

Fall 1995

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Recommended Citation

Recent Books, 86 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 257 (1995-1996)

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RECENT BOOKS

CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY: A SURVEY OF RECENT BOOKS

JULIET M. CASPER*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CRIMINALS

JAMES A. CHAMBERS, *BLACKS AND CRIME: A FUNCTION OF CLASS*
(Westport, CT: Praeger, 1995) 340 pp.

This book, while written in chapter format, reads more like a series of essays regarding the social forces that influence the behavior of African-Americans. The author believes that the "exploitation by the dominant class through a philosophy of social exchange is the causative factor for differential behavior." Not surprisingly, racism and class figure prominently in this author's discussion of delinquent and criminal behavior.

ALCOHOLISM AND CRIME—UNITED STATES

ROBERT NASH PARKER, *ALCOHOL AND HOMICIDE: A DEADLY COMBINATION OF TWO AMERICAN TRADITIONS* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995) 185 pp.

Is alcohol merely associated with homicide, or does it play a role in the commission of a homicide? To answer this question, the author explores the historical origins of the two traditions, conducts a longitudinal analysis of city homicide rates, and examines alcohol and crime control policies. He concludes that alcohol and homicide can be causally linked and that an alcohol control policy can have a preventive effect on violence.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—UNITED STATES

PUNISHMENT AND THE DEATH PENALTY (Robert M. Baird and Stuart E. Rosenbaum, eds.) (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1995) 258 pp.

Consisting of twenty essays previously published elsewhere, this work focuses on the justification for punishment, especially capital punishment. Written by philosophers, sociologists, legal scholars, and ethicists, these essays examine whether the same arguments that justify the institution of punishment can also justify the punishment of particular individuals.

CRIME—NEW HAMPSHIRE—HISTORY

TIMOTHY DODGE, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1812-1914 (New York: Peter Lang, 1995) 406 pp.

In 1812 the New Hampshire State Prison was established as a self-supporting, hard labor institution to punish and rehabilitate felons. Utilizing court and prison records along with actual case histories, Dodge is able to trace and analyze the changing definitions of crime and punishment in New Hampshire from the birth of the state prison until 1914, when the Progressive era reform culminated in the state. During this period, incarceration became a substitute for death or severe corporal punishment, and the most common conviction was for a crime against property. Dodge suggests that economic pressures and social changes played a significant role in changing the criminal justice system.

CRIME—UNITED STATES

CRIME AND INEQUALITY (John Hagan and Ruth D. Peterson, eds.) (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1995) 372 pp.

The twelve papers in this work focus on the relationship between social and economic inequality and crime and criminal justice. Authored primarily by sociologists, the papers critically assess the available studies on this relationship, examine aspects of the relationship that are under-emphasized in the research literature, and offer new methods for viewing and understanding the causes and consequences of crime.

KATHLYN TAYLOR GAUBATZ, CRIME IN THE PUBLIC MIND (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1995) 246 pp.

Exploring the politics of crime and criminal justice, *Crime in the Public Mind* reveals a complex relationship between political beliefs and attitudes toward crime. Author Kathlyn Taylor Gaubatz interviewed a cross-section of everyday Americans, asking them open-ended questions about the definition of crime, the government's response to crime, the use of prisons and alternative programs, and appropriate sentences. Gaubatz

then develops a theory about how Americans form and structure their ideas, how views on criminal justice relate to broader political beliefs, and how America came to a consensus about crime. Gaubatz's intention is to push Americans to reconsider whether incarceration is really the answer to every offense.

CRIME PREVENTION—UNITED STATES

MANSFIELD B. FRAZIER, *FROM BEHIND THE WALL: COMMENTARY ON CRIME, PUNISHMENT, RACE, AND THE UNDERCLASS BY A PRISON INMATE* (New York: Paragon House, 1995) 252 pp.

Currently incarcerated at a federal correctional institution in Kentucky, this author describes prison culture, racism and the law, and the problems faced by the underclass in America. He believes that "poverty and racism can breed criminals much faster than society can build prisons to house them." The solutions he offers include intervention programs for inner city youths to curb the crime and violence that flourish in the cities and better educational programs in prisons to reduce recidivism.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ADMINISTRATION OF—UNITED STATES

ETHNICITY, RACE, AND CRIME: PERSPECTIVES ACROSS TIME AND PLACE (Darnell F. Hawkins, ed.) (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995) 385 pp.

Why are some ethnic and racial groups more likely to be sanctioned for criminal behavior? This is the question each of the sixteen essays within this work attempt to answer. Organized into three parts, the essays discuss such topics as the sociobiological perspective on crime, the political threat of immigrant groups, the white lynch mob, crack cocaine-related crime, and Native Americans and crime.

CRIMINAL LAW—SOCIAL ASPECTS—UNITED STATES

PAUL H. ROBINSON AND JOHN M. DARLEY, *JUSTICE, LIABILITY, AND BLAME: COMMUNITY VIEWS AND THE CRIMINAL LAW* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995) 307 pp.

