

Policing

Early Policing

- Pledge system
 - Tithing
 - All men over age 12 in groups of 10 households
 - Responsible for producing any member accused of a crime
 - Hundred
 - 10 tithings
 - Supervised by a hundredman
 - First real police officer

Early Policing

- Parish constable
 - Policed church territorial entities
 - Generally unarmed, unpaid, and part-time
 - Originally elected; eventually appointed by the justice of the peace
- Shire reeve
 - Operated in rural settings
 - Forerunner of the present-day sheriff

Early Policing

- Thief-takers
 - Men privately hired by victims to capture offenders
 - Similar to present-day bounty hunters
 - Universally corrupt

Early Policing

- Metropolitan Police Act of 1829
 - Introduced by Sir Robert Peel
 - the “Father of Modern Policing”
 - Established London’s Metropolitan Police Force
 - “Bobbies” and “Peelers”

- Plagued by problems, corruption, and bribery

Early Policing

- Night Watch
 - First implemented in Boston in 1630s
 - Permanently implemented by law in 1838
- Slave patrols
- Vigilantes

Early Policing

- Ineffective policing reigned:
 - Reactive policing
 - Selective application of the law
 - Citizens did not respect law enforcement agents
 - Corruption of agents

Advances in Policing

- August Vollmer
 - Father of American Policing
 - Town marshal of Berkeley, CA
 - Believed officers should be free from political pressures, educated, trained, and well paid
 - Argued for the use of science, technology, education, and professionalism

Advances in Policing

- Vollmer:
 - Implemented code of ethics
 - Banned political corruption, gifts, and third-degree interrogations
 - Advocated for innovative police techniques and technologies:
 - Radios, bike patrols (then cars), first centralized police records system, lie detector tests

Contemporary Policing

- Primary mission – to enhance quality of life by means of enforcing laws, preventing crimes and arresting suspects while upholding core values

- Respect for the law and community
- Dedication to professionalism
- Responsibility for public safety and ethical conduct

Police Organization

- Becoming a Police Officer
 - Requirements
 - Almost all require HS diploma and some require 2-4 year college degree
 - Written exams focusing on reasoning, basic math, and language
 - Psychological evaluations
 - Physical fitness testing
 - Oral Exam
 - Polygraph
 - Character investigations
 - Medical and drug screenings
 - Attend police academy

The Police Role

- *Command*
 - Chief of police
 - Tasked with negotiating and intervening in difficult situations with politicians, citizens, and rank and file officers

The Police Role

- Patrol
 - Backbone of all police agencies
 - Responsible for preventing crime, apprehending suspects, and assisting community members
- Investigation
 - Highly sought after and generally require several years of experience on patrol
 - Often rotated, may require testing and interviewing, may operate undercover
 - i.e., Vice squads

Police Culture

- Secrecy, group solidarity, violence, cynicism, masculinity, isolation, and authoritarianism
- Civil service protections
- Often criticized for code of silence
 - Benefits?
 - Problems?

The Job of Policing

- High levels of stress are common among police officers
 - High blood pressure
 - Heart problems
 - PTSD
 - Suicide
 - Divorce
 - Drug and alcohol abuse

Police Corruption

- Classification of misconduct:
 - Abuse of authority
 - Breach of department policy
 - Criminal activity
- *Grass-eaters*
 - Passive participants who knew of corruption but chose not to act
- *Meat-eaters*
 - Active participants in corruption

Community Policing

- Police work with community members to ensure safe
- Encourages organizational strategies designed to partner and problem solve in a proactive manner
- Three key components:
 - *Partnerships*

- *Organizational Transformation*
- *Problem-Solving*

Problem-Oriented Policing

- Requires the identification and analysis of crime and disorder problems in order to construct an effective response
- Uses the SARA Model
 - Scan: Identify and prioritize problems
 - Analyze: Research the problem
 - Respond: Develop long-lasting solutions
 - Assess: Evaluate the success of the responses

Broken Windows Policing

- Broken Windows Theory:
 - George Kelling and James Wilson: “Unintended areas, blight, graffiti, and signs of disorder decrease neighborhood residents’ willingness to enforce social order, which in turn leads to more serious crime. If police target minor transgressions, they may prevent serious crime from developing in those places”

Intelligence-Led/Evidence-Based Policing

- Developed in 1990s in the UK to create efficiency and effectiveness in police agencies
- Key elements:
 - Targeting offenders
 - Policing crime and disorder hotspots
 - Investigating linked series of crime and incidents
 - Employing preventive measures

Private Policing

- Large and lucrative area of law enforcement
- As resources dwindled, private policing expanded to address personal and company needs for protection
 - i.e., airports, hospitals, retail companies, banks, factories, etc.

Police Discretion

- Discretion

- The use of personal decision making and choice in carrying out operations and functions of law enforcement
 - Police use a great deal of discretion when completing daily tasks

Police Discretion

- Factors influencing police discretion include...
 - The crime
 - The victim
 - Structural/environmental factors
 - Departmental factors
 - Suspect behavior and demeanor
 - Officer characteristics