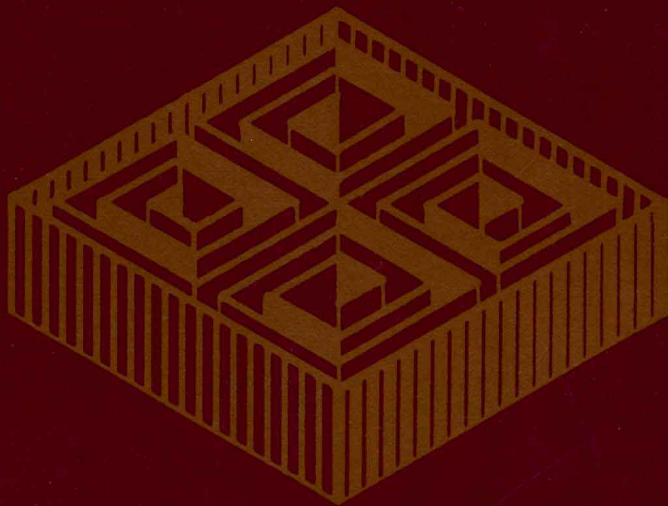


CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE



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To Our Families

Crime in America is ubiquitous. The public is frightened, fascinated, and consumed with the topic. No single subject in history has received so much attention, attracting people from all walks of life. Crime has become entrenched in our cognitive, normative, and material culture.

Yet crime is still a mystery—a mystery deepened rather than clarified by the deluge of crime-related information and expert opinion. Many individuals are overwhelmed by the tremendous maze of contradictions, misinformation, and useless data about crime.

Crime has been thematically used, abused, and symbolically manipulated. It has been commodified and exploited for capital gains. It has been politicized, becoming one of the major indicators of quality of life. It has served as a justification for invasion of our civil rights and privacy and even for the deployment of military forces. Crime and our responses to crime suggest not only the height civilization has reached, but also the depth to which humankind has plunged.

Over its 200 years or so of development, the field of criminology itself has become enormous and diversified. The express goal of our book, *Criminology and Justice*, is to offer a comprehensive description of the field of criminology and to probe the cultural meaning and significance of the American absorption or obsession with crime. This goal requires looking at crime in its totality, including the controversies and contradictions of the field reflected both culturally and professionally.

This book is designed to help students master the skills necessary for critically consuming and producing criminological knowledge. It does not underestimate their ability to understand complexities of issues, to grapple with difficulties of definition, or to accept healthy criticisms of the field. *Criminology and Justice*, in its entirety, provides a compendium of historical developments and facts as well as a review of state-of-the-art research evidence and theories comprising the field of criminology. It should serve as a valuable resource guide, permitting students to pursue the development of their own knowledge base. For example, the Appendix contains listings of the major depositories and libraries, indexes, resources of information, and organizations and associations on national and international levels dealing with crime.

The book combines academic or theoretical knowledge with practical or applied implications. It looks not only at theories but at policies. It brings together the main subject areas of criminology and criminal justice. Formal knowledge of crime and criminal justice is compared with common, everyday images of crime phenomena. The book appeals to both serious, academically oriented students of criminology and career-oriented students of criminal justice. It also appeals to students casually ex-

ploring the content area of criminology, who may be testing their interest level in the subject. Regardless of motivation, students should have their curiosity peaked, their questions addressed, and their understanding of crime and criminal justice enhanced.

Criminology and Justice has been constructed to provide an integrative and comprehensive overview of the field and subject matter. First, the book is not solely about young adult males who comprise the bulk of statistics. It is about males and females, the young and the old, the poor and the wealthy, the powerless and the powerful. Where special treatment is warranted, feature sections are included; generally, however, the book attempts to capture the multifaceted, multidimensional, and multicultural perspectives of crime and criminal justice.

Since crime and the control of crime have moral, philosophical, scientific, legal, and cultural implications, these various dimensions are carefully considered and interrelated. The observation that the study of crime is multidisciplinary, including contributions from biology, psychology, and sociology, is frequently made. A special effort has gone into preserving the integrity and stature of the different strains of contributions to criminology by giving them more than “lip service,” by providing detailed summaries of major works and critiques. Consequences in terms of policies, treatment, cultural expression, and professional significance are explored with reference to each unique brand of contribution.

