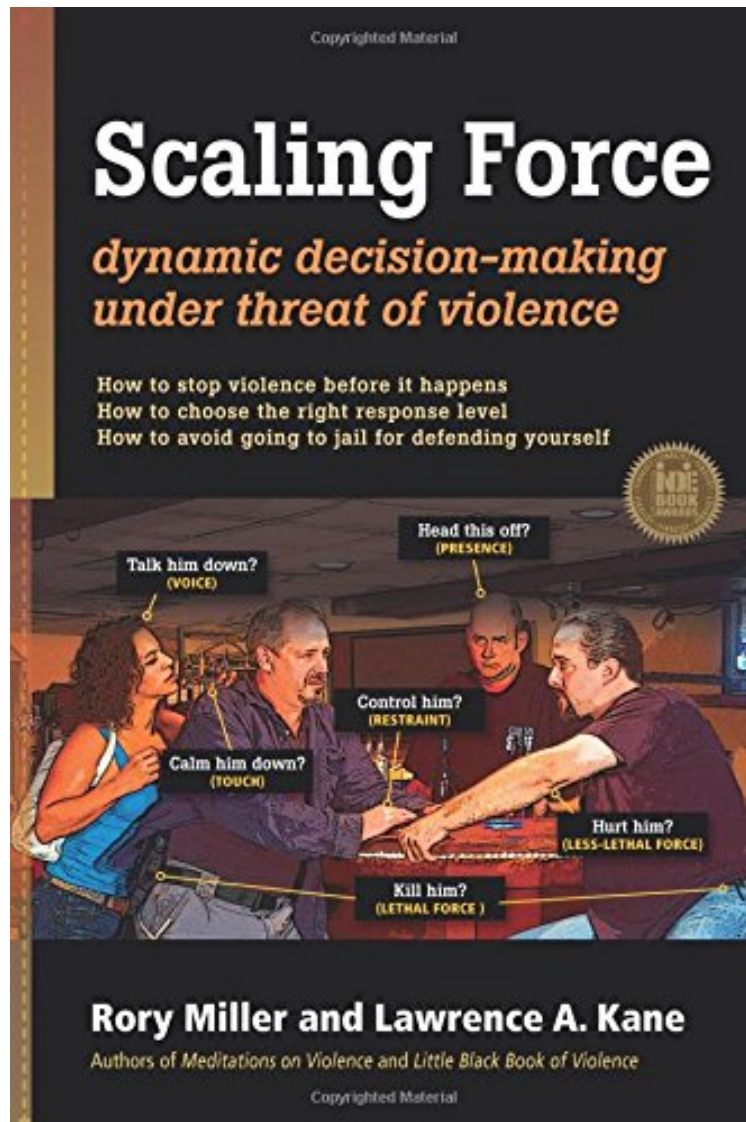


Scaling Force: Dynamic Decision Making Under Threat of Violence

Rory Miller, Lawrence A. Kane

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Rory Miller, Lawrence A. Kane : Scaling Force: Dynamic Decision Making Under Threat of Violence before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scaling Force: Dynamic Decision Making Under Threat of Violence:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Great Primer on Pre-Assaultive Behaviors and How to Avoid Violent Confrontations By D. G. Bolgiano First of all, I may have given the book a 5-star rating but for some editing errors that became distracting to this reader. There should be the ability to give a 4.5 star rating, as this book would have landed there. With that said, I highly recommend the book for both novices (E.g., folks who just obtained their

CCW or those just wanting to be a safer citizen) and professionals (police officers and even military members operating in an uncertain battle space). The authors neatly set out the different types of violence - social and predatory - and explain how to better identify them, avoid them and, if necessary, deal with them. Having taught and operated in these realms, I appreciate their ability to communicate these concepts to the "good guys" out here a definite read for those who have to professionally deal with the violent side of our culture. I also appreciate the lack of false bravado that many authors bring to the discussion.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Framework for Evaluating or Planning Self-Defense Training By J. Steinmann It took me a while to get *Scaling Force*. I'm not entirely sure why, except that Rory has a lot of stuff out there, and I can only read so fast. But I recently got my hands on the *Scaling Force* DVD (review coming soon), and I figured I should read the book for a full comparison. I'm really glad I did...this is another gem from Rory. In talking about self-defense with martial artists, I've noticed that there are often two big gaps in their training. One is the psychological aspects of self-defense (what we call Fight One in the PDR/SPEAR System). The other, and honestly, probably the most often ignored, is the legal aspects of self-defense (what we call Fight Three in the PDR/SPEAR system). *Scaling Force* presents a system and method for martial artists to address fight three in a pretty comprehensive fashion.

