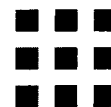


6th
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Victimology

William G. Doerner
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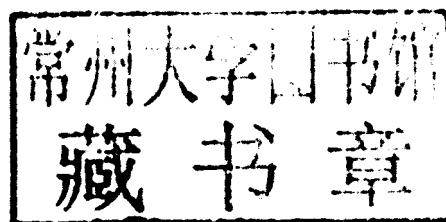
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To Judy.
—WGD

To my future.
—SPL

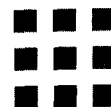


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The Scope of Victimology

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading Chapter 1, you should be able to:

- Explain how early society handled victim problems.
- Understand the meaning of retribution and restitution.
- Discuss the change from a victim justice system to a criminal justice system.
- Outline the early interest in victim typologies.
- Account for the attention paid to victim precipitation.
- Summarize what Wolfgang found out about homicide victims.
- Report on Amir's victim precipitation study.
- Evaluate the reaction to Amir's victim precipitation study.
- Critique the shortcomings that underlie victim precipitation.
- List the areas that fall under "general victimology."
- Provide an overview of the broad topics victimologists study.
- Talk about the victim movement and tell how it increased public interest in crime victims.

INTRODUCTION

Something not very funny happened on the way to a formal system of justice. The victim was left out. As strange as it may sound, the bulk of history has seen crime victims become further removed from being an integral part of dealing with criminals. Fortunately, this trend is beginning to reverse itself. Recent years have seen an increased interest in the plight of crime victims and a movement toward reintegrating the victim into the criminal justice system. This chapter will look at the role of the victim throughout history and will trace the elimination of the victim from the social processing of criminal acts. We will see how victimology emerged and we will investigate the resurgence of interest in the victim.

THE VICTIM THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Most people take the existence of the formal criminal justice system for granted. They do not realize that this method of handling deviant activity has not been the norm throughout history. Indeed, the modern version of criminal justice is a relatively new phenomenon. In days gone by, responsibility for dealing with offenders fell to the victim and the victim's kin. There were no "authorities" to turn to for help in "enforcing the law." Victims were expected to fend for themselves, and society acceded to this arrangement.