

**Mass Murder in the New Millennium
A Thesis Restructuring Mass Murder Typologies**

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Abstract

The rise of mass murder in the new millennium necessitated this study. This rise brought about several new areas that needed researched, along with a restructuring of the extant mass murder typologies. These new typologies are included in this study and then compared to the extant typologies.

The new millennium brought about an increase in mass murders. The increase did not happen because there are more people. The size of the general population has not increased the need for an individual to take multiple lives in order to fit into society. The new millennium brought out some people's fascination with death, for example, television shows such as American Horror Story on Fox Network. The latest compact disk song entries about sex and murder, which ask can you outrun my bullet or gun. The Motion Picture Industry with all of the Zombie Motion Pictures and the mass murder complex was born. The extant typologies for mass murder have failed to cover all of the reasons now used by individuals to commit this crime. Mass murder is not new, but the ideas behind the thinking of the baby boomers and generation x have accelerated the need to be noticed by society and the "Look at me and see what I did" syndrome.

The new typologies delineated within this study include the different triggering causes for women, suicide bombers, police killers, school shootings, and military personnel who have risen to the forefront during the new millennium. This study was needed so that new forms of mass murder could be described and added to make a more inclusive typology of mass murder.

Keywords: mass murder, females, massacre, comparison

Introduction

Fox and Levin wrote in their book, *Mass Murder: America's Growing Menace*, "To many, the words 'mass murderer' bring to mind the figure of a glassy-eyed lunatic who kills innocent and helpless people in order to satisfy sadistic and lustful impulses" (1985, p. 3). They used the example of the infamous Ed Gein, who, they said killed victims and desecrated fresh graves to provide the townspeople with meat for supper. Gein, however, was a serial killer, not a mass murderer, in contrast to the authors' depiction of him. In fact, even noted researchers like Fox and Levin have used the terms 'serial killer' and 'mass murderer' interchangeably, although in reality they are very different. The serial killer murders several different individuals over a period of days, months, or even years, allowing a 'cooling off period' between kills. The mass murderer kills at least three persons at one time, in one location, with no cooling off period between killings (Johns, et al., 2005).

The most popular view of the mass killer, as suggested by Fox and Levin, follows the characteristics of agents of mass murder as immortalized by the motion picture industry. In their book *Mass Murder*, Fox and Levin suggested the following "...although the name of Edward Gein is unknown to moviegoers, his discovery by Hollywood brought his name to the forefront" (p. 5). Gein's exploits of murder and emotional detachment brought us such movies as, "*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*," a little known Canadian entry "*Deranged*" and the most notable motion pictures of all times, "*Psycho*, *Silence of the Lambs* and *Red Dragon*", to name a few." These

psychotic images have brought a face to the type of individual who would kill mass numbers of victims (pp. 5-6). The problem found with this supposition is that it leaves out the individual who plots to take his or her own life by ending the lives of as many innocent victims as possible in one fatal event. It is important to note that this study developed to conceptualize new elements of mass murder, not serial murder (pp. 4-5).

Fox and Levin suggest that, due to several factors, mass murder does not have the scholarly interest serial murder brings to researchers. They posit that, first, mass murders do not pose much of a challenge to law enforcement agencies as the victims are usually in the same place as the perpetrator. Second, the mass murderer does not generate the same amount of public fear and anxiety as the serial murderer. Third, neither the perpetrator nor the scene will generate the primary data useful in determining causality for the incident. Last, the characteristics of the mass murderer cannot compete with the media's sensationalism of the serial murderer (2005, pp. 156-157).

Holmes and Holmes (2001) entered the debate about the prevalence of mass murder by stating, "Of the three types of multicides such as serial homicide, mass murder, and spree murder; the act of mass murder usually receives the least amount of public attention" (p. 2). Again, serial killers seem to attract the most media attention. Serial killers bring out the book deals, movie rights, and publicity the individual may secretly be trying to gain by committing the foul deed of hiding in plain sight from society, and especially from government intervention. The fantasy must not end for the

serial killer, but the mass murderer usually wants to go out by his or her own hand, even if the gun is wielded by a law enforcement officer (p. 2).

On the other hand, the new millennium has shown the existing typologies listed for mass murderers have fallen behind times. There was an uncontested and unusual rise in the new millennium of females who committed mass murder in addition to a rise in extremist Muslim bombers. Also new the unusual actions taken by military officers and enlisted men who killed soldiers, adults who killed schoolchildren and individuals who simply had a grudge against society due to their own shortcomings. All of these new types of mass murderers made the need for this study evident, and opened the path to discovery of new typologies. This study lists the old typologies, compares new types of mass murder to the older types, determines what constituted the change in mass murder over the last ten years, and presents a typology for mass murder in the new millennium.

The current literature suggested a rise in the rates of mass murder. A 1988 article published in the New York Times titled "*Experts Say Mass Murders Are On The Rise*" posited "...factors such as the aging of the largest generation of Americans, the 'Baby Boomers' born in the quarter-century after World War II, and a growing rootlessness may yield a crop of multiple killers." Dr. Park Dietz, as quoted in the article, said, "I've been resistant to calling it an increase, but I think there's no avoiding the fact there is an increase...the numbers are becoming convincing to me as a skeptic" (para. 13).

Statistics compiled in the new millennium indicate mass murders are on the rise. Thomas Hargrove, in an article for the East Valley Tribune, stated that FBI statistics showed homicides involving two or more victims rose from 1,360 incidents in 2008 to 1,428 incidents in 2009 (2010, para. 4). According to retired FBI Agent Mark Safarik, “This is all part of the economic downturn...when the economy drops as precipitously as it has in the last few years, many men simply can’t stand it. They can’t hold a job, they are going into bankruptcy or foreclosure, and they snap” (para. 5).

Hargrove noted data showed that mass murders involving four or more victims began to rise in recent years. For example, during the three-year period from 2006 to 2008, an annual average of 163 Americans perished in acts of mass killing, up from the average of 161 during the 1980s (para. 6). Hargrove wrote, “The upward trends in multiple and mass murder are in stark contrast to the huge drop in single victim murder, which has declined more than 40% since 1980” (para. 6). In addition, “From 1980 to 2008, at least 4,685 people have perished in 965 reported incidents of mass murder involving at least four fatalities committed during the same incident” (para.6). Using local Freedom of Information Act laws, Scripps Howard obtained 15,322 detailed records of homicides that went unreported to the FBI from police departments in Florida and the District of Columbia. These additional records included 37 mass killings of 165 people and 793 multiple killings of 1,786 people that went unreported to federal authorities (para. 26).

Criminologist Christopher Valen posted on his blog web site on September 20, 2010, “Poverty is not the only thing on the rise in the United States. As reported over the weekend, mass murders have risen 5% from 1,360 incidents in 2008 to 1,428 incidents in 2009. This is despite a decline of 7% in homicide rates over that same period of time” (para. 2). Valen suggested, “Narcissism, physical or sexual abuse, substance abuse, depression, and sociopathic behaviors have also been cited as reasons for mass murder...some researchers suggest that the 24/7 media coverage that follows one of these horrific events reinforces a potential killer’s belief that what he or she sees as a meaningless life can end on a grand scale even if the perpetrator won’t be around to enjoy the transformation. Others cite the easy access to guns and ammunition” (para. 3). Valen closed by stating, “Whatever the cause, I fear the upward trend in mass murders is likely to continue, at least in the short term, particularly if economic conditions in the country do not improve significantly” (para. 10).

This study compared the extant typologies to the changes in mass murder in the new millennium and found a need for added typologies for mass murderers. When they named the *Disciple*, the *Family Annihilator*, the *Pseudocommando*, the *Disgruntled Employee*, and the *Set – and – Run Killer*, Stephen and Ronald Holmes may not have considered the possibility of a rise in women and religious bombers who committed mass murder, for example, so the need for additional types of mass murderers became evident (2001). The new research regarding mass murder led to a need for a higher and wider variety of mass murderer types to explain the rise in the different motivations of individuals who commit mass murder. The comparison between the known typologies

and the rise in mass murders that did not fit them helped prove the need for understanding the new types of individuals who commit mass murder.

Eric Hickey suggests, “Mass murders, in which several victims are killed within a few moments or hours, seem to be occurring with greater frequency” ... “The current frequency of mass murder in the United States has increased from approximately one case per month to approximately one case every ten days” (2010, p. 9). Hickey posits part of the increase as dependent on the definition of mass murder. The change has come by adding the mass killings that take place in not only public scenarios, (school shootings, malls, restaurants, or government facilities) but also in the home. Domestic homicide covers approximately half of the mass murders attempted or completed in the United States (p. 9). Hickey suggests further that both serial and mass murderers evoke “fear and anxiety in the community,” but he predicts that the reaction to mass murder will become more focused and locally limited than the reaction to serial killing (p. 9).

As stated earlier, this study compared the old typologies to the changes in mass murders in the new millennium, and found a need for additional types of mass murderers. A review of the current and older literature on mass murder showed a need for a wider variety of mass murder types to explain the varying motivations of individuals who commit mass murder. This study compared the known typologies and found a need to understand the increasing occurrence of mental issues that can cause an individual to take the lives of others.

Mass murderers have changed. The new mass murderer has gone past three or four victims to an unlimited number, depending on the style of execution of the event by the perpetrator. They have gone from using multiple firearms to bombs, weapons of silent death using chemical agents, or a new weapon of choice, the automatic firearm. The style of death delivery in mass murder has also changed. Delivery does not have to be personal for the new agents of death, but the delivery must cause a greater fear for society.

Literature Review

Definitions for Multiple Murders

The Crime Classification Manual, (Douglas, John E., Burgess, Ann W., Burgess, Allen G., & Ressler, Robert K., 1992) states the FBI Academy's Behavioral Science Unit began contributing to the classification of different types of homicide when Hazelwood and Douglas published their book on the typing of lust murderers (1980). This led Douglas and associates to publish their classification of homicides that used the number of victims, type, and style of the homicide.

