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VIOLENCE AND CRIMINALITY IN AMERICAN MOVIES: AN ANALYSIS OF BRENDAN FLETCHER’S “RAMPAGE: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT” AND JODIE FOSTER’S “THE BRAVE ONE”

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Résumé

Cet article vise à démontrer que les films américains, en particulier d’action et de crime, ont des répercussions sur la société américaine. Il a été remarqué que le taux de criminalité augmente progressivement en Amérique, principalement parmi les jeunes. De la même manière, on pense que l’amplification de la délinquance juvénile est étroitement liée aux scènes indécentes affichées dans la plupart des films policiers américains. Méthodologiquement, la méthode qualitative a été utilisée pour recueillir les données. Théoriquement, l’étude recourt à la psychanalyse, se concentrant principalement sur l’idéologie de « l’interpellation » ou de « l’appel » de Louis Althusser pour analyser comment les films de crime réussissent à influencer ou inciter certains Américains à changer de comportement. L’étude a montré que les scènes de violence représentées dans certains films d’action ou policiers ont des impacts négatifs sur les Américains, les jeunes principalement. En cela, il a été prouvé que sous l’influence des films d’action, les jeunes influençables sont incités à reproduire les actions virtuelles des films dans la vie réelle. Il a également été démontré que les décideurs américains ainsi qu’une grande partie de l’opinion publique sont également pris par le dit influence, leur faisant croire qu’il est important pour les citoyens à posséder des armes à feu. L’étude a conclu que c’est à cause de la promotion des armes à feu dans les films que les décideurs politiques n’ont pas adopté de législation qui pourrait limiter l’acquisition d’armes à feu, et de diminuer la violence armée dans la société Américaine..

Mots clés Films Américains, criminalité, armes à feu, interpellation, psychanalyse, jeunesse.

Abstract

This article aims at demonstrating that American films, especially crime ones, have some repercussions on the American society. It has been remarked the rate of criminality is increasing gradually in America, mainly among youth. In the similar fashion, it is believed that amplification of juvenile criminality is narrowly linked to the improper scenes displayed in most American crime films. Methodologically, pure qualitative method was used to collect data. Theoretically, the study resorts to psychoanalysis, focusing mainly on Louis Althusser’s ideology of “interpellation” or “Hailing” to analyze how crime films contrive to influence or entice some American into behavioral transformation. The study has shown that the violent scenes portrayed in some crime films have negative impacts on the Americans, youth mainly. In that, it has been proved that under the influence of crime movies, impressionable youngsters are enticed to reproduce the virtual actions of films in the real life. It has also been demonstrated that the American policymakers as well as a large part of the public opinion are also caught by the influence of some films about the importance of allowing individual citizen to possess firearms.

The study concluded that it is because of promotion of firearms in movies that policymakers have failed to adopt legislation that could limit to acquisition of guns, thus decrease gun violence.

Keywords: American films, criminality, firearms, interpellation, psychoanalysis, youth.

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Introduction

The American film industry is one of the most developed and popular in the world. It has a very large audience on the American continent as well as the rest of the world. Films entertain people on the daily basis and are appreciated. In fact, most of the American crime or action movies display scenes of violence, and most of the time those scenes appear real in the eyes of the viewers, especially youngsters. The “Rampage: Capital Punishment” starred by Brendan Fletcher in 2014 and “The Brave One” starred by Jodie Foster in 2007 are perfect epitomes of the type of films containing violence scenes. Indeed, these two films are full of cruel scenes, and clearly trivialize the use of firearms in human slaughtering.

On the literary sphere, we have noticed that many scholars of American literature are more interested in writing about the issues of slavery, race, American exceptionalism, etc., than the growing rate of juvenile criminality in America. It is not a secret that the rate of juvenile criminality is getting higher and higher in the world, particularly in the United States. In relation to that, we have noticed that the amplification of the criminality rate in the midst of youth in America is related to the impact of some crime or action movies. However, the mentioned issue is slightly documented by scholars as being one of the most pertinent causes of juvenile criminality. It is in this context that this study aims at demonstrating that the augmentation of the criminality rate of the youth in the United States is the direct result of the promotion of violence and firearms in some American film.

