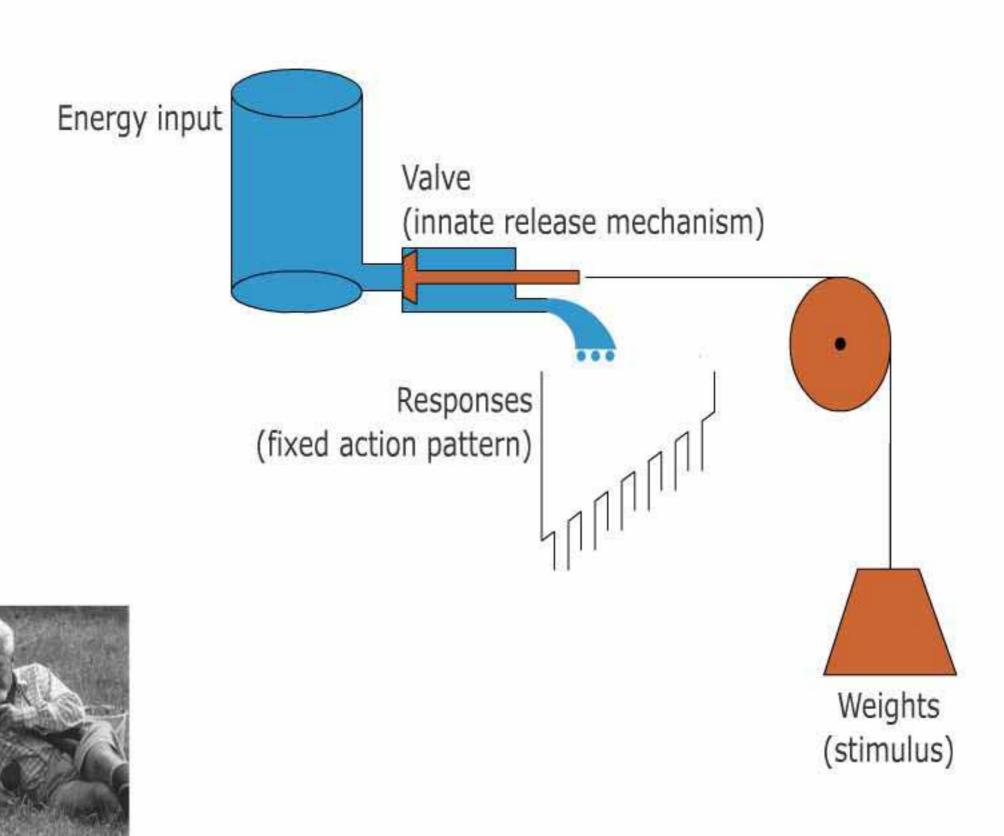
In the course of human evolution there has been a selection for aggressive behaviour more than other kinds of behaviour

Humans have a 'violent brain'

War is caused by 'instinct' or any single motivation



## Konrad Lorenz - Hydraulic model



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If Lorenz is right, then this makes for some disturbing conclusions:



# Konrad Lorenz - Hydraulic model

If Lorenz is right, then this makes for some disturbing conclusions:

Aggression is inevitable – accumulating energy must find an outlet

Humans and other animals will actively look for fights

After a fight has occurred individuals will become less aggressive

Even animals reared in isolation will show aggressive behaviour



## 'Supporting literature'

'Thus it is manifest that during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called war; and such a war as is of every man against every man'

The result of this being:

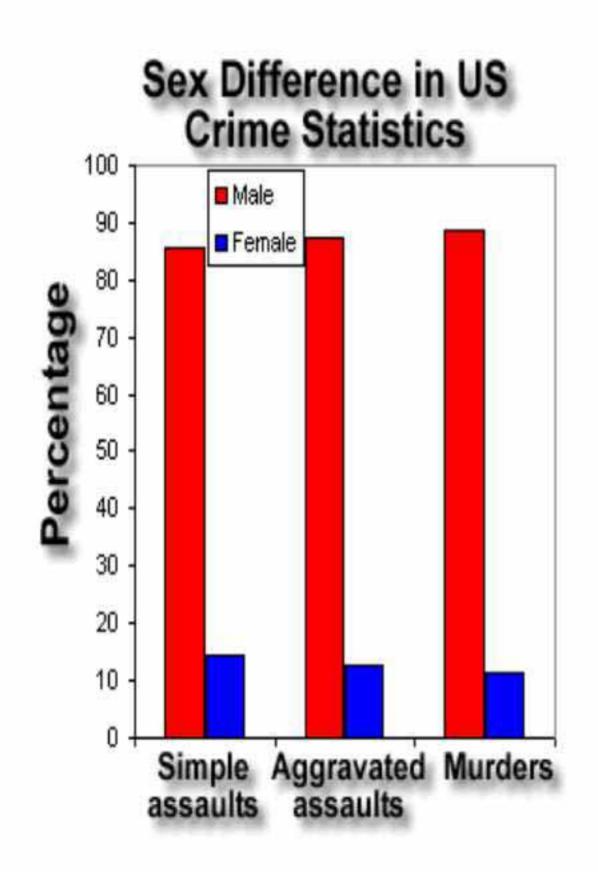
'.... continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short'
(Thomas Hobbes)

'The story of the human race is war. Except for brief and precarious interludes there has never been peace in the world; and long before history began murderous strife was universal and unending' (Winston Churchill)

Is it true that men are from Mars, and women are from Venus?

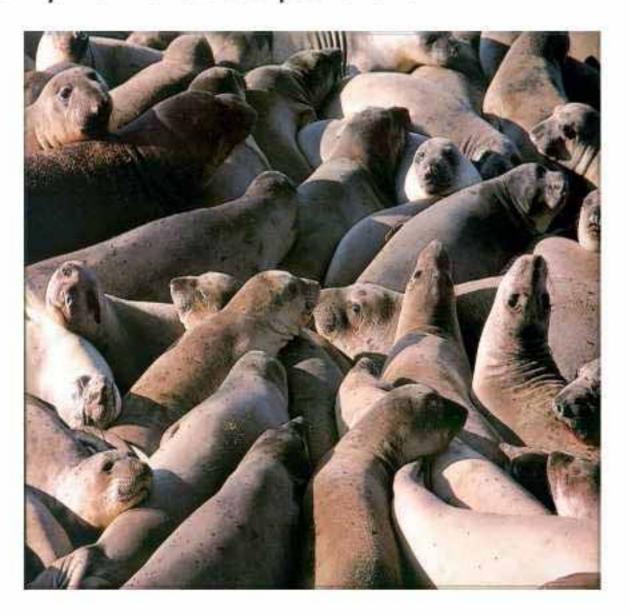






#### Males:

Are both physically stronger and reproduce their genes best by mating with as many females as possible



Females:

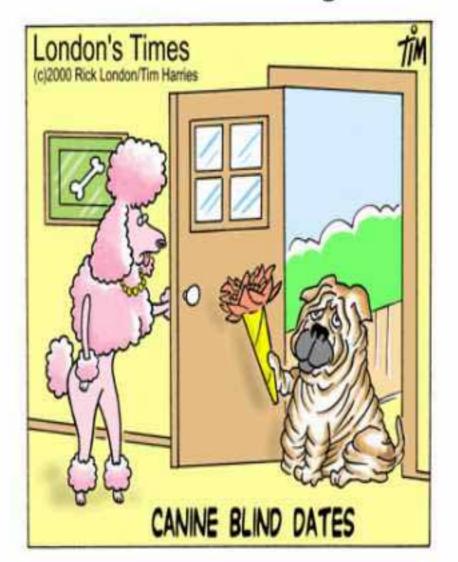
Cannot normally physically dominate males



Females:

Cannot normally physically dominate males

Have only a limited potential for choosing a mate



Females:

Cannot normally physically dominate males

Have only a limited potential for choosing a mate

The best reproductive strategy is to nurture and defend offspring...



...and to reproduce with males who can best protect them

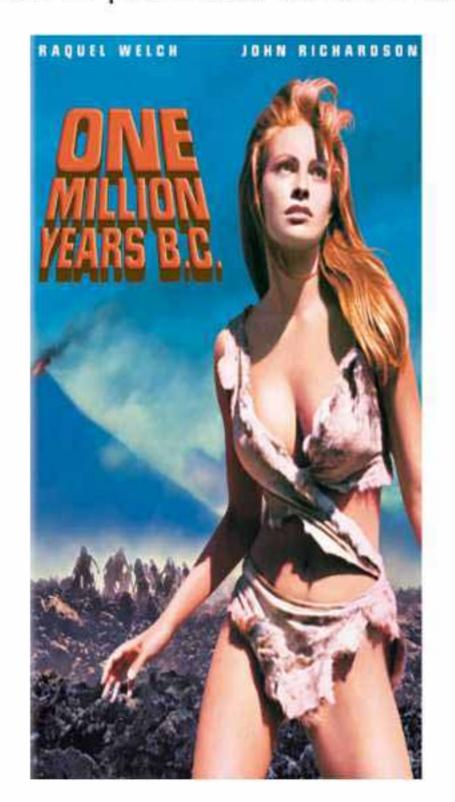


Female aggression is restricted to protecting young and obtaining resources

It is less to do with dominance which is far more important for males



Females are more fearful of potential threats than males...



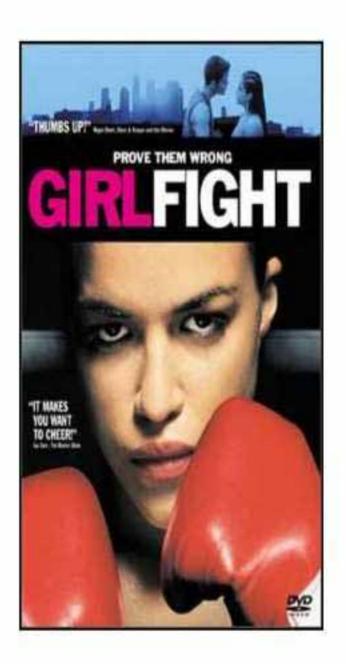
Females are more fearful of potential threats than males...

...and may use social psychology instead of physical aggression!



#### Prediction:

The absence of aggressive males might increase physical aggression in females and concern for social dominance



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The absence of aggressive males might increase physical aggression in females and concern for social dominance

Levels of violent crime by females appear to be on the increase

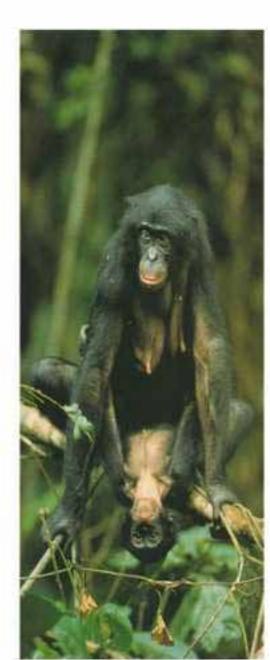


#### Prediction:

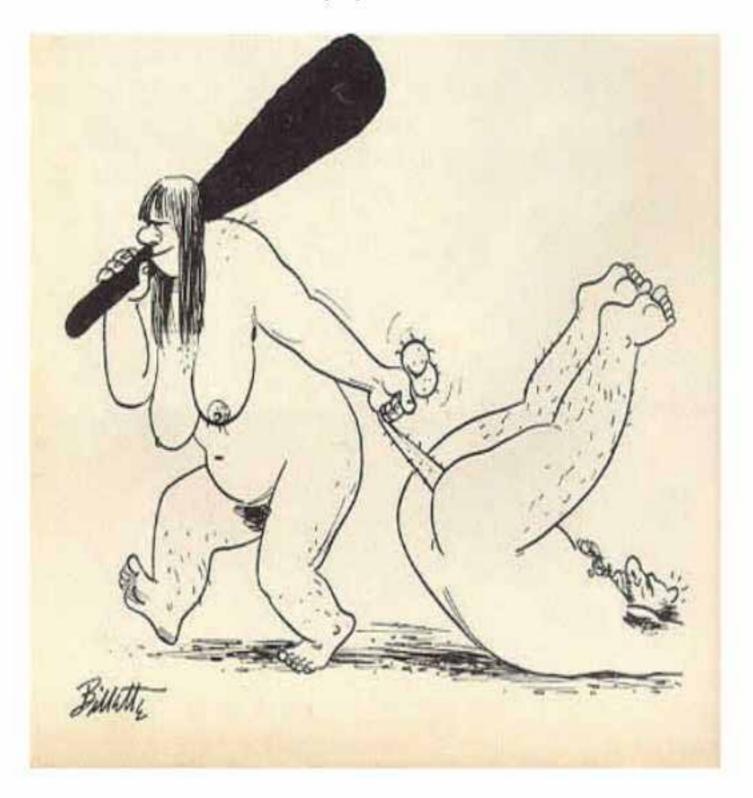
The absence of aggressive males might increase physical aggression in females and concern for social dominance