The Thing Itself I read this book on Kindle, so I can't comment on what the hard copy version is like. The kindle format generally works well. My only complaint (and it is a minor one) is that the kindle version seems to think that every single section is a new chapter, which meant that the little ticker at the bottom constantly said "one minute left in chapter" or "chapter complete". Like I said, minor complaint. What's Inside *Scaling Force* begins with an overview of some fundamental self-defense principles. Rory's breakdown of social and asocial/predatory violence appears here, as does some information on situational awareness, the IMOP principle and other legal niceties, and an explanation of what the *Scaling Force*...scale (it's not a continuum, the authors tell us) is. The scale offers six stages of potential responses to a confrontation: Presence, Voice, Touch, Empty Hand Restraint/Physical Control, Less Lethal Force, and Lethal Force. (I should expand on that, actually. The point the authors are making here is that the scale isn't something you move up through during a confrontation--you just enter at the level that's appropriate. You don't start with level one if level six is what you need.) This is all very solid information, though long-time readers of Rory's work will find some of it (particularly the social/predatory violence information) familiar, and possibly repetitive. Personally, I find a good review of good information always helpful. For anyone who is reading Miller for the first time, this stuff is invaluable. The remainder of the book is six chapters, each devoted to a stage on the force scale. Each chapter provides a breakdown of the force level: how it works, what the key concepts are, and some ideas for drills and training at each level. The information here is all very detailed, but it's presented in a way that's easily accessible for a general audience. None of it is particularly style or system specific, and most of it could be integrated into just about any training system without a great deal of strain.

What's Good The whole thing. The legal aspects of self-defense have got to be one of the most overlooked areas of self-defense training. Possibly even more so than the psychological aspects (which at least get some lip service). *Scaling Force* offers a solution for that. More importantly, because the information is presented in a non-style specific way, it's information that can be integrated into any training method that's concerned with self-defense. Just reading the book will probably illuminate some holes in your training. Actually putting this stuff into practice will fill those holes nicely, and expand all of your skills as a martial artist (or as a human being). It is worth noting that while each chapter contains some drills and concepts for working on that particular level of force, getting into any level in greater detail requires going beyond the scope of the book. Chapter Four, for example, contains a nice discussion on the mechanics and tactics of joint locking, but getting really good at joint locks is going to require some time on the mat, and probably some hands on training with someone who is good at that sort of thing. That's not a complaint--going in depth on every section of this book would make the book so enormous as to be unwieldy.

Who Is This For? Self-defense instructors, martial arts instructors who think they are teaching self-defense, or people who practice self-defense but don't teach it. Basically, if you are interested in self-defense in any way, this book is a must read. If you are a martial artist who ISN'T interested in self-defense, this book might still be worth reading, just to understand where the gaps in your training are. You might not care about filling them, but it's better to know they're there ahead of time than to ignore them and find out later.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential (but scary) information for anyone who plans to defend him/herself By DOGSBODY Really good and comprehensive coverage of an often overlooked part of martial arts and self-defense training: matching the scale of your response to the attacker's approach. Yes, there is a Castle Doctrine and sometimes Stand Your Ground, but if you unleash a flat hand to the nose just because you didn't like the look of someone, the police will view you as the bad guy, even if the assailant turned victim has a criminal record dating back to the womb. It also emphasizes that even if the criminal system does not come after you (or disgorges you), you still face what can be time-consuming, expensive and incredibly stressful civil proceedings. All you have to do is look at the news these days to see what the attitude is towards cops doing their duty; now just imagine that it's you and you don't have your police union, a badge and uniform, and a band of brothers looking out for you. Caveat Defensator!

Summary: Conflict and violence cover a broad range of behaviors, from intimidation to murder, and require an equally

broad range of responses. A kind word will not resolve all situations, nor will wristlocks, punches, or even a gun. Scaling Force introduces the full range of options, from skillfully doing nothing to employing deadly force. You will understand the limits of each type of force, when specific levels may be appropriate, the circumstances under which you may have to apply them, and the potential costs, legally and personally, of your decision. Full version: Conflict and violence cover a broad range of behaviors, from intimidation to murder, and requires an equally broad range of response. A kind word will not resolve all situations, nor will wristlocks, punches or even a gun. If you have mastered punching and kicking, what skills do you have to safely stop two friends from fighting? If you are incredibly skilled at locks and takedowns, is it even possible to apply a submission as a way to escape a lethal threat? If you are an expert marksman, what skills do you have to deal with a teenager who wants to cut her own wrists? Some people study martial arts for self-defense, yet almost any style you can name focuses on a narrow range of responses, typically empty-hand restraint or less lethal force. High-end skills only come into play in true self-defense situations. Unless you're the bad guy, that usually means you're losing. And everything you know about timing, distance and power generation may not work. To go through life with a narrow range of skills, hoping any emergency will just, by luck, happen to require the skills you have... that's not a strategy. That is whistling in the dark. It's stupidity. In Scaling Force Kane and Miller introduce you to the full range of options, from skillfully doing nothing to applying deadly force. They realistically guide you through understanding the limits of each type of force, when specific levels may be appropriate, the circumstances under which you may have to apply them, and the potential cost, legally and personally, of your decision. It's vital to have a holistic skillset for dealing with every level of violence. You must not only know how to enter this scale at the right level, but also be able to articulate why the amount of force you used was appropriate. Use too much and you're looking at prison time; use too little you are in for a world of hurt. If you do not know how to succeed at all six levels covered in this book there are situations in which you will have no appropriate options. More often than not, that will end badly.