Douglas, et al., (1992) defined *single homicide* as one victim in one event. A *double homicide* defined as two victims' at one time in one location. A *triple homicide* defined as three victims in one event at one location, and any single event with multiple victims classified as mass murder (1992). The manual cites two sub-categories of mass murder, the Classic Mass Murder and the Family Mass Murder. A classic mass murder involves a single perpetrator in a single location, at a single time; the time element could be minutes, hours, or even days (1992).

The prototype of a classical mass murderer would consist of an individual who is mentally disordered. The individual will be one with personal problems. These perceived problems will have increased to the point of acting out against groups of people who have no relationship with the individual or the triggering problem that caused him to lash out in a savage and hostile way by shooting or stabbing the chosen victims (1992). The

second sub-category of mass murder listed as Family Mass Murder. When the individual kills four or more family members and ends by committing suicide, it is listed as a murder or suicide. If the individual takes the lives of four or more family members and does not commit suicide, it is classified as family mass murder (1992).

The classic mass murderer, on the other hand, will have no relationship with his victims. The events will be random and the victims chosen will consist of anyone exposed to the perpetrator. Conversely, the serial murderer chooses a certain type of victim in order to have the proper fantasy fulfillment. The serial murderer does not intend capture. The act carefully planned in order to avoid detection, yet allows the serial killer time to complete the fantasy (1992).

The manual lists *spree murder* as a single event with two or more locations and no “emotional cooling off” period between the murders, although the new definitions from the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit have done away with the category of spree murder. The validity of spree murder as a separate category was discussed at great length during the symposium in San Antonio, Texas to reclassify the validity of spree, mass, and serial murder (Johns, et al., 2005). The general definition of spree murder is two or more murders committed by an offender or offenders, without a cooling off period. According to the definition, the lack of a cooling-off period marks the difference between a spree murder and a serial murder. Central to the discussion were definitional problems relating to the concept of a cooling-off period. Because it creates arbitrary guidelines, the confusion surrounding this concept led the majority of

attendees to advocate disregarding the use of spree murder as a separate category. The designation does not provide any real benefit for use by law enforcement (2005).

The *Crime Classification Manual* (1992) notes that serial murder consists of three or more separate events in three or more separate locations with a cooling off period between the homicides. Serial murder involves a killer with a premeditated idea offense-related fantasy and detailed planning (1992). The serial murderer will have a cooling off period that might be hours, days, weeks, months, or even years. This cooling off period distinguishes the serial murderer from other mass murderers; and this period will end when the serial murderer needs to fulfill his continued fantasy of perverse satisfaction (1992). In 2005, however, the FBI, along with noted experts on homicide, changed the definitions for mass murder and serial murder and did away with the spree murder classification at the Serial Murder Symposium.

The Serial Murder Symposium, sponsored by the FBI's Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime and the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit, met in San Antonio, Texas, August 29 – September 2, 2005, to decide a definition for multiple murders. The process determined a working definition of serial murder whereby local law enforcement could call the FBI for assistance with the investigation. "Generally, mass murder was described as a number of murders (four or more) occurring during the same incident, with no distinctive time period between the murders. These events typically involved in a single location, where the killer murdered a number of victims in an ongoing incident (2005, p. 8) (e.g. the 1984 San Ysidro McDonald's incident in San

Diego, California; the 1991 Luby's Restaurant massacre in Killeen, Texas; and the 2007 Virginia Tech murders in Blacksburg, Virginia).”

Prior to the aforementioned Symposium on murder, in 1998 the United States Congress attempted to give a formal definition to the term *serial murder* through the Protection of Children from Sexual Predator Act; Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 51, and Section 1111. This definition noted *serial killings means a series of three or more killings, not less than one of which was committed within the United States, having common characteristics such as to suggest the reasonable possibility that the crimes were committed by the same actor or actors* (p. 8). This definition, however, was limited in the application for which it was established. It simply set forth criteria by which the FBI could assist local law enforcement agencies with their investigations of serial murder cases, and the intention was not to be a generic definition for serial murder (p. 8).

The Symposium members present looked at all of the previous definitions and, by taking the good and bad of all variations, arrived at a consensus of a simple but broad definition designed primarily for law enforcement. The attendees focused on the number of murders that constituted serial murder. The researchers wanted an established specific number of murders to allow clear criteria for researching the perpetrators. The decision gave law enforcement “more flexibility” in gaining access to resources for their investigations. The groups arrived at a general definition by using the factors of one or more offenders, two or more murdered victims, in separate events,

at different times, and the time period between murders separates serial murder from mass murder. They arrived at a definition that reads, “Serial Murder: the unlawful killing of two or more victims by the same offender(s), in separate events” (p. 8).

Extant Typologies for Mass Murder

Classic mass murderer typologies consider the perpetrator to be a non-specific motive killer. These murderers are so listed due to the appearance of irrational behavior and a motive known only to the killer. The victims are completely random and unknown to the perpetrator. These victims may be male, female, or even children who have no relationship to the mass murderer when the event happens. The event will usually occur in a public place offering a high risk of death for the perpetrator. The scene will be disorganized and there is no desire to conceal the victims. This individual will normally use multiple weapons and a large quantity of ammunition. The scene will be a massacre due to the need for this individual to kill as many victims as possible. The scene will not be staged, due to the spontaneous nature of the attack (Douglas, et al., 1992). Fox and Levin stated in their book, “*The Will to Kill*” that 66% of homicides in domestic relationships occur due to a firearm in the residence. They also suggest the decline in shooting deaths can be traced to the implementation of the Brady Bill, which called for background checks of anyone purchasing a firearm. The book suggests, “Family massacres are generally committed by the head of the household who perceives that he has the total say over his clan, in life and in death...He feels entitled by his position to determine his family’s destiny” (2001, p. 65). Fox and Levin found the new

millennium gave rise to children murdering intimate family members as well as the rise in female heads of households who took the same named responsibilities, but for different reasons (2001).

Forensically, these scenes contain multiple types of evidence for collection. There will be shell casings, fingerprints, discarded weapons, etc (Douglas, et al., 1992). The wounds inflicted by the perpetrator to the victims will consist of head, neck, or chest, which will usually cause a fatality (1992). There will be multiple victims and witnesses associated with the event. The event will be carried out in the daylight and in a public place to have the opportunity for the maximization of victims and publicity. The perpetrator should be readily available to the investigator due to the need or want for the ending of the perceived problem by suicide or death by suicide by cop. A search of the killer's residence should give the investigator the extent of the weapons used, the records of the individual's daily rants, and possibly a manifesto of grievances perceived as the triggering event for the lives taken (1992).

The typology of Extremist Homicide consists of some of the same elements of the classic mass murderer, except these events call attention to the taking of lives for religious, political, economic, or social issues. Usually the perpetrator will have ties to an organization, but the organization will not take responsibility for the action or event. A lone offender who usually wants to die at the scene to achieve martyrdom commits this type of mass murder. The victims chosen to allow the perpetrator the opportunity to persecute a set of individuals or principles that is contrary to the belief system of the

perpetrator. The original investigation may even uncover a secondary set of victims due to the association with the primary targets (1992). The forensic evidence may contain several different types of modus operandi suggested by the weapon of choice, manner of death, or methods used by a certain group to carry out the event. This type of murderer will usually stalk the victims, gathering intelligence and making detailed plans to kill as many of the chosen targets as possible to make their cause public knowledge (1992)

The *Crime Classification Manual* (1992) lists Political Extremist Homicide, Mercy/Hero Homicide, Hostage Homicide, and Sexual Homicide as the typologies that possibly link with mass murder. The manual, however, lacks typologies for mass murders committed by females, the individual who has no apparent reason for entering a children's school and taking the lives of those children, the shootings of police officers, and American military personnel who take the lives of other military personnel--all of which have been on the rise for the last two years.

According to the FBI, mass murder is defined as four or more murders occurring during a particular event without a cooling off period between the murders. A mass murder will typically occur in a single location with as large a number of victims as possible. Individuals or organizations may commit mass murder. Governments may commit mass murder as defined by the intentional and indiscriminate murder of a large number of people by government agents, such as the carpet-bombing of cities (Staff Writer Boston Globe, 2010,). Mass murderers may fall into several different numbers of

categories--the family killer, the co-worker killer, student killer or the killer of random strangers; each of these individuals has motives for his/her actions, which are usually meant to bring about attention or “fifteen minutes” of fame (2010).

Dr. Michael Welner, a forensic psychiatrist, stated in his interview on ABC NEWS.com., that the mindset of the person committing a mass shooting should be considered the same whether multiple deaths occur or not “... “In Pittsburg a mass shooter killed three victims and shot two others in the head, who survived...” and that “...to not group victims...together, when only one dies, is naïve” (2007). Welner stated that the mass shooter would be an alienated loner. Nevertheless, this fact alone does not lead all such individuals to go on a killing event. When this isolated loner personality acquires, during the same small amount of time, a dysfunctional mood swing and a lifestyle change that leads to a triggering event, they bring about the need for this individual to strike out in a homicidal manner (2007).

Jeffrey Kluger, in his article, “*Inside a Mass Murderer’s Mind*,” wrote it is easy to imagine yourself committing the crimes of burglary or armed robbery, but most individuals will not have the capability to think of killing numerous victims by a sadistic and violent manner. An example is the anger and rage of the 23-year-old Cho Seung-Hui when he entered the grounds of the Virginia Tech Campus to extinguish the lives of several individuals who woke up to a bright future on that fateful day (2007).

Diane Follingstad, a professor of clinical and forensic psychology at the University of South Carolina, says that mass murderers are 95% male, and 98% black

or white, but more than 87% of the population is made up of those two races. Cho, a native of South Korea, is a rare exception. Dr. Follingstad posits that even though most mass killer profiles are the same, the events are usually very different. Each individual had his own agenda when the triggering event took place, and the actions rose from within a mental place long hidden from anyone but the individual (2007).