The study resorts to psychoanalysis, mainly Louis Althusser’s concept of “interpellation” in order to ease and guide the analysis about how movies can influence and entice youngsters into violence. In doing so, the study focuses on. Hence, the study is divided into two main sections. Firstly, the study examines the selected films and accounts for the related violence and crime oriented scenes which can affect and impact viewers. Then, the study tries show the

consequences of the promotion of improper contents in some American films on the American youth.

1. Drawbacks of American Movies

This section attempts to explore some shortcomings of the American crime films which contain inappropriate scenes. It accounts for the negative effects of the latter on the Americans, especially the youth.

1-1. Violence in American Movies

Although American film industries have produced an incommensurable positive result for the Americans, it is also noteworthy to admit that some American films contains improper contents. It means that the latter tremendously affects the American society, and by extension the entire world. It has been observed that a number of American crime films broadcast scenes that encourage and promote violence and immoral deeds. One perfect type of such a film is “Rampage: Capital Punishment” directed by Uwe Boll and starred by Brendan Fletcher in 2014. In the mentioned film, Brendan Fletcher, as Bill Williamson in the film, broke into a television station in Washington, D.C, where he committed a pitiless massacre and eventually blowing up the whole station after escaping through a tunnel. There are all kinds of inhuman actions, namely brutal killings, promotion of hatred and incitement to violence.

The viewers are immediately welcome by a scene of massacre at the very beginning of the mentioned film. Here is how the story of this film begins. One day, Bill Williamson prepared himself by wearing a suit of body armor, and then moved along the street killing some innocent people he met on his way to massacre. It was a premeditated operation that was genuinely prepared by the main protagonist of the film, Bill. As he got into the television station, he killed all the security guards and several employees of the firm. The rest of the people were taken hostage. In an interview, ordered by him, he revealed that the reason why he was killing is related to the fact that there are several flaws the US system of government. As a result he appealed American citizens to kill politicians and wealthy people in order to serve justice. Here are some few words Bill pronounced in the recorded interview to justify his actions: “Let’s just clean the world so that maybe the rest of us could sustain a little bit of life (.....) To change the world, we need to kill the rich(...)Lets kill them! Let’s get rid of them! Good! Thank you!(Script.com, Rampage: Capital Punishment).” From the different extracts, we clearly notice that the murderous actor is appealing Americans from all walk of life for violent action. He clearly sustains that all the problems facing poor and middle class Americans are caused by

wealthy people and the politicians. Therefore, he explicitly urges American citizens to stand up against the elites with guns in order to change things. Although he spoke some truth concerning the attitude of some politicians and rich business men towards average citizens in his recorded video, his incitation for violent actions towards the politicians is exaggerated. This could actually entice young Americans to reproduce his advocated actions in real life.

More surprisingly, after committing his massacre and pulling himself through following the explosion of the whole TV station, Bill met a little child in the street. He gave the latter a firearm to go and kill his parents because, according to Bill, her parents did not deserve to live. The foregoing scene of handing a fire arm to a child inciting her to murder her parents can be analyzed through Althusser's theory of "interpellation". In his "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses", Althusser develops that individuals are interpellated into action under certain conditions as they undergo behavioral transformation. In relation to that, he postulates as follows:

I shall then suggest that ideology 'acts' or 'functions' in such a way that it 'recruits' subjects among the individuals (it recruits them all), or 'transforms' the individuals into subjects (it transforms them all) by that very precise operation which I have called interpellation or hailing, and which can be imagined along the lines of the most commonplace everyday police (or other) hailing: 'Hey, you there (p.40)!

Inferring from this passage of Althusser about the function of ideology, we can affirm that the violent scenes presented in the aforementioned film is an act of interpellation of youngsters into action. Indeed, it interpellates young viewers to follow the suit. The same thing could be said about the adults because the ideology of interpellation, according to Althusser, is not for children only but also Adults. Hence, films that contain such scenes could have a huge negative influence on the viewers. In addition, there are many other films in which the main actors, after being transgressed by bandits, would seek to take their revenge without waiting for the investigation of the police. Such films could also influence the average American citizens to seek revenge when they think that they have been the victims of a crime or injustice.

