

Men Didn't Win. We Just **Hit** Harder.

Why we have patriarchy, why matriarchy was never its opposite, and what the arrangement actually costs the men inside it. Every number in here is sourced to UNODC, WHO, CDC, FBI, BLS and the World Economic Forum.

Field Study No. 2. Read No. 1 first if you want the comment section version.

The whole thing in 1 page

Patriarchy is not an idea that won an argument. Nobody sat down and reasoned their way into it, and no philosophy beat the alternatives on the merits. It is an enforcement system, and it runs on 1 fact about human males that has held for about 300,000 years. We can hit harder.

Everything stacked on top came later. The property law, the religion, the natural order, the science that kept discovering men were smarter right up until women were allowed to sit the same exams. All of it was decoration on a machine that was already running.

The rest of this report is 5 sections and 1 argument.

01**Why we have it**

Force, not
philosophy

02**The word we
got wrong**

Matriarchy was
never the mirror
image

03**The violence
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Who does it, and
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04**Laborers, not
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What the pyramid
charges the men
on it

05**What changed**

Money, dating,
and the birth rate

A note on the numbers

Every figure is cited on the last page and stated the way the source states it. UNODC's 90% is suspects brought into contact with police, not convictions, and it says so below. WHO's violence figures are self-reported survey data and almost certainly run low. Where a source shifted methodology between waves, only 1 wave is used.

The argument does not need the numbers stretched. It works better when they are exact.

01

Why We Have Patriarchy

Not because men out-argued anyone. Every justification you have ever heard for the arrangement was written after the arrangement was already in place, by the people it favored.

An enforcement system, not a belief

Ideas have to compete with other ideas, and this one has never had to. When a disagreement got serious enough, the side with the upper body strength ended it, and every institution that grew up afterward was built by whoever won that exchange.

That is why the justifications keep changing while the arrangement stays put. For centuries it was God's design, then natural law, then skull measurements, then hormones, and now evolutionary psychology. That is 5 different explanations for an outcome that never changed, which is what it looks like when somebody starts with the answer and goes shopping for a reason.

The order of operations

Control comes first and the explanation shows up afterward, and that order gets reversed in almost every retelling.



1. Capacity

One group can physically compel the other and both know it.

2. Custom

Compliance becomes the normal state, so force is rarely needed in the open.

3. Justification

The result gets explained as nature, and the explanation gets taught to children.

Step 2 is what makes the whole thing invisible from the inside. Once compliance is normal, the violence goes quiet and stays available, which lets everyone describe the arrangement as consent. The threat does not have to be used to be doing its job. Section 3 is what happens on the occasions it does get used.

Understand this and the rest of the report stops being a list of grievances. It becomes a description of one machine and the bill it sends to everyone standing on it, men included.

02

The Word Everyone Got Wrong

Matriarchy has been argued about for 150 years as the mirror image of patriarchy. The Greek underneath it does not say that, and no society on record has ever matched the definition people are fighting over.

Where the word came from

In 1861 a Swiss lawyer named Johann Jakob Bachofen published a theory that humanity had passed through an age of mother-rule before men took over. He had no fieldwork and no living cultures to study, and he built the case out of Greek myth. Engels picked it up in 1884 and gave it a political job to do.

The word arrived shaped like an answer to a different word. If patriarchy means men rule, matriarchy has to mean women rule. The vocabulary settled the question before anybody checked it.

What the Greek actually says

The root is *arché*, and it carries 2 meanings. It can mean rule, and it can also mean beginning or origin. The men assembling the word in the 1800s took rule, because rule was the thing they were looking at all day.

Around 1980 a German scholar, Heide Göttner-Abendroth, went back to the Greek and argued they had taken the wrong one. Mothers at the beginning, not mothers in charge. She rebuilt the framework on that reading, founded Modern Matriarchal Studies, and convened the first world congress on it in 2003.

The pyramid

Somebody sits on top. Position is scarce, so it has to be defended, and defending it is what the force is for.

The circle

Nobody sits on top. Decisions run on consensus, land and lineage organize around the children, mothers sit at the hub instead of above anyone.

