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Strength and anger: Individual differences in anger, aggression and political attitudes conform to a Paleolithic logic of aggression

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Anger is viewed as an adaptation for increasing the extent to which another individual values your welfare relative to their own. Consistent with this, the primary causes of anger appear to be indications that another does not value your welfare, and the behaviors activated by anger appear designed to recalibrate another's valuation through argumentation, the withdrawal of cooperation or aggression. During most of human evolution, the extent to which one could force another to value one's interests would have been partly determined by physical strength, particularly among males. Therefore, it was predicted that individuals who are physically stronger will expect their interests to be given more weight and thus will become angry over a greater range of offenses. In two studies of college-aged males, positive correlations were found between measures of physical strength and measures of entitlement, anger, past aggression, and attitudes about the utility of aggression. Similar results were found among a hunter-horticulturalist group - the Tsimane Indians of Bolivia.