Concerning the second selected film "The Brave One" by Jodie Foster as Erica Bain, we have examined that like "Rampage: Capital Punishment", this film is full of a lot of violent action and crime; and once again, the main actor after committing number of murders, escaped sound and safe. That is, like Bill Williamson, Erica Bain had a happy end in her film. Erica was a radio host and lived happily with David to whom she was engaged. This film starts when Erica and her fiancé David Kirmani were attacked by three bandits who recorded the whole

scene departing with her ring and dog. As a result, her fiancé succumbed to his injury. Then Erica became traumatized by those events. To feel herself safe, she purchased a gun illegally as she was full of envy of revenge. As the film unfolds, the main actress became a different person with new mentality.

The first act of crime that Erica had committed had occurred in a store on one evening when she went for her errands. A man irrupted into a store after sometime, he opened fire to the cashier. Erica then used her pistol to fire three shots at the assailant. After her action, she withdrew the tape of the surveillance to cover her crime and left the two bodies behind her: “Any IDs? Victim is a thirty year-old Vietnamese female. Where is the other body? This way (...). She took three in the torso with a 38. Then somebody smoked him with a 9 millimeter automatic. Don’t ask me who.” The above is a discussion between investigators at the scene of murder in the store which saw the intervention Erica to kill the gunman. After her intervention, Erica had to flee because she did not have a license for her gun. The second explanation to her fleeing is that she wanted to remain unknown so that she could be free to take her revenge. Through this action, Erica advocates that any citizen has to wonder with a gun for self-defense. Erica’s shooting at the assailant shows that shows she has become quite a different person, ready to defend herself and others. It also implies that with a firearm any individual can be brave, and accordingly he/she can save not only himself/herself but also other people. Through her actions in the movie, the viewer is informed of the necessity of owning a firearm.

Hence, it is implicitly displayed in the mentioned film that if Erica had got a fire arm, she could have saved the life of her boyfriend on the one hand, and the kidnapping of her dog on the other hand. That is why she uttered the following words when she wanted to buy a gun without having any license for it. Here is a short dialogue between Erica and the gun seller: Gun seller: “Could I help you?” Erica: “ohh, yeah, I wanna buy a gun.” Gun seller: “license?” Erica: “Oh yeah of course. I need a license, yeah.” Gun seller: “once you get one, fill out this form, and we will notify you in 30 days.” Erica: “I need to get something now.” Gun seller: “Sorry, it’s illegal.” Erica: “I won’t survive thirty days.” Gun seller: “what happened to you?” Erica: “Me, nothing.” Gun seller: “a thousand dollars.” Erica: “a thousand dollars? Okay, but I need to learn how to use it.” In this dialogue, one understands that Erica has been able to obtain a gun without any license which she would use later to kill the gunman in the store. She convinced the seller that her life was threatened, so he gave in. Seeing that it was with the mentioned illegally obtained gun that the female protagonist has committed her first murder in a self-defense situation, the viewers are likely to feel sympathy for her action. In the same

fashion, some more vulnerable viewers can be influenced by the latter and try to get guns at all cost in the hope of protecting themselves as seen in the film. Thus, if all the American citizens seek to possess guns, this could lead to the proliferation of firearms and thus criminality.

After her brave action in the store, Erica has transformed herself to a justice server. It is in this framework that she killed two other men who were harassing and threatening the passengers of a subway car including Erica. She left again the crime scene after serving her justice. The character of Erica is presented in the film as a brave woman who decided to take her responsibility vis-à-vis the gradual increase of criminality in her society. For that, she starts wondering at nights hoping to meet bandits whom she could kill. In this dynamics, she killed another man who was threatening a prostitute. By analyzing one by one all the acts of murder committed by Erica, we can assume that they are justified because each of the men she killed was criminal. Therefore, young viewers as well as adults could be interpellated to reproduce or adopt the attitudes of the actress that are promoted in the film. Any young man or woman who watches this film would have a deep love and compassion towards Erica. These killings, immortalized in “The Brave One,” may trivialize the sacredness of human life. Hence, children, who love watching such action movies, could grow love for firearms, and in case they find themselves in a situation of frustration, they could resort to guns to go beyond the point of no return. The same thing can happen to adults too because virtual life of films are most the time seen by the watchers as real world.