Levels of violent crime by females appear to be on the increase

In Bonobo apes females dominate males and are more concerned about social dominance



Females may not be an inherently peaceful sex



Females may not be an inherently peaceful sex

Lower aggression may owe more to social structure and political expediency than to biology



#### Females may exert positive selection for aggressive males



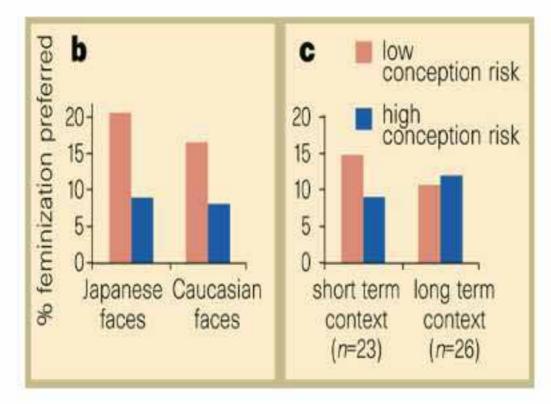














**David Perrett** 

**ELSEVIER** 

#### Females may exert positive selection for aggressive males

#### ARTICLE IN PRESS

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ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR, 2005, ■■, ■■-■■ doi:10.1016/j.anbehav.2004.06.012

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com





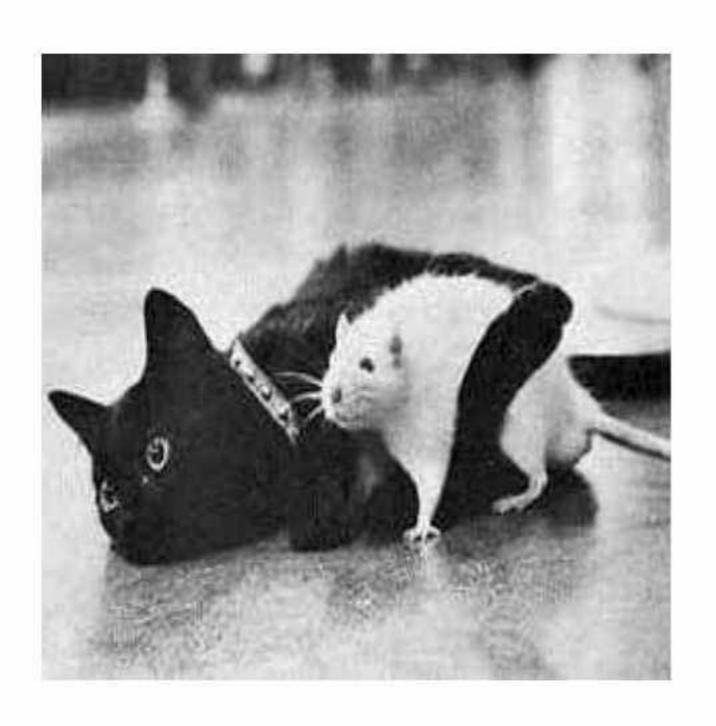


Manipulations of fundamental and formant frequencies influence the attractiveness of human male voices

D. R. FEINBERG, B. C. JONES, A. C. LITTLE, D. M. BURT & D. I. PERRETT School of Psychology, University of St Andrews

(Received 3 July 2003; initial acceptance 4 September 2003; final acceptance 12 June 2004; published online ■ ■ ; MS. number: 7778R)

Animal models, mainly cats and rats



Animal models, mainly cats and rats

Affective aggression – pupillary dilation, increased heart rate and blood pressure, urination and piloerection



Animal models, mainly cats and rats

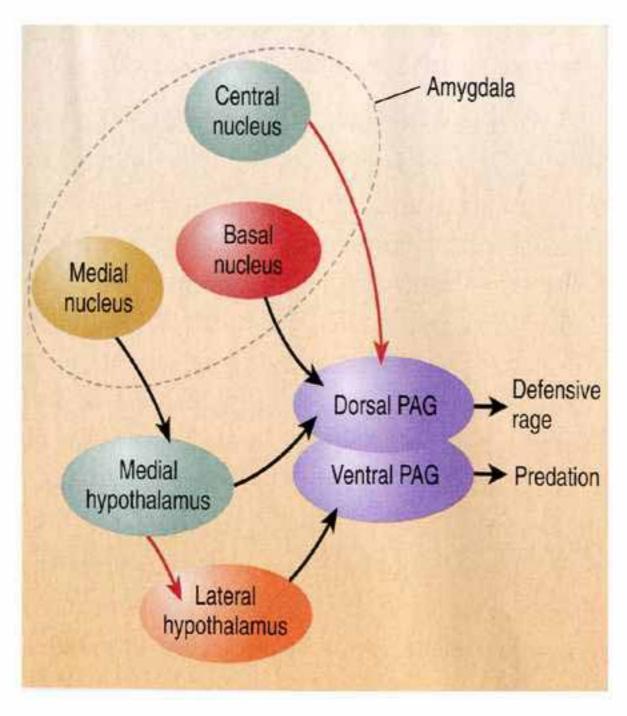
Affective aggression – pupillary dilation, increased heart rate and blood pressure, urination and piloerection

Predatory aggression – pupillary dilation only



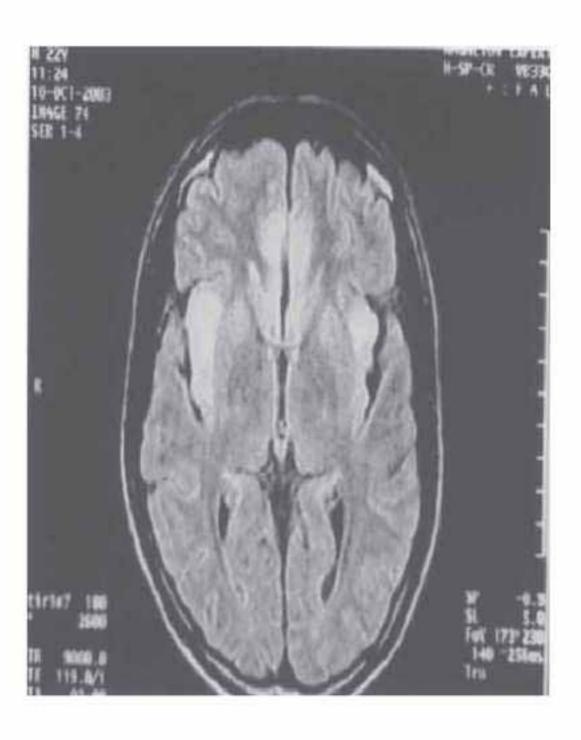
Different brain regions are involved in predatory and affective Cingulate aggression gyrus Septum Fornix Septum Hippocampus · Hypothalamus -Amygdala -Olfactory bulb Hypothalamus Periaqueductal gray Amygdala Mammillary body **Hippocampus** 

Different brain regions are involved in predatory and affective aggression



#### Kluver-Bucey Syndrome





Kluver-Bucey Syndrome

Amygdala brain tumour in a mass murderer



Charles Whitman
The 'Texas Tower' sniper



Kluver-Bucey Syndrome

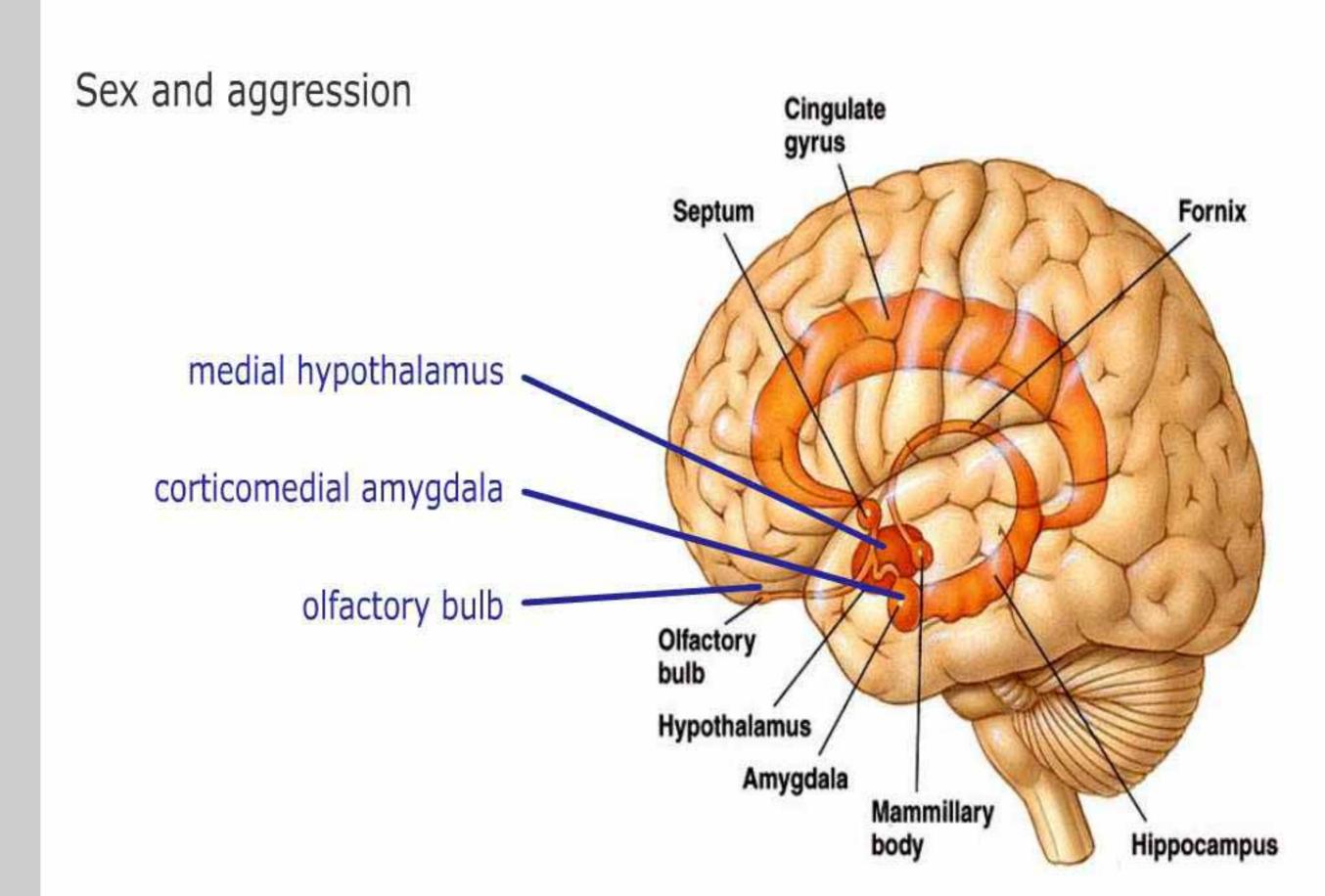
Amygdala brain tumour in a mass murderer

