

A Tale of Two Zapotec Villages: La Paz & San Andres

Intra-Cultural Correlates of Violence

After Fry, Douglas "Maintaining Peace and Tranquility: External and Internal Loci of Aggression Control." *In* The Anthropology of Peace and Non-Violence. Sponsel & Gregor, eds.

The categories of violence examined and contrasted:

- Wife beating much more common in San Andres
 - When a child misbehaves harsh physical punishment of children 3 times more likely in San Andres, while positive verbal responses more than twice as likely in La Paz
 - Murder rates (100,000 per year):
 - 18.4 in San Andres
 - 3.4 for La Paz
 - (about 4-10 in USA from 1950-2004)
 - Brawls and shouting matches
 - All of the above occurred at higher rates in San Andres
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Cultural Factors (I)

- ❑ **World view:** in La Paz and San Andres people believe in respect, cooperation, and equality. Yet in San Andres it is regarded as reasonable to kill a sexual rival, avenging a close relative's death is honorable, and that fights are likely to break out in the context of drinking. In contrast people in La Paz believe that their neighbors are kind, peaceful, and respectful.
 - ❑ **Conflict Management Strategies:** Denial, avoidance, and escalation prevention. In La Paz it is thought better to forget a complaint, avoid a confrontation, and to flee a confrontation once it begins, but in San Andres it is regarded as cowardly and weak to do so.
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Cultural Factors (II)

- **Patterns of parental child discipline:** in La Paz there is very little physical punishment. Instead children are instructed in proper behavior. In San Andres beatings are common. In fact misbehavior or failure to complete tasks properly in San Andres would more likely (based on a questionnaire) lead to physical punishment than in La Paz. While parents **do** strike children in La Paz it is invariably much less severe than in San Andres.
 - **Patterns of Children's Aggression:** in La Paz children are discouraged from play fighting while in San Andres it is believed that fighting is normal and no attempts are made to deter them. Behavioral observations reveal that there are significantly higher rates of aggressive play and verbal aggression among San Andres children.
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