

# CRIM316 - Week 8: Marxist Perspectives on Criminology (Radical Criminology)

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## Terms in this set (14)

Different names of Marxist Perspectives on Criminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Radical criminology</li><li>= Neo-Marxist criminology</li><li>- Critical criminology</li><li>- 'new criminology'</li></ul>
Social contexts of Radical criminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1970s US</li><li>- Counter culture movement still ongoing</li><li>- Marxism was created in the 19th century but was utilised to explain the structural issues relating to a capitalistic society, in where Capitalism will eventually shift to Democratic Socialism</li></ul>
Defining Marxism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Karl Marx</li><li>- Describes a conflict between the Bourgeoisie and the Proletariats in a capitalistic society</li><li>- In a capitalistic society, economics is controlled through the free market in where private companies are allowed to own resources and trade with minimal restrictions</li><li>- Bourgeoisie as the highest class (1%), owns the means of production (factories) , and holds the majority of the power despite being a minority.</li><li>- Proletariats as the working class, are powerless, and forced to sell their labour to the Bourgeoisie</li></ul> <p>It is inevitable that the Proletariats will revolt against the Bourgeoisie in order to 'seize the means of production'</p>
Marxism as the social theory in explaining power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Power is distributed unequally between the powerful and the powerless (Bourgeoisie and Proletariats)</li><li>- There is no such thing as consensus (collective conscience)</li><li>- There is no consensus because there is inequality</li><li>- Instead of consensus there is conflict (in a capitalistic society)</li><li>- To reduce conflict, the only way is to move from capitalism to Democratic Socialism</li><li>- A lack of power was seen in the 1970s with the continued counter culture movement</li><li>- Civil rights</li><li>- Women's rights</li><li>- Anti-war movement</li></ul>

What was radical about Radical Criminology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical on the status quo in terms of the structures governing it</li> <li>- No belief in consensus (an unequal distribution of power shows this)</li> <li>- Took to the side of the powerless</li> <li>- Oppression experienced with segregation laws</li> <li>- Looking at criminal behaviour during this social context (theory as a product of its time)</li> <li>- Crime as the product of class oppression, inequality, and injustice</li> <li>- Crime will only be resolved by the replacement of democratic socialism</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concept of working class as criminals was ignored</li> <li>- Crimes of the powerful have been overlooked</li> <li>- Looks to human rights</li> <li>- Looks at 'harm'</li> <li>- Harm does not necessarily mean illegal, eg. Deforestation</li> </ul> <p>Radical criminologists don't trust state/government law, agencies and companies. This is because the state/government protects the powerful and prosecutes the powerless.</p>
Crimes of the powerful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State crime</li> <li>- Environmental harm</li> <li>- White collar crime</li> <li>- Crimes committed by corporations</li> </ul> <p>eg. Thalidomide, 2008 GFC bankers, Exxon Valdez oil spill, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key discrepancy of magnitude in the amount of harm done compared with petty crimes vs the crimes of the powerful</li> </ul>
Karl Marx's notion of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marx says very little</li> <li>- Emphasises the division of labour, industrialisation, new social classes that exploit the working class (oppression of the Proletariats)</li> </ul>
5 Premises of Radical Criminology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actions as criminal because the powerful described them</li> <li>2. Ruling class is safe from laws, the powerless are not</li> <li>3. Crime as a social reaction to life's condition of a person's social class</li> <li>4. Crime varies across different societies and culture</li> <li>5. Crime will persist in capitalistic societies because of the fundamental quality of such societies to promote inequality, social disadvantage, and class conflict.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capitalistic societies are built on conflict not consensus</li> </ul>
1978 Policing the Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern of mugging in the UK (moral panic)</li> <li>- Puts mugging in an overly overt political context</li> <li>- Criminal stats showed perpetrators were west Indian youths</li> <li>- Paul Sory - sentenced to 20 years imprisonment</li> <li>- Pushback from the British government to crack down against mugging and the perpetrators</li> </ul>

Crisis of Hegemony	<p>Hegemony is defined as the domination of one group over another</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- explains how the ruling class managed to maintain power in modern democratic societies</li> <li>- eg. High class paying more taxes means losing some power but gaining more as they contribute more.</li> </ul> <p>What happens when the working class is no longer needed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They are deported, eg. Dawn raids in NZ</li> <li>- racism rhetorics - 'stealing jobs'</li> <li>- when the working class is unwanted, crime is resorted</li> <li>- Exploiting anxiety through the media, unifying society to agree with a negative solution/outcome</li> <li>- Looking for scape goats to address the issue for not looking at the actual underlying causes.</li> <li>- This exacerbates the promotion of inequality by declaring a war on crime - moral panic</li> </ul>
Partial existence of a collective conscience	<p>Although the collective conscience is out the window because there is no consensus, some remnants are left behind in radical criminology.</p> <p>There is somewhat of a consensus when a moral panic is developed within a community. The media can make an issue more visible, therefore it persuades people with the media's perspectives then punitive measures are taken according to that narrative.</p> <p>This unifies society and leads to increased state power such as increased policing and tougher laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies increased</li> <li>- More prisons</li> <li>- More oppression</li> </ul>
Radical criminology's view of the CJS	<p>The CJS is broken, Radical criminology disputes this and says that it's working perfectly fine. It protects the powerful and prosecutes the powerless.</p>
Critiques of Radical Criminology	<p>Capitalistic societies haven't collapsed yet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There has been incidents where capitalistic societies had incidents of collapse such as the Russian Revolution, 2008 financial crisis, but Capitalism is still alive</li> </ul> <p>Not all crime is economically motivated</p> <p>Crime did not stop following Marxist revolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crime actually increased in communist revolutions</li> </ul>
Contributions by Radical Criminology	<p>Understanding the power of protest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fuels protest and rebellion with different critical perspectives in Criminology</li> <li>- Martin Luther King Jr and Mandela as criminals but have changed the world</li> </ul> <p>Vital advancement of criminological theory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Led to the creation of different critical perspectives</li> </ul> <p>Raises questions about power, rebellion, political dimensions of crime and state crime, etc.</p> <p>Radical criminology provides explanations for state terror, systemic racism, crimes against nature and harm</p>