

## Violence on the increase

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### Essay No. 01

**Introduction:** Human civilization has come a long way from the Stone Age. Yet man continues to be violent in his conduct. In fact, violence has increased today. A man cannot walk on the street without looking over his shoulder because of fear of assault. Top leaders of the nation, as well as retired military generals, are assassinated in broad daylight. The roads are spilled with human blood. Firearms, bombs, swords, are frequently flourished and used.

**What is violence:** violence signifies injuries (of many kinds and degrees) caused to a person (or any living thing) by another person's with manifest motives.

**Forms of violence:** Physical, mental, social, economic, etc. It may range superficial bruises to outright destruction.

**Today violence on the increase:** present the violent situation today with one or two relevant examples.

Why the increase? Rise of materialism, erosion of general morality and norms of society, breakdown of institution, political shortsightedness, religious fundamentalism, communalism, casteism, terrorism, scientific and technological advancement, etc.

**Impact:** insecurity of the life and uncertain future of individual; society and nation lose their strength; peace of mind and joy lost, love and harmony between any two individuals (even between mother and her child) replaced by suspicion and hatred, i.e., social relation imperiled....etc.

**Conclusion:** violence has existed in every society and in every civilization, at a normal rate which, in a sense, fills the society with virility. But, today the increasing violence has taken a pathological form.... strangely, man has today become his own enemy by unleashing the animal in him. If the brute in man is not chained, and if the violence is not checked, man may altogether himself.... If mankind has to survive violence will have to be minimised. A spirit of friendly co-existence will have to be made the norm of human behavior.

### Essay No. 02

## Violence on the Increase

Although civilization has progressed, one sees violence in all walks of life. Today a man can't walk on a street without looking over his shoulder because of fear of assault. The spurt in violence has led to a feeling of insecurity. There are several factors which have led to this state of affairs. Rise of materialism, religious fundamentalism, communalism, castes—all have become a flashpoint for spewing hatred. If mankind has to survive violence must be eliminated. An atmosphere of peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding will have to be created.

Human civilization has come a long way from the stone age. Yet man continues to be violent in his conduct. In fact, society has become most violent today. A man cannot walk on the street without looking over his shoulder because of fear of assault. Top leaders of the nations are assassinated in broad daylight and the murderers get away with the crime and brutality. Sanity is a rare virtue in today's helter-skelter world.

It is really tragic that just about anything becomes a flashpoint for spewing hatred. Ordinary citizens become the victims of the gun and the bomb.

There are several factors which have led to this state of madness and confusion. Rise of materialism, religious fundamentalism, communalism, castes, terrorism—all have let loose a reign of terror and hatred. The world is enveloped by a pall of violence. It is evident that man has not learnt any lesson from the two world wars which brought about untold destruction of men and property. Hiroshima and Nagasaki still remind man of the damage that was caused by violence, war, hatred. Having suffered so much, it was expected that man will have learnt his lesson from history and in future will rely on peaceful means of resolving issues. But alas! Violence is on the increase. In fact, force and violence reign triumphant in every continent today.

Israel-Arab war continued for years and resulted in death of thousands of men, women and children. Hostilities between Iran-Iraq, India-Pakistan, Afghanistan-Pakistan, are going on for decades. Iraq-Kuwait conflict and ethnic wars in countries like Sri Lanka—all bear testimony to the fact that man has become intolerant of fellow human beings. He has become self-centered, callous and materialistic. The growth of the spirit of violence is a notable factor of the post-war years almost all over the world.

India where the gospel of non-violence was preached by sages and saints down to the late Mahatma Gandhi, violence has been on the

increase. Late

Mrs. Indira Gandhi's and later of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination broad daylight has brought to light the hatred of one against another, corruption in politics and lack of credibility of those in power. Nobel laureate and Israel's Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhak Rabin who brought peace to Palestine, was gunned down on November 5, 1995. This has proved that winning peace is more difficult than winning a war. Communal violence has spread to areas that were earlier free from it. Even routine religious celebrations that used to pass off peacefully leave dozens of people injured and dead despite police bandobast.

Millions of people in India have accepted violence as a routine affair in a spirit of resignation. There is violence in people's hearts. It finds expression whenever tempers get frayed at the slightest provocation. Students indulge in violence for the most trivial reasons. Brides are burnt alive for not satisfying their greed. Politicians hire goons to create disturbances in towns for their own ends. One witnesses violence in all spheres of life. Violence in Bombay after demolition of Babri Masjid was spearheaded by the politicians of the two communities.

Increasing materialism has made men selfish. It has also made them insensitive to human emotions of pity, compassion, generosity, and affection. Nations want to expand their territory and influence. Men want to prosper materially at any cost. A rat race for material success is afoot, in which human beings are ruthlessly trampled underfoot by their fellow runners. Cutthroat competition is being practiced in order to amass wealth. Exploitation of the worst kind is being perpetrated by man on man, simply because a group of men wishes to become richer. In this materialistic atmosphere, humaneness and human emotions are at a discount, whereas rationalism is the order of the day. Rationalism does not admit of human virtues as they obstruct materialistic progress. Rationalism has brought about ruthlessness of the worst kind.

Lust for power is another factor that has increased violence. The two Super powers vied for long with each other to augment their fire-power and their areas of influence. They wanted to spread their respective ideologies, viz. Capitalism and Communism. They divided the world into two blocs, and indulged in wars by proxy, involving other nations. Occasionally, they also resorted to direct violent actions in some of the under-developed countries with a view to establishing a puppet government. Their Hitler was a power maniac, but the present-day rulers in the two super power countries were not less power-hungry. They would do anything

to increase their Spheres of power. One of these powers, USSR disintegrated in 1991.

With the scientific and technological advancement, mankind has come to, possess newer and more destructive weapons. Nuclear energy, being diverted to destructive channels, has increased the fire-power of the countries, manifold. It is a common psychological fact that the possession of weapons makes individuals and nations haughty and aggressive. The consciousness; of being in possession of deadly weapons makes countries prone” to taking-, violent action in the event of a difference of opinion. Wherever there are, human beings, - there are bound to be bones of contention. However, if the contending parties rely more on weapons which they have come to possess there is bound to be more violence.

Rise of communalism, religious fundamentalism have made people intolerant, narrow-minded and inhuman. The reaction of Muslims to Salman Rushdie's book the Satanic Verses has brought to light how communalism is assuming international dimensions. Closer home, in Punjab thousands of innocent people were killed mercilessly by self-proclaimed defenders of the religious sentiments of a particular community.

A place, where at one time Hindu-Sikh lived in amity, they dared not, trust each other or talk to each other for fear of ostracism by their community

To kill in the name of religion is only an expression of lack of understanding of what religion stands for.

All philosophers, religious preachers, and scriptures have emphasized that different religions are only different means of achieving the same goal, i.e. union with God.

All human beings are embodiments of God Indeed, all creatures. Are manifestations of God. If we respect and love god, we should also love his creations. If this philosophy and outlook in life is adopted, then violence, will automatically be eliminated from world. World peace will then become a reality. And a man can lead secure and peaceful life But in today's World religion is regarded as the opium of the masses and a hindrance to scientific progress. Spirituality is left to be practiced only by saints and the recluse.

It may sound rather strange, but it is a fact that today man is his own greatest enemy. By unleashing the animal in him, man has become self-destructive. If the brute in man is not chained, and if violence is not checked, man may altogether eliminate himself from the face of the planet earth.

If mankind is to survive, violence will have to be discarded. A spirit of friendly co-existence will have to be made the norm of human behavior.