Dr. Michael Welner said during his appearance on “*Good Morning America Weekend*,” “Mass homicide is a crime that can be completely eliminated by the press, teachers, parents, and society. If we take the incentive of attention out of it, we can eliminate it” (2008). “Rampage killings have an important common thread of someone seeking notoriety. Someone who feels they are a failure, who had high expectations for themselves, and sees the attention that these shooters get and says, ‘I can get that.’ Robert Hawkins in Nebraska on December 5, 2007, entered a department store in the Westroads Mall and killed nine people (him included), wounded four more, two of those critically; after his death, when his manifesto was found, stated; “I’ll be famous, that’s why I did this” (2008).

Fox and Levin (1985) posited the following mass murder typology based on five categories consisting of power, revenge, loyalty, terror, and profit. They are:

- 1) **The power-oriented mass murderer** is the individual seeking to satisfy a thirst for power and control, bearing multiple weapons, dressing as a soldier in battle fatigues, seeking and providing a manner he or she feels will present a sign of the passion used to show the symbols of power in their reality.

- 2) **The revenge-oriented mass murderer** feels the world and all involved in the daily practice of being in his or her life story needs to pay the ultimate price for his or her downfall or bad karma.
- 3) **The loyalty-oriented mass murderer** has a warped sense of love or caring for his/her family or family type unit. The presenting problem would be a despondence towards life in general and this killer's mindset is such that he or she cannot leave those responsible parties behind, so the ultimate sacrifice is to take them. The Manson Family murderers would also fall into this category, according to Fox and Levin.
- 4) **The profit-oriented mass murderer** is the individual who, while committing a crime, will kill all present to do away with witnesses. It might also include the killer for hire, as these individuals will kill as many as the payment covers.
- 5) **The terror-oriented mass murderer** kills to raise the panic fight or flight responses in a society where the message is one of a different nature than that the killer feels is necessary for his belief system to take control of said society.

Holmes and DeBurger (1992) presented their typologies with a different name for each perpetrator. They used the motivations of intrinsic or extrinsic stimuli as the presenting problem that triggered the event. Did the stimuli come from inside the individual or outside in the environment to force a response from the individual leading to a violent solution to the situation? Holmes and Holmes' (1992) typology consisted of the following:

- 1) **The Disciple Killer** has an extrinsic motivation to please the leader of the family unit and kills upon his/her command; an example includes the Manson murders.
- 2) **The Family Annihilator** succumbs to an intrinsic triggering event that leads to the killing of his entire family, often including the family pet.
- 3) **The Pseudocommando** has a stockpile of assault weapons, machine guns, or hand grenades and an intrinsic fear of government control. He will lash out at anything concerning the right to bear arms, taxes, or police action.
- 4) **The Disgruntled Employee** has been fired, disciplined, denied promotions, or has a wrong that needs to be righted in his or her eyes. This motivation is intrinsic in nature; it comes from the perceived wrong done to the individual.
- 5) **The Set-and-Run mass murderer** may have intrinsic, extrinsic, or a combination of both motivations as a triggering event. This individual might kill for revenge, profit, or the fame that comes to the person who stuns society by his or her actions. This type of killer might use any of the following items whereby the murders could take place as the individual looks on from a distance; they could include but are not limited to arson, bombs, or poison.

In 2001, Holmes and Holmes in their book, "*Mass Murder in the United States*" modified the original typology by Holmes and DeBurger. The term Pseudocommando was discontinued and other typologies were added. The new list now consists of the following categories:

- 1) **The Disciple mass murderer** as noted above, these individuals commit mass murder because of the relationship existing between him or her and the leader of a group to which the killer belongs.
- 2) **The Family Annihilator mass murderer** as above is intent on killing victims he or she knows well, such as husband or wife, children and the family pet as well.
- 3) **The Disgruntled Employee mass murderer** was employed by or shopped at the location of the violence.
- 4) **The Ideological mass murderer** commits mass murder to fulfill a particular agenda and feels no remorse about the victims of the violent event. They are considered 'collateral damage' to the action of violence.
- 5) **The Set-and-Run mass murderer** has already left the scene of the violent act. This offender usually escapes death by the police or self-inflicted wounds. (See also definition above.)
- 6) **The Disgruntled Citizen mass murderer** is so upset with society he/she 'lashes out' with violent acts of mass murder.
- 7) **The Psychotic mass murderer** has broken with reality and may hear voices or see visions that cause him/her to commit violence; he or she believes this is the only outlet for freedom from the reality of his or her confused state.

- 8) **Youthful Killers** carry out violent acts of revenge or vengeance against fellow schoolmates and students.

The advance of numerous, separate types of mass murder not included in any of the aforementioned typologies, however, led the researcher to the conclusion that times are changing, and not for the better. As stated previously, there are new types of individuals with new types of ideas for committing the most misunderstood and atrocious crime in society: the taking of multiple human lives.

Hypothesis

This research designed to underscore the prediction of a rise in mass murder; and whether or not it has changed during the new millennium. First, it is predicted that more mass murders have occurred annually in the new millennium, on average, than in the preceding century. Content analysis of data from media, government, and law enforcement sources should determine whether there has been an annual rise in mass murders since the year 2000.

A rise in incidents of mass murder brings about the need to discover whether the same types of individuals are committing these crimes in the new age as in past decades. It is further predicted that new types of mass murderers have emerged in the new millennium. Changes occurring over the last ten years prove a need for development of new typologies covering these new types of perpetrators, who deserve new definitions and new names in the new millennium.

Methodology

The researcher used the process of content analysis to link the older literature presented by such authorities as James Alan Fox, Jack Levin, Ronald M. Holmes, and Stephen T. Holmes to the current news presented by the daily news services, news papers, the internet, and other current events. The new millennium has brought about enrichment in information gathering outlets as well as access to a wealth of data developed by both law enforcement and government sources. The information obtained through these outlets formed the basis of this research and gave rise to the expressed need for the new typology developed by the researcher.

Content analysis was the method of choice for data gathering for this project for three reasons. One, it was necessary due to the low probability of being able to interview mass murderers, because they are likely to have ended their lives either by self-inflicted injury or death by cop. Two, time and cost constraints made it impossible for the researcher to conduct first person interviews with mass murderers who are still alive. Three, even if it was financially possible to conduct timely interviews, cooperation by the subjects and their attorneys' with the researcher was unlikely.

The research required long periods of time searching the internet, watching news programs, reading periodicals, newspapers, and books. The rise in events occurred faster than the research could be compiled. The end would seem to be in sight and then a new event would occur. The researcher would feel compelled to add the incident in order to uphold the hypothesis of the need for new typologies. Data compiled from

content analysis consisted of over one hundred newspaper articles, and information from seventy-five periodicals, one hundred thirty-five internet sources, and fifteen books. It took over one and one-half years of research to complete this project.

Realistically, data gathering for this project could have continued indefinitely, which was probably the most difficult aspect of the project.

Results

While searching the different types of information, the researcher found a rise in the number of individuals who have chosen to break the law by committing the atrocious crime of killing as many people in a single event as possible. It would be impossible to list all of the accounts given of these crimes. Additionally, the results found through this research are just the beginning of viable information for this new millennium. The research did conclude that a rise of approximately five per cent in mass murder occurred even though the homicide rate declined seven per cent (Valen, 2010, para. 5).

Harrison went on to state the upwards trend in multiple and mass murder is in stark contrast to the huge drop in single-victim murder. Homicide has declined more than 40 per cent since 1980. Harrison said, "From 1980 to 2008, at least 4,685 people have perished in 965 reported incidents of mass murder involving at least four fatalities committed during the same incident. Multiple homicides involving at least two victims took 44,163 lives in 19,568 incidents" (Harrison, 2010, para. 14).

The increase in mass murder in the new millennium

The research indicated the rise in mass murder incidents is a time appropriate event. The harder the societal struggle to get ahead, the greater the stress and the more volatile people become. This struggle can leave the individual seeking someone to blame for the impossibility of reaching success.

Mark Kopta reported to Dan Childs in an interview for *ABC News* that during the period between 1930 and 1970 there were only three incidents of mass murder. There were three more events in the 1970s, and in the 1980s, ten incidents of mass murder were recorded. In the 1990's this number propelled upwards with a count of seventeen. Kopta stated the New Millennium has already given rise to an unprecedented count of twenty-five incidents, bringing about the fear that mass murder is a trend on the rise. This rise blamed on economic woes lowering the self-concept of individuals who might be at risk of taking those woes out on society. (2009)

Jim Gold (2011) provided an alarming rise of police officers killed in the line of duty in his article for *msnbc.com*. He found that within a twenty-four hour period 11 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty. In addition, he discovered a forty-three per cent rise in police officers killed from 2009 to 2010. Further, the alarming news is that the murder rate for police officers killed while on the job in 2011 is on pace to beat the rise from 2009 to 2010.

Don Van Natta, Jr., writing for the *New York Times* (2011), found in 2010 sixty-one federal, state, and local police officers were slain by gunfire, a twenty-four per cent increase from forty-nine in 2009. In the article, Craig W. Floyd, Chairperson for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, stated "It's very troubling trend where officers are being put at greater risk than ever before. Many of the criminals are outgunning our police officers. We're seeing criminals with high-velocity clips on their guns" (para. 6-7).

Research has also indicated a rise in the death toll for shopping mall shooting victims in the new millenium, because of proximity of targets and ease of access for the taking of human lives. The increased victim numbers came from different areas of the United States, as well as overseas. For instance, in February, 2007, at the Trolley Square Mall in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sulejman Talovic, killed six victims, including himself. In December, 2007, at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska, perpetrator Robert A. Hawkins killed nine victims, including himself. In December, 2009 at the Sello Mall in Espoo, Finland, mass murderer Ibrahim Shkupolli killed six victims, including himself.

The crime of taking the lives of armed forces personnel by armed forces personnel is a new and rising form of mass murder. In November, 2009, at the Soldiers Readiness Processing Center on the base at Fort Hood, Texas, an army psychiatrist, Major Malik Nadal Hasan opened fire with two semi-automatic pistols, killing twelve soldiers and civilian personnel and wounding thirty-one others. Hasan was brought down by gunfire from a Killeen, Texas female police officer responding to the scene of the event.

Violence is not a stranger to Fort Hood, Texas. The newest threat came from a soldier planning to bring bombs and automatic weapons onto the base. He was thwarted by a business owner who became suspicious of the purchases made by the perpetrator.

