

## **Sarah Palin Stokes The Fire Of The U.S. Culture Of Violence**

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America is a Culture of Violence. Assassination of our political leaders has a long history in this nation. Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. are in recent memory of this history and now we must add liberal Democratic Representative Gabrielle Gifford, 8<sup>th</sup> District, Arizona, as a potential victim.

It is of more than passing interest that the victims of these assassinations represent the liberal wing of America political thought and action. Questions must be raised as to the origins of political/social conservatism in the genesis of these assassinations. On the world scene we have Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Emperor Hirohito and the variety of dictators throughout Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East—all strove to subject “We, the People” to government tyranny.

An “agonizing reappraisal” is needed to evaluate why *homo sapiens* is the most violent and destructive primate on this planet; why religious warfare has dominated the social-political landscape of *homo sapiens*; why “liberals” are rarely assassins which is occupied primarily by those of authoritarian/conservative social/political ideology.

In pursuing the investigation of the attempted assassination of Representative Gifford we need to ask why her and not Republican Senator Jon Kyle of Arizona, a far more significant and powerful political conservative figure than liberal Democrat Representative Gifford, was not targeted for assassination.

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It is matter of record that Sarah Palin has evoked many images, verbal rhetoric and graphic visual imagery of violence in her political speeches and campaigns. Her use of the Crosshairs against her political opponents that is represented in the following **Figure 1** that targets liberal political Districts are illustrative of this effort. Crosshairs mean one thing—to kill- and the next step is pulling the trigger. This use of violent words and visual imagery can only stoke the fire of violent political opposition, which we see in the attempted assassination of Representative Gifford, one of the Districts targeted for assassination.

E. J. Dionne Jr., in a *Washington Post* Op-Ed piece (1.10.11), quoted Representative Giffords: "We're on Sarah Palin's targeted list," she said, "but the thing is that the way she has it depicted has the crosshairs of a gun sight over our district. When people do that, they've got to realize there's consequences to that action." That consequence was pulling the trigger.

“Mother Grizzly” is another example of the use of violent imagery in conveying a political message by Sarah Palin.

## **MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS**

A *Washington Post* story (1.9.11) on the shooting reported: “On [YouTube](#), Loughner's profile listed Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels's "The Communist Manifesto" and Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" among his favorite books”, which provides an obvious motivational linkage for the shooter in Tucson, AZ, via the neocortical cognitive brain.

There are, however, other motivational factors that are rooted in early life experiences of infancy, childhood and adolescence, which form the subcortical emotional, social, sexual brain that is first in evolution and development, which need to be investigated.

Studies have documented that nurturing; non-violent tribal cultures are characterized by high maternal-infant/child affectional bonding with support of sexual affectional relationships in youth and are predominately matrilineal/matrilocal in nature. The opposite non-nurturing relationships were found to characterize the violent, warfare cultures that were predominately patrilineal/patrilocal cultures.

### **Violence and Pleasure Profiles**

The reciprocal relationship of violence and pleasure holds true in modern industrial nations as well as primitive societies. This theory was tested by means of a questionnaire given to 96 college students (average age: 19). The results showed that students who have relatively negative attitudes toward sexual pleasure tend to favor harsh punishment for children and to believe that violence is necessary to solve problems. The students rated a series of statements on a scale of 1 to 6, where 1 indicated strong agreement and 6 strong disagreement. Through a statistical technique (factor analysis), a personality profile of the violent person was developed. **Table 5** (from Prescott, J.W. (1975) *Body Pleasure and the Origins of Violence*) shows the degree of relationship among the various statements, which reflect social and moral values. The figures at left, known as 'loadings,' are treated like correlation coefficients. They indicate the strength that each variable contributes to the overall personality profile of the respondents. Values range from -1.0 to +1.0.

It can be seen that **Political Conservatism** has a loading of .82, which defines this Factor 1, and accounts for 66.6% of the common relationships in this questionnaire. If you Agree with one statement you are likely to agree with the other statements on this

questionnaire with the probability associated with the numeric figure on the left. Similarly, for Disagreement.

This Profile has grouped the Questions into four categories: 1) Violence Approved; 2) Physical Pleasure Condemned; 4) Alcohol and Drugs Rated Higher Than Sex; and 4) Political Conservatism.

This Prescott Index of Conservatism can be completed by Sarah Palin and all Politicians to determine the accuracy of this **Profile of Political Conservatism** and the moral values that give it structure and function.