Rabies

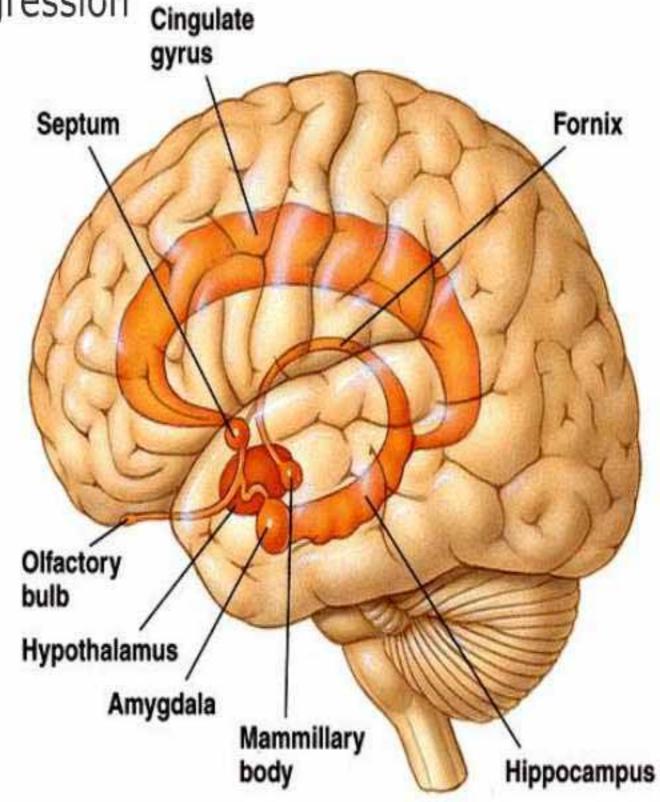


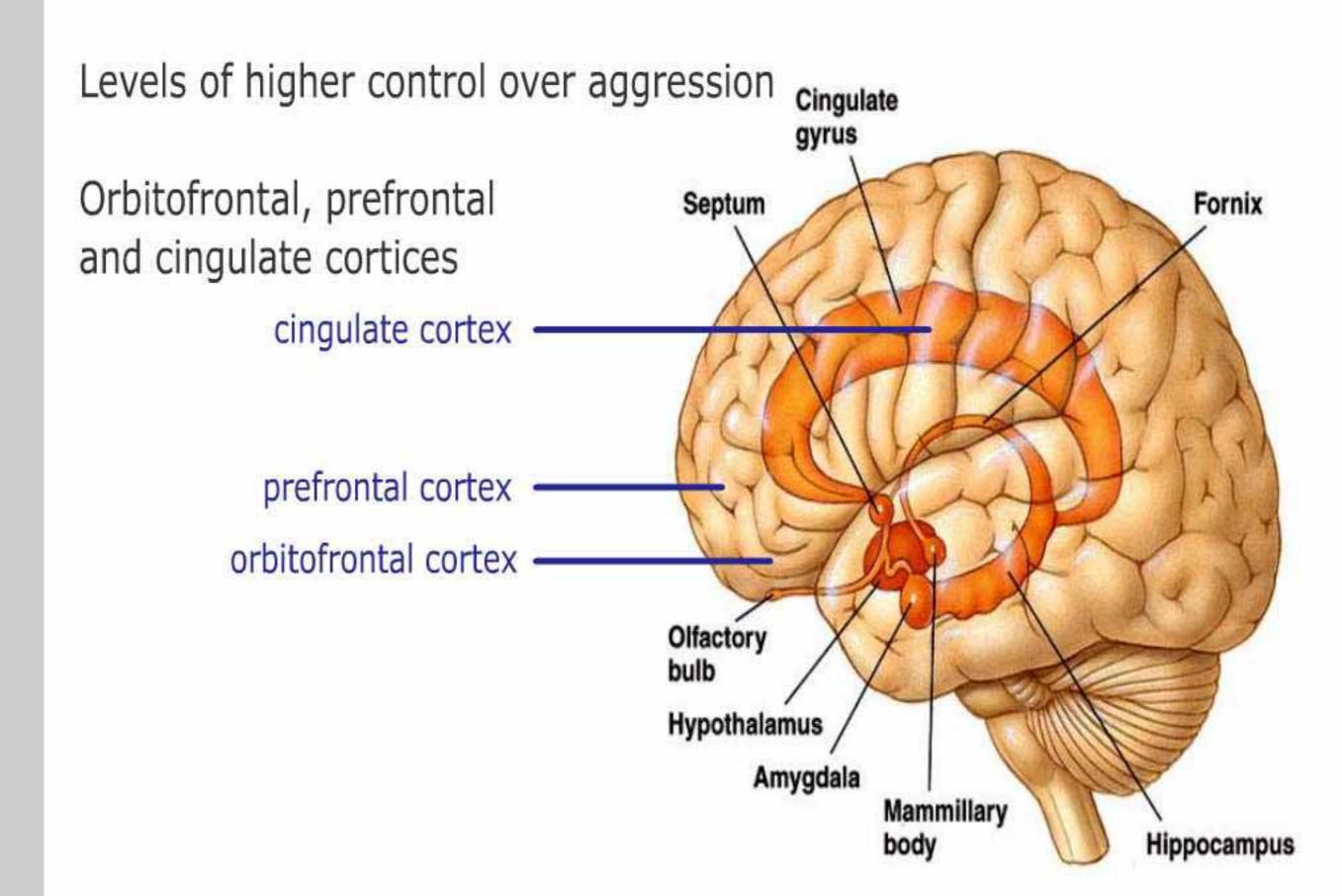
#### Smell and aggression





Levels of higher control over aggression

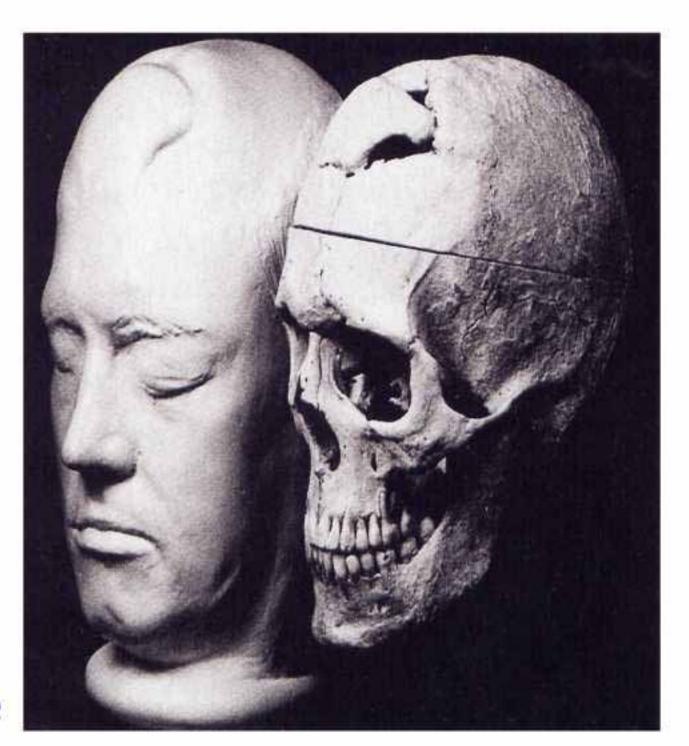




Levels of higher control over aggression

Orbitofrontal, prefrontal and cingulate cortices

The orbitofrontal cortex



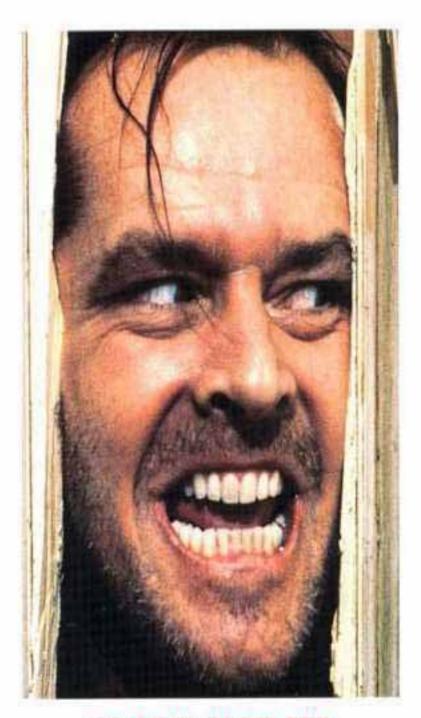
Phineas Gage

Levels of higher control over aggression

Orbitofrontal, prefrontal and cingulate cortices

The orbitofrontal cortex

The frontal and cingulate cortices are less strongly activated by emotive stimuli in murderers (Reiss *et al* 1998)





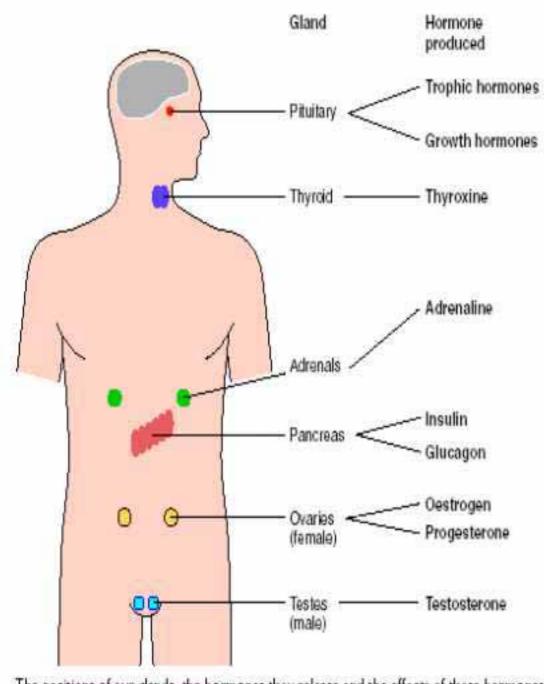
# How is aggression controlled by the brain?

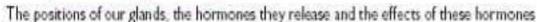
Females have a larger orbitofrontal cortex in proportion with amygdala

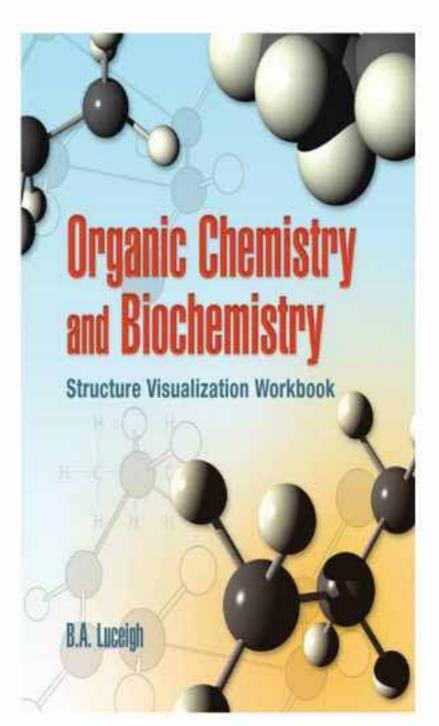


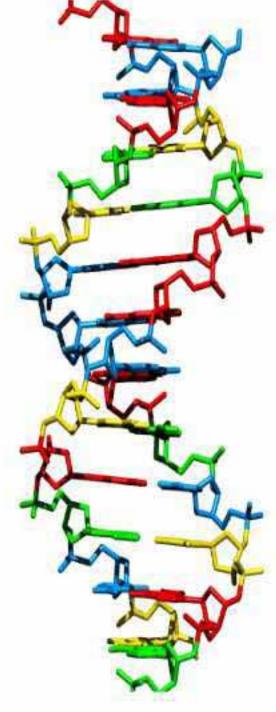
## What factors may contribute to excessive aggression?

#### Hormonal, biochemical and genetic factors?



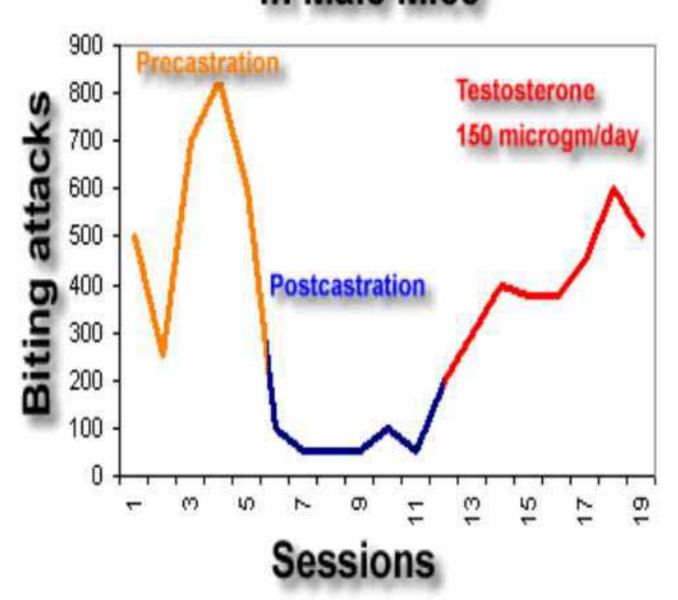






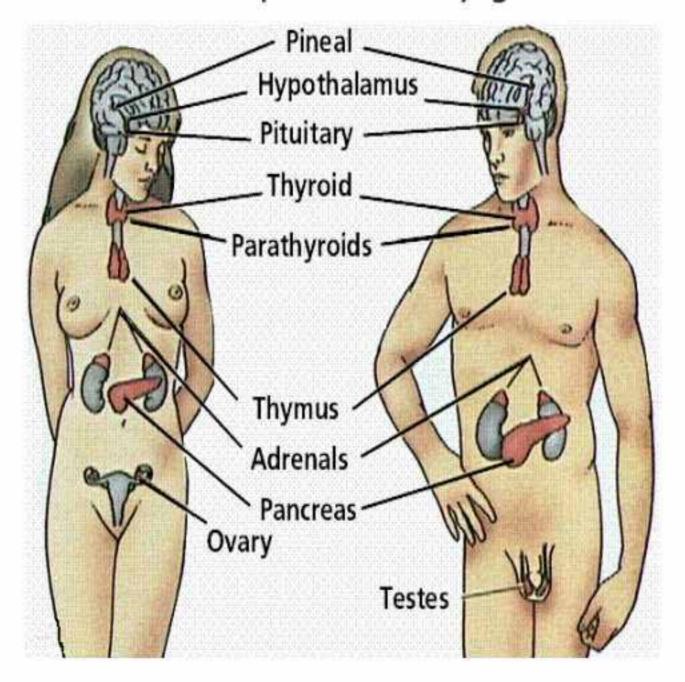
Is aggression just a testosterone-based thing?