The largest increase in type of or motivation for mass murder has been associated with misplaced individuals who, because of religious or racist beliefs, take

the lives of innocent victims. As seen from the chart below, this action was consistent with the appraisal of a five per cent increase within this type.

Differing methods of mass murder are not only an American anomaly. The world has appeared to have increased its penchant for violence, as shown by the following table. The researcher found the following information from internet sources and included the numbers to reference the rise in mass murder around the world (Hargrove, 2010).

Table 1 World Totals

COUNTRY	PERPETRATOR	DATE	KILLED	INJURED
Switzerland	Friedrich Leibacher	11/27/2001	14	18
United States	Jiverly Wong	4/3/2009	13	4
United States	Malik Hasan	11/5/2009	13	30
Nepal	Basudev Thapa	12/14/2005	11	19
Phillippines	Jonathan Moreno	1/16/2005	8	29-33
Lebanon	Ahmed Mansour	7/31/2002	8	5
South Korea	Dongmin Kim	6/19/2005	8	4
Russia	Oleg Khismatulin/ Nikolai Bozhkov	8/23/2002	8	0
Yeman	Doais Ali Mansour	12/13/2009	7	6

School Shootings

United States	Seung Cho	4/2007	32	17
United States	Jeffery James Weise	3/21/2005	9	5-7
United States	Steven Phillip			
	Kazmiercz	2/14/2008	5	18
United States	Charles Carl Roberts	10/2/2006	5	5
United States	Charles Andrew			
	Williams	3/5/2001	2	13
Germany	Robert Steinhauser	4/26/2002	16	1
Germany	Tim Kretschmer	3/11/2009	15	9-13
Azerbaijan	Farda Gadirov	4/30/2009	12	13
China	Ningyang Bai	5/8/2006	12	5
China	Huanming Wu	5/12/2010	9	11
China	Yanming Yan	11/26/2004	9	3
China	Minsheng Zheng	3/23/2010	8	5
China	Hongwen Liu	9/30/2004	4	12
Japan	Mamoru Takuma	6/8/2001	8	15
Isreal	Abu Hasim	3/6/2008	8	9-11

Finland	Juhani Saari	9/23/2008	10	1-3
Finland	Pecca-Eric Auvinen	11/7/2007	8	1
Belgium	Kim De Gelder	1/16-23/2009	4	12

Family Annihilators

Afghanistan	Zaman Mohammad	9/25/2009	15	?
China	Aibing Liu	12/12/2009	13	1
China	Yingma	10/6/2000	12-13	?
China	Changyi Wang	8/1/2006	10	1
China	Gongmin Chai	2/12/2008	10	0
Iraq	Sabhan Khalaf			
	Emir Abdul	8/26/2003	11	0
Pakistan	Zafar Iqbal	4/15/2009	10	0
Kenya	Jamin Muchika			
	Mukobero	4/29/2001	9	6
Nepal	Dipendra of Nepal	6/1/2001	9	5
United States	Jeffery Bruce			
	Pardo	12/24/2008	9	2

(Hargrove, 2010)

New Types of Mass Murderers in the New Millenium

As hypothesized, I found that not only did mass murder increase in the new millenium, but it changed. I found new types of mass murder specific to the new age, necessitating a broadening of mass murderer typology. The mass murderers of the new millennium have a different sort of context than the “Classic Mass Murderer.” The new mass murderer has the ability to kill victims that are more innocent through weapons of mass destruction and automatic weapons. The rise of female mass killers is a development significant to the new millennium. In addition, the specific targeting of police officers by mass murderers is a new development, which must be addressed. As is mass murder committed by co-conspirators, soldier mass killers who target other soldiers, mass murders committed by gangs, and individuals who kill or maim in the public and private school sectors, to name a few of the new types of mass killers described in this thesis.

The following new types of mass murderers were identified through the research done for this thesis:

- 1) **Blue Avenger** – those individuals who chose to attack armed police officers in open conflict with numerous types of weapons. The research gave several methods by which the officers were attacked, such as through traffic stops, fake calls for service, or attacks that occurred at the department or at rest during eating periods.

- 2) **Suicide Bomber** – the extremist individual who believes in faith based redemption by violence. "If I kill myself by taking as many innocents with me as possible, I will be rewarded in Paradise." The atrocious attack on American soil September 11, 2001 where four suicide fanatics killed innocent men women and children by using four aircraft as flying bombs would definitely fit this category.
- 3) **Military Misfit** – is a coward who exposes the men and women of our armed forces to undue violence. This is a growing problem due to the stress of returning to dangerous areas of the world.
- 4) **Self-Loather** – is an individual who blames all of his or her trials and tribulations in life on others and never takes responsibility for his or her actions.
- 5) **Notoriety Killer** – is a person who seeks notoriety by killing as many people as possible as publically as possible. The more news and coverage by papers and now internet access the better the individual will like it. This would include the mall type mass murderer, such as Robert Hawkin from Nebraska. Jim Kavanagh reported for CNN on January 07, 2009 another seeking notoriety was the individual George Sodini. He killed three women and wounded nine at a physical fitness center simply balking he could not find a date or a relationship with a member of the opposite sex (Kavanagh, 2009).

- 6) **Academia Rejectors** –are those individuals whose whole purpose in life is to bully, fight, steal, and kill the most precious and innocent of victims, our children.
- 7) **Family Protector** – is the part of the typology intended for female mass murderers. Research discovered female offenders take the lives of family members in order to protect them from being left behind.
- 8) **Membership Murderers** – the rise in gang violence in Mexico and southern areas of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and California indicated a need for a category for these very violent individuals.

The process of researching the need for expanding mass murderer typologies for the new millennium gave rise to the necessity of other categories, such as mass murder by vehicular transportation. This reinforces the need for further study and research into the expanding world of mass murder.

Discussion

Explaining the increase in mass murder

Literature, periodicals, television news programs, and internet resources all indicated a rise in mass murder incidents from the year 2000 to the current year of 2011. Retired F.B.I. Agent Mark Safarik said, in his interview with Hargrove (2010) that the poor economy, self-esteem issues and mental health issues all appear to have contributed to the rise in mass murder events. Those deaths and injuries continue to rise at an alarming rate. This rate mentioned in several newspaper articles and television news reports, which continued on a nearly daily basis. Examples included the ABC News on April 8, 2009, and Dan Childs' report, *8 and Counting: Mass Murder in 2009*. In this interview, Mark Kopta said that from 1930 to 1970 there were three incidents of mass murder. From 1970 to 1980 three incidents, from 1980 to 1990 there were 10 incidents, and 1990s 17 events and already in the new millennium there have been 25 incidents (2009). Ed Stone, writer for the Atlanta Gun Rights Examiner, even reported on January 13, 2010, a mass murder event at the Penske Truck Rental Facility in Kennesaw Georgia that occurred in a school safety zone (2010 para. 3). There has not been a better understanding of this rise than criminologist Christopher Valen's article on September 20, 2010, *Mass Murders On The Rise*. Valen said, "Poverty is not the only thing on the rise in the U. S. As reported over the weekend, mass murders have risen 5% from 1,360 incidents in 2008 to 1,428 incidents in 2009, despite a decline of seven

per cent in homicide rates over that same period. In fact, single-victim murder has declined a remarkable forty per cent since 1980” (2010, para. 1).

New Millennium: New Types of Mass Murderers

The mass murderers of the new millennium have a different sort of context than the “Classic Mass Murderer.” The new mass murderer has the ability to kill more victims that are innocent through weapons of mass destruction and automatic weapons. In addition, the rise of female mass killers is a new development significant to the new millennium. In addition, specific targeting of police officers by mass murderers is a new development. The mass murders committed by notoriety seekers, soldier mass killers who target other soldiers, mass murders committed by gangs, and the taking of life on public and private school settings to name a few of the new types of mass killers described in this thesis.

The rise in suicide bombers in the new millennium cannot simply lie at the feet of religious persecution. The taking of life is against all known major religions. For instance, Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, and Islam all condemn the taking of life; only extremist militant individuals are into the taking of as many innocent victims as possible in the name of religious fanaticism. Robert Peters, President of Morality in Media, said in his article, *Mass Murder by Individuals and the Role of Guns, Religion, and Popular Culture*, posited, “Admittedly, the influence of religion in this country has not always been for the better. For example, some Americans used the Bible to justify slavery. However, in my opinion, the good has far, far outweighed the bad; and part of

the good that religion brought is a commandment, ‘you shall not commit murder’ (para. 16). Tim King said, “It is as if the bitter religious wars that began over a thousand years ago, are still in full swing”...”I suspect that it is because such a small number of people actually respond to the overall point of religious teachings, which in every case is simply peace” (2010, p. 3).

The Muslim religion has received notoriety for having violent followers. This is due to the rise in Muslim suicide bombers who believe participating in such an act facilitates an end to the threat from evil infidels and invaders of their lands. The researcher gave the name simply *Suicide Bombers* to these individuals. The cowardly attacks on September 11, 2001 by the four suicide individuals who used four airplanes as flying bombs along with the attacks on military bases by numerous and diverse types of civilian extremists, has given rise to the necessity of adding this type to the new typology. Mass murderers who focused on the destruction of military and civilian employees are not linked to any previous type of mass killer. Examples of this type of mass murderer include the following. Michael Slackman wrote for the New York Times of the bombing of a Christmas Eve Service in Cairo, Egypt, which killed 21 innocent Christians en route to a Coptic Christmas Eve Service (2011). Isabel Kershner, on March 23, 2011 for the New York Times, wrote about a bomb blast in Jerusalem at a local bus stop that killed one and injured 24 others, raising fear of growing violence once again over the Gaza Strip (2011).

No typology exists for acts of mass murder in which those blaming our precious children and educators by taking the lives of at least two or three victims. The researcher titled these individuals acting in conjunction *Academia Rejecters*. The Columbine Massacre committed by Eric Harris and Dylan Kleibold fits this category. Harris and Kleibold, on April 20, 1999, entered the high school in Columbine, Colorado. They then killed 1 teacher and 12 students, wounding 23 others. The two told the scared young people they were taking revenge against all who had made fun of them. The death toll would have been higher but the bombs they built did not explode. By the time, law enforcement officers entered the school, the two had committed suicide, or one had killed the other, and then committed suicide (Fox & Levin, 2001).

