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

Video games, much like comic books, rock and roll, and horror flicks, have been blamed for sullying 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.

We Recommend

iPhone Users Are About to Be Screwed Over
Five Reasons Not to Buy an iPad 2
Laptop Computers & Notebook Reviews
RIM's PlayBook: The Hits Just Keep on Coming

From Around The Web

7 Rules of Men's Bathroom Etiquette Man of the House
Best Video Games 2010: Most Fun Man of the House
Sony Hints At Compensation for PlayStation Network Hack CIO

http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2379959,00.asp
Inside PCMag

Mac OS vs Windows
Erase Your Online Profile
What's the iCloud?
iOS 5: Get the Details

Ads by Google
Microsoft® Windows Azure
Focus on the Applications. Not the Infrastructure. Watch Tutorials
Microsoft.com/Cloud/WindowsAzure

Download Google Chrome
A free browser that lets you do more of what you like on the web
www.google.com/chrome

Addictive Shooter Game
Hybrid Weapons & Intense Battles. Get Info On Red Faction Armageddon!
www.RedFaction.com/Armageddon

BioShock Infinite
The Latest Videos For The Award Winning Game BioShock Infinite!
E3.GameSpot.com/BioShockInfinite

Be a Video Game Tester
Want to be a video game tester? You can. Start here.
www.VideoGames.DegreeLeap.com

Comments
Like

http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2379959,00.asp
Add New Comment

Type your comment here.

Showing 10 of 19 comments

Sort by Oldest first  Subscribe by email  Subscribe by RSS

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 to understand 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, and 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 every 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! "

http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2379959,00.asp
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.

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.

Mike 4 months ago

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

Rick Kephart 4 months ago

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

SoaringLeaf 4 months ago

How about the Carmageddon series and Rise of the Triad?
Protect your PC/Mac with IDrive Online Backup, 5GB FREE, 150GB only $4.95/month
Be more efficient, check out the official "100 Essential Tips for Microsoft Office 2010"
For ultimate fun get the Acer Iconia Tab A500 available now!
Xerox® ColorQube® solid ink printers. Starting at $599. Learn more.
We'll help you find the perfect tablet, at a great price. Verizon.
Lenovo Notebooks, the tools for portability and productivity.
Brother® printers rated #1 in reliability by PCMag.com readers.
Save now with the best deals from CDW. Click here to save on desktops, notebooks, LCDs and more.
HP Notebooks, offering the performance and reliability needed for business.
ESET Smart Security is your best defense against viruses, hackers and spam.
HP Printers, affordable solutions that offer quality printing.
Switch to a Kodak Printer available at Wal-Mart
Download BitDefenders award winning PC protection and Get a 2nd year free.
Visioneer Mobility. Experience the freedom of true mobility. Scan without a computer, cables or software.
HP desktops provide the performance your business requires.
SOS Online Backup - PC Magazine's Editors' Choice – SAVE 20% Now!
Now available! Get the PCMag.com Editor Choice Lenovo ThinkPad X220 now!
Buy one ink, get one 40% off PLUS free, next-day delivery from HP