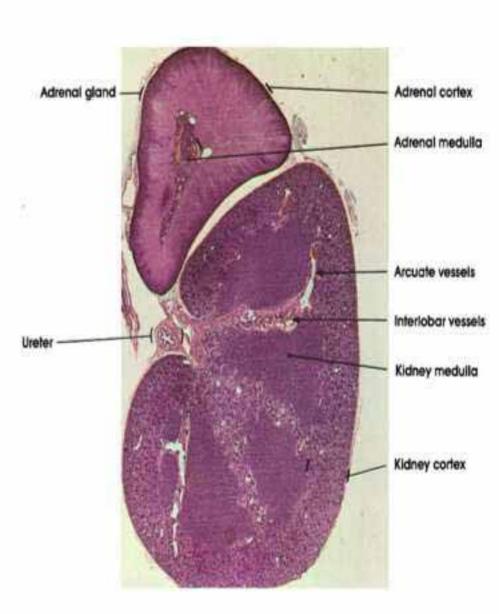
#### Testosterone Effects on Aggression in Male Mice



Is aggression just a testosterone-based thing?

Testosterone is produced by gonads and adrenals in both sexes





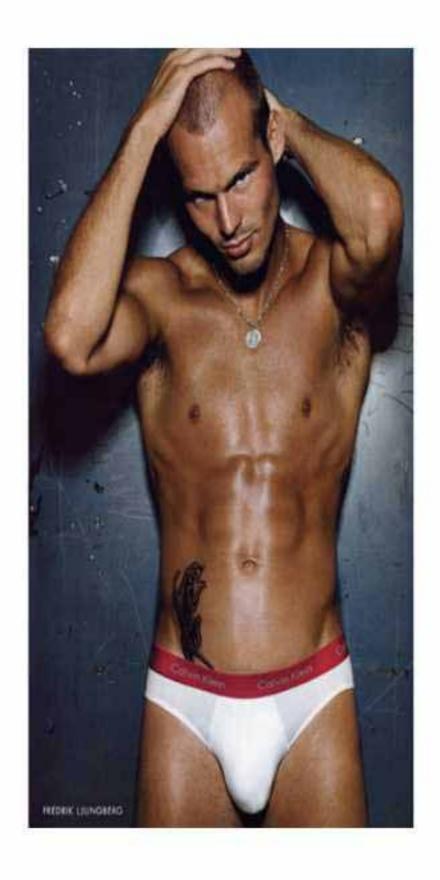
Is aggression just a testosterone-based thing?

Testosterone is produced by gonads and adrenals in both sexes

Adult males have 7 times higher testosterone levels than females



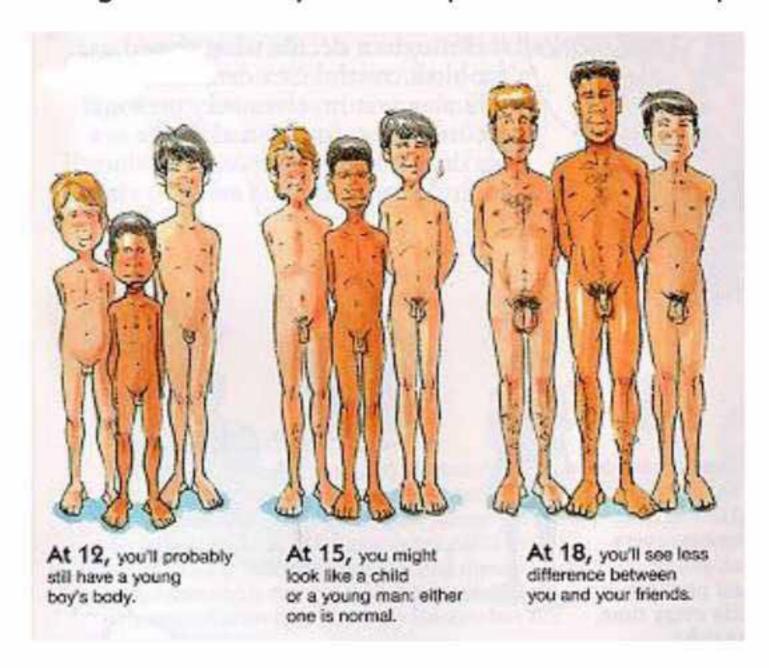
Testosterone maketh man and muscle:



Testosterone maketh man and muscle:

Testosterone changes in early development and at puberty make a

male brain

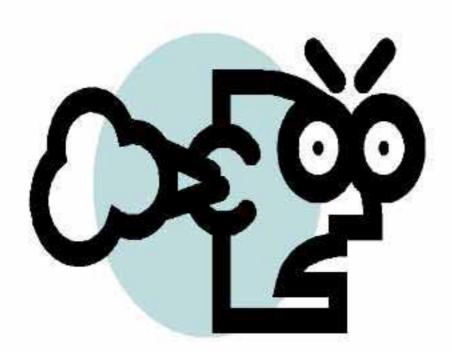


Testosterone maketh man and muscle:

Testosterone changes in early development and at puberty make a male brain

High testosterone levels do not necessarily make males more sexual

or aggressive



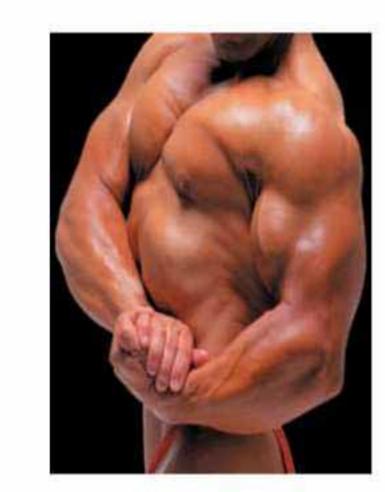
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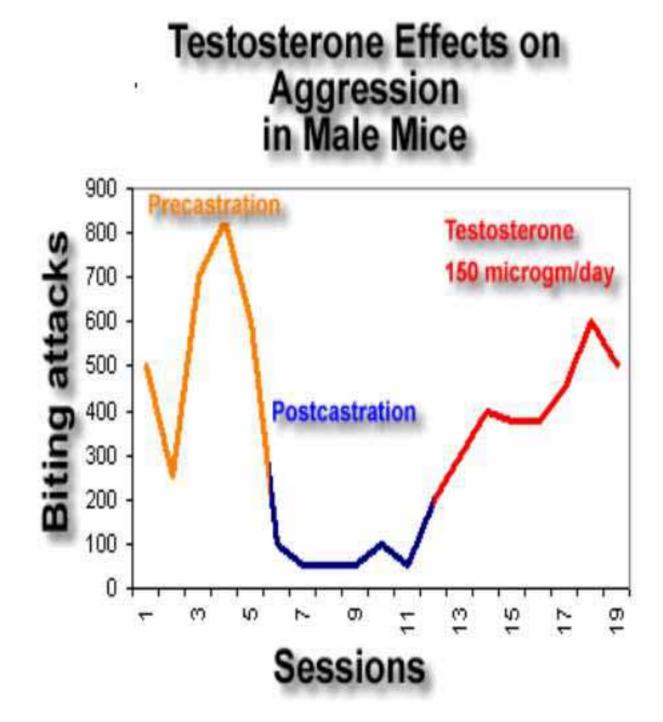
They will however boost muscle development!



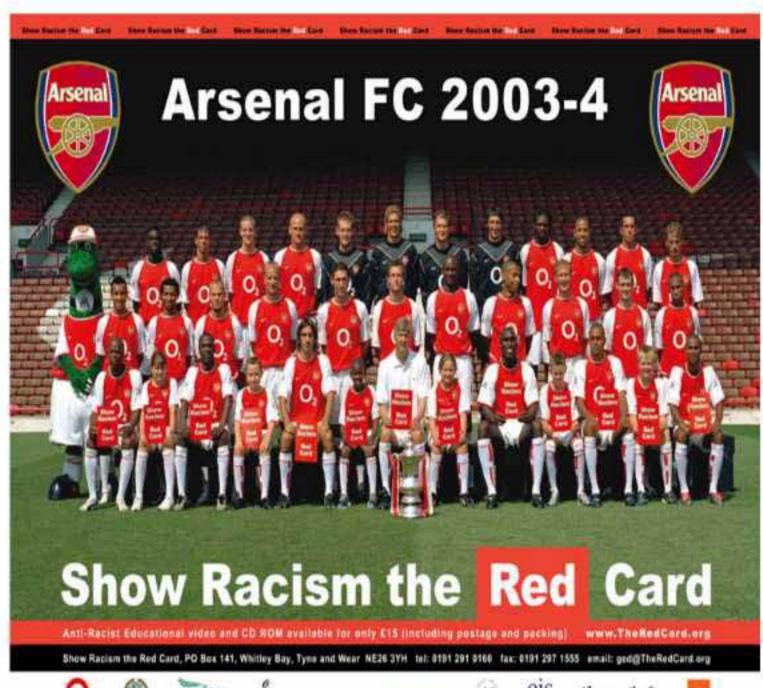
Castration will reduce male sex, aggression and muscle!



"The Eunich" 1918



High testosterone, fighting and football:





















High testosterone, fighting and football:

Socially dominant animals have high testosterone levels



High testosterone, fighting and football:

Socially dominant animals have high testosterone levels

When males win a fight testosterone is increased

When they lose it is decreased



The same is true of football supporters!