In Nickel Mines Pennsylvania truck driver Charles Carl Roberts IV entered the one-room Amish school and shot and killed two female students and one teacher's aide, then took his own life, leaving police baffled at the reasoning behind the atrocious act. The only indication was notes left behind by Roberts where he stated: "*It was revenge for something that happened decades ago*" (FOXNEWS.com, 2006).

The opportunity occurred again on February 12, 2010 when during a routine meeting of the faculty of the biology department, a professor, Amy Bishop, stood up and began shooting those closest to her with a 9-millimeter handgun. Bishop charged with one count of capital murder and three counts of attempted capitol murder for the deadly rampage. She had previously shot and killed her brother in 1986 during an incident ruled an accident at the time. She, along with her husband, were questioned in

a 1993 pipe-bombing incident directed towards her then lab supervisor (University of Alabama, 2010). This shooting incident occurred because she was denied tenure at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (2010).

The 2007 Virginia Tech murderous rampage committed by Cho a student with radical extremist motives killed 33 people. Cho left behind a videotaped agenda stating his hatred and anger at all members of a “*Corrupt Society*” would also fit into this newest of typologies (Kluger, 2007).

One type of mass murderers that appears to be increasing includes individuals who target police officers. This phenomenon has become the leading manner of gaining notoriety by persons who want to show contempt towards the government and its agents. These attacks on police officers are not random or accidental, and they do not comply with the extant typologies. The researcher gave these mass killers the title of **Blue Avenger**. For example, on March 21, 2009 a convicted felon, Lovelle Mixon, wanted on a no-bail arrest warrant for parole violation, shot and killed two Oakland police officers when he was confronted on a routine traffic stop. The witnesses at the scene reported the two motorcycle officers stopped Mixon for a minor traffic violation; when the officers became suspicious of the identification provided by Mixon, witnesses said the officers moved to place Mixon under arrest. The reports stated Mixon exited the vehicle with a semi-automatic pistol and fired until both officers were prone on the ground. He then walked up, stood over each officer and fired shots directly into their heads. The reports by investigators made it plain the deaths were execution style

murders. Mixon fled on foot and set a trap for the officers sent to search for him. Mixon ambushed the S.W.A.T. team, killing two more officers and wounding another before dying in a hail of bullets fired by the rest of the team involved in his apprehension (Van Drebken, Jaxon, San Fransisco Chronicle, May 5 2009).

Mixon was a habitual criminal. His history with law enforcement began at the age of thirteen with multiple arrests for battery. He graduated to armed robbery at the age of twenty and went to prison for the first time; thereafter, he was in and out of prison. The investigation following Mixon's death brought to light his involvement, through DNA analysis, in the rape of a twelve-year-old girl in February of 2009. On the morning of his shootout with police, he had just robbed and raped two other young women (2009).

Another example of this type of mass murder includes the killings committed by Maurice Clemmons in Arkansas. On Sunday, November 29, 2009, Maurice Clemmons entered the Forza Coffee Shop with the intent to kill the four police officers seated in the establishment. The reports all stated that the officers were in full uniform; the officers were armed with their weapons available and they were wearing bulletproof vests, thus the potential to react and return fire when fired upon was present. The witnesses stated Clemmons entered the coffee shop, walked to the counter, turned, and opened fire, killing the first two officers before they knew of the attack. The third officer was killed while trying to stand and draw his weapon to return fire; the last officer was killed as he struggled physically with Clemmons. The only targets of the

attack were the police officers present at the location. Officers later killed Clemmons during an attempt to force him into a submitting to incarceration.

The difference in this case and Mixon's came after Clemmons' death, when six family members and friends were charged with aiding in his escape from the scene of the mass murder and harboring him during the time in which he evaded capture (Johnson, 2009). Clemmons' prior exit from prison on the early release program caused candidate for President and then Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee to receive negative public reaction (2009). Governor Huckabee laid the problem at the feet of the parole board by stating he was not informed of the depth of mental depravity held by Clemmons and his likelihood of the taking of human life (2009).

Jim Gold, reporting for msnbc.com, stated that as of January 2011 there had been eleven shooting attacks on police officers (2011). Nevertheless, this rapid growth has not been established in any one location. These mass murders have been committed in Indiana, Oregon, Detroit, Port Orchard Washington, St. Petersburg Florida, and Miami-Dade Florida. The attacks were related to minor traffic infractions or arrest warrant service.

In a third case exemplifying the Blue Avenger type of mass murderer, on January 19, 2010, in Appomattox Virginia, police were called to assist an individual with a medical emergency. When the police arrived at the location the man, Christopher Bryan Speight, opened fire without any provocation, firing upon a police helicopter and forcing it to land. It was later discovered Speight had murdered eight people prior to

trying to get the police to help him to commit suicide by cop. Speight, however, lost his nerve and escaped into the woods. After a chase through the woods, he surrendered to authorities. He was placed in a psychiatric hospital until deemed competent to assist with his defense.

The next new addition to the mass murder lexicon that brings about a need for change in typology is sudden attacks on military bases against soldiers committed by other soldiers. The researcher gave the term *Military Misfit* to this phenomenon. Perhaps the best example of this new type of mass murder was committed at Fort Hood, Texas, by an Army psychiatrist, on November 5, 2009. Kameko Jones and Joel Seidman of NBC News, along with Bill Dedman and Alex Johnson of msnbc.com, provided information concerning the shootings at Fort Hood; in this case the Army psychiatrist, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, was preparing to be deployed overseas to Iraq. He opened fire in a crowded reception area, killing twelve people and wounding thirty-one others. The event ended when a female police officer, though wounded herself, shot and incapacitated Hasan. (2009) The perpetrator had been given a poor performance evaluation prior to the attack; some feel this was the triggering event, complicated by his fear of deployment and Muslim religious beliefs.

Then, *USA Today* provided insight into the arrest of another soldier at Fort Hood, Texas who had planned to commit mass murder. A tip from business owner Greg Ebert led to the arrest of Private Naser Abdo. Abdo had purchased bomb-making products in an attempt to attack fellow enlisted personnel at Fort Hood. Abdo was absent without

leave from the post and planned to return with enough explosives to provide another terrorist attack on the base (Keller, 2011). Abdo, the alleged perpetrator, was arrested at a motel outside Fort Hood. He was charged with possession of an unregistered destructive device. Police say he was prepared to start unleashing bombs at a restaurant frequented by soldiers and then attack the base. At the time of this writing, Abdo was only 21 years of age (2011). Mike Levine of Fox News noted that the explosives came straight out of *Inspire*, a terrorist magazine that also serves as an Al Qaeda explosive manual (Levine, 2011).

The year 2009 also brought about a new phenomenon, the mass murder of victims involved in gang activity. The drug trade in the United States, mainly controlled by organized drug cartels. These cartels are all nationalities, Asian, Spanish, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, motorcycle, and the oldest members of organized crime the Mafia. This has given rise to a violent society where the mass killing of individual victims was started and has continued to be carried out for the direct purpose of causing fear in those who would stand against the onslaught of drug abuse and sale of illegal drugs. There does not seem to be a typology that fits gang violence and its related deaths, committed in a most gruesome fashion. CBS News reported on April 2, 2009, of the timeline of one of Canada's worst mass killings. The bodies of eight men were found stuffed into cars abandoned in a farmer's field near Shedden, Ontario in 2006 (2009). The victims, Jamie Flanz, George Jessome, George Kriarakis, John Muscedere, Luis Raposo, Frank Salemo, Paul Sinopoli, and Michael Trotta, were all known members of

the Bandidos motorcycle gang. This type of mass killer was given the title of

Membership Murderers.

The next addition to the extant typologies is needed because of the change in approach, reason, and location used by individuals who have decided to take many victims' lives at one location. The outright need for notoriety drives this type of individual to violence. The greater the media coverage, the better the perpetrator will like the attention. This is accomplished by entering a crowded shopping mall with several assault type weapons and plenty of ammunition to carry out the dastardly deed. The following are three examples of mass murderers who used crowded shopping areas to find victims of opportunity to ease their perceived anger towards society as a whole. The researcher titled these mass murderers **Notoriety Killers.**

February 12, 2007, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sulejman Talovic started a deadly shooting event in Trolley Square. The incident took the lives of five innocent by-standers as well as the shooter, Talovic. The perpetrator stood in one location on the lower floor of the shopping mall--most of his victims were in a card store named Cabin Fever--before succumbing to gunfire from the S.W.A.T. Team. Talovic was armed with a handgun, a shotgun, and had a backpack filled with ammunition. Talovic was reported to have been shouting "*Allahu Akbar*" during the deadly attack on young and old alike. At first, he was thought to be motivated by religious persecution, but this idea was dismissed later (Salt Lake Tribune staff writer, Trolley Square Shooting, 2007).

Omaha, Nebraska, then became the location for a deadly encounter with an individual bent on “*going out in style*” by taking as many other individuals as possible with him. On December 5, 2007, Robert A. Hawkins, using a commercial copy of the Russian AKM 7.62-caliber rifle and two thirty round clips of ammunition, entered an elevator, and waited for the elevator to reach the third floor. When the door opened, Hawkins fired, killing eight individuals and wounding four others. He then turned the weapon inwards and committed suicide (Writer, 2007).

The phenomenon of mass murder committed in shopping malls has not been found, however, solely within the United States. On December 31, 2009, Kosovar Shkupolli entered the Sello Mall in Espoo, Finland with a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, killing three men and one woman. The suspect then disappeared from the mall. He was found later in an apartment with a self-inflicted gunshot that took his life. The investigation found the suspect had murdered his girlfriend in her apartment prior to the shooting at the mall. The shooting seemed to be triggered by the suspect discovering his girlfriend had a lover employed at the mall (Turula & Tanner, 2009).