From the Author Praise for Scaling Force: "If you are serious about learning self-protection, and not indulging some testosterone fuelled, celluloid inspired fantasy, then you need a much wider skill set than most appreciate." -- Iain Abernethy, 6th Dan; British Combat Association Hall of Fame Member "Both Kane and Miller have hundreds of hands-on violent encounters under their belts. They understand the importance of knowing the legal restrictions of force, how to judge the danger, how to choose the right response level, how to articulate those choices and how to navigate the trap-filled aftermath of violence." -- Marc MacYoung (nonnonsenseselfdefense.com) "This book is one of the best I've read about the challenges you'll face. Kane and Miller have been there, done that and have the t-shirt. And they're giving you their lessons learned without requiring you to pay the fee in blood they had to in order to learn them. And that is priceless." -- M. Guthrie, Federal Air Marshal "This is an incredible book that I will insist all my martial arts and firearms students read. It will undoubtedly save lives and hopefully much anguish." -- Ron Breines, Kyoshi, certified firearms/self defense tactical instructor "If you're serious about learning how the application of physical force works -- before, during and after the fact--I cannot recommend this book highly enough." -- Lieutenant Jon Lupo, New York State Police "When do you walk away from an insult, try to talk down the angry drunk, take a baseball bat to an intruder, shoot an armed robber? With exercises and anecdotes, Scaling Force explores the motivations, the decision spectrum and the consequences, because there are always consequences." -- Julie Van Dielen, Law Enforcement Training Resources (letrainingresources.com) "Let Kane and Miller, two veterans of countless down-and-dirty confrontations, give you the edge to survive a dangerous situation." -- Loren W. Christensen, 8th dan black belt, author (lwcbooks.com) "Kane and Miller have written a book that provides much more than a cursory look at some very important elements regarding violence. Scaling Force not only provides tools on how to deal with violence, but also when and to what level you should deal with violence." -- Alain Burrese, J.D., attorney, author, former U.S. Army sniper instructor (aikiproductions.com) "While instruction on the mechanics and techniques of self defense and deadly force is readily available from multiple sources, this book gives you so much more. Take advantage of the information compiled from hundreds of case studies to better prepare yourself if the day comes when you have to make that 'life changing' decision." -- Tracy Getty, Certified Firearms Instructor

From the Back Cover Use too much force and you are going to jail. Use too little force and you're in for a world of hurt. Conflict and violence cover a broad range of behaviors, from intimidation to murder, and they require an equally broad range of responses. A kind word will not resolve all situations, nor will wristlocks, punches, or even a gun. In Scaling Force, the authors introduce you to the full range of options, from skillfully doing nothing to applying deadly force. They realistically guide you through understanding the limits of each type of force, when specific levels may be appropriate, the circumstances under which you may have to apply them, and the potential cost, legally and personally, of your decision.

Level 1: Presence. Staving off violence using body language alone. Level 2: Voice. Verbally de-escalating conflict before physical methods become necessary. Level 3: Touch. Defusing an impending threat or gaining compliance via touch. Level 4: Empty-Hand Restraint. Controlling a threat through pain or forcing compliance through leverage. Level 5: Less-Lethal Force. Incapacitating a threat while minimizing the likelihood of fatality or permanent injury. Level 6: Lethal Force. Stopping a threat with techniques or implements likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. It is vital to enter this scale at the

right level, and to articulate why what you did was appropriate. If you do not know how to succeed at all six levels there are situations in which you will have no appropriate options. More often than not, that will end badly.

About the Author
Rory Miller is a martial artist, author, veteran corrections officer, and Tactical Team leader. He has designed Use of Force Policy and Decision Making, and Police Defensive Tactics classes, and recently taught the Iraqi government how to run a modern prison system. Rory resides near Portland Oregon.
Lawrence Kane is a martial artist, author, security professional, and senior manager at an aerospace company. He has studied martial arts since 1970, publishing 17 books and numerous articles on martial arts and self defense. Lawrence resides in Seattle Washington.