

Table 1—How Criminologists Explain Race Differences in Violence

Find a character trait that lumps and splits (Covington 1995, 1997, 1999, 2003):

1) Identify macro-level conditions which lump blacks together and split (distinguish) them from whites:

Historical Conditions

- *Slavery
- *Jim Crow

Current Conditions

- *Segregation into a ghetto or Community of Concentrated Poverty
- *High Unemployment
- *Social Isolation
- *Racial Inequality

2) Use a Bridge Theory to explain how these anonymous, macro-level conditions get into the hearts and minds of individual blacks and make them prone to violence, for example:

- Argue that blacks have coped with historical and/or contemporary conditions by forming a *BLACK SUBCULTURE OF VIOLENCE*
- Argue that blacks have coped with historical or contemporary conditions by developing distinctive personality traits that make them prone to violence—i.e., treat blacks like a *BLACK PSYCHOLOGICAL MONOLITH*

3) Both of these theories explain race differences in violence and both are *OFFENDER CENTERED THEORIES*