Shopping mall mass murder seems to provide the largest and easiest target pool for the determined individual insisting on a violent ending to his personal life history. The target area is wide and varied for the mass murderer wishing to take as many human trophies as possible for the purpose of notoriety.

The next new type of mass murderer, *Self-Loather*, led to kill multiple victims by a need to cover up jealousy or embarrassment created by an inability to conform to

societal standards. This results in lack of acceptance by his/her community, in turn leading to low self-esteem. It all culminates in a desire to punish others for one's failings through murder. A number of researchers of mass murder have noted the link between failure, anger, revenge, and mass murder, but none of the extant typologies specifically recognized this combination as causative. Mark Roth, in his article dated April 13, 2009, quoted Dr. Jack Levin as saying; "At the most basic level revenge has been the underlying cause for most mass murders" (2009). Roth goes on to postulate the next underlying problem causing mass murder is the *rise in societal blame* for all intervening problems in an individual's existence. For instance, the rise in inter-racial violence can be blamed for part of the rise in mass murder (2009).

Self-Loathers, however, are not mentally ill, although their actions may seem crazy. David Hemenway, a professor of health policy at Harvard University, is of the opinion, "Our society allows easy access to multitudes of firearms; and with this abundance comes the excess taking of human life during mass murder attacks" (2009). Mr. Hemenway also stated that psychological problems are not as unique to the perpetrators of mass murder as is the presence of "lots and lots of weapons" (2009). Eric Hickey, director of forensic studies at Alliant International University, adds, "Most mass murderers do not plan an exit strategy. The individual will usually run through the course of deleting the anger, pain, or perceived blame, they run out of ammunition and the individual will just sit down and wait to be taken by the authorities" (2009).

Jiverly Wong entered the American Civic Association Community Center in Binghamton, New York supplied with two semi-automatic handguns and killed thirteen innocent victims; he blamed his poor communication skills and unemployment for his outburst of violence. The rampage ended with the perpetrator committing suicide. Criminologist Jack Levin, a professor at Northeastern University, found the targets chosen in Binghamton, New York to be confusing. Levin said the reason the massacre failed to meet the initially assumed type of mass killer, Disgruntled Employee, (Holmes and Holmes) was because the targets in that case would have been Wong's place of employment and the supervisor who fired the him (Safarik, 2009). Wong was fired from his job at a vacuum cleaner factory, and he blamed all of his problems on poor communication skills. Wong, however, chose to strike out not at the factory workers, as most Disgruntled Employees would. He broke tradition and went to a location where individuals such as he were attempting to become part of the dream he felt society had taken from him. Levin stated, "Wong's personal failures meant he had lost respect in the eyes of others of the immigrant community" (2009). He went on to say Wong was on a "suicidal rampage," but he decided to first get even with society. Police later found from a note mailed to a local television station, Wong felt "persecuted by the police," felt he could not accept his 'poor life' and was intent on killing himself and at least two other individuals (2009). Wong's complete lack of self acceptance for his problems led directly to the outrage against society.

Others, such as retired senior profiler Mark Safarik of the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, stated there is not any way to predict when or who will be involved in a mass murder. Safarik said, "It's the constellation or coming together, the perfect storm of someone's last shot at something. For them, there's no way out." On the other hand, if there were another way out it would not bring about the same amount of reaction from society of fear and awe for the perpetrator. "They are going to punish someone" (2009). Safarik noted that the media saturation of mass murder events might have an impact on the perpetrator who is seeking notoriety and escape from anonymity. Media coverage "*blankets the airwaves,*" causing the individual mass murderer to "*beget more mass murderers,*" especially in today's economy. Safarik posited, "I think that people that are on the edge, that are contemplating such tragic events, sometimes all it takes is that being highlighted in the media is for them to go 'You know? I could do something like that'; I'm that angry" (2009). Safarik notes that lifestyle choices given an individual by societal norms can lead to a jealous reaction. When one person sees another excel in society and they can't cross the unseen barrier of class restrictions, self-loathing begins to take place within this individual (2009).

James Alan Fox adds to the discussion the principle that mass murderers "often kill for sadistic pleasure." He states mass murderers always place the blame for their issues of insecurity on others, and the societal pressure for success will drive them to gain at least a modicum of fame by taking an uneventful existence to the level of abundant national attention. The main goal, says Fox, is to gain some measure of respect; this

respect ideally would replace the large void of self-doubt and loathing a mass killer has for his menial lifestyle (2009). Society tells individuals to go and prosper; the problem is when the ladder can not be climbed, self-esteem becomes a major issue in the ongoing lifestyle of an individual.

Female Mass Murderers: the Family Protectors

Finally, as noted by Safarik and Fox (2009), ninety-three percent of violent crimes are committed by males. A similar pattern is seen in mass murder; further, violent crimes, in general, are mediated by gender. For example, violent victimization of females differs from that of males; in a similar fashion, perpetrators of violent crimes also separate along gender lines. Female mass killers differ from male mass killers; the requirements for mass murder by a female bring about a set of rules only a woman could understand. Males usually kill out of frustration or anger; females kill out of compassion and care for their families, even if the act makes no sense to anyone but the female perpetrator.

Fox explained this gender gap in mass murder perpetrators. First, “women tend to blame themselves for their failures and, so, more often simply commit suicide” (2005). Second, he also posited that men have better access to firearms and more training in the use of said firearms. Third, women generally see violence as a means of defending self or family; men see violence and force as an “offensive weapon” (2005). Fourth, “Men will use violence to show who is boss and to assert control” (2009).

Male mass murderers were studied with an eye to perspective on the differences between male and female mass murderers, but research has so far failed to address female mass killers, although they exist. Including female mass killers with family member victims under the all-inclusive term “Family Annihilator” falls short; there is mounting evidence of mass murders perpetrated by females and evidence that shows mass murders committed by females are different from those committed by males.

Females kill differently from males and for significantly different circumstances. Mounting evidence shows that the female who takes the lives of multiple victims is a caring individual who sees only one escape from her increasing difficult daily circumstances. If the family is to be together in the afterlife it is the responsibility of the mother to provide the access to such happiness; this leads to the killing of her children and spouse. The researcher decided to call these loving individuals *Family Protectors*.

Eugene H. Methvin wrote, “Potential mass murderers are everywhere, and there is not very much we can do to stop them” (1996). His article makes a very valid statement. An individual will act out of rage and anger to take away the pain caused to him or her by killing the obstacle and therefore removing the problem. Meanwhile knowing also, he or she will no longer face the frustrations of daily life. He or she will die, by his or her own hand, or by the hand of another. He writes that, while details are varied, mass killers’ profiles are remarkably similar. They tend to be [loners], troubled social isolates, pariahs, men brimming with grievance and rage. He also posits, “A

striking fact is that mass killers uniformly turn out to be pained, miserable people who often have reached out for psychiatric help before their deadly outbursts” (1996).

Unfortunately, the language used to interpret the mass killer echoes male domination. Mr. Methvin quotes female psychiatrist Dr. Helen L. Morrison as stating, “The serial killer goes off track of normal psychological development early, and never seems to develop emotionally beyond about six months of age.” Whereas, “The mass killer’s development has proceeded at least through the point of becoming a full psychological human being,” says Dr. Morrison, “but he regresses to a paranoid rageful state, usually precipitated six months to a year before by some loss of a person or a position, and the immediate trigger is some kind of perceived slight. Mixed with the paranoid delusions of persecution are hidden grandiosity and narcissism” (1996).

Most studies of multiple or mass murder are concerned with male perpetrators, as they far outnumber women. Messing and Heeren (2004) posit that most mass killings by women are committed during domestic altercations; most common is the taking of life by a woman as retribution of years of abuse by an intimate partner. The age-old adage of killing to rectify the injustice of abuse takes away the premise of mental illness as the instigating factor in female-committed mass murder.

There are certain issues that emerge repeatedly in discussions of mass murder. They are social isolation, experienced loss, causing a triggering event, a history of being rejected and frustrated in life, blaming others for troubles, likely to be a white male, somewhat older than killers of single victims, obsessed with firearms, revenge and

domination are common motivators, and the episodes often end with the killer's suicide (Cohen, 1995). The difference in why women kill usually comes down to motive. The woman who kills is more likely to have a motive that is reactive or defensive in nature. The method of killing by women will vary with the circumstances. Research has shown women will kill most domestic partners with a gun or knife and the elimination of children by beatings, smothering, and strangulation (Fox & Levin, 1998). Daly and Wilson claimed, "Women who resolve to die and take their loved ones with them seem never to include their husbands in their rescue fantasies" (Daly & Wilson, 1988). The age of the women involved in mass murder falls within the same parameters as the male counterparts; most are in the middle-child bearing years a mean age of 34.4 years (Messing & Heeren, 2004).

The researcher was not surprised by the idea of a woman, who, after enduring years of abuse in a violent relationship, decided she could no longer take the pressure of physical and mental abuse. She would not leave the children either to be abused or to be taught by the abuser how to continue the cycle. She would take the children with her. The social structure factors facing a woman in this situation include poverty, gender inequality, racial discrimination, urban residence, and other expressions of social organizations, such as the clubs exclusively for men (Alder & Polk, 2001). In this environment, a woman lives a life of extreme stress, along with physical and mental abuse (2001) that will cast the die for violence.

Society as a whole places women in subservient positions of house cleaner, sex slave, child raiser, and additional moneymaker without giving any thought to the pressure placed upon an individual without a place of aid to reduce that stress, which increases exponentially when she also exists within an abusive relationship. Ogle, Maier-Katkin, and Bernard (1995) argues that women who are likely to become mass murderers are typically traditional in their outlook, passively conforming to the social requirement that they be good mothers. How then to account for this “*over controlled personality*” committing murder? They suggest that some overstressed women may erupt into violence when the stress becomes overwhelming (1995). Most individuals will resort to any means possible to release pent-up tensions. The possibilities are endless, from screaming to throwing things to praying, becoming involved in activities outside of the family, or murder.

