

ABSTRACT

This study examines the problem of violent crime in a society against the background of a generalized attitude to violence. It follows a hypothesis which postulates a relationship between the level of social violence and societal reaction to violence. Reaction is here treated as a psychological component defined by the capacity to accommodate violence. Social and psychological factors in congruent relationship are seen as forming the basis of individual capacity to accommodate violence.

The focus of the study is on Jamaica, West Indies, where the incidence of violent crime is reportedly high.