Where the evidence actually stands

Being straight about this matters more than winning the point. Her etymology holds up fine. Whether ancient societies actually ran the way she describes is contested, and most anthropologists prefer the narrower word matrilineal.

What we do have is ethnography on living matrilineal cultures, including the Minangkabau, the Mosuo, the Khasi and the Haudenosaunee. Women hold land, lineage and household authority in all of them. Not 1 produced female rule over men.

So the thing the internet has been arguing about since 1861 has never been observed anywhere on earth. Both sides have spent 150 years defending positions on a word that never meant what either of them thought.

03

The Violence Gap

If patriarchy were only an idea it would have to compete with other ideas. It has never had to, and the numbers on why are not ambiguous in any country that keeps records.

The monopoly on force, in figures



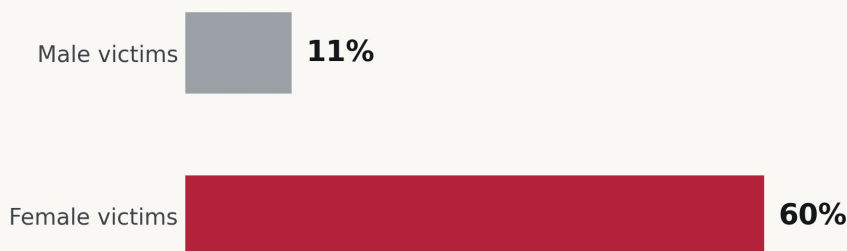
UNODC global homicide data. The 90% is suspects brought into formal contact with police for homicide, not convictions. An earlier global study put male perpetrators at 95%.

50,000

Women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members in 2024. That is 1 every 10 minutes, all year. Of the 83,000 women and girls intentionally killed that year, 60% were killed by a partner or a relative.

The figure nobody puts on a poster is the second bar up there. Men were 81% of all homicide victims. We are the overwhelming majority of the people doing the killing and the overwhelming majority of the people being killed, which means the violence is not aimed at women specifically. It is aimed at everyone, and it lands hardest on the men at the bottom of the pyramid.

Who kills whom



Share of homicide victims killed by someone close to them. Women are 19% of homicide victims overall, 54% of all killings inside the home and 66% of all intimate partner killings.

Out in the open it is mostly men killing men over position, and inside the home it is mostly men killing women over control. The same monopoly on force is doing 2 different jobs, and that split tells you what the machine is actually for.

Sexual violence runs the same way

Roughly 840 million women, close to 1 in 3, have experienced partner or sexual violence in their lifetime. That figure has barely moved since 2000, declining at about 0.2% a year. In the last 12 months alone, 316 million women were subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, and 263 million women have been subjected to sexual violence by someone who was not a partner. It starts early, reaching 16% of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19.

1 in 4

American women (26.8%) have experienced completed or attempted rape, alongside 1 in 26 men (3.8%). Nearly half of women (47.6%) and almost a quarter of men (23.3%) have experienced other unwanted sexual contact. CDC found that perpetrators of rape and unwanted sexual contact against male victims were mostly other men.

The US arrest data is the same shape. Males were 78.9% of violent crime arrests and 88.0% of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter arrests in 2019. 99% of forcible rape arrestees were male. A decade of Australian data puts sexual assault offenders at 97% male.

The question this settles

There is a version of this argument where somebody says women would do the same thing given the chance, and they might be right. Nobody can prove a counterfactual, and I am not going to pretend these numbers do that work.

What they do settle is which sex is currently running the violence, in every country that keeps records, by margins that hold whatever continent or decade or economic system you pick. I am describing who holds the enforcement end of the arrangement, which is the only part of this that has to be true for the rest of the report to work.

And the same data answers a question men keep asking in comment sections, which is who exactly is being irrational and emotionally abusive. The 88% is not a personality trait. It is what happens when a group is raised to treat force as a legitimate way to close an argument.

04

Laborers, Not Leaders

Men are stronger, so men should be on top. The argument survives because nobody follows it 1 step further and asks where strength actually gets a man in this arrangement.

Where strength actually gets you

Follow the logic honestly. If physical capacity is what earns authority, then the men doing the physical work should be running things, and they are nowhere near running anything. They are on the roofs and the rigs and the loading docks, and the people they work for have never lifted anything heavier than a phone.



