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# Drive-by Shootings

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American success, but attempted to emulate the feats and moves of the players on the Dream Team.

### Further Reading

Daly, Chuck, and Alex Sachare. *America's Dream Team: The Quest for Olympic Gold*. Atlanta: Turner, 1992.

Stauth, Cameron. *Golden Boys: The Unauthorized Look at the U.S. Olympic Basketball Team*. New York: Pocket Books, 1992.

Thomas L. Erskine

**See also** Basketball; Barkley, Charles; Johnson, Magic; Jordan, Michael; Malone, Karl; Olympic Games of 1992; Sports.

## ■ Drive-by shootings

**Definition** Spontaneous hit-and-run attacks from a moving vehicle, often aimed at rival gang members

*Although often associated with Southern California and youth gang behavior, the drive-by shooting became commonplace during the 1990's across America.*

While usually associated with adolescent crime, in the broadest sense the drive-by has a long history that goes back to horses and muskets. It was from such a tactic that the Dutch prince William the Silent became the first national leader to be assassinated during the sixteenth century. With the advent of the automobile, the first documentation of a drive-by as defined today took place in 1919 during the Chicago race riots. Later in Chicago, during Prohibition, Thompson or "Tommy" machine guns were employed in drive-bys during mob turf wars. After World War II, gangs began to use the drive-by, although it was referred to during the late 1940's as "japping," named for the Japanese behind-the-line tactics practiced in the Pacific theater. Japping was basically a foray, a confrontation quite different than a rumble—where gangs met at an appointed time and place and fought it out.

It was on the West Coast beginning in the 1980's, however, that the drive-by became a commonplace tactic used by gangs. Unlike Eastern cities, where population density is high, adjacent territories close, and safe areas easily accessible, West Coast cities featured neighborhoods that were farther apart, nu-

merous connecting roadways, and easy freeway accessibility.

The drive-by is usually characterized by the use of relatively massive firepower aimed at a stationary target with little concern for accuracy. From careful case studies of these incidents, it appears that there are several common factors. First, participants had previous criminal records and were members of gangs. Second, these acts were spontaneous rather than planned, and typically a response to an affront from a rival gang, although drugs were also often at the root of the conflict. Gang members, with a warrior mentality and eager for excitement, sought added prestige within their subculture.

Hip-hop music became intimately connected with drive-by shootings when two of its most popular artists, Tupac Shakur and his rival Notorious B.I.G., were killed in drive-bys in 1996 and 1997, respectively. These two visible figures brought to the spotlight a crime that is a reflection of the deterioration of order and the problems of widespread gun violence.

**Impact** Ironically perhaps, while the drive-by remained a problem in American cities into the twenty-first century, it became a preferred tactic used by the insurgency in the Iraq War. The drive-by is difficult to defend against, as it expands the number of potential targets, often innocent bystanders, in Baghdad and elsewhere.

### Further Reading

Davis, Roger H. "Cruising for Trouble: Gang-Related Drive-By Shootings." *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* 64, no. 1 (January, 1995): 16-23.

Sanders, William B. *Gangbans and Drive-bys: Grounded Culture and Juvenile Gang Violence*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1994.

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**See also** Carjacking; Crime; Gun control; Hip-hop and rap music; Shakur, Tupac.

## ■ Drudge, Matt

**Identification** American Internet journalist and radio talk-show host

**Born** October 27, 1966; Takoma Park, Maryland

*By using his Drudge Report Web site to break the news of President Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky at a*