High testosterone and crime:



High testosterone and crime:

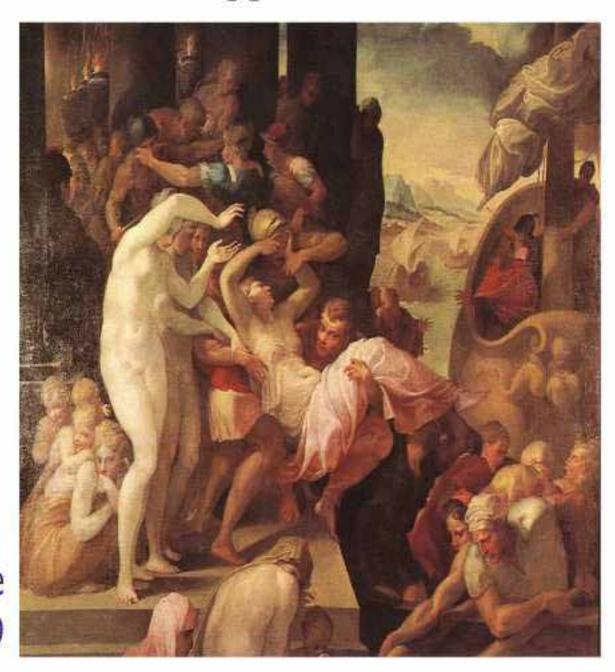
Prisoners with a prior record of violent and aggressive crimes



High testosterone and crime:

Prisoners with a prior record of violent and aggressive crimes

Rapists who are most violent during the act



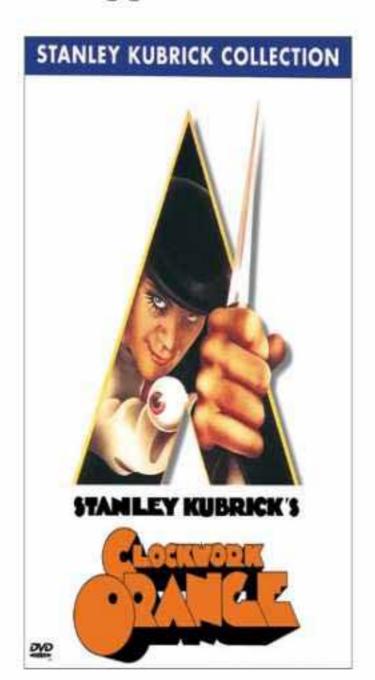
The Rape of Helene Primaticcio 1539

High testosterone and crime:

Prisoners with a prior record of violent and aggressive crimes

Rapists who are most violent during the act

Individuals exhibiting high levels of antisocial violence



High testosterone and marriage:

Men with high basal testosterone levels are less likely to marry

If they do marry they tend to have higher divorce rates due to extramarital sex and aggression



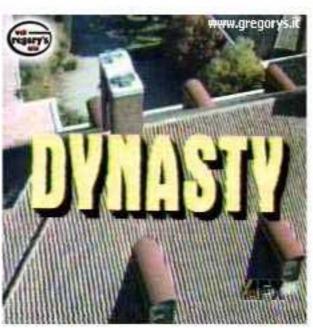
High testosterone in women:



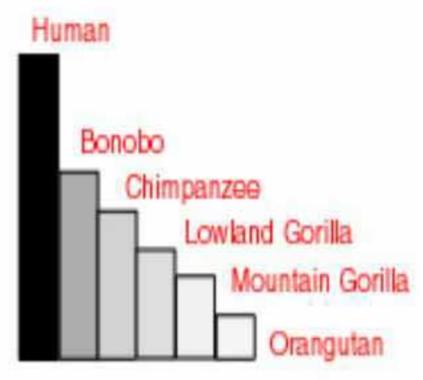
High testosterone in women:

In females only dominance shows some correlation with testosterone





Testosterone: driver or facilitator?



"The absolute amount of testosterone is highest in humans, followed by lower values in the bonobo, chimpanzee, gorillas, and orangutan."

Derived from Fig 4., Page 68 "Comparative urinary androstanes in the great apes," L.R. Hagey and N.M. Czekala, General and Comparative Endocrinology 2003; 130: 64-69.

Testosterone: driver or facilitator?

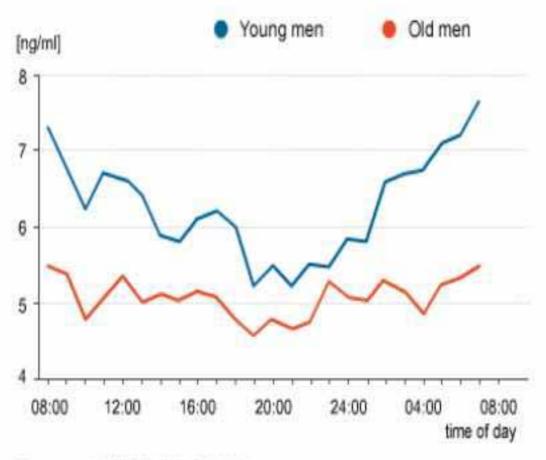
Giving testosterone does not cause aggression



Testosterone: driver or facilitator?

Giving testosterone does not cause aggression

Highest testosterone levels are when you are asleep!



Bremner et al. JCEM 56: 1278-1281 (1983)

Testosterone: driver or facilitator?

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Female aggression is not preceded by a rise in testosterone



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Winning football supporters are not all bad!



Testosterone: driver or facilitator?

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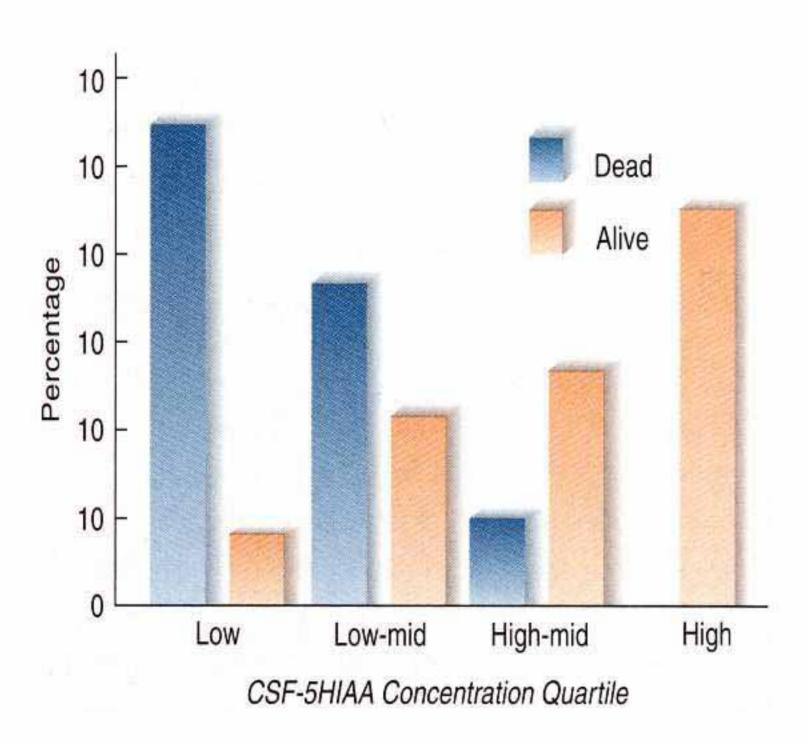
Highest testosterone levels are when you are asleep!

Female aggression is not preceded by a rise in testosterone

Winning football supporters are not all bad!

In the brain testosterone facilitates responses to sensory cues (Kendrick & Drewett Science 1979)

## Serotonin and aggression



Serotonin and aggression

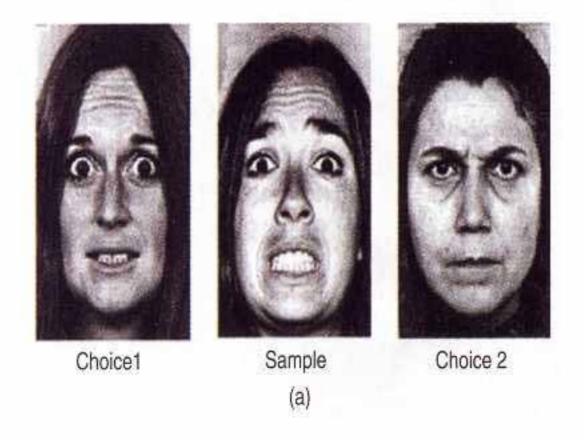
Low serotonin is also associated with poor social skills

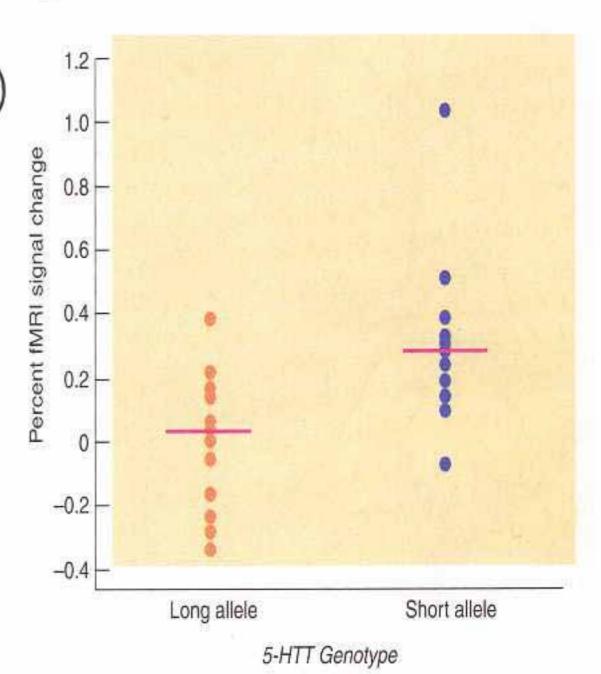


Serotonin and aggression

Low serotonin is also associated with poor social skills

Serotonin transporter gene (5-HTT)





Serotonin and aggression

Low serotonin is also associated with poor social skills

Serotonin transporter gene (5-HTT)

Diets low in tryptophan can increase aggression







Serotonin and aggression

Low serotonin is also associated with poor social skills

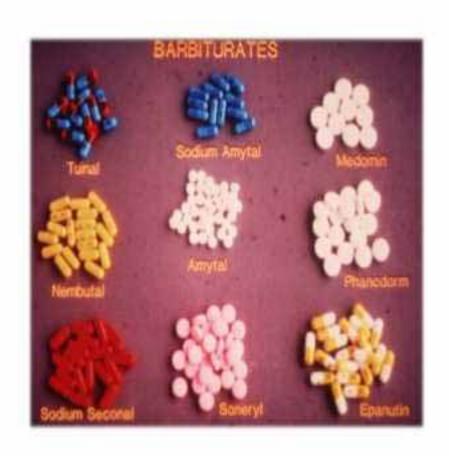
Serotonin transporter gene (5-HTT)

Diets low in tryptophan can increase aggression

What about Prozac?



Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), endogenous opioids, endorphins (barbiturates, benzodiazepines and morphine)





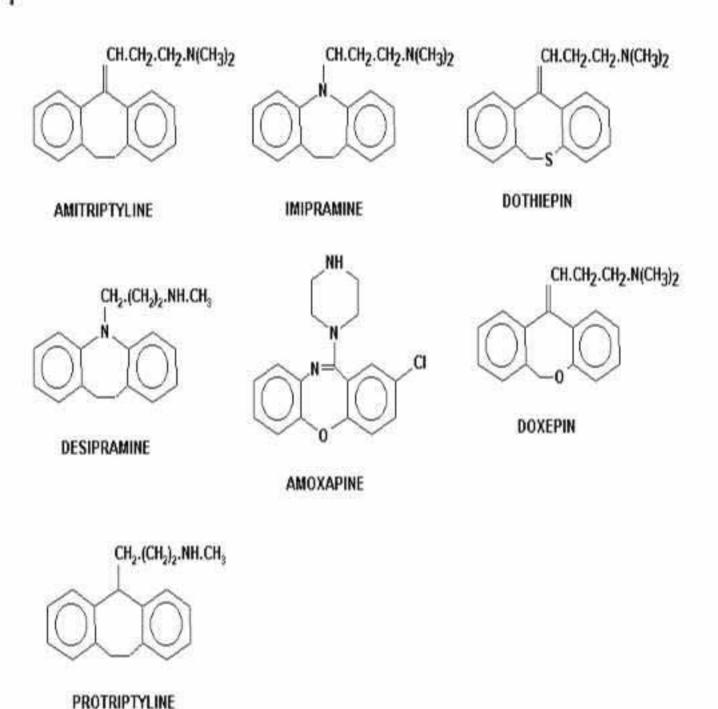


#### Stimulators of aggression:

Acetylcholine, noradrenaline and dopamine, cholecystokinin, substance P, and arginine vasopressin

## Increased aggression:

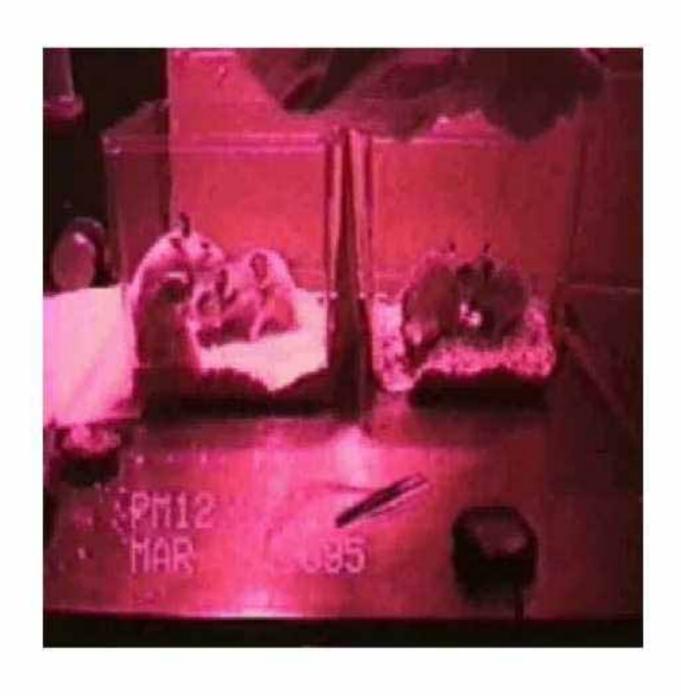
Tricyclic antidepressants and monoamine oxidase inhibitors



