

# CRIM316 – Week 9: New Right Criminology

## Terms in this set (12)

Historical context of the New Right Criminology

- 1980s
- Neoliberal reform
- Born out of counter-culture movement, responding to Radical Criminology in the 1970s - reigning everyone back in by swinging to the right
- Increased crime rate

A swing to the right means Neoliberal reforms

- Privatisation Corporisation, removing restrictions on trade, the setting free of risk held by the state/government

A shift from post-war socialist ideals to more individual responsibilities

- Moving away from a welfare state - Government/state supports programmes and funding in equality - anti-poverty programmes and taxes used to fund resources such as hospitals and other public resources.

NZ Context of Neoliberal reforms

- 1984 Labour Government implementation
- Sale of state assets (privitisation)
- New public management
- Safety nets of government removed

### Premise of the New Right

- The welfare state causes crime
- Crime is caused by affluence and not poverty
  - People getting richer
- People should take responsibility for their own actions
  - The state should not help criminals (such as rehabilitation), criminals are responsible for their own
  - Therefore, policy to crime control should be intensified

### Increased crime rates

- Increasing in the 1970/80s due to:
  - Counter-culture movement
  - Public demanded protection from the state
  - Emerged out of anxiety out from the amount of crime reported
  - Increased disorder is relevant from crime statistics
  - New Right proposes that reducing welfare means reducing crime

### New Right Theorists

Ernest Van Den Haag - Punishing Criminals  
- Death penalty is not effective because we don't do enough executions (rational choice theory)

Freda Adler - Sisters in Crime  
- Women were committing more crimes due to economic liberation and public presence  
- Solution was to deliberate Women to reduce crime

James Q Wilson - Thinking about Crime  
- Crime should be analysed through ordinary people who experience and view crime occurring.  
- Crime as what we know

Patricia Morgan - Delinquent Fantasies  
- Criminological theories as absurd and not realistic  
- Views criminological academics as sitting in their ivory towers being ignorant

### Earlier criminological theory leading to welfare state and New Right perspectives

Earlier:  
- Crime was mostly the property of the poor  
- To solve this issue we reduced the disparity in wealth to ensure that there is less poor people  
- We respond with policies in adopting welfare such as increasing taxes, build welfare to reduce inequality, create cohesion and reduce crime

Increase of crime via the age crime curve  
- New right ignored this and attributed that welfare did not reduce crime

Taxation was incredibly high in contributing to welfare, did not reduce crime.

The New Right on the Welfare state

- Perspective of crime has risen in a period of affluence
- There is no such thing as visible poverty like in the great depression, where people were starving in the streets

The welfare state created a dependency culture and a sense of irresponsibility

- No one needs to be held accountable
- The state will save them from responsibility in giving welfare
- This results in the increasing crime rate and the inability for the welfare state to resolve problems

Main themes of the New Right

1. Crime is caused by too much welfare, not too little
2. Simplistic and populist nature, referring to the ideas and interests of 'ordinary people.'
3. Anti-intellectual, judges, academics, and civil servants - criminal justice establishment is seen as elitist and out of touch.

Relevant and non-relevant  
crimes of the New Right

Interested in:

Public street crimes and violent crimes (visible)

- If public spaces aren't safe, anxiety and requests from the state will be demanded as it affects social life

Property crimes

- Property is valued and is seen as a sign of success

Not interested in:

Crimes of the powerful

- White collar crime, state crime, environmental crime and harm
- Crimes committed are most likely to be business people. They are important because they create wealth for society.
- The only reason that they are breaking laws is that the industry is over-regulated.
- If laws are removed and de-regulated, there will be no crime

Private crime (crime behind closed doors)

- Child and domestic abuse
- The state should have no interest in private lives

Crimes without victims

- Drug taking, etc.

New Right interests in ordinary people's views compared to criminologists and experts

- Emphasis on being realistic instead of relying on theory
- Product of crime policy should be created from the views of ordinary people
- Referenda - citizens vote on a decision that is legally non-binding (citizen-initiated)
- 3 strikes laws
- Relying on rational choice - 'People make informed decisions'
- Transfer of policies from another government

Sensible Sentencing Trust

Demanded:

- No paroles
- Life imprisonment means life (the nines)
- Use of the media to identify criminals

Policies made on a case by case

- Process doesn't work at all and becomes detrimental
- Sex offender registry - not helpful

New Right policy legacy

Emphasis on tougher and longer punishments

- Zero tolerance - speeding
- 3 strikes

Provides opportunities to legislate popular/public opinion

- Restrict autonomy and discretion of judges, minimise liberal influences of civil servants and academics
- Less emphasis on rehabilitation of criminals, more on deterrence and incapacitation
- Much greater emphasis given to the victims of crime
- Leads to hyper-incarceration rates

## Critiques on the New Right

Only focuses on the most visible types of crimes, leaves out complex crimes and types of harm

Rejects wider context of crime and victimisation

- Rational choice theory but there is no rational choice
- Perpetrators can be also victims

Contradictory nature of policies

- Small state vs massive law and order
- Doesn't make sense to adopt and import policies from other nations

Perception of crime rate as a real problem

- Doesn't acknowledge changes that can affect crime statistics and reporting
- Disregards policing strategies, criminalisation

Fails to acknowledge the criminogenic nature of the CJS

- Much more likely to go to prison again
- Impacts of secondary deviance (labelling theory)
- label is internalised through the CJS