Women accounted for 8.1% of all US worker fatalities in 2024, which leaves 91.9% for men. 5,070 workers died on the job that year, 1 every 104 minutes.

81%

of homicide victims are male, from section 3. The same monopoly on force that holds the arrangement in place is the leading way men are removed from it.

11%

of murdered men were killed by someone close to them. For the other 89%, it was a man they were competing with, or a stranger, or nobody they will ever be able to name.

Put those together and the deal comes into focus. Strength gets a man the dangerous work and a place in the ranking. It does not get him the top of the pyramid, because the top of the pyramid was never awarded for lifting.

The men who benefit most from the arrangement are not the strongest men. They are the men who own the arrangement, and they have spent a very long time telling the men on the roofs that they share an interest.

Why men cannot afford it

This is the part I get the most argument about, and it is the part that took me longest to accept myself. The arrangement is expensive for the men inside it, and the bill arrives in a form that never gets filed under patriarchy.

The ranking never stops

A pyramid has a bottom, and the bottom has to be enforced downward continuously or it stops being a pyramid. Every man on it is either climbing or defending a position against other men, permanently. That is the same system that produces the emasculation vocabulary in Field Study No. 1, where a man gets ranked by other men using womanhood as the demotion, which is where words like beta and cuck come from.

Force is the only tool it issues you

If the arrangement runs on the capacity to compel, then that capacity is what a man is trained to reach for, and he will reach for it in situations where it destroys his life. The arrest data in section 3 is what that training produces at scale.

The crown was never real

Most men do not run anything. They work, they get ranked, they get used, and in exchange they are handed authority over 1 household and told that makes them a king. It is the cheapest thing the arrangement could have possibly given them, and it has kept the invoice unopened for centuries.

None of this makes men the primary victims of patriarchy, and I am not making that argument. Women are the ones it was built to control, and section 3 is the receipt. What I am saying is narrower. The men defending it are defending something that has been billing them their entire lives, and almost none of them have looked at the statement.

05

What Changed

Women got bank accounts, credit and legal protection inside a single lifetime. Everything men are currently furious about in dating and marriage dates from that, and the timeline is short enough to check.

The dates are closer than people think

Until the Equal Credit Opportunity Act passed in 1974, an American woman could be refused a credit card in her own name or required to bring a husband to sign for it. There are women collecting Social Security right now who spent their adult years unable to borrow money in their own name.

Marital rape was not a crime in all 50 states until 1993, with the repeals running from 1976 to 1993. For most of the history of American marriage, consent inside it was not a legal category at all.

1974 → 1993

The window in which American women got independent credit and the legal right to refuse their own husbands. Every complaint about modern dating comes from after that window, which is worth checking before anybody blames the apps.

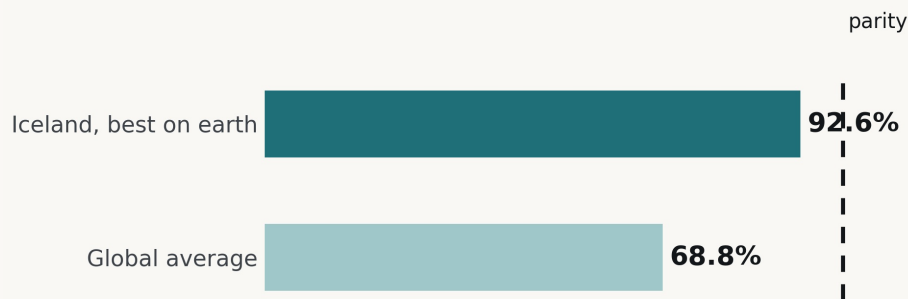
Dating is harder, and here is the actual reason

Men are right that dating got harder and that women expect more. The explanation is not entitlement and it is not social media. It is that a woman who can feed herself is under no obligation to accept whoever turns up, and a standard that used to be enforced by economics now has to be met on the merits.

When your options are a man or hunger, you do not have preferences, you have a survival calculation. Remove the calculation and what is left is an actual choice, which is a harder audience by definition. Men are not competing against other men for scarce women anymore. They are competing against a woman's own paycheck, and the paycheck does not shout at her.

