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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Figures and Tables -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Abbreviations -- 1 Contextual and Theoretical Framework -- 2 Research Design and Methods -- 3 The Social and Political History of Guyana -- 4 The Evolution of Policing in Colonial Guyana -- 5 The Socio-Political Environment and the Rule of Law -- 6 Contemporary Police Violence in Guyana -- 7 Discussion and Conclusions: The Contextual Approach -- Appendix A Geographical Map of Guyana -- Appendix B Twenty- four Cases of Police-caused Homicide in Guyana, 1980 to 1994 -- Selected Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In post-colonial countries such as Guyana, the legacy of colonialism and its influence on policing and society is of crucial significance in developing an explanation for police violence and police-caused homicide. Mars applies a contextual approach, grounded in the conflict theoretical perspective, to explain and understand variations in police violence over time, and she extends her study to include the social, political, and legal structure in which such actions are embedded. Her

findings support the notion that police violence is a function of decades of coercive state rule under British colonialism, as well as the state's legitimization of violence in police work. In this first study on police violence and homicide in Guyana, Mars presents and analyzes data covering a 14-year period. She also provides comparative and descriptive information on the use of excessive and deadly force by the police, and, in addition, discusses laws relating to such incidents. Mars finds little support for the community violence hypothesis in reference to Guyana and concludes instead that the level of violence in the community and the everyday dangers of police work does not significantly influence the rates of police-caused homicide in that country.
