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A promotional banner for the Nikon D3100 camera. On the left is a black and white image of the camera. To the right of the image, the text reads "The New Nikon D3100 with Guide Mod" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this text is a small, dark rectangular button with the text "SEE IT IN ACTION" in white, followed by a right-pointing arrow.

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February 10, 2011

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The 10 Most Violent Video Games of All Time

What do Bulletstorm, Grand Theft Auto III, Mortal Kombat, and Splatterhouse have in common? They've let gamers spill much, much blood.



By Jeffrey L.
Wilson

93

59

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Video games, much like comic books, rock and roll, and horror flicks, have been blamed for sullyng children, inspiring violence, and contributing to the nation's moral decay. It's worth noting that, hysterical pundits aside, the latest studies suggest that violent video games aren't harmful to *most* kids. That's not to say that anything should go; even the most blasé gamers would probably agree that parents should monitor their kids' gaming habits. Still, the violent video game debate has reached the heights of the Supreme Court where nine justices will decide in June 2011 if selling violent video games to minors should be deemed

illegal.

Over the years, there have been, admittedly, several titles in the hobby's relatively brief history that have pushed the boundaries of decency in some critics' eyes. Epic Games' upcoming Bulletstorm—a first person shooter that rewards players for insane gunplay—is the latest video game to come under fire for violent content, but it certainly isn't the first. Check out the slideshow below for a countdown to the #1 most violent video game of all time. Bulletstorm, which has yet to be released, doesn't qualify—yet. If you disagree with my selections, feel free to post your own list (and your reasons) in the comments. And be sure to let us know where you stand on the upcoming Supreme Court decision, too.

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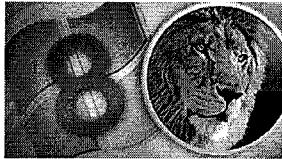
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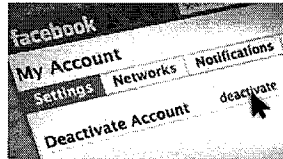
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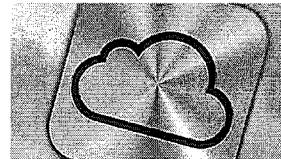
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Slygathor 4 months ago

Postal 2 was pretty gory too.

Like

Reply



Jeffrey Jones 4 months ago

How the heck was Soldier of Fortune left off this list? That game set the standard for gore.

Lance DiBitetto and 3 more liked this

Like

Reply



djwheels 4 months ago

My name is Denis and I read your article and I agree with only one of your games on the list that game being the Mortal Kombat series. My list includes the Doom series Scarface the world is yours the hitman series the Mortal Kombat series. The Wolfenstein series Duke Nukem series and the rise the triad. Even though these games are promote bloodlust they are also in some cases classics that stand the test of time and in some cases started a whole company because of one title in the case of doom does ID software's first major title and that was the first major game to be advertised on TV. The game industry would not be where it is today it was not for some of these titles. I agree that a seven-year-old should not play something like Mortal Kombat. But I think everybody should play these games at least once in their lives tounderstand where the game industry is today.

Like

Reply



Lance DiBitetto 4 months ago

I think that you are missing one game that was pretty gory, ant that would have been the Soldier of Fortune games/s I think that was the first game to have the ability to blow someones head or limbs off with various weapons. also it looked like it used some sort of rag doll physics because you can continue shooting the corpse and the body would move with ever shot losing limbs until it was just a bloody torso. when I first played that game the ability to do that blew me away.

3 people liked this.

Like

Reply



briguyy 4 months ago in reply to Lance DiBitetto

I have to agree with Lance. The Soldier of Fortune and Soldier of Fortune 2 did give you the ability to blow arms, heads legs off and with blood spattering out after. I still to this day own a copy of Soldier of Fortune 2 and it runs on Windows 7 just fine and when im ever in the need i go and " blow some heads off! "

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Ryan 4 months ago

I think God of War 3 should have been in there somewhere. It has some of the most brutal scenes I have experienced in gaming. Beating the blood out of someone while from their view point is just insane. Tearing enemies in half, ripping the eyes out of cyclops.. one of the very few that I will not let my kid watch me play.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



theaveng 4 months ago

the Supreme Court decision is obvious - enforce the law as written. "Congress shall not prohibit free speech... free press..."

If it's felt that needs to be changed, then let the Member States amend the Union government's constitution to ban violent speech. It is not the job of the Court to do anything else but enforce the law.

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Mike 4 months ago

I can't believe Rise of the Triads didn't make this list!

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Rick Kephart 4 months ago

Doesn't anybody remember the Commodore-64's most violent game ever: Commando Libya?

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



SoaringLeaf 4 months ago

How about the Carmageddon series and Rise of the Triad?

THAC0 liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

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