

دور وسائل الإعلام في ترسيخ ثقافة العنف

د. ريتشارد اندريتا

Summary of the paper, Violence and the Media Recent surveys indicate that there is excessive violence in the media and that many people spend a lot of time watching violent media. Exposure to violence leads to desensitization, i.e. becoming habituated to violence, which results in condonement of violence and to increased aggression and hostility through emulation and modeling. This leads inevitably to an upswing in the acts of terrorism committed all over the world. Moreover, by justifying violence through telecasting and supporting belligerent declarations, the media prepares public opinion to accept persecutions and massacres, as in Palestine, and military aggression and invasion, as in Afghanistan and Iraq. In this way the media participates in exacerbating world crises and augmenting the threat to world peace and security. There is no doubt, however, that not every individual who watches television or films, listens to the news on the radio, plays violent video games, or listens to violence and irreverent rap music and songs will turn into a terrorist or a criminal. Other factors, such as the environment, education, and innate disposition, combine with long exposure to violence to produce the violent individual who is capable of committing acts of aggression and terrorism. Nevertheless, moder research and social science theories of behaviorism assert that children's long exposure to violence on television or playing violent video games will, in the long run, produce hostile adults.