

# VIOLENCE IS THE REFUGE OF THE INCOMPETENT

## Outline

### A. Introduction:

There are several points that prove violence is the refuge of the incompetent, such as fear of losing power, suppression of free speech, and ineffective leadership ~~are~~ are concerned.

### B. Violence is the refuge of the incompetent

#### a. Lack of conflict resolution skills

Example: Rwandan genocide (1994) between the tutsi and hutu.

#### b. Fear of losing power

Example: Syrian civil war (2011 - present) Bashar al-Asad's regime

#### c. Lack of rationality and wisdom

Example: Taliban takeover of Afghanistan (2021)

#### d. Suppression of free speech

Example: China's crackdown on dissent (Hong Kong protest)

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e. Power imbalance and revenge

Example: The Israel-Palestine conflict.

f. Lack of moral authority

Example: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

g. Incompetent leadership

Example: Sri Lanka's economic crisis and protests

h. Failure of diplomacy

Example: The US invasion of Iraq

i. Cultural misunderstanding

Example: Sectarian tensions such as sectarian violence between Sunni (Saudi Arabia) and Shia (Iran) communities.

j. Absence of education and awareness

Example: The rise of ISIS.

C. Conclusion:

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## Essay

"Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent." This insightful quote from science fiction legend Isaac Asimov succinctly captures a disturbing truth - that those in positions of power often resort to bullying, threats, and aggression when their own ability fall short. Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent, as competent ones never go for it. To begin with, the lack of conflict resolution often leads to violence because it reflects an inability to handle disagreements through peaceful and rational means. In addition to this, cultural misunderstanding can become a trigger for violence when there is a failure to address differences respectfully and competently. Furthermore, a lack of diplomacy leads to violence by failing to address conflicts peacefully through dialogue, negotiation and mutual understanding. Moreover, a lack of rationality and wisdom in conflict resolution often leads to escalation of tensions and violence. Even more, power imbalance and

the desire for revenge lead to violence when justice, dialogue, and reconciliation are absent. And violence, an act of physical force that causes or is intended to cause harm.

There are several points that prove violence the refuge of the incompetent, such as fear of losing power, suppression of free speech, and ineffective leadership.

To begin with, lack of conflict resolution skills directly contributes to the violence. When individuals lack the skills to express their needs, emotions, and viewpoints clearly, misunderstandings arise. When conflicts remain unresolved due to poor conflict management, tensions can fester, leading to an eventual explosive outburst of violence. Rwandan genocide (1994) where ethnic tensions between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority in Rwanda had a long history, worsened by colonial favoritism and political manipulation. Therefore, lack of conflict resolution skills paves the way for violence.

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In addition to this, fear of losing power leads to actions that escalate violence. When individuals or groups fear losing power, they may feel threatened and resort to force as a way to maintain control. Leaders who fear the loss of power often see negotiation or dialogue as signs of weakness. Instead of seeking peaceful solutions or compromise, they use violence to crush any challenges to their rule. For instance, in the Syrian Civil War (2011-present) Bashar al-Asad's regime. Therefore, fear of losing power leads to violence because it reflects an inability to manage conflict through diplomacy and rational decision-making.

Furthermore, "violence is the refuge of the incompetent" highlights that when rationality and wisdom are lacking, violence often becomes the default response to conflicts. Without these qualities, individuals or groups are more likely to resort to violence, demonstrating their inability to manage disputes in a competent manner. When there is a lack of rationality and wisdom,

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leaders use power to suppress the people instead of engaging in negotiation. This can lead to long-term problems and violence in the country.

For instance, Taliban takeover of Afghanistan (2021). Therefore, lack of rationality and wisdom leads to violence because these qualities are essential for peaceful conflict resolution.

Moreover, suppression of free speech often leads to violence. The suppression of free speech is a key example where the inability to handle dissent through dialogue leads to violence and conflict. Incompetent leaders may suppress free speech out of fear of losing power. Rather than engaging with criticism and reforming policies, they resort to violence to silence dissent. For instance, China's crackdown on dissent (Hong Kong protest) marginalized groups, feeling voiceless, may turn to violence when peaceful avenues of expression are blocked. Therefore, suppression of free speech fosters violence because it creates a sense of injustice.

