



L. Berkowitz. The Concept of Aggressive Drive:
Some Additional considerations.
L. Berkowitz (ed.) Advances in
Experimental Social Psychology. N.Y.
Academic Press, 1966. p. 301-329. p.303

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The opposing analytic formulation stresses the role of aggressive behavior in ego functioning. Some theorists, such as Beata Rank, did not conceive of aggression as an unmodifiable innate destructive force. They "surmise that aggressive behavior means adaptation to the surrounding reality, hence is a part of ego-organization."

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1. Rank, B. (1949) Aggression. Psychoanal. Study
Child 3-4, 43-48.

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In contrast to the orthodox psychoanalytic position, which employs an hydraulic model with notions of the accumulation and discharge of internal somatic energy, contemporary biologists typically place greater weight on the role of external stimulus conditions. These stimulus conditions control the activation and termination of species-specific behavior patterns¹⁻². An animal's instinctive action in any given situation, then, is a function of both internal conditions and externally influenced stimuli.

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1. Bowlby, J. (1957) An ethological approach to research in child development. Brit. J. Medical Psychol. 30, 230-240.

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2. Thorpe, W.H. (1957) Learning and instinct in animals. London: Methuen.



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