Moreover, since crime is political, we have not skirted the debate issues. We present conservative, liberal, and radical views. These views are brought out as they appear in the public as well as professional forums. Thus, the current crisis in criminology and corrections is discussed. Some may ask whether students should be exposed to the “dirty linen” of the profession. We believe that students are not turned off by controversy. The fact that professionals have different points of view and that these affect their definitions of problems and solutions do not betray failure. For without controversy and debate, science would remain in the dark ages. Certainly the challenges facing all of us as we enter the twenty-first century defy any easy answers or solutions. To suggest otherwise (i.e., that “the problem of crime is simple and the solution is obvious”) is tantamount to gross misrepresentation. No one has cornered the market on truth and justice. The real challenge is to find ways to reconcile our differences in an effort to find solutions for one of humanity’s deepest concerns—the rising crime rate.

Indeed, the challenges presented by crime are no longer the property of any one nation. Crime is now a global phenomenon. Culminating with a treatment of crime on the international level, *Criminology and Justice* reaches its conclusion. We stand to learn a great deal about ourselves by learning about others. Special feature boxes on global or international issues and world crime trends are interspersed for comparative purposes throughout the book.

Although each of the authors is committed to offering a comprehensive, integrative, eclectic, and balanced presentation of the key issues, letting the most important works speak for themselves, the authors represent different viewpoints, interests, and approaches. Our differences have served us well, however, because we have evolved a checks-and-balance system ensuring that the final product reflects such goals. Despite our differences, we do agree on some important issues that underlie our motivation to produce this book.

Crime in the United States and elsewhere cannot be effectively controlled by criminal justice efforts alone, although they are important. Serious attention must be directed toward larger societal issues, focusing on such things as differential life chances, poverty, gender and racial inequality, and the implications of the changes taking place in the family, school, and workplace. Failure to understand that there is a relationship between poverty and violence, for example, results in an inability to effect change or to find ways of alleviating the problem. In 1992, about 25 percent of children under the age of 6 years were found living in families below the federal poverty line. The official definition of poverty, of course, underestimates the real numbers of poor. Both juvenile and adult crime statistics indicate that many of these high-risk children, often from minority groups, are becoming crime statistics at an earlier and earlier age. As criminologists, we have to be concerned about ways of reducing the vulnerability of our nation's children. While the solutions appear simple in their written forms [e.g., "provide them with a healthy start in life; high quality early care and education; parental support systems; job market opportunities that allow parents to provide for their children emotionally and financially; and decent, affordable housing in stable, safe environments" (*Five Million Children*, 1990)], how to implement such recommendations has obviously eluded us. Moreover, failure to recognize that crime and violence cut across economic or class boundaries results in partial justice and blind attempts to remedy our crime problems. Throughout the book, we have tried to remain sensitive to issues such as these while at the same time being aware of the very real parameters of crime and the need for its control.

Criminology and Justice is divided into six parts:

Part 1 explores how our perceptions of crime are formed and reinforced. The field of criminology and its essential elements are introduced here. A general comparison of our everyday images with official and criminological information is made. Also included is a chapter on criminal law—its historical antecedents, current content, and defenses.

Part 2 examines the measurement, extent, and impact of crime within the United States. The problems associated with accurately counting crimes are discussed and the different sources and techniques employed by criminologists are reviewed. Since information focusing on the offender provides only one side of the problem, a separate chapter is devoted to victims of crime.

Part 3 presents criminological state-of-the-art research and theories. Beginning with a history of criminology we move to a discussion of the main issues debated in criminology today. We then review the main bodies of research and theories. Separate chapters are devoted to biological, psychological, and sociological theories of criminality. Relevant historical and contemporary research in each of these disciplines is presented and critiqued. A chapter on labeling and radical/conflict explanations of crime concludes this section.

Part 4 analyzes the patterns and different types of criminal behavior found in our society. Attention is first directed toward violent criminality, including a special

section on domestic and familial violence. General property crimes of the individual followed by white collar crimes, which include crimes of “respectable” people and organizations (e.g., corporate crime), are discussed in separate chapters. Chapters on political crime, public order crime, and organized crime are also included. Each chapter contains the relevant laws, a brief history, measurement, some of the special explanatory models that apply, and plenty of examples.

Part 5 scrutinizes the different components of the criminal justice system in America. The important and controversial role of law enforcement is examined in detail as well as the forces leading to the development of modern police departments. The contemporary police role and function and the recent legal restrictions placed on search, seizure, and arrest are reviewed. A chapter on the judiciary fully examines the criminal justice process from arrest to conviction and gives insight into the role of the chief players involved in that process. A chapter discussing the types of correctional institutions (their goals and their problems), and the renewed interest in alternative or community corrections as a way to reduce the pressure placed on prisons completes this section.

Part 6 explores the cross-cultural dynamics of criminality in other countries and describes how their criminal justice systems operate. Many industrialized countries (e.g., England, Japan, Russia) are experiencing similar juvenile and adult crime problems. World crime patterns and trends are presented, and a discussion of global cooperation and the exchange of ideas serve to conclude this book.

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