Research also shows that women are more efficient killers than their male counterparts are. Messing and Heeren (2004) discovered the average number of people killed by female mass murderers was three, the number wounded was 0 to 3, and the vast majority of the murders (78%) had no wounded survivors (2004). There are usually no survivors because all the victims are readily available to the female mass killer whose victims are family members. The female who commits mass murder does not go to a public location where innocent by-standers might be injured or killed. Her actions take place in a controlled environment; and she has a plan—she is just waiting for the opportunity to build up the nerve to take the lives of her family.

Alder and Polk note, “the efficiency of women murderers is an extension of their roles as wives and mothers...their notion of [caring] is highly misaligned, the forethought and preparation that goes into the actual homicide shows they are committing life ending acts of murder, the women in their own minds, are caring for their families” (2001).

Women who kill hardly ever commit their crime in a “spur of the moment” set of actions; they seem more calculated and set on the situation at hand. For example, Andrea Yates calmly and systematically drowned her five children in her bathtub, laid them out on a bed, covered them with a sheet; then called the police and her husband and told them what she had done. Sandi Nieves convinced her four daughters to have a sleepover in the kitchen, turned the gas on through the oven, and set the place on fire, killing all four of the children. The victim selection for female mass killer family protectors changes guarantees recognition by the public at large, because they kill their children (2004).

Triggering Factors in Female Multicides

Messing and Heeren (2004) found two broad types of triggering events, with several discrete sub-categories in each. The first and most broad type of triggering events, found almost seventy per cent of the time, involved changes in the domestic situation. The role of wife and mother can be taken away from the individual in any manner of instantaneous methods. One example is through threat of divorce, as seen in the example of Maria Montalvo, who, when told by her husband he wanted a divorce

followed him to his parents' residence, doused the inside of the car with gasoline, set the car on fire and killed her two toddler children in the back seat, along with herself. A second triggering event includes finding information about a husband's affair with another woman. For instance, when Marilyn Lemak saw her husband with his new girlfriend she decided to take the lives of her three children to relieve her husband of the burden of providing for them. A third triggering event is the threat of removal of parental rights, as seen in the case of Terri Esterak. She had already lost custody of her three daughters and was at the end of a month long visitation; on the day prior to returning the girls to their father, she fatally shot the three girls and herself. Another triggering event is the desire of the female to get out of the present situation and develop a new relationship. Susan Smith drove her car into a lake and drowned her two boys, blaming it on a carjacking. She killed her sons in order to please her new boyfriend, who was uninterested in children. The loss of social status can also serve as a triggering event, as seen in the case of Lisa Peng. She was 44 years of age, married to a wealthy businessperson, mother of his grown children. She found out her husband had a mistress who was pregnant; she killed the mistress and her baby. She feared losing her status to a younger woman (2004).

The second major category of triggering events is psychological problems left undiagnosed or, if diagnosed, no treatment has been undertaken. Christina Riggs contemplated taking her own life on several occasions, but was restrained by the thoughts of the fate of her two children. Finally, without seeking help, she decided she

could take the children with her. Her suicide note read of the children, "I did not want them to be a burden on my mom or anyone else or to be separated" (Frye, 2000). The last sub-category of psychological difficulties leads from the delusion of the family being in danger from some unknown source, which might be anything from demons to just "angelic voices from above" telling the individual to protect her family. During O. J. Simpson's murder trial, Patricia Reager became obsessed with the thought that Johnny Cochran was going to send people to her house and kill her family; she decided the only way to protect and save them was to kill them herself (2004). Link, Monahan, Stueve, and Cullen, in their research in 1999, described these psychological disturbances as a configuration of symptoms of mental illness that typically lead the offender to strike out against persons perceived as harmful. In other words, although the delusions are internal events or precipitants, they are real in the violent consequences they produce in the murderer (1999).

The emotion of life, when combined with severe depression, can bring about a minor psychotic episode. This episode will give the impression of only one way to resolve the situation. The action taken by someone in this frame of mind may seem to the outsider as extreme and "crazy." The question raised will be, "Why would she kill her children?" However, this question may be mute due to the death of the perpetrator.

Jeffrey Kluger (2007), suggests that mass murders are not random acts. He quotes Dr. Michael Welner as saying "These people plan to carry out a mass killing without any indication of when they will do it. Instead of snapping, imagine a cage that

someone has the capacity to unhinge. They simply decide that today is the day.” This has been seen in nearly all types of mass murders committed by female offenders. The process of taking lives, especially the lives of your children, is not something you do upon walking through the door after work.

Comparing Female and Male Multicides

Research has shown that mass murder does not occur from a single motivating factor. Dr. Levin says, “You don’t get a D on your report card and then open fire on 30 people; it takes a prolonged series of frustrations. These people are chronically depressed and miserable” (2005). He notes that frustrations begin in early childhood. “Studies find that forty-five per cent of boys, who commit serious violent crimes by the age of 17, and up to sixty-nine per cent of girls, were inappropriately aggressive in childhood, picking fights with other kids” (2005). The same conclusion came from a study by Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz; she listed characteristics of female adolescent homicide offenders. Those characteristics include the same as listed for adult offenders, hypothesizing that early onset of behaviors could give a heads up in identifying those individuals in need of psychiatric and mental health care. The onset of violent behavior can be seen due to “Family disruption,” “Limited parental involvement and supervision,” “Prior delinquent activities,” “Mental health problems,” and “Suicidal ideation” (2007). These characteristics are prevalent as the offender begins to react to the stressors that cause the event to occur.

The female mass murderer will kill when she feels her family is in a stage of disruption. She will do whatever it takes to restore some semblance of order to the chaos. Reid Meloy has said “mass killers tend to be socially isolated and resentful individuals...Mass killers also suffer from major depression or have paranoid symptoms which is significant in the fact the mental problems are treatable with medication and counseling, which potentially could turn a troubled individual away from the path to violence” (Meloy, Hempel, Gray, MoHandie, Shiva, & Richards, 2004). The problem is finding the person closest to the individual to find a grounding point to establish a control area where the troubled individual will accept the much-needed assistance. If there is not a grounding point the individual will still feel ostracized and the event could still come to fruition.

In their article, Frei, Vollm, Graf, and Dittman (2006) list Holmes and Holmes’ types of female serial killers. The list is as follows, *Visionary, Comfort, Hedonistic, Power Seeker, and Disciple* (2006). These are all encompassing, they say, of the females who kill. Nevertheless, the incidents that lead a female to kill are substantially different from those that trigger men to commit mass murder. Men are very macho when killing, in order to maintain the illusion of masculinity. Women who kill are mentally upset with life situations they feel have taken away all acceptable ways of caring for the family, whether the female is a juvenile or an adult. The status of family must remain intact for this individual to maintain mental stability. Katherine Ramsland writes, “While the female brain appears better equipped to constrain violent impulses,

aggression is not just rooted in the...frontal lobes; it's also about the society in which children are raised" (Ramsland, 2009).

Dietz (1986) describes the "Family Annihilator" as the senior male in the family, often with a history of alcohol or drug abuse, and exhibiting great periods of depression (Holmes & Holmes, 2001). This typology leaves the female member of the family who commits to the taking of the lives of her children out of the classification for mass murderer. The researcher felt the female of the species deserves acknowledgement with a classification. The new type, once again, titled the "Family Protector." She, in desperation, feels the only way to protect her family is to exonerate them through death. Her thought process is intrinsic and her perceived gain is her perception of a perfect family.

The Female Protector is only one of many new types of mass murderers that need addressing. Society will grow and expand to new heights of stressors and violence will be the chosen outlet for release. As new events occur, new ideologies must keep up with the changes. For instance, research has suggested that school shootings may be more complicated than just revenge for bullying and lack of nurture from parents, educators, or peers. The door for further research has been opened to allow for new depths of study.

Conclusions

On July 14, 1966, Richard Speck committed one of the most notorious mass murders in American history when he killed eight student nurses in Chicago. The researcher had just turned 16 years of age and the thought of a person taking the lives of innocent girls did not fully fit into his comprehension of life's atrocities. The researcher had just received his license to drive and the possibility of taking the car and leaving the house for personal gratification far outweighed the deaths of people not known by the researcher. A little more than two weeks later on August 1, 1966, in Austin, Texas, Charles Whitman, a 25-year old ex-marine, climbed the clock tower and started shooting at innocent passersby. Whitman killed 16 and wounded 30 before a Dallas police officer fatally shot him (Duwe, 2004). It has been argued Speck shattered people's perceptions of safety in their own homes and Whitman had an equally damaging effect on notions about safety in public (Lavergne, 1997).

I have not been the victim of a mass murder, but my life was touched by what used to be called spree killers. It happened while I was stationed in Albany, Georgia, at the United States Navy Air Field. I was married, with a 16-month-old baby boy. I had a part-time job at a convenience store across the street from the house my wife and I were renting. If I had to work a double shift at the navy airfield, my wife would cover the shift at the store. She went to work one night in July 1971, and I went home and to bed with the baby. I awoke at about 5:00 a. m. and wondered why I had not been called to

come clean the store before the shift end. I took the baby and went to the store. I found my wife gone, the store robbed and her body was never found. The police investigation later found out that a family of malcontents from out of Florida had driven through Albany on their way to California. They found my wife alone, robbed the store, kidnapped her, took her into the swamp, raped, and killed her. They left her and went to other towns and cities, doing the same thing, until captured in California and sent to prison. The story made famous by the television show "*Police Story*" in the 1980s. The family kidnapped, raped, and killed 17 girls and women. Additional proof found that the family's women were involved in all of the atrocities, along with the men.

The literature, periodicals, television news programs, and internet resources all indicated a rise in mass murder incidents. The poor economy, self-esteem issues and mental health issues all appear to have contributed to the rise in mass murder events. In addition, the ability to cause extreme numbers of casualties through automatic weapons and bombs may facilitate the escalation in numbers of mass murder-related deaths and injuries. Those deaths and injuries continue to rise at an alarming rate. The rate discovered through several of the articles and continued on nearly a daily basis. There has not been a better understanding of this rise than Valen's article (2010). According to the article, he surmised an alarming rate increase in mass murder over the decline of regular homicide. He stated there has been almost a five per cent rise in multiple death homicides during the new millennium even though homicides are down by seven per cent (2010).

