Total Violence: Concept and Measurement

Nicholas Baigent

Abstract

This paper addresses three questions: (i) How should violence for policy purposes be defined? (ii) Why total violence? (iii) How should total violence be measured in practice? Some properties of indexes of total violence are presented and then used to critique indexes used by some public agencies. Applications include Violence Prevention and/or Peace Keeping (on Battlefields and elsewhere); Gang and Gender violence; Violent Crime; Prison Violence and the Effect on Violent Behaviour of Exposing Children to Violent Media. Some experimental work is also reported. Finally, the following question is discussed: Has ‘honour’ violence declined as a result of duels replacing blood feuds and then Marquis of Queensbury Rules (boxing for English Gentlemen) replacing duels?