Finally, the film of Foster ends when Erica has been able to kill all the men involved in the aggression and assassination of her fiancé David. She even benefitted from the support of a policeman, Detective Mercer, who was investigating Erica’s crimes. After killing the first two aggressors, Erica had trouble with the last one who had caught her trying to strangle her, so Detective Mercer showed up and assisted her to kill the last aggressor instead of arresting him. The scene happens as follows: Erica: “ Put me in cuffs. Get me out of here.” (...). Detective Mercer: “The problem is, if you go down, I’ll go down.” Erica: “No, I can’t let you do that for me.” Mercer: “So you’ve got one person left to shoot. (...). You see, there was never any vigilante. It was just three punks out on a killing spree. (...). They bought themselves a gun, and they turned on each other....” The foregoing passage is a conversation that took place between Erica and Detective Mercer. When the detective arrived on the crime scene, Erica had not killed all the three yet. Being a law agent, he could have prevented Erica from killing the last criminal; however, he encouraged the actress to finish her task. In the conversation, the Detective assured the protagonist that she has done no wrong because he believed that the three

men killed by her were just “punks”. Hence, he did not arrest Erica, but ordered her to shoot at him to wound him so that the crime would be covered and Erica can go without any prosecution: “Now you nick me, graze me, but you wound me. (...). Now you get out here before I lose my temper.” One can see a direct implication of a lawman in crime alongside an illegal justice maker, Erica. In this sequence, the diction of the film is that killing criminals is a service to the nation. That is why the Mr. Mercer qualified the killing of the three bandits by Erica as good and not condemnable. The crimes perpetrated by Erica are presented in the film in a way that makes it seem legitimate. That presentation of crime scenes could actually incite young viewers as well as the grownups to adopt vengeance oriented attitudes towards other people.

Like Fletcher’s “Rampage”, Jodie’s “The Brave One” subscribes to the genre of films that promote violence and crime because at the end of the film, the actress had a happy end. In a film, if the actors who commit crimes, even though they are justified, are described as heroes, this could have a negative impact on the watchers. Films like Jean Claude Vandamme’s “Assassination Game” Sylvester Stalone’s “Rambos”, etc, are few examples of the films that display scenes of violence susceptible of interpellating the subjects to reproduce in real life what they see virtually.

1-2. American Youth Delinquency and Films

In this section, the study examines and account for pieces of evidence that testify the prevalence of youth criminality in the American societies as a close ramification of the promotion of crimes in some films. Inferring from the previous sub-section of the impropriety of some American films, the investigation has led us to construe that the promotion violence in some films are related to the high level of crime in the midst of the young Americans. A number of factors are explanatory of the mentioned relationship between imagery and reality (films and reality). Indeed, the media, including films, are accountable of brainwashing or influencing individuals within their contact to reproduce what they see in films in real life. As discussed previously, human brain is flexible and likely to be affected by its immediate environment. It is in this framework that Louis Althusser (1970) has developed the concept of “interpellation” to demonstrate that human mind can be affected by certain conditions or situations, leading it to mimicry or imitation. In this dynamics, it is reported that a series of crimes and mass killing are recorded in America almost every year.

It can be postulated without flinching that there are some similarities between the way most of the recorded crimes happened in America and some crime scenes in American movies.

Hence, the prevalence of crimes by young Americans are undoubtedly related to the promotion of violence in the films they watch. Besides, it has been determined that most of the authors of the mentioned committed crimes are younger people, teenagers in particular.