Decreased aggression:
Beta-blockers and haloperidol

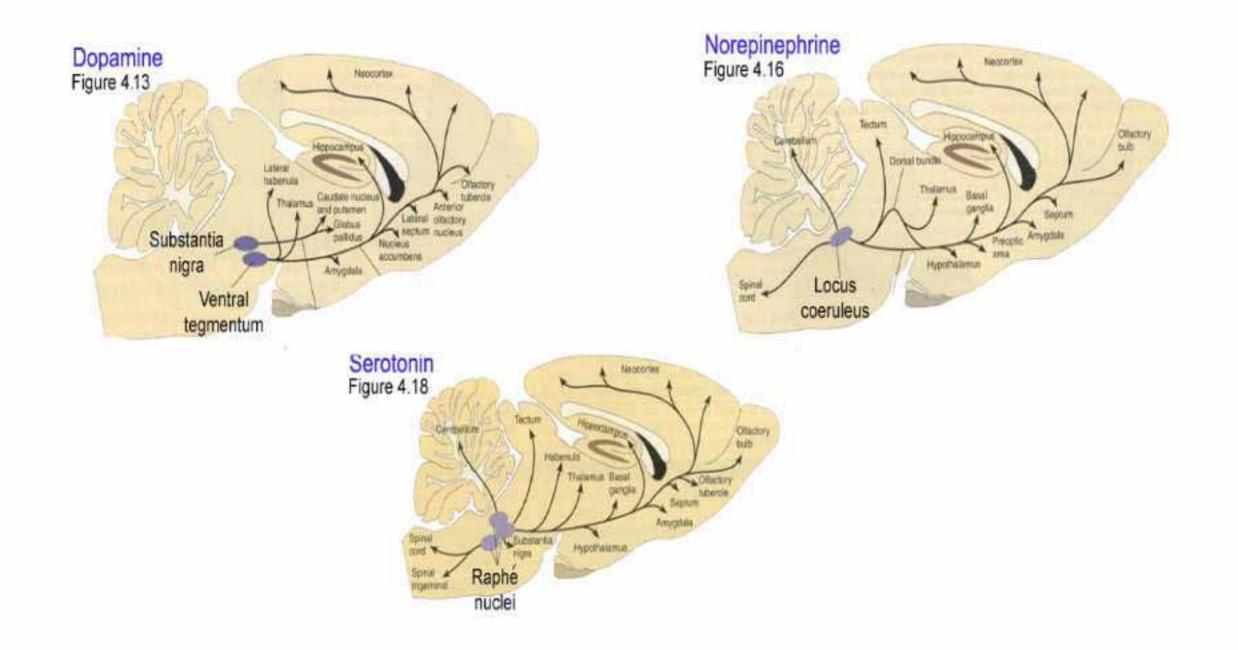


Arginine vasopressin and male aggression



Arginine vasopressin and male aggression

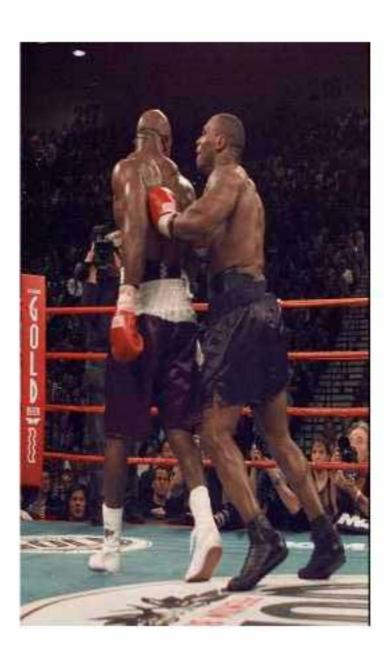
Modulates serotonin, noradrenaline and dopamine



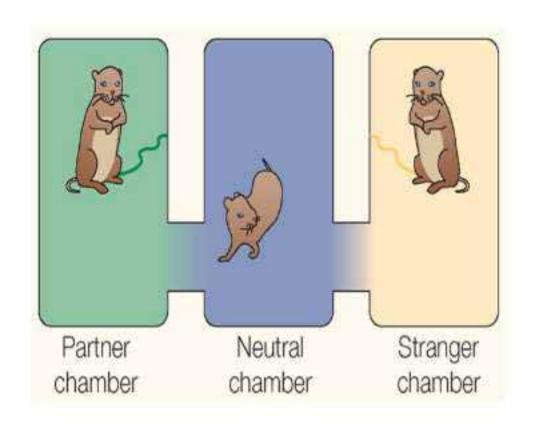
Arginine vasopressin and male aggression

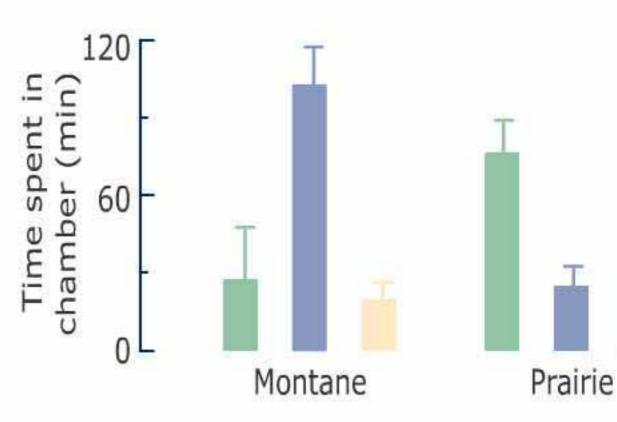
Modulates serotonin, noradrenaline and dopamine

High levels in brains of aggressive humans



Vasopression also stimulates social bonds in male voles and mice

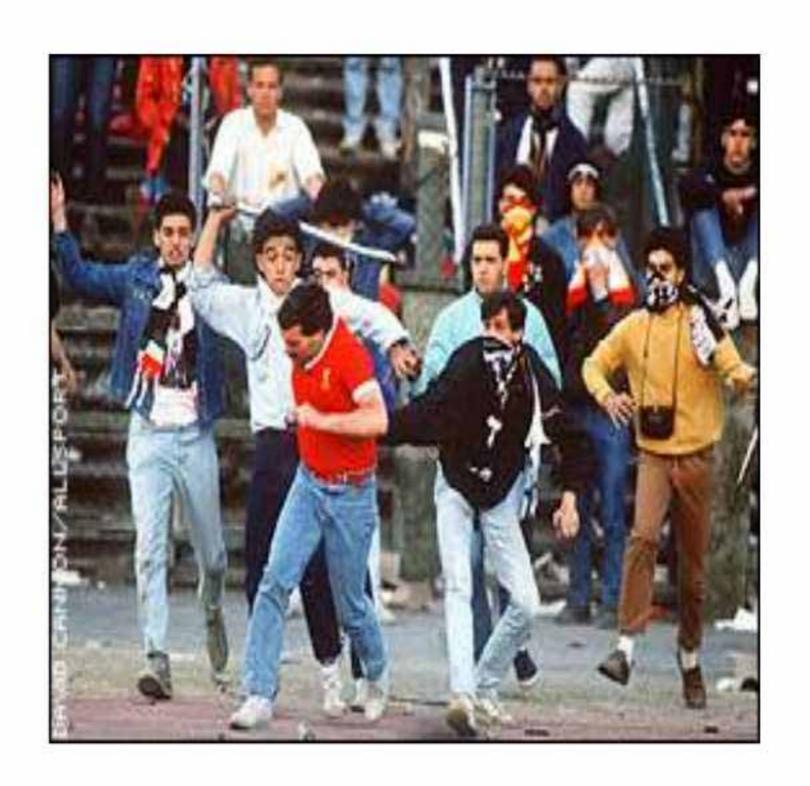




Vasopression also stimulates social bonds in male voles and mice

Oxytocin, which stimulates bonds in females inhibits aggression!

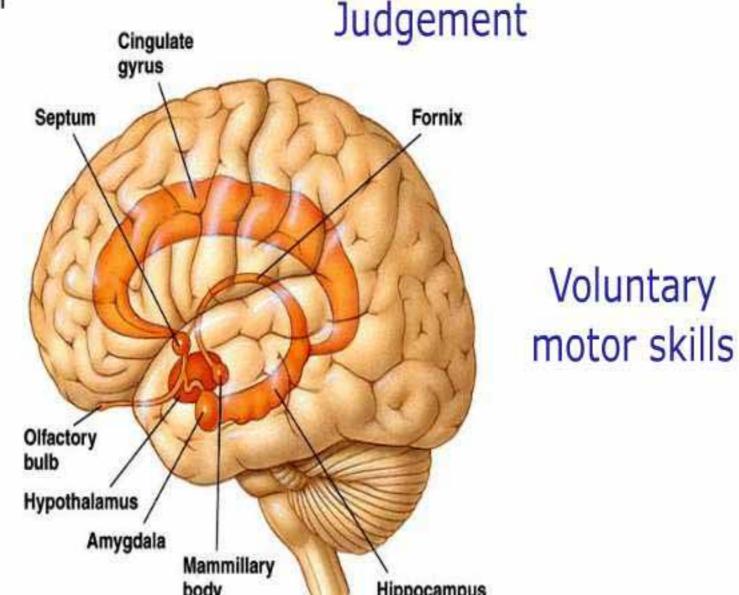
In half of violent crimes perpetrators have consumed alcohol or drugs



In half of violent crimes perpetrators have consumed alcohol or drugs

Alcohol inhibits brain centres

controlling aggression



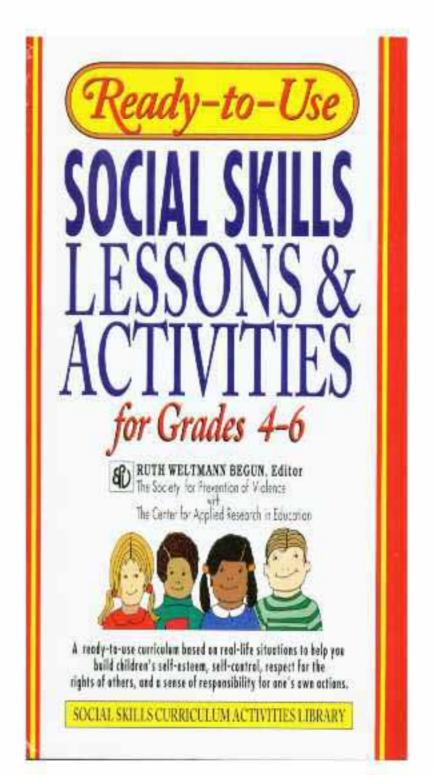
**Emotion** 

Involuntary system

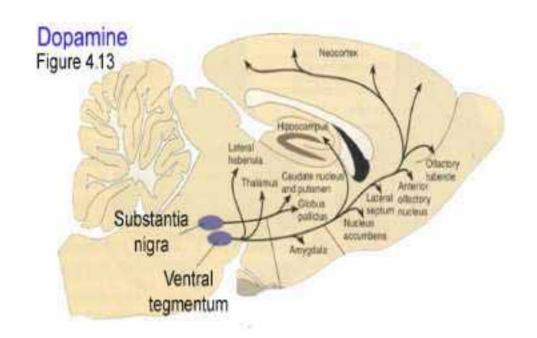
In half of violent crimes perpetrators have consumed alcohol or drugs

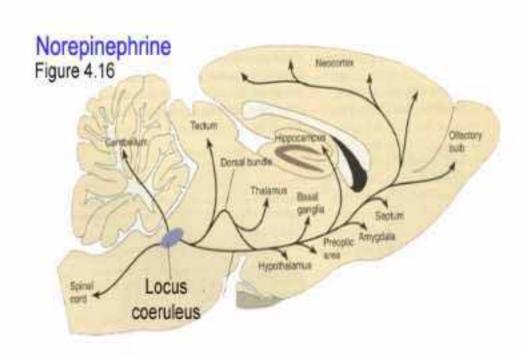
Alcohol inhibits brain centres controlling aggression

