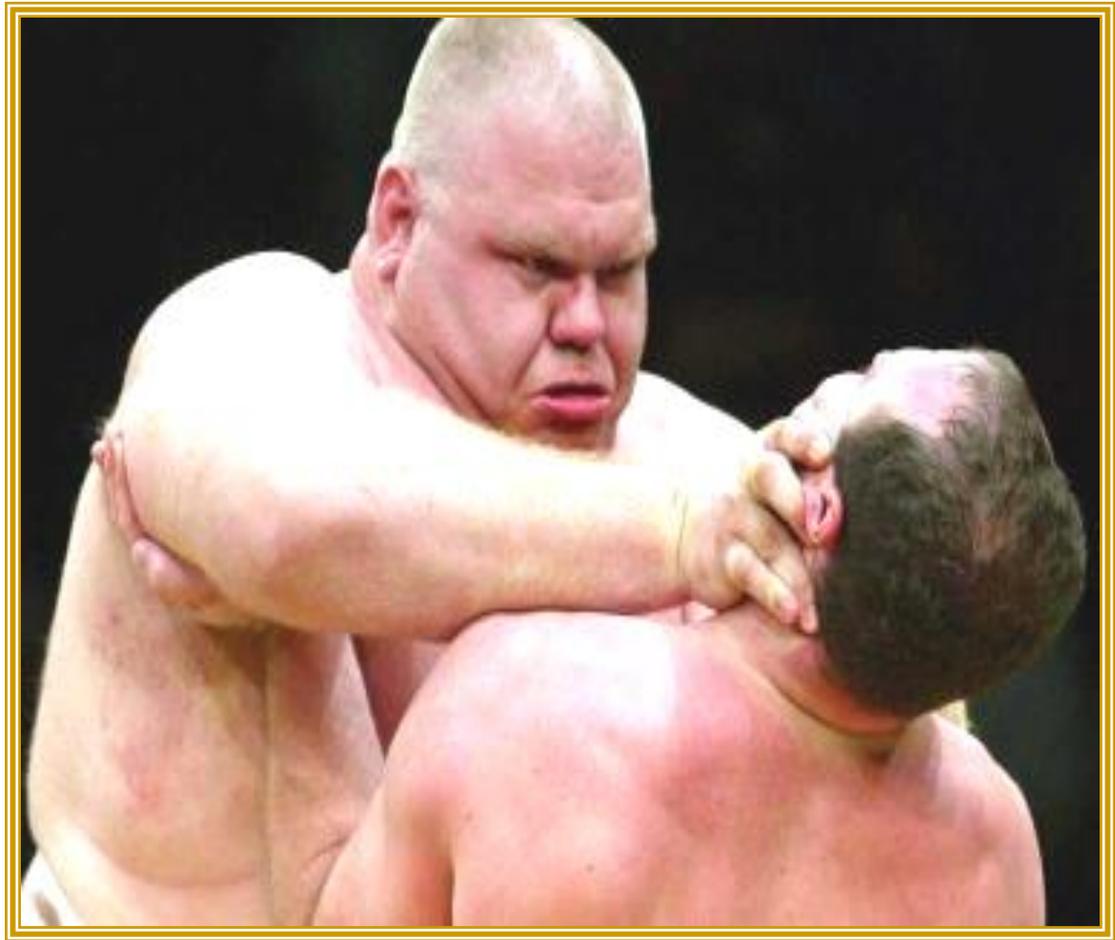


Our Actions Toward Others: Aggression

- Can be any physical or verbal behavior intended to hurt or destroy.
- It may be done reactively out of hostility or proactively as a calculated means to an end.



Research shows that aggressive behavior emerges from the interaction of biology and experience.

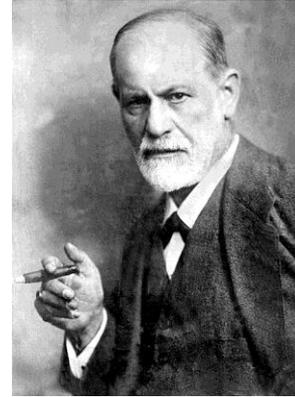
Three biological influences on aggressive behavior are:

1. Genetic Influences
 2. Neural Influences
 3. Biochemical Influences
-

Genetic

Influences:

-Freud said that the drive for violence arises from a basic instinct, and human aggression cannot be eliminated.
(Destructive and disruptive)



Genetic Influences:

Genes

- Twin studies suggest that genes influence aggression
- If one identical twin admits to having a temper, the other will often admit to having one. This admission occurs independently.
- Fraternal twins are less likely to show this similarity.
- One well known genetic marker that may predict aggressiveness is the Y chromosome.





