



International School

# Globalisation

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## 5.6 Globalisation and crime



# Reasons for the emergence of global crime

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- Aspects of globalisation that are linked to crime include:
  - Neo-liberal economic policies
  - Growing global inequalities
  - New communication technologies
  - Spread of consumerism
- Global crimes:
  - Illegal trade in weapons and nuclear materials
  - Illegal drug trade - \$322 billion a year (2007)
  - Human-trafficking - organs harvesting, forced labour and prostitution
  - Money-laundering
  - Cybercrime





# Cybercrime

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- Internet-based fraud and financial scams
- Child and other extreme pornography
- Terrorist websites
- Virus attacks and hacking to steal data or cause disruption
- Identity theft
- Glocal nature of crime
- Two types of criminal network
  - Established mafias - often organised around family and ethnicity
  - Newer groups
- Misha Glenny (2009): 'McMafia'





# Human trafficking

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- Human trafficking is the illegal movement of people from one country to another usually for the sex trade and prostitution or for other migrant work.
- Semi-slavery
- Women and children are the most common victims
- What is the difference between human trafficking and people smuggling?





# Corporate crime

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- Corporate crimes are offences committed by large companies (or individuals acting on behalf of companies) that directly benefit the company rather than individuals, and involve increased profits or the survival of organisation.
- TNCs are protected by the existence of subsidiary companies
- Power of the TNCs - law
- Marxist point out that corporate crime crimes are treated very differently from other crimes even when they have significant consequences and even loss of life
- Small fines, blame is taken by an individual





# Crimes against the environment

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- Pollution of air, land and water
- Illegal dumping or disposal of toxic waste
- Destruction of natural habitats
- Trafficking in endangered animals and their body parts
- Illegal fishing and whaling
- Deforestation





# Crimes against the environment

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- Individuals
- Business organisation
- States and governments
- Organised crime

Potter (2010) - environmental harms tend to reinforce existing social divisions.

- The dumping of computers and other e-waste in Ghana
- The dismantling of old ships in Bangladesh





# Crimes against the environment

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- Environmental crimes are cumulative and have long-lasting effects.
- Giddens (2011) - People and governments are better at taking actions to deal with immediate problems than those which will threaten them in the future - 'future discounting'
- Green crimes do not carry the same stigma as conventional crimes
- White (2008) - one of the key reasons for environmental crimes is an anthropocentric worldview. The environment is secondary consideration.
- Marxist - the capitalist economic system is criminogenic and so some crimes generated are will be environmental crimes.
- Different definitions about what environmental crime is.







# Who benefits from global crime?

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For Marxists:

- The ruling class and maintaining the unequal capitalist system
- Laws reinforce inequalities - most guilty are from working class
- System is being use to remind the working class who is the boss!!!
- Laws prevent workers from joining trade unions
- Criminalisation of actions that can threaten the interest of the powerful.
- Illusion of a fair system





# Who benefits from global crime?

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For feminists:

- Global crime is serving the interest of men and reinforcing a patriarchal system - violence against women
- Governments are reluctant to interfere in domestic and family life
- Violence and abuse may not be reported
- 'Honour killing'





# Policing and prosecuting global crime

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## Activity 5.15

Visit the Interpol website.

Choose three types of crime from the 'Crime Areas' menu and find out about Interpol's work on these crimes.

How important is cooperation between police forces of different countries in tackling these types of crime?

