

Violence is one of humanity's most enduring traits; a phenomenon that all cultures and societies, across time and space, share. However, not all groups or individuals are equally violent, and nor does violence exist with the same intensity across societies.

This *Very Short Introduction* by Philip Dwyer examines the more visible, physical acts of violence in the modern world, looking at the long history of the subject, and disputing the claim that violence is diminishing. Each chapter deals with a different aspect of violence from the interpersonal and gendered through to the collective and religious. To understand different attitudes towards violence, past and present, Dwyer argues that they are best placed in their specific cultural, social, economic, and political contexts.

'a thoroughly good idea. Snappy, small format . . . stylish design . . . perfect to pop in your pocket for spare moments'

*The Times*

'Expert, concise but far from bland, Oxford's *Very Short Introductions* series must rank by now as a thinking reader's Wikipedia'

**Philip Dwyer** is Professor of History and the founding Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence at the University of Newcastle. He has published widely on the Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras, including a three-volume biography of Napoleon. He is the general editor of the four-volume *Cambridge World History of Violence* (2020).