Interferes with perception and interpretation of social signals

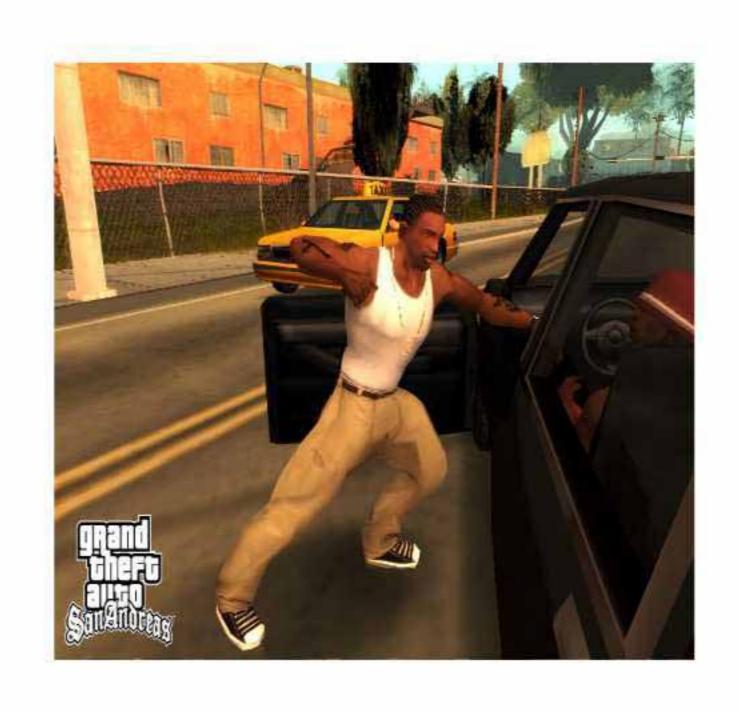


Amphetamine increases aggression by releasing noradrenaline and dopamine



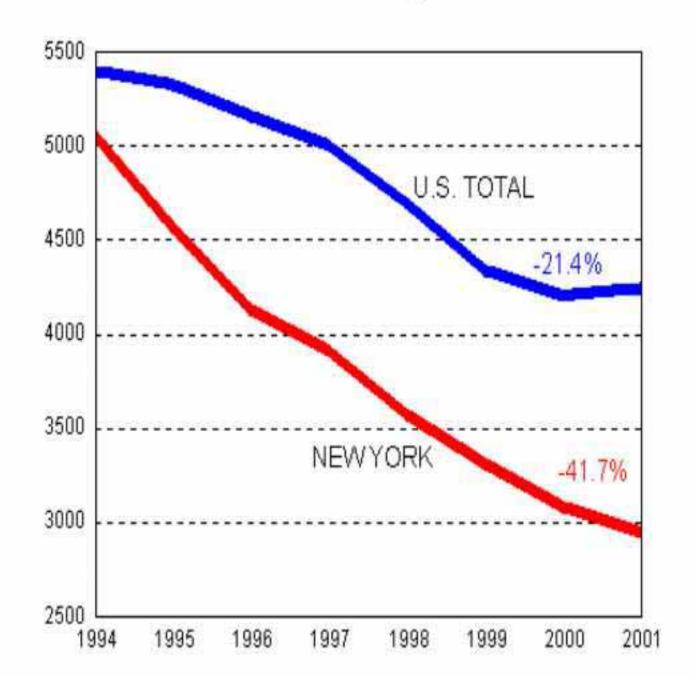


Increased media/computer game violence, and weapon ownership?



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Violent crime rates have declined during the 1990's



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Exposure to violence does increase aggression but not violent crime

(Savage 2004)



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Exposure to violence does increase aggression but not violent crime (Savage 2004)

Macho, frontiersman American culture?



Children raised by aggressive parents have an increased risk of becoming aggressive

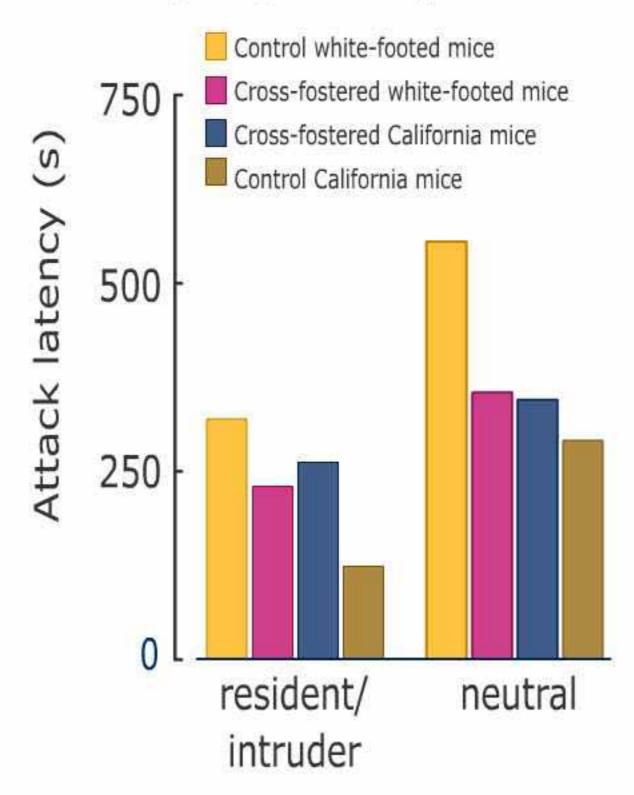
Children suffering early physical abuse are more likely to become abusers



#### Cross-fostering in animals consistently emphasises parental influences







Key external factors:

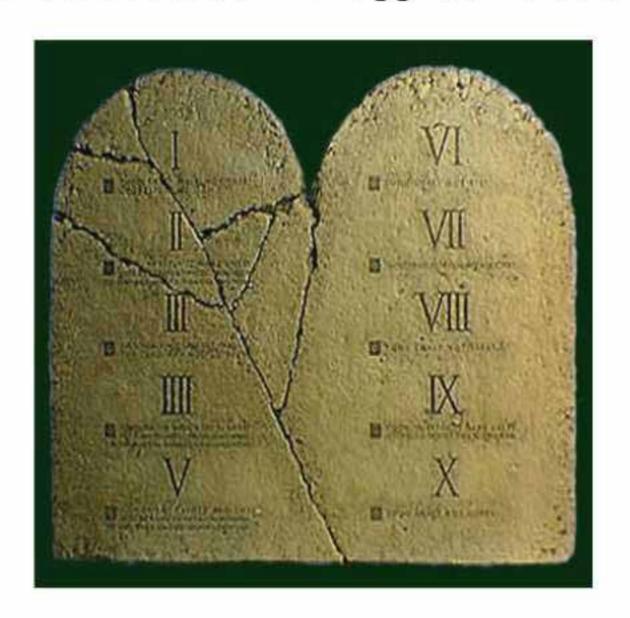
Rule of law: perceived risk of punishment associated with aggressive acts



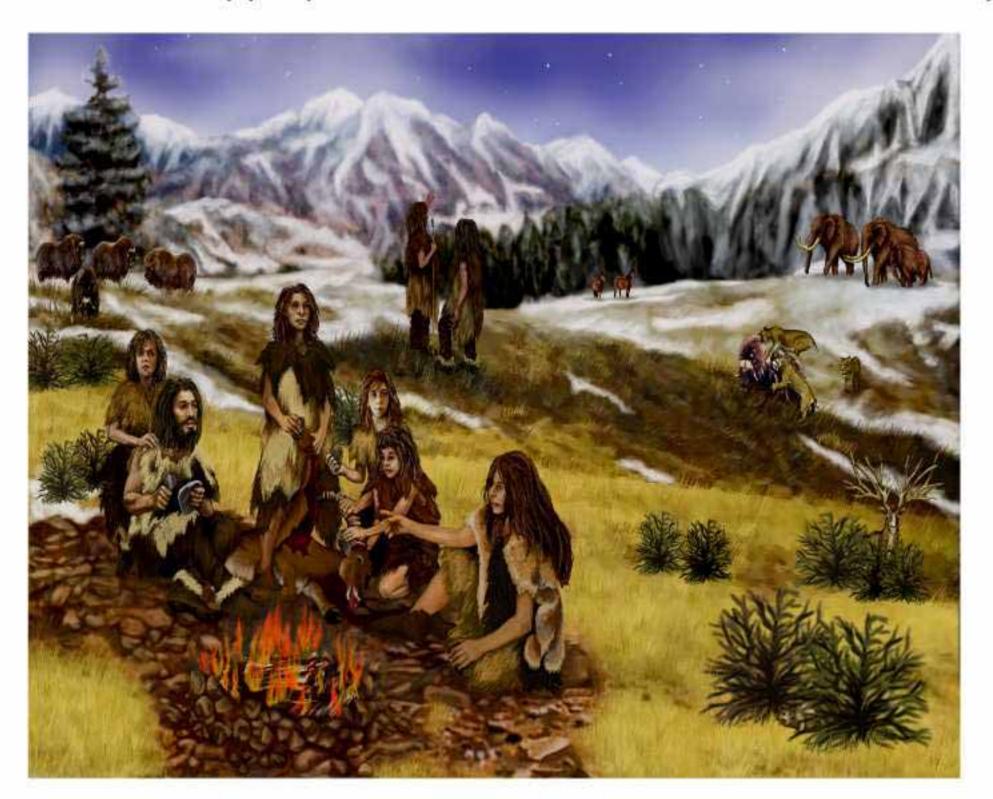
Key external factors:

Rule of law: perceived risk of punishment associated with aggressive acts

Cultural moral values concerning aggression



Access to food and appropriate conditions to conceive and rear young



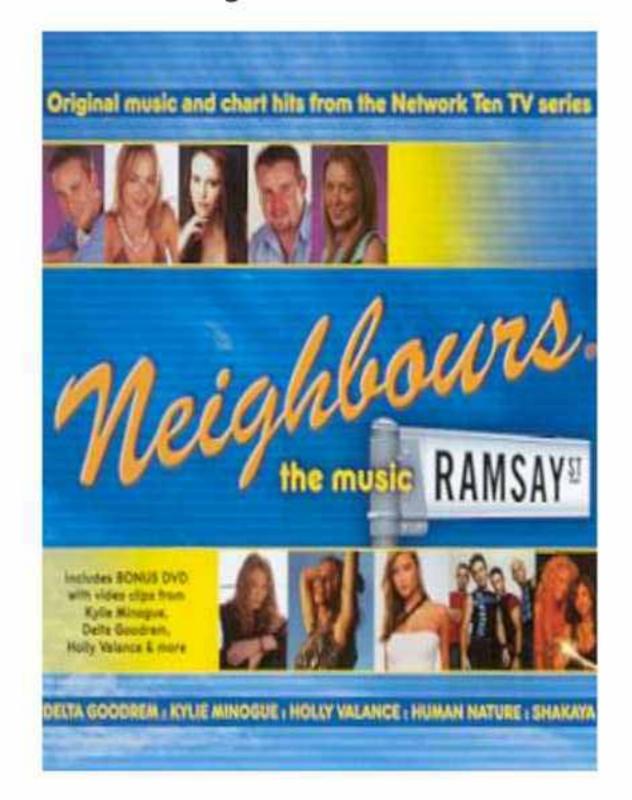
Access to food and appropriate conditions to conceive and rear young

Hunter-gatherer vs. territorial societies





Love thy neighbour vs. the neighbours from hell!