The movies, television shows, and books of the new millennium have presented a positive spin on putting the righting of wrongs into the hands of the wronged individual. Society makes a big deal out of the notoriety brought about by the individual's actions when a mass murder event occurs. This seeking of fame or vengeance, whichever the perpetrator is trying to gain, may assist the reported rise in mass murder incidents. The "I can take care of business myself attitude" was present in at least two of the cliffhangers from last year's television series. In last season's finale of the "*Mentalist*," the main character, Patrick Jane, killed the murderer of his wife by shooting him to death in a crowded shopping mall. The main characters from "Hawaii Five-O" routinely take matters into their own hands: instead of using legal means, they have taken money from the evidence room, beat up suspects, and killed the governor. These actions ended. It occurred when all of the main characters were released from custody. These actions and others support vigilantes, whose actions are conceived by some to be appropriate behavior for real life circumstances.

The researcher found multiple reasons to add the newest typologies for mass murder. One example is the rise in notoriety seekers who could only gain recognition by killing as many people as possible. The individual who enters a crowded mall and kills indiscriminately, in addition, has not received the title needed to use the category for research, so the researcher added the Notoriety Killer to the typology to cover these individuals for research purposes.

Dying for a religious belief could possibly have been understood if the dying had not consisted of blowing up innocent bystanders. The act itself is meant to achieve the goal of becoming surrounded by virgins, not to gain access to a god for worship. The researcher called these misguided individuals Suicide Bomber.

To repeat some of the prior information, the coward who kills the men and women of the Armed Forces deserves no respect from society. The worst term for naming these individuals is coward and misfit: The researcher used Military Misfit. There was no law that required these individuals to be involved in the armed services, thus the misfit portion of the typology.

Individuals who blame all of their woes in life on society as a whole, Self-Loathers, need to be studied more by consistent research. The economy will continue to forge these individuals, and it has always been easier for them to blame others and resort to violent actions than to take responsibility for their shortcomings.

The next type touched close to home for the researcher. The individual who will walk calmly into a room or situation with armed police officers, pull out a firearm, and start a firefight was in need of a name for reference. The researcher chose Blue Avenger. This individual bears no fear of death; and if armed men and women are attacked the innocent unarmed citizen has become a prime target.

The researcher did touch on school shootings for the purpose of comparison. The name chosen for the individuals who entered the sacred ground of learning and

stole away the safety needed to study is Academia Rejecters. The idea came from the fact that these individuals were constantly being rejected from class for bullying, being bullied, fighting, and constantly disturbing class activities.

The researcher argues the name he gave to female mass murderers fits this type of perpetrator better than the name given to her male counterpart by Holmes and DeBurger (1992). Family Annihilator did not apply to the thought processes discovered from the interviews with women who killed their families. Female mass murderers kill for completely different reasons than male family annihilators. The name Family Protector chosen to fulfill the ideation of keeping the family safe and together, even if that means killing all of the individuals concerned in the process.

The purpose of this paper was to stimulate thought about the numerous possibilities for relating societal changes that are taking place at an alarming rate to mass murder. One example is the shootings at Fort Hood Texas; the thing I found most intriguing and important and which exemplifies today's societal changes was that the officer who shot and stopped the killings was female. Today, female mass murderers are far from a new phenomenon, as are terrorist mass murderers, and increasingly the two are combined in incidences of mass murder; the age of limited typological systems needs to close. The new millennium, in addition, has brought about a media explosion that now raises knowledge of mass murder events from local incidents to worldwide actions of violence.

Robert Peters, President of Morality in Media, posited the following set of ideals about the rise of mass murder and the use of firearms in America (2008). He questions whether the primary blame for the rise in mass murder should be on the guns used by the perpetrators; or whether more laws are necessary to keep firearms out of the hands of disturbed individuals. He listed a number of reasons why more laws will not change the outcome of those individuals set on the process of making their projected vision of self worth by using violence to rise above anonymity.

First, individuals can commit mass murder without the use of guns. Bombs, explosives, knives, and even airplanes have been used to carry out mass murder. Chemical agents such as anthrax can be sent by mail and impact a multitude of persons. Arson has been used to create fiery deaths for an untold number of innocent individuals. Second, it is a proven fact that if an individual wants to gain access to firearms, he or she will find a way to get those firearms. Third, individuals have taken a popularized position of blaming society for all of their problems and it is always easier to blame the gun instead of the person pulling the trigger (2008).

Peters also comments on the change in religious influence over the morality issues faced by individuals in today's society. Peters said, "Individuals used the Bible to justify slavery. But in the opinion of the researcher, the good far outweighs the bad...part of the good...the Bible brought a commandment, 'You shall not commit murder.'" He posits that the value on morality taught by religious leaders has become a

product of bigoted detriment caused by motion pictures. The Hays Code, adopted by Motion Picture Industry of America, had a provision about murder; which stated,

- The technique of murder must be presented in a way that will not inspire imitation;
 - Brutal killings are not to be presented in detail
 - Revenge in modern times shall not be justified.

The Hays Code also had a provision concerning religion, which stated:

- No film or episode may throw ridicule on any religion;
- Ministers of religion in character should not be used as comic characters or as a villain.
- Ceremonies of any definite religion should be carefully and respectfully handled.

In 1968, the Hays Code was dismissed and replaced by the current rating system that has allowed Hollywood and the film industry to glamorize and celebrate murder, revenge, sadism, and to depict these acts as graphically as possible.

Television violence prompted Congress to hold hearings on three different occasions in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and the 1990s. In 2007, the FCC issued its report to Congress urging lawmakers to restrict violent television programming. (2008) Peters went on to further state it is not just television and the movies that have become overly violent but also violent rap and gangsta music, along with the rise in violent video games.

The consensus, supported by a mountain of anecdotal evidence and hundreds of social science research studies, is that entertainment violence does influence vulnerable youth in particular, although this consensus fights disagreement from the industry that profits from the manufacture and sales of violent video games and movies. The business community tends to blame the breakdown of family values for the rise in violence. This breakdown, which leads to loneliness, isolation, and possible mental illness issues, they say, is the reason for more violent outbreaks than games made and sold for profit.

(2008)

Peters states that the “Popular Culture” contributes to mass murders in two other ways. First is “*the phenomenon of ‘Copycat Behavior’* which is modeled on news reports.” Unfortunately, media coverage provides a “*blueprint*” for how crime can be arranged or carried out for maximum excitement. The second element of popular culture is the rise in the “*Cult of Celebrity.*” The need to be famous or, as Andy Warhol said in his inane prediction...everyone will be world famous for fifteen minutes (2008).

Further Research Needed

The avenues for research into the study of mass murder proved to constitute a lifetime endeavor for major criminologists. Society has the ability to change constantly, and with that change individuals will find new ways to destroy each other's lives. Destruction can come from numerous avenues of violent actions. The researcher could have continued for months, even years—there is no end to the evil men and women heap upon themselves and others.

To prove the need for further research, the proponents of mass murder continue to rise. According to the article in the Las Angeles Times written by Tony Barboza, Louis Sahagun and Nicole Santa Cruz (October 12, 2011): “a gunman enraged over a custody dispute walked into a crowded Seal Beach California hair salon where his former wife worked and opened fire. Killing eight people and critically wounding another person in the deadliest shooting in Orange County history.” “The attacker sprayed Salon Meritage, with gunfire Wednesday afternoon. He watched as victims fell to the floor. Those who could escape ran onto the street or hid in neighboring businesses in the bustling area of trendy restaurants and shops along Pacific Coast Highway”...”The gunman continued firing outside, where he shot one man who apparently tried to flee in a Range Rover” (2011).

The article recounted that the perpetrator did not stop firing; he reloaded his weapons and continued to fire at the assorted individuals he decided to kill on that day (2011). One witness said that when the firing stopped, “*an eerie silence*” took over the

busy street; another witness said, “*Gun smoke hung in the air*”; and finally as the police arrived another calling out, “*He’s in the white truck*” (2012). The perpetrator, later identified as Scott Dekraai, killed with no remorse or knowledge of whether his ex-wife was hit or not.

Gillian Flaccus wrote for the Huffington Post (2011); “The bitter father, charged with gunning down his ex-wife and eight others at a beauty salon, should have had an idyllic Southern California childhood: he spent his formative years just down the blocks from the beach with his beloved grandparents...but poor decisions, bad luck, and soured relationships shadowed Scott Dekraai over the years as he transformed into an angry adult whose life spiraled ever more out of control until, police say, a bitter custody battle over his 8-year-old son triggered his spasm of violence Wednesday” (2011). Friends and family members reported that Dekraai had struggled with rage and mental health problems.

The need for a new typology for this kind of individual might be another matter that should be investigated. He does not fit the Family Annihilator type, and the Pseudocommando has been dropped from Holmes and Holmes' nomenclature of mass murderers. Several questions arise from this multiple death scenario, such as; did mental health problems cause him to become psychotic? Did he worry about the raising of his child, as a female might? It is an abundant topic for research and understanding.

This set of statistics found the researcher in a quandry. I had not thought of a category or typology for the following set of mass murders. These acts of violence

were carried out not with bomb or gun, but the motor vehicles we see on the roads of the world. This means there are literally millions of weapons at the hands of no one knows whom.

Table 2 - Vehicular Murder

COUNTRY	PERPETRATOR	DATE	KILLED	INJURED
Isreal	Olbeh Abu Khalil	2/14/2001	8	21
Isreal	Dwayat Taysir Hussam	7/2/2008	3	30-45
Netherlands	Roland Karst Tates	4/20/2009	7	10
China	Xiaoji Luo	11/5/2008	5	19
United States	Michael Stephen Ressa	9/21/2005	3	11
Mexico	Jose Luis Avila Nieto	5/6/2002	2	22
Sweden	Eric Parkdel	5/31/2003	2	16-30

The researcher found a plethora of ideals for further study. It looked like there are as many different types of mass murder as there are perpetrators. The researcher was fascinated by the ongoing and growing numbers of mass murder which have yet to be cataloged by social scientists.

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