

Institutional and Individual forms of Instrumental Violence: Variations across Culture and Gender

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Country and gender differences were examined in the acceptance of three very different forms of violence. Attitudes about war, penal code violence, and corporal punishment of children were investigated, using items taken from the Revised Attitudes toward Violence scale (RATVS). The survey was administered to 1336 college-aged participants (age<30) from Japan, China, South Korea, and the United States. Significant country-level differences in acceptance of violence were observed for all three forms of violence. For violence in war, China and the United States were the most accepting. For penal code violence, Japan and South Korea were the most accepting. For corporal punishment of children, Japan (for women) and Japan and South Korea (for men) were the most accepting. Significant gender differences were also observed such that men were more accepting than women of all three forms of violence. Significant gender by country interactions were not observed. Differences observed between countries and genders as well as implications and limitations of the research are discussed in terms of nation-level indicators and previous psychological research.

Keywords: violence, war, penal code, corporal punishment

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