Every complaint in the manosphere about modern women comes back to that one change. None of them will phrase it that way, because phrasing it that way makes the actual demand audible.

There is no country where this is finished



World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2025, covering 148 economies. Iceland has led for 16 consecutive years and is the only economy above 90%.

The 2025 index puts the global gender gap at 68.8% closed, and reports that no economy has achieved full parity. At the current rate of progress it estimates 123 years to get there. Women are 41.2% of the global workforce and hold 28.8% of senior leadership roles, while out-enrolling men in tertiary education by around 30 percentage points.

So the answer to whether women have gone too far is available in a published index. The best country on earth is at 92.6%, the average is 68.8%, and the finish line is 4 generations out at the current pace.

The birth rate is correcting

Birth rates falling across the developed world gets treated as a mystery, or as evidence that women have lost the plot. The mechanism is sitting in the paragraphs above.

For most of recorded history, reproduction ran on dependency. A woman could not earn her own money, hold her own account or vote, so the man who fed her had access to her, and refusal was not a legal option inside a marriage until the 1990s. Whatever else that arrangement was, consent was not the thing generating the birth rate.

Remove the dependency and the number moves. We are getting our first real measurement of how many children people have when the person carrying them can say no and still eat, and it came in lower than the old number. That tells you something about the old number.

06

Who's Been Paying

The close, and the only thing this report actually asks of anyone reading it.

What this report is asking

I am not asking any man to give something up, because there was never much to give up. The job that came with it is the most dangerous work in the country, and 91.9% of the people it kills on the clock are men. The machine that handed it over has been billing you your entire life and calling the invoice honor.

What I am asking is that you notice who has been paying, in both directions.

Women pay in control

60% of murdered women are killed by someone close to them, 1 in 3 experience partner or sexual violence, and the number has barely moved in 25 years.

Men pay in bodies

81% of homicide victims and 91.9% of workplace deaths, spent defending positions on a pyramid that almost none of them own.

The alternative was never women ruling men. That version has never existed in any culture at any point we have evidence for, which is the finding from section 2 and the most useful fact in this report. What sits on the other side of patriarchy is not another pyramid with different people on top of it.

And that is why the arrangement fights so hard against a word it never understood. A mirror image would be a competitor, and competitors can be beaten. A circle gives him nothing to beat, because it is just what remains once nobody has to be on top, and the only way through a fight like that is to stop having it.

Field Study No. 1, **The Decoder**, covers what happens when you say any of this in a comment section. 20 moves, what each one means, and the line that ends it.

Figures worth citing

- Men were **90%** of homicide suspects brought into formal contact with police, and **81%** of all homicide victims. An earlier global study put male perpetrators at 95%.
- **50,000** women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members in 2024, 1 every 10 minutes. Of 83,000 women and girls intentionally killed, 60% were killed by a partner or relative.
- **11%** of murdered men were killed by someone close to them, against **60%** of murdered women. Women are 19% of homicide victims overall, 54% of killings in the home, 66% of intimate partner killings.
- **840 million** women, close to 1 in 3, have experienced partner or sexual violence, a figure moving at about 0.2% a year since 2000. 316 million in the last 12 months alone.
- In the US, **26.8%** of women and 3.8% of men have experienced completed or attempted rape. Males were **88.0%** of murder arrests and 78.9% of violent crime arrests in 2019.
- Women were **8.1%** of US worker fatalities in 2024, leaving 91.9% for men, out of 5,070 deaths, 1 every 104 minutes.
- The global gender gap stands at **68.8%** closed across 148 economies, with **no economy** at full parity and 123 years to go at the current rate. Iceland leads at 92.6%.
- The Equal Credit Opportunity Act passed in **1974**. Marital rape was not criminal in all 50 states until **1993**.

Sources

UNODC, Global Study on Homicide, and UNODC global homicide data 2021 and 2024.

UN Women and UNODC, femicide estimates 2024.

WHO, global estimates on violence against women.

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Ethnographic literature on the Minangkabau, Mosuo, Khasi and Haudenosaunee.

More of this at **The Men Problem**. Nothing in here is invented, and the places where the evidence is contested say so on the page.