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grossman, kill, seminar, teaches, laughter, america, dave grossman, explains, grandview, teachings, leaving, civilians, wolves, mass shooters, officers, audiences, cops, act, sheep, hosted

SPEAKERS

Stewart McLean

S Stewart McLean 00:04
A mere 45

S Stewart McLean 00:05
Minutes up I-59 Grandview Alabama's Church of the Highlands has the typical Sunday fare you'd expect singin', prayn', devil floggin'. (Laughter) But Fridays are when things get weirder. For example, on Friday, September 28 of last year, they hosted retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.

S Stewart McLean 00:28
He mimics a pastor's passion, but his sermon tackled a different topic. Killology the psychology of killing other people. Fake Progress on May 5, 2018 explains for 21 years, Grossman has been studying this field he created and sharing his belief that America is suffering from unprecedented levels of violence. His solution is hosting seminars across the country to teach random civilians, school safety teams, and police officers why and how to kill people. The research and journalism available about his teachings are sometimes second hand often third hand accounts. So I decided to go undercover and get a first hand account.

- S** Stewart McLean 01:19
I arrived in Grandview at 8am and for seven hours recorded and took detailed notes of Grossman's teachings, which, according to Fake Progress, have been used to train every federal law enforcement agency, plus local law enforcement in all 50 states. A Men's Journal profile contends no one in America has trained more cops than Grossman, not to mention the predominantly white gun toting civilians welcomed at his seminars. He's also testified in Congress and contributed to a White House policy making roundtable.
- S** Stewart McLean 01:54
Grossman is one of the loudest pro gun voices in America and his teachings laid the foundation for why you should pull the trigger. So we will use my experience as a case study of killology by discussing what he teaches, who he teaches, and implications of the curriculum which gives anyone willing to listen the tools to become a killer.
- S** Stewart McLean 02:21
With a clear conscience.
- S** Stewart McLean 02:25
Walking into the seminar, I was confused. (Laughter)
- S** Stewart McLean 02:29
And to be honest, a little nervous. So I use the undercover name of McLean Gunn, (Laughter)
- S** Stewart McLean 02:42
And did what everyone else was doing,
- S** Stewart McLean 02:44
go to the merch table and buy his book On Combat. Then the seminar began, where he taught psychological tactics for killing and why it's okay. First, Grossman describes his background then spends much of this teaching killer psychology, which he calls resiliency. To prepare to kill Mother Jones in April 2017 confirms he encourages audiences to arm themselves, both with a gun and with a mentality that killing should be a conditioned

response.

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Stewart McLean 03:17

He taught this at the seminar by explaining instead of the run-hide-fight response to active shooters, we should instinctively fight-hide-run. After the kill, he explains through resiliency, any PTSD experience from the act is treatable, because all you need to do is separate the memory from the emotion. In other words, you shouldn't worry about the psychological effects of killing. With a little time you'll be ready to do it again.

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Stewart McLean 03:51

Next for anyone uncomfy with, you know, Homicide (Laughter) Grossman spends much of the seminar justifying his tactics with Christianity. He explains using biblical language 98% of the population are docile sheep that need to be protected from the 1% of the population who are violent wolves leaving the last 1% the sheep dogs, the people in his audience. According to Grossman, sheep dogs must use the strength of God to protect the sheep and not let anything else like laws or morals get in the way. He even signs copies of his book with Bible verses, like mine, Psalm 144:1 which reads, "praise me to the Lord my rock, who trains my hands for war. My fingers for battle." In a police training featured in the documentary, Do Not Resist, Grossman promised officers that after they kill another human, they have the best sex of their lives.

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Stewart McLean 05:00

He didn't say that in my seminar (Laughter)

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Stewart McLean 05:04

probably because it was in a church. But in the seminar I attended, Grossman taught civilians and trained officers. First Grossman welcomes anyone to his seminar who's willing to pay \$75. Well, not anyone. These seminars are held in predominantly white areas like Grandview and draw predominantly white audiences. With fear mongering as his main approach, Grossman instructs civilian sheep dogs to act as their family secret service and intervene when cops aren't around. He encourages parents to explain this to their children with sheepdogs and why mommy carries a gun. He further enlists civilians by making terrifying predictions of bus, school, and daycare massacres, leaving parents with a chilling warning.

S Stewart McLean 05:57
Make sure it's not your kid.

S Stewart McLean 06:00
Next, Grossman is the most high profile law enforcement trainer in America. He teaches officers to be resilient in the face of angry criminals who are making cops the bad guy for enforcing the law. Furthermore, he specifically takes a racially charged training approach, warning cops to be wary of the Ferguson effect and gangs order to kill. He encourages them to take action explaining they're the frontline troops in this time of war. And if that wasn't clear enough. He commands you can't stop a criminal without a gun. And they're listening. The Minnesota Star Tribune on July 14, 2016, reported Jeronimo Yanez, the officer who fatally shot Philando Castile was trained by Grossman himself.

S Stewart McLean 06:55
Near the end of the seminar, Grossman attempts to clarify that the goal is never to kill. Rather, it's to shoot to save lives.

S Stewart McLean 07:04
This mixed messaging leaves us to consider two implications.

S Stewart McLean 07:08
First, Grossman's reliance on the wolf metaphor resonates so well with audiences, because it mirrors how we've come to collectively understand mass shooters Pacific Standard on May 22, 2018 notes media reports tend to refer to perpetrators of killing sprees as lone wolves, but evidence suggests these perpetrators are a pack of wolves. A 2014 study in the journal Men and Masculinity concludes mass shooters tend to display white supremacy, economic risk and toxic masculinity. As America has found comfort in the collective cultural metaphor of the lone wolf mass shooter, we've ignored an alarming pattern. White men are America's deadliest demographic and biggest domestic terror threat. And this Tuesday, Dave Grossman will make thousands of dollars emboldening any more white men to join the pack. Finally, the most troubling part of this story is that it leaves us powerless.

S Stewart McLean 08:18

People leave Grossman seminars with the intoxicating knowledge he instilled in them, the agency to determine who poses a threat to society, the ability to act on that determination, and the willingness to pull the trigger. When these individuals inevitably act on these teachings, what do we do? From American Psychological Association publications to White House panels. Grossman has been ordained by the military, academia, the government, and the church institutions that Americans trust the most and hold unmatched authority. In fact, despite his connection to the killing of Philando Castile, there has been no legal recourse because the actors we expect to hold him accountable, are the very institutions endorsing him.

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Stewart McLean 09:11

Dave Grossman will continue to spread his ideology without consequence. And without a convincing argument to dismiss him. We are left disarmed. During breaks throughout the seminar, Grossman hosted many meet and greets. I watched as participants eagerly thanked him for the mindset he was leaving them with. We explore what and who he teaches and implications of that mindset.

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Stewart McLean 09:38

One that should make us just as wary of the wolves lurking in sheepdogs clothing.
(Applause)