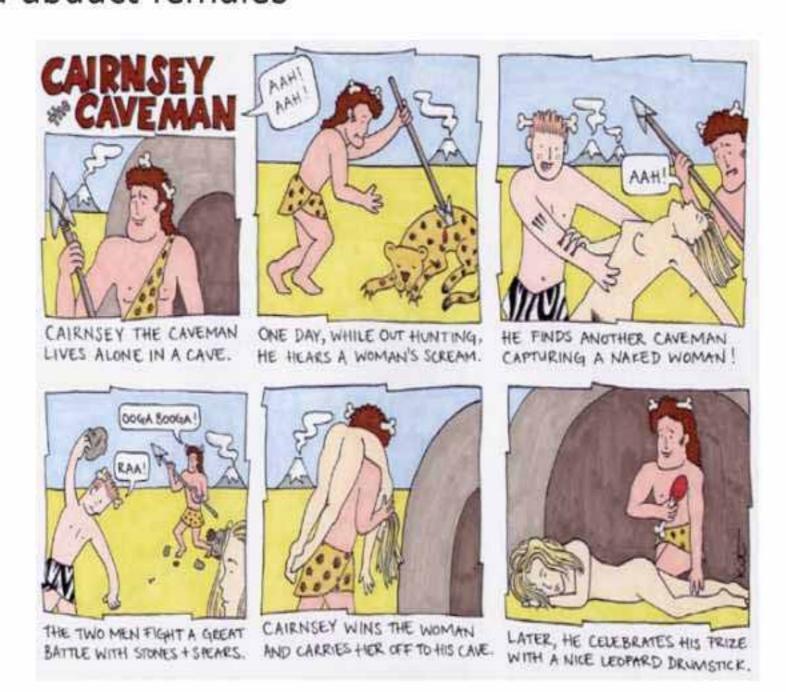


Use safe guerrilla tactics to weaken opposition



Use safe guerrilla tactics to weaken opposition

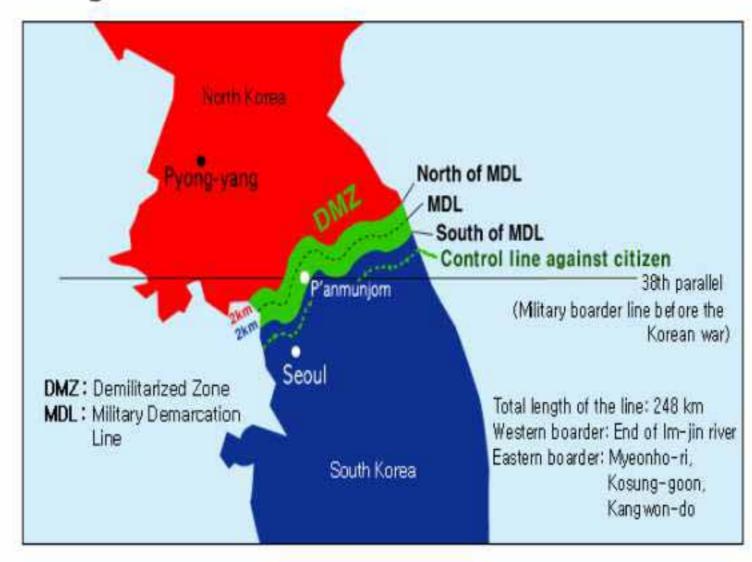
Kill males and abduct females



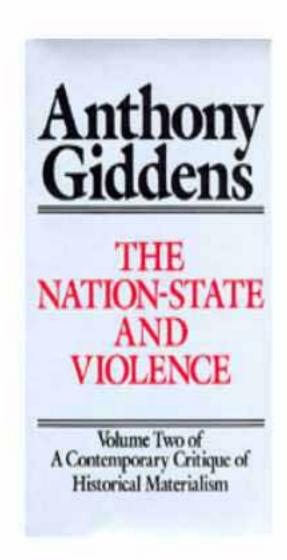
Use safe guerrilla tactics to weaken opposition

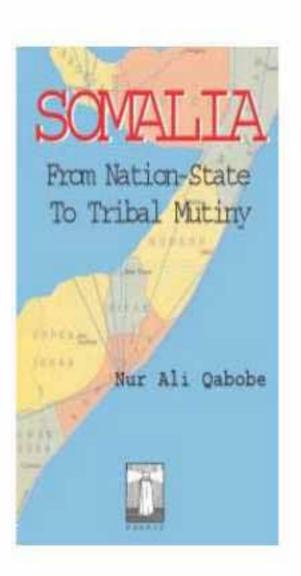
Kill males and abduct females

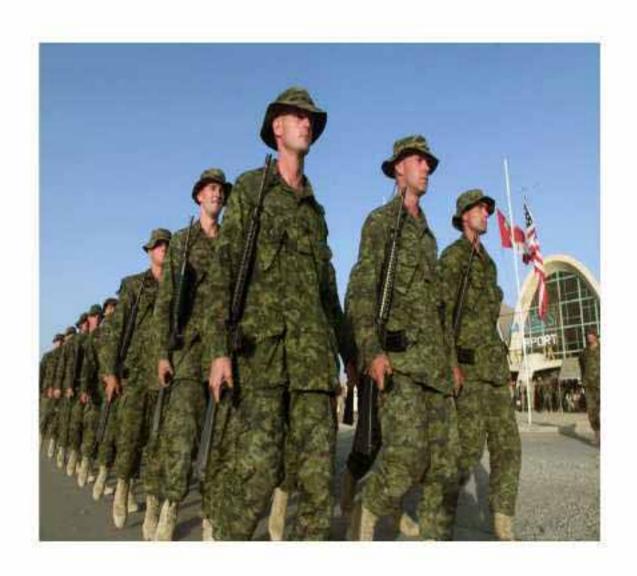
The creation of no-go areas



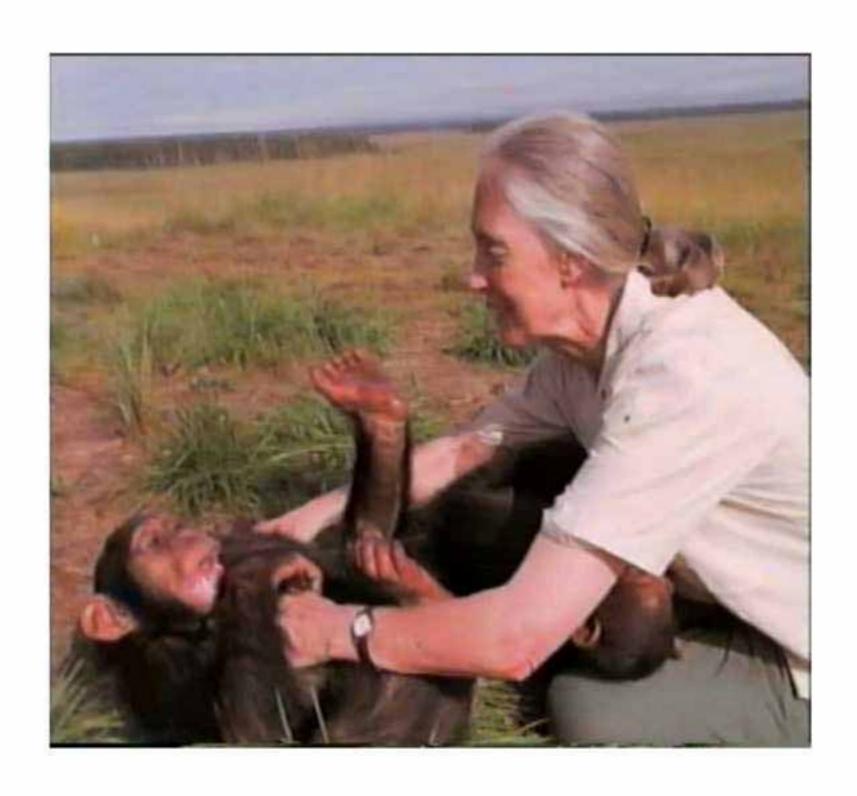
Nation states and organised vs. opportunistic warfare







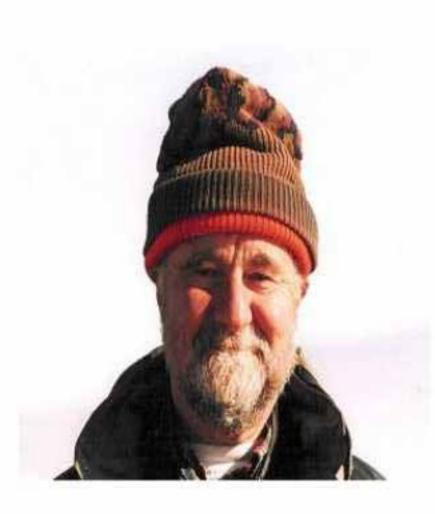
#### Chimpanzees – Jane Goodall



Chimpanzees - Jane Goodall

Wolves - David Mech

#### Denali Wolves Adopt New Alpha





The Toklat pack's alpha male killed during a research project.

DENALI, ALASKA—A wolf that was moved from its home range east of Fairbanks six months ago as part of a caribou recovery plan has joined the Toklat wolfpack in Denali National Park and Preserve. The wolf roamed nearly 200 miles to join the pack whose alpha male died in March after being darted for research.

The pack is the best known of Alaska's approximately 1,000 wolf packs, and an estimated 20,000

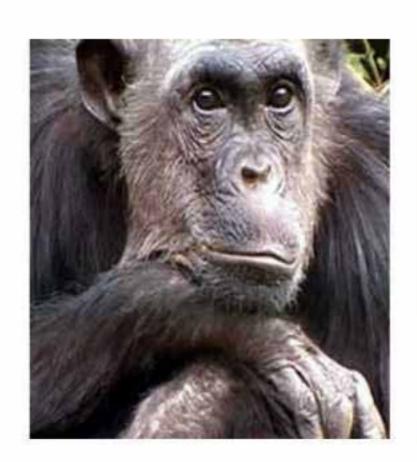
Chimpanzees – Jane Goodall

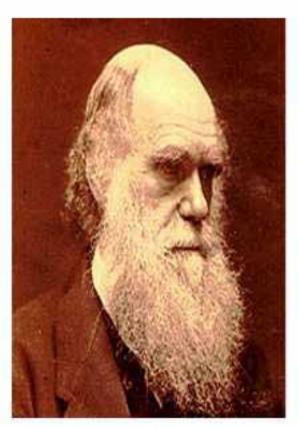
Wolves - David Mech

Death rates from violence are low and very similar

Humans: 0.1-0.3%

Chimpanzees: 0.2-0.5%

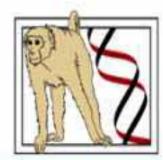




This can increase to 50% with intense competition for resources

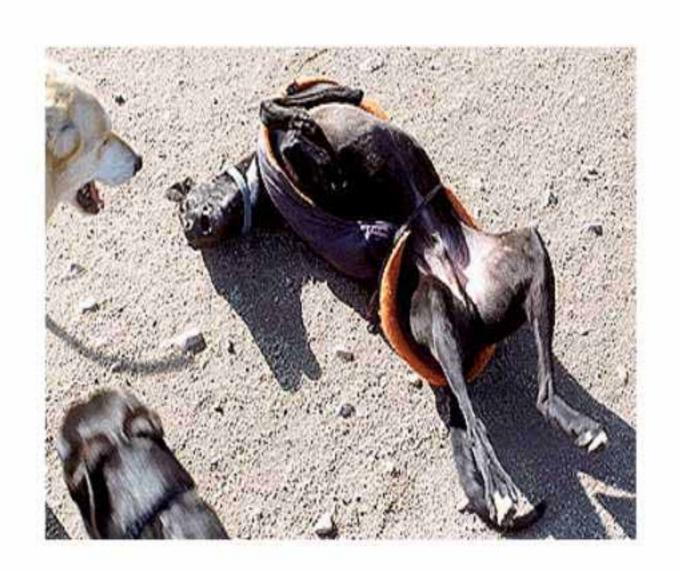
### **Primate Info Net**

Library and Information Service National Primate Research Center, University of Wisconsin - Madison





Few other species have a developed moral sense to suppress physical aggression and yet most seem able to control it



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Aggression is controlled by social perception skills and submissive or threat postures



Animals use rough and tumble play and group activities such as foraging and hunting both to maintain social relationships and burn off pent-up aggression

The more social you are, in terms of bonds, the more potential you

have for aggression



Avoidance of warfare may require no territorial borders and access to the same level of resources!



# Make love not war - The Bonobo story



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This could not work in a monogamous culture



## Make love not war - The Bonobo story

This could not work in a monogamous culture

Being peaceful may not promote species survival



## Could we completely prevent aggression?

Yes but aggression is linked to other beneficial behaviours

Our aggressive nature aids survival by motivating problem-solving

Ambition, dedication and commitment

Physical aggression is triggered by boredom, and inability to express skills and ambitions



Aggression, dominance and impulsivity are related

For males aggression is about social dominance and competition

For females it is about protection and acquisition of resources

Affective and predatory aggression are distinctive

Female brains have more cortical aggression control

Testosterone makes an aggressive male brain but not necessarily aggression itself

Females find high T males more attractive for reproduction but not parenting!

Reduced brain serotonin is linked to increased aggression

Alcohol reduces brakes on aggression and obscures perception of social signals

Control of male but not female bond formation is linked to aggression

Experience can blunt or accentuate aggression but is not responsible

Warfare is not an exclusive human invention

Make love not war may be an option for some species but not for us