To evidence the aforementioned link between the gradual increase in criminality rate in America and some action movies, some cases of crimes that happened in America in the past few years help us show the influence of films. That is, the occurrences of some cases of odious crime show obviously that the murderers were somewhat influenced by crime films. In that, it is recorded that the most intriguing cases of mass killing are reported in American schools. Indeed, it is no secret that American schools are regularly subjected to attacks of armed individuals. In this regard, Freilich et, al. (2022) in their research, titled “Overview of The American School Shooting Study (TASSS)” postulate as follows: “We identified 652 school shootings—of those, an average of 24 occurred each year. Shooting events were classified into one of four categories based on intent: self-harm/suicides, accidental discharges, intentional, and justified (p.5)”. These researchers have clearly confirmed the recurrence of gun violence in school environment. In the passage, the researchers have categorized those sad events as suicidal, accidental, intentional and justified. Inferring from the foregoing, it can be understood that the objective of these scholars is to account for the events, the statistics and the motivations of the shooters. However, based on the findings of the previous section about the improper contents in some American films, we can affirm without any hesitation that all the actions undertaken by a child are related to prior factors. A teenager can be affected by the film that he/her watches. In the same perspective, Rachna Khann (2021) asserts: “Many children cannot tell the difference between what is appropriate and what is not. For such a child, watching movies with violence in them might make them feel that it’s a normal thing to do. Statistics have shown that many children, by the influence of thriller or crime-oriented movies have had a tendency towards being aggressive.(n.p)” From the above, Khann demonstrates that many children get affected by the content of films that contain crime or violent scenes. They cannot tell what is normal and what is not normal about the films they watch. Therefore, according to the foregoing passage, many children can adopt aggressive attitudes towards other children whenever they think that they have been offended. This film inheriting attitude can lead them to commit murder because in the crime films they watch, the main actor/actress have committed murders in order to take his/ revenge.

In school environment, there are always scuffles among children, and, most the time, the least fortunate ones are the victims of bullying or mocking. The latter get depressed on the daily

basis. Therefore, the victimized children, under the influence of the crime films they watched, would try to replicate the virtual scenes in real life, and this can lead to massacres in schools. It is in this context that in December 2012, a gunman killed 26 people in Connecticut, Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. That bloodshed started when a 20 year-old man by the name Adam Lanza killed his mother at the home, then moved to Sandy Hook Elementary School to complete his rampage. In relation to that, Micheal Ray (2023) writes in his article that all the weapons used by Adam Lanza were purchased by his mother. He also upheld that the mother of the shooter “was shot four times with a 22-calibre rifle. She had purchased the rifle, as well as an R-15 – the civilian semiautomatic version of military M16 assault rifle – and several other firearms that Adam Lanza would use later that day (n.p).” The passage clearly denotes that the issue of guns is trivialized to the point that it was within the contact of everyone in America. It means that small children as well as teenagers are exposed to firearms. This situation can be dangerous for the whole nation as it is witnessed several times in recent American history, like the case of Newtown shooting.

Hence, after murdering his mother with four shots, Adam headed to the crime scene where he opened fire to children as well as adults without any hesitation. It is recorded that he fired up to “154 shots in less than five minutes.” According to Micheal Bay, this event “was one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history.” After that tragedy, the investigators started looking for the motives of the shooter, and many people were asking legislation to restrict gun acquisition. However, in their endeavor to eradicate this problem, they failed to appoint the responsibility of crime films as one of the roots causes of such situations. There is obviously a connection between the aforementioned massacre and the scenarios of American films. As discussed in the previous section, the influence of films are incommensurable, for their contents are impressionable. Subsequently, films can easily impact vulnerable watchers like children. Then negative scenes and actions displayed in films can be interpreted negatively by children and teenagers.