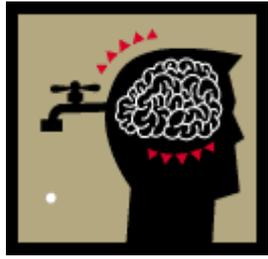
Neural Influences on Aggression



Aggressive behaviors in human beings, as well as in the lower animals, are associated with an area in the core of the brain called the **amygdala**.

- When the amygdala is stimulated, docile organisms become violent.
- Similarly, when neural activity in that area is blocked, violent organisms become docile.
- The frontal lobe inhibits aggression





Chemical Influences on Aggression



Certain chemicals have been shown to influence aggression.

Serotonin, a chemical substance that occurs naturally in the midbrain, seems to *inhibit* impulsive aggression. (negative correlation)

Testosterone, a male sex hormone, seems in to increase aggressive tendencies. (positive correlation)

- What is "roid rage" (No, I didn't mean to say road rage.)
- What is the main ingredient in anabolic steroids?

Chemical Influences on Aggression

Alcohol and Aggression



“Oh that wasn’t me talking, it was the alcohol talking.”

Chemical Influences on Aggression

Alcohol and Aggression

Why can alcohol increase aggressive behavior?

1. Alcohol often serves as a disinhibitor—it reduces our social inhibitions, making us less cautious than we usually are.
2. It appears to disrupt the way we usually process information.
 - intoxicated people often respond to the earliest and most obvious aspects of a social situation and tend to miss the subtleties.
3. When individuals ingest enough alcohol to make them legally drunk, they tend to respond more violently to provocations than those who have ingested little or no alcohol.



Aversive Events

■ Frustration- Aggression Principle

A principle in
which:

frustration



anger



aggression.

Frustration - exists when something blocks an attempt to reach a desired goal.



Our Actions Toward Others: Aggression (Continued)

■ Psychosocial Factors in Aggression:

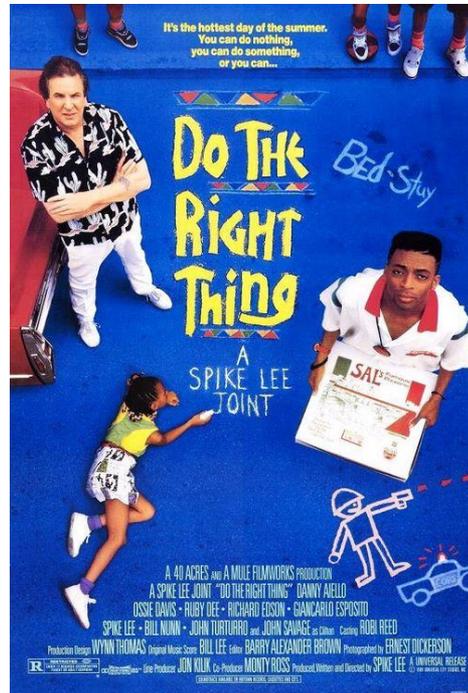
1. Dealing with aversive events
2. Learning aggression is rewarding
3. Observing models of aggression
4. Acquiring social scripts



Aversive Events

Frustration-Aggression Principle

The idea that frustration—the perception that you are being prevented from attaining a goal—increases the probability of an aggressive response.



Other aversive stimuli:

- physical pain
- Personal insults
- Foul odors
- hot temps
- cigarette smoke

DO THE RIGHT THING:

On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone's hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence.

