

Nicholas Rebhun  
Professor David Bagbins  
August 23, 2015

# Nine: Politics of Law

## Politics that drive Criminal Justice

Frequently, implementations of criminal law are dependent on the social politics of the day. The War on Drugs and Tough On Crime policies have proven inefficient. In the 1970's, police were largely occupied with assisting the population more than enforcing criminal justice. Around 1990, the attitude changed in police action across the country, leaning much harder on crime. More recently, however, there appears to have been an expansion of the older policies towards protecting those in need of assistance, rather than punishing them. For example, a repeat-offender of public intoxication is treated as someone with an addiction, rather than someone who is outwardly harming those around them.

It remains to be seen whether a leftist mayor in New York will cause crime to rise. The attitude towards law enforcement is generally critical in more liberal/leftist populations, and negativity towards a thing has a tendency to inhibit its progress. This is not to say that such negativity cannot create positive change, however.