Political Conservatism and Liberalism is more than just a neocortical cognitive event but whose structure and function is deeply rooted in early life experiences of Pain and Pleasure that form the developing brain for Peace or Violence. **Table 2** summarizes our **Two Cultural Brains** that are formed by whether **Pain or Pleasure** is encoded in the subcortical Limbic-Emotional-Social-Sexual Brain and the Neocortical Cognitive Thinking Brain during early development—the formative periods of brain-behavioral development.

America has created its own “Culture of Violence”, which has its many roots that are shared by the Cultures of the World. The time is long overdue to transform our Cultures of Violence into Cultures of Peace. Calls for civility and Words alone cannot resolve millennia of violence that the history of human violence and treaties affirms.

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10 January 2011

20 House Democrats from districts we carried in 2008 voted for the health care bill...

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Vic Snyder — AR-2      | Earl Pomeroy — ND-AL   |
| Ann Kirkpatrick — AZ-1  | Charlie Wilson — OH-6  |
| Harry E. Mitchell — AZ-5  | John Bocchieri — OH-16   |
| Gabrielle Giffords — AZ-8   | Kathy Dahlkemper — PA-3  |
| John Salazar — CO-3   | Christopher Carney — PA-10   |
| Betsy Markey — CO-4   | John M. Spratt Jr. — SC-5  |
| Allen Boyd — FL-2   | Bart Gordon — TN-6  |
| Suzanne M. Kosmas — FL-24   | Tom Perriello — VA-5   |
| Brad Ellsworth — IN-8  | Alan B. Mollohan — WV-1  |
| Baron P. Hill — IN-9  | Nick J. Rahall II — WV-3   |

 Already retiring at the end of their terms. 17 more to go!

**Let's take back the 20, together!**  
**JOINMETODAY** 

## TABLE 5

Somatosensory Index of Human Affection Factor 1:66.6%

### Violence Approved

- .85 Hard physical punishment is good for children who disobey a lot.
- .81 Physical punishment and pain help build a strong moral character.
- .80 Abortion should be punished by society.
- .76 Capital punishment should be permitted by society.
- .75 Violence is necessary to really solve our problems.
- .74 Physical punishment should be allowed in the schools.
- .69 I enjoy sadistic pornography.
- .54 I often feel like hitting someone.
- .43 I can tolerate pain very well.

### Physical Pleasure Condemned

- .84 Prostitution should be punished by society.
- .80 Responsible premarital sex is not agreeable to me.
- .78 Nudity within the family has a harmful influence upon children.
- .73 Sexual pleasures help build a weak moral character.
- .72 Society should interfere with private sexual behavior between adults.
- .69 Responsible extramarital sex is not agreeable to me.
- .61 Natural fresh body odors are often offensive.
- .47 I do not enjoy affectional pornography.
- .42 I often get "uptight" about being touched.

### Alcohol and Drugs Rated Higher than Sex

- .70 Alcohol is more satisfying than sex.
- .65 Drugs are more satisfying than sex.
- .60 I get hostile and aggressive when I drink alcohol.
- .49 I would rather drink alcohol than smoke marijuana.
- .45 I drink alcohol more often than I experience orgasm.

### Political Conservatism

- .82 I tend to be conservative in my political points of view.**
- .77 Age (Older).
- .51 I often dream of either floating, flying, falling, or climbing.
- .45 My mother is often indifferent toward me.
- .40 I remember when my father physically punished me a lot.

The collaboration of Douglas Wallace, Human Sexuality Program, University of California Medical School, San Francisco



## TABLE 2. TWO CULTURAL BRAINS

### LIMBIC-SUBCORTICAL EMOTIONAL BRAIN

		<b>PAIN</b>	<b>PLEASURE</b>
N E O C O R T I C A L	P A I N	Theistic Religions <b>Patrilineal</b>  Gender Inequality <b>Sexual Puritanism</b> Addictive Synthetic Drugs Authoritarian Control Pain Is A Moral Good Depression-Violence-War <b>NeuroDissociative Brain</b> <b>Science of Pain-Depression</b> <b>BioMedical Health Model</b> <b>Legislative Gender Inequality</b> <b>Politics of Betrayal</b>	
	P L E A S U R E		<b>Earth Religions</b> <b>Matrilineal</b>  Gender Equality <b>Sexual Liberty</b> Natural Botanical Drugs Egalitarian Freedom Pleasure Is A Moral Good Joy-Happiness-Peace <b>NeuroIntegrative Brain</b> <b>Science of Pleasure-Happiness</b> <b>BioBehavioral Health Model</b> <b>Legislative Gender Equality</b> <b>Politics of Trust</b>

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