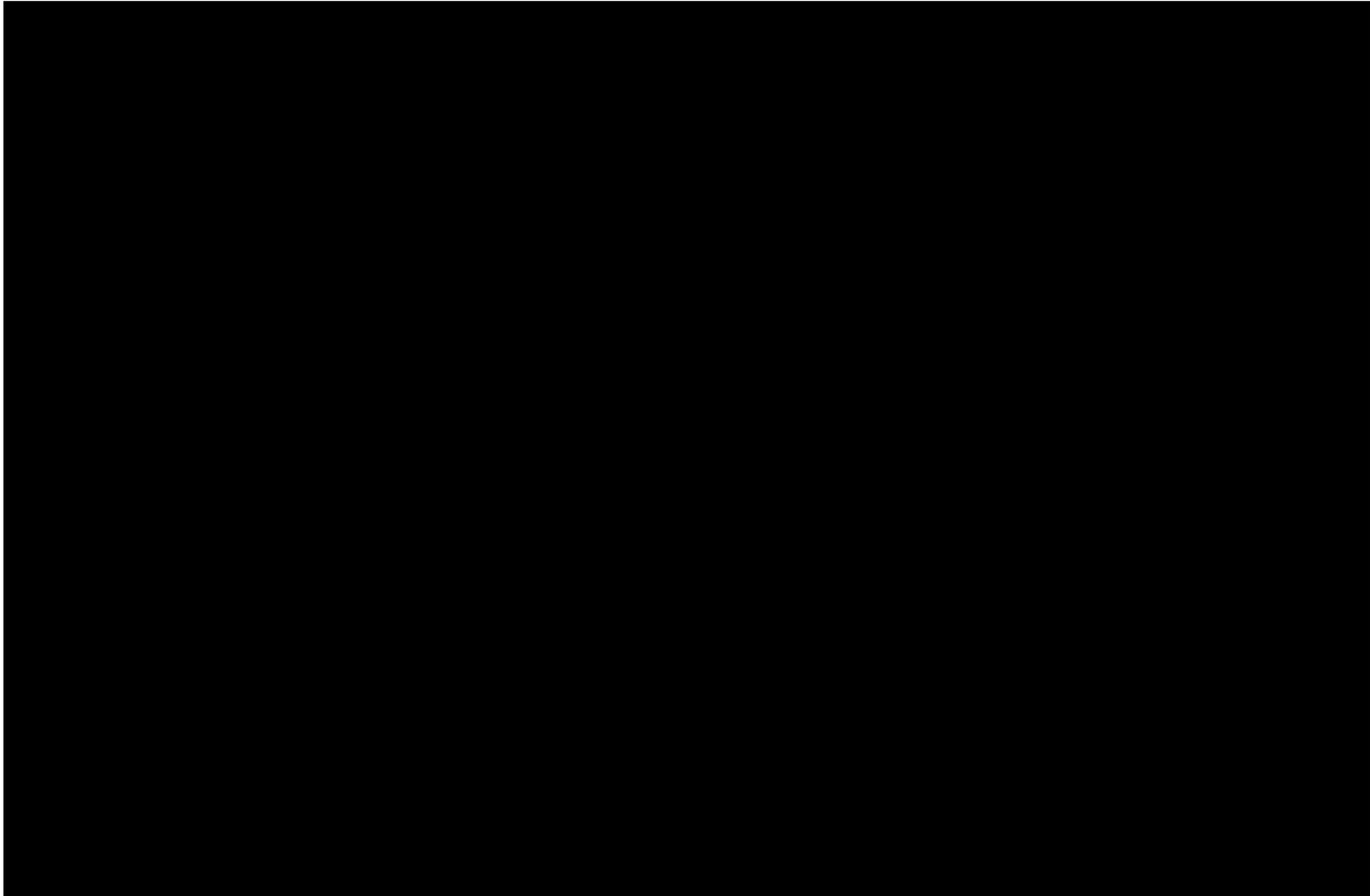
Frustration Aggression Principle

Do The Right Thing

Heat

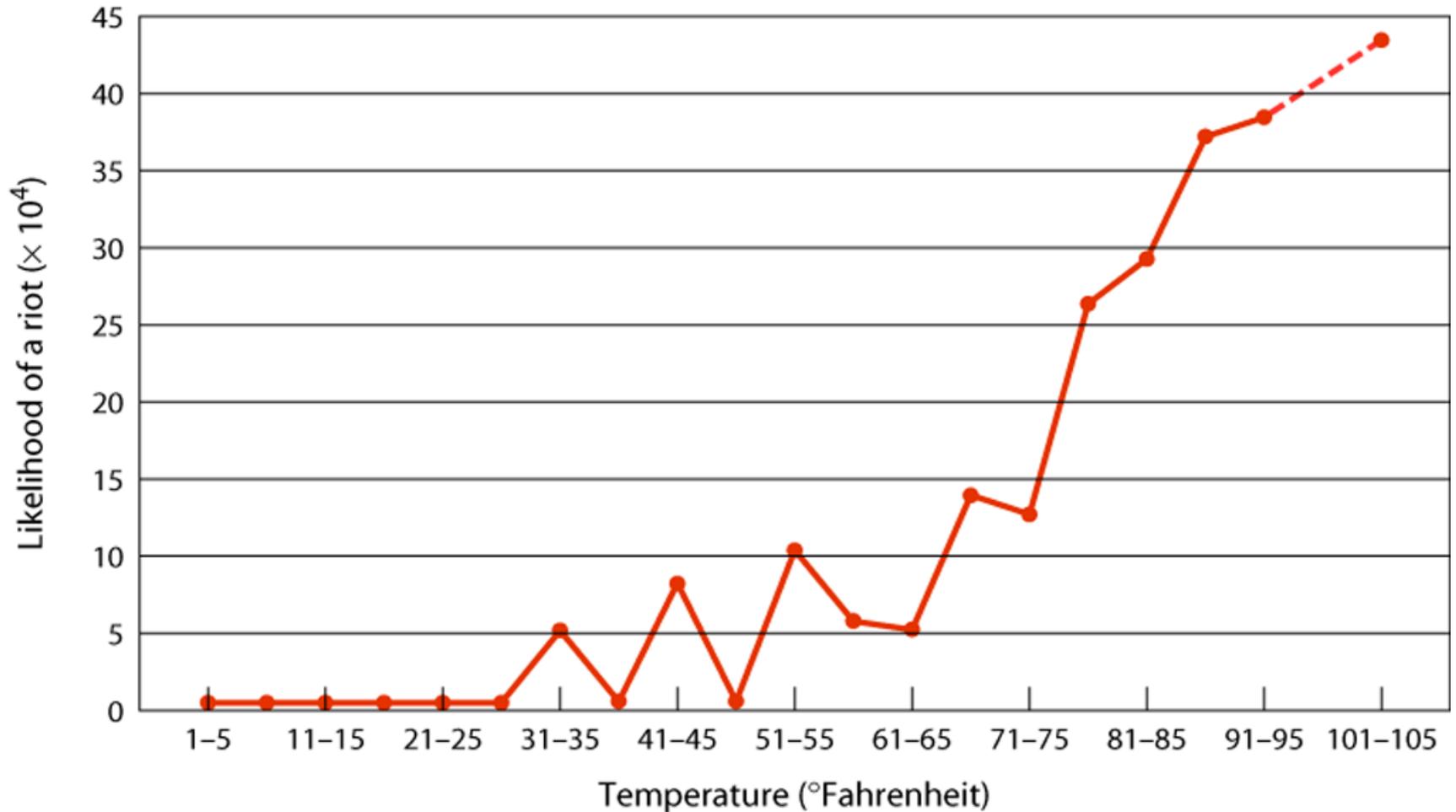
**PERSONAL
INSULTS**

*Physical
Pain*



The long, hot summer

Warmer temperatures increase the likelihood that violent riots and other aggressive acts will occur,



Imitation and Aggression

Children frequently learn to solve conflicts aggressively by imitating adults and their peers, especially when they see that the aggression is rewarded.



-A child whose aggression successfully intimidates other children may become more aggressive. Animals who have become successful in securing mates or food through aggression become increasingly ferocious.