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Likewise, power imbalance and revenge are the foremost causes of violence. Power imbalance and revenge are prime example of how the failure to address conflicts constructively leads to violence, reflecting incompetence in conflict resolution. ~~Powerful groups or individuals may use violence to safeguard their dominance when they fear losing control. Instead of addressing issues through reform or dialogue, they resort to force to crush opposition.~~ For instance, the Israel - Palestine conflict has its roots in deep power imbalances, with Israel's military dominance and control over Palestine. Thus, power imbalance and violence often lead to violence.

Even more, "violence is the refuge of the incompetent" emphasizes that when leaders or individuals lack the moral authority, they often resort to violence to maintain control. When leaders lack moral authority, they often resort to coercion and violence to enforce their will instead of earning trust through ethical conduct. Dictatorships often resort to violent

crackdowns when their authority is questioned, as they lack moral legitimacy. For instance, ~~the Russia's invasion of Ukraine.~~ Therefore, a lack of moral authority often leads to violence because it erodes trust, fairness, and justice.

Besides this, incompetent leadership often lead to violence. Incompetent leaders, unable to resolve issues through dialogue and rational policies. Incompetent leaders often lack the diplomatic skills to de-escalate tensions, resorting to violence instead.

Incompetent leaders often lack the foresight to implement reforms, leading to social unrest and violence. For instance, Sri Lanka's economic crisis and protests.

Incompetent leaders avoid facing criticism and often view dissent as a threat rather than an opportunity for improvement. Thus, incompetent leadership leads to violence because it lacks the skills to address public grievances effectively.



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Additionally, the failure of diplomacy as a result of incompetence often leads to violence. Leaders who lack the wisdom or emotional intelligence to handle crisis through diplomacy often turn to violence as a solution. When leaders ignore diplomatic efforts and peaceful proposals, they may choose violence instead. Incompetent leaders who cannot effectively negotiate often resort to violence to resolve disputes. For instance, the US invasion of Iraq. Therefore, the failure of diplomacy leads to violence.

Moreover, cultural misunderstanding can lead to violence when leaders fail to understand values and identities of others. Leaders or groups that are ignorant of the cultural norms, belief, and practices of others may unintentionally provoke conflict, which can escalate into violence. Leaders who are insensitive to cultural values when conducting international relations may create tensions that lead to violence. Incompetent leaders or groups

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lack of education, particularly in conflict zones like Afghanistan and Iraq. Thus, lack of education and awareness, fosters the violence.

To conclude this, above all, these are the arguments that prove violence is the refuge of the incompetent. To begin with, the fear of losing power often drives individuals, groups, or governments to resort to violence as a way of maintaining control, suppressing opposition, and defending their position. In addition to this, the suppression of free speech is often employed by incompetent or authoritarian leaders as a tool to maintain power, stifle dissent, and avoid accountability. Moreover, the lack of moral authority in leadership often leads to violence, particularly when incompetent leaders fail to engage in responsible governance or meaningful reforms. Even more, incompetent leadership often results in violence, as it represents a failure to effectively manage crisis, and maintain peaceful governance. Besides this, lack of education and awareness

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often adopt ethnocentric views, seeing their own culture as superior and viewing others as inferior. This attitude can lead to violent actions to assert dominance. For instance, the sectarian tensions such as sectarian violence between sunni (Saudi Arabia) and shia (Iran) communities. Thus, cultural misunderstandings often arise from incompetence whether in leadership or empathy.

Last but not the least, the absence of education and awareness often leads to violence, as it reflects the incompetence of society or individuals. Without an understanding of human rights, individuals are more likely to engage in violence, as they do not recognize the dignity and rights of others. Education plays a key role in countering radical ideologies by fostering critical thinking, tolerance, and understanding. Without it, individuals may turn to extremist views and violent behaviour. For instance, the rise of ISIS, the extremist group exploited the

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is one of the key factors that contribute to violence, particularly in societies, where leaders fail to provide the necessary tools for the populations. Furthermore, the failure of diplomacy is a central factor in many violent conflicts throughout history. Although there are many arguments supporting the idea that violence is the refuge of the incompetent, overcoming these issues would enable the world to effectively combat violence.