The manners in which the scenes of Adam Lanza’s massacre occurred leads us to make a connection of that tragic event and American crime films. Taking the case of the selected films namely “Rampage: Capital Punishment” by Fletcher and “The Brave One” by Foster, cold blood crimes with firearms are evidenced and immortalized. The composure of the mentioned actors in their films while killing people is transferrable to the vulnerable watchers like Adam Lanza. In each one of the films under study, there are promotions of guns on one hand, and incitement to vengeance on the other hand. Adam Lanza, being a very young man of 20, was in

contacts with his mother's guns, and this could have motivated him to conduct that criminal action while he became frustrated or depressed. Another reason why we esteem that Adam Lanza was impacted by film scenes is that before his crime, he had genuinely prepared himself like in films. For that he even tried to suppress all the evidence before his action: "Before leaving the house, Lanza destroyed his computer's hard drive, an act that would make evidence gathering difficult for the law enforcement." This shows that the young shooter was very prepared. Drawing a parallel between this event and crime films, we remark that in movies like Fletcher's, before launching any assault, actors do many preparations. And then in movies, guns are presented as justice makers which physically weak persons could use to defend or protect themselves. So, be it the film of Foster or Fletcher, guns are presented as justice makers. In Adam's action too, guns are used in the same purpose although the main reason of his rampage is still unknown. It is observed that the similar events happens in America almost every year, and in most of the time the attackers are young like Adam Lanza.

Another similar case of mass killing that happened in an American school is the Texas shooting of the 24th May, 2022. In this attack, the shooter killed over 21 people and injuring around 17 other people. Like the previous event of mass shooting at school, this Texas shooting which happened in 2022 was as deadly as the Newtown event. On that tragic day, the attacker, an 18 year-old teenager, had coldly shot dead several children without hesitating. In relation to that, Suzanne Gamboa (2023) reports the following testimony: "But everything changed when an 18 year-old shooter walked into the classroom in Uvalde and killed 19 children and two teachers." This umpteenth gun violence in American society is caused by a number of factors, but the most immediate factor according to the current study is the negative pictures and images presented in most of the American crime films. Once again, these types of films make the promotion of weapons and violence that would impact and interpellate the young subjects to reproduce the film scenarios in real life. According to Gamboa, at the end of his disaster, the young criminal wrote " 'LOL' in the blood of his victims on the classroom's whiteboard." This moody note left by the young assassin shows the extent to which his mind was weak and vulnerable, thus easy impressionable by the crime films. It also shows that this young shooter had no regret following his action, he thought he did right to kill all those he had killed during that regrettable event. All in all, his attitude shows that, during his rampage, he believed himself in a film where he had to kill the bandits.

In the similar way, one of the most recent comparable event occurred on 27 March 2023 in Nashville. Like the two previous illustrated cases, Nashville school shooting was conducted in

an inhumane manner by a young lady. It is reported that Audrey Elizabeth Hale, being a former student of the Christian Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, has burst into her former school killing three children and three adults. In relation to that event, Aila Slisco (2023) relates in the following passage how Hale had meticulously devised her massacre plan: “Drake said that Hale had come with ‘multiple rounds of ammunition’ and ‘prepared to do more damage than was actually done,’ having been stopped from carrying out further bloodshed after being fatally shot by responding officers (n.p).” By reading the above passage, we observe that there is a plain resemblance between the occurrence of Hale’s rampage in real life and that of Bill Williamson in “Rampage: Capital Punishment”. Like Bill Williamson in his fiction, Hale, the school shooter, had established a plan which could lead to more tragedy than it was. Given the similarity of this real event and a film, one can be tempted to talk about the influence of films on the mentioned shooter. The latter turned against her former school for an unknown reason. She used violence to take her revenge like in most of the American crime films. Some attackers could commit mass shooting just to imitate their favorite actors. Besides, all kind of scenarios are displayed in films. In some crime films, the scenario makers show how to devise armed attacks. In other films, they showcase how to avenge, set ambush, and kill an individual. With this regard, Jamieson and Romer present that “Injuries due to gun violence are increasingly seen as a public health crisis in the US. In 2018, over 39,000 Americans died from gun-related deaths, along with over 70,000 nonfatal injuries attributable to firearms. Young persons ages 15–24 have the highest rates of firearm homicides and are especially sensitive to media influences that place them at risk of adverse health consequences, such as violence (p.2).” In the excerpt above, it is clearly demonstrated that gun violence is responsible for many deaths and injuries in the American mainland, mainly due to the influence of media. By mentioning media, Jamieson and Romer refer to crime movies. In the action films, it is portrayed that the possession of guns at home is synonymous with self-defense. However, in most of action films guns are used by film stars to avenge themselves on other actors. The viewers, young and old, can be impacted by the scenes they watch and try to imitate film stars. Despite all the tragedies caused by gun violence, American lawmakers have not been able to restrict its acquisition. Therefore, the contents of crime films must be controlled, and some limitations must be adopted against promoting crimes.