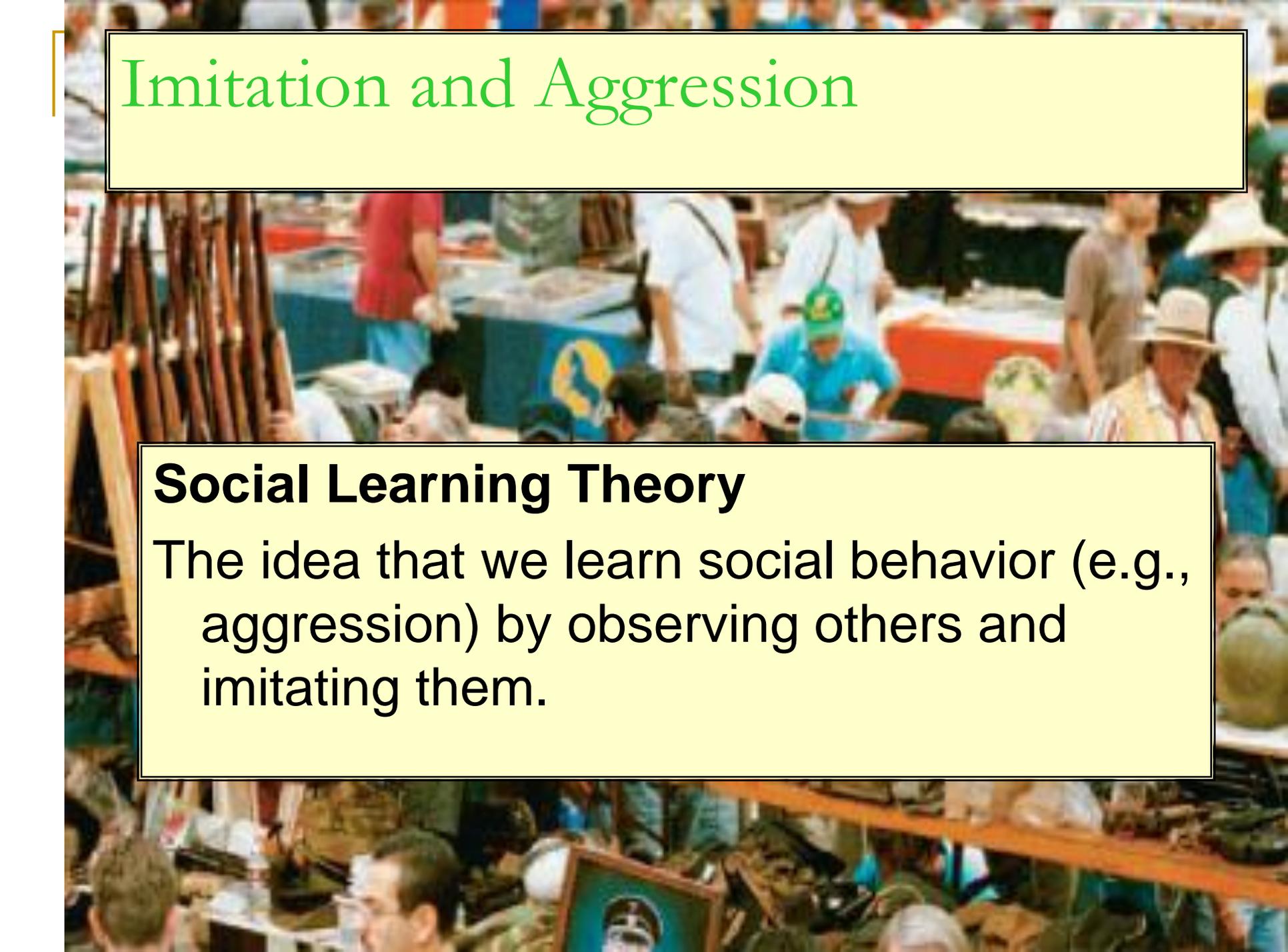
Imitation and Aggression

The people children imitate the most, of course, are their parents.

And if the parents were abused as children, this can set a chain of abuse in motion.

Indeed, a large percentage of physically abusive parents were themselves abused by their own parents when they were kids.

Imitation and Aggression

A vibrant outdoor market scene with people, stalls, and various goods. The background shows a busy market with people, stalls, and various goods. The foreground shows a man in a green shirt and a woman in a white shirt. The market is filled with people, stalls, and various goods.

Social Learning Theory

The idea that we learn social behavior (e.g., aggression) by observing others and imitating them.



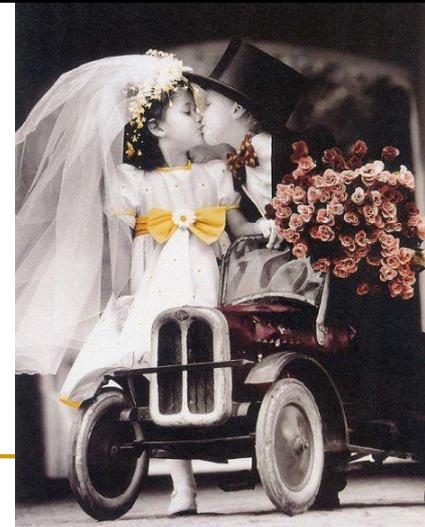
In a classic series of experiments, Albert Bandura and his associates demonstrated the power of social learning.



Social Scripts



Ways of behaving socially that we learn implicitly from our culture.



Acquiring Social Scripts

- The media portrays *social scripts* which constitutes the generation of “mental tapes” in the minds of viewers.
- When confronted with new situations individuals may rely on such social scripts. If social scripts are violent in nature, people may act them out.
- “Oh, so that’s how you do it.”