2- Films and American Institutions

In the foregoing section, the study has demonstrated with elements how crime films contribute to the dissemination of gun violence in the U.S. In American society, it is also known

that the issue of guns has been at center of public and political debates. However, the failure of the American decision makers and public opinion to find a sustainable solution to gun violence can be interpreted by the fact that like the American youth, the policymakers and public opinion are interpellated by films that promote the importance of guns in the society. So, another negative influence of crime movies, after the children and teenagers, can be felt on the American legislations on gun control as well as the individual citizens.

The evidence to the mentioned statement, is that at each case of gun violence, the question of the limitation of guns is raised, but has always failed to become concrete. Several attempts that were made to restrict or limit gun acquisition have failed. That is, some American legislators have tried to ban the acquisition of some firearms without success. In his article on the “Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting, Micheal Ray listed some failed legislations about gun control. He writes that “Some semiautomatic assault rifles and large-capacity magazines had been banned under legislation passed by the U.S. Congress in 1994, but that law was allowed to lapse in 2004.” He continues that the policymakers had pledged to introduce new gun control policy, but the “National Rifle Association responded advocating the introduction of armed guards into American schools.” In reality according to Ray more than “one-fifth” of American schools already employ armed security agents. Another gun restrictive legislation was introduced in 2013 by the senator Dianne Feinstein, “the bill was defeated 60-40 in the Senate.” All the mentioned failures of the American legislators to find a solution to gun violence prove that American legislators are also impacted by the promotion of firearms in many American movies. It is in the crime and action films that it is delineated that the possession of guns can save lives. The evidence they put forward is that if an individual has a gun at home, he can defend himself and his family. This is exactly what most of the American crime films advocate, especially “The Brave One” of Jodie Foster in which the issues of self-defense, vengeance and the promotion of firearms are blatantly graspable.

Besides, the analyses lead us to sustain that American population as a whole have also been under the influence of American Media, especially films, if we want to understand their acceptance of gun proliferation and violence. In American movies as mentioned already, one of the most blatant features is the promotion guns and the right of individuals to possess them. One of the possible reasons behind the inaction of American population to fight against the proliferation of guns is that like policymakers, ordinary American citizens, especially adults, are also influenced by the ideology sustaining that citizens have to possess guns to defend themselves as advocated in films. As an illustration to the foregoing idea, Jamieson and Romer

put as follows: “The use of guns in popular movies is seen as justified by parents when it is used in defense of self or others, and similar portrayals are likely in TV dramas where police are heavily featured. Youth are also accepting of such portrayals (p.6).” The passage demonstrates that the portrayal of guns in movies has a significant impact on the young and old since they believe that guns could be perfect means of self-defense just like in films. In Fletcher’s “Rampage”, he promotes violence and hate speech in which he invites the lower-class Americans to kill rich and wealthy people. However, in Jodie’s “The Brave One” she makes the promotion of self-defense, possession of firearms and the use of vengeance. These two films are just few of the American crime films that captivate watchers and incite them to procure firearms and them to serve justice by themselves. Unfortunately, people continue to be the victims of the consequence of the proliferation of guns in real life which is undoubtedly advocated by crime films in American society.

Conclusion

In sum, American crime films constitute one of the most salient contributing factors of the recurrent gun violence in the midst of American youth. In other words, some American crime or action movies contain violent scenes which could contribute to violence and crimes in real life. In that, it has been remarked that most of crimes committed by young Americans are imputable to the films they watch. For instance, it has been noticed that most of the mass killing in school environments are related the scenes produced in some films. “Rampage: Capital Punishment” and “The Brave One” are the types of action and crime films which can easily incite impressionable persons, especially children to imitation. Even the American public opinion and policymakers are under the influence of some films which advocate the acquisition of firearms as a means of self-protection.

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