Robinson and Darley compare the moral intuitions of ordinary citizens with the community standards incorporated in criminal codes. Hoping to generate debate about criminal codes, they conducted original studies of the views of ordinary people on issues related to the formulation of criminal codes. The studies examined secondary prohibitions, justifications, mistake and accident defenses, intoxication, excuses, culpability requirements, and degrees of punishment. Eighteen of these studies are reported, with suggestions for changes in the codes and modifications in criminal procedures.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE—UNITED STATES

STEPHEN HRONES AND CATHERINE C. CZAR, *CRIMINAL PRACTICE HANDBOOK* (Charlottesville, VA: Michie, 1995) 680 pp.

As a practical guide for criminal defense attorneys, this book covers the entire criminal process, from bail and arraignment through sentencing. General approaches for interviewing clients, conducting cross-examination, or writing an appellate brief are provided with specific examples and caselaw focusing on the federal court arena. There are numerous sample forms, reports, and affidavits to aid the practicing attorney.

FEMALE OFFENDERS—CASE STUDIES

EVELYN K. SOMMERS, *VOICES FROM WITHIN: WOMEN WHO HAVE BROKEN THE LAW* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995) 167 pp.

Women prisoners as a group have been largely ignored by researchers and criminologists. Sommers, a psychologist in British Columbia and former counsellor at a women's prison, conducted a series of intensive interviews with fourteen women at a Canadian medium security prison in order to gain some understanding of how and why women break the law. While researchers have previously discounted the women's own understanding of what led to their lawbreaking, Sommers believes this information is essential to rehabilitation efforts. Two common themes emerge from her interviews: the centrality of relationships in women's lives and their personal quest for empowerment.

GANGS—UNITED STATES

MALCOLM W. KLEIN, *THE AMERICAN STREET GANG: ITS NATURE, PREVALENCE, AND CONTROL* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995) 270 pp.

Most street gangs have little to do with the drug trade in America says this author, a leading international authority who has studied gangs for over thirty years. In this work, he defines and describes the street gang, addresses the recent proliferation of street gangs and gang violence, and examines gang cohesiveness and the efficacy of recent programs.

LYNCHING

WALTER T. HOWARD, *LYNCHINGS: EXTRALEGAL VIOLENCE IN FLORIDA DURING THE 1930s* (Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses, 1995) 207 pp.

Despite the fact that lynchings in Florida peaked in the 1890s and gradually declined over the next five decades, the state was the most lynch

prone in the South during the 1930s. While white immigrants generally were lynched for violating community standards of conduct, blacks were lynched for a variety of unproven allegations. Lynchings were certainly used to intimidate and control blacks. The author finds that the local law enforcement officials, directly or indirectly, approved of the lynch mobs and that such mobs appeared in both rural and urban areas of Florida.

MURDER—KENTUCKY—CASE STUDIES

BOB HILL, *DOUBLE JEOPARDY: OBSESSION, MURDER, AND JUSTICE DENIED* (New York: W. Morrow, 1995) 321 pp.

A columnist with the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, Hill chronicles the bizarre disappearance, torture and murder of Brenda Schaefer by her fiance Mel Ignatow. Her story had haunted the newspapers and television stations in Louisville, Kentucky, for more than two years. Hill's engaging prose illustrates many of the problems law enforcement officials face when dealing with a highly publicized case.

POLICE, STATE—UNITED STATES—HISTORY

H. KENNETH BECHTEL, *STATE POLICE IN THE UNITED STATES: A SOCIO-HISTORICAL ANALYSIS* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995) 179 pp.

Although research on police enforcement has increased, such research has tended to focus on current or future developments, with the developments of the past being completely overlooked. In addition, the research has usually involved the municipal police forces. Filling this void in research, Bechtel examines the social, economic, and political forces that shaped the structure of the state police forces. Unlike municipal forces, state police forces were created by legislative acts and intended to operate in rural settings. Focusing on the development of the state police forces in Illinois and Colorado, Bechtel finds differences in the creation process.

TRIALS (RAPE)—VIRGINIA—MARTINSVILLE

ERIC W. RISE, *THE MARTINSVILLE SEVEN: RACE, RAPE, AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1995) 216 pp.

In January of 1949, seven black men were accused and convicted of rape. Each were sentenced to death, a sentence that seems harsh by today's standards but was quite common in the south at this time for a rape of a white woman. Every aspect of the trial and appellate proceedings of these seven defendants is described and analyzed by the author. Special attention is given to the work and strategy of the NAACP, whose attor-

neys handled the appeals. The Martinsville Seven case was the first to attack the discriminatory application of the death penalty by using statistical evidence, and this work may prove to be the definitive account of the case.

VICTIMS OF CRIMES—UNITED STATES—PSYCHOLOGY

KENNETH F. FERRARO, *FEAR OF CRIME: INTERPRETING VICTIMIZATION RISK* (Saratoga Springs, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995) 179 pp.

This book presents the findings of a ten year research project studying how people interpret crime and the potential for victimization. Linking survey data to official reports on crime and victimization, the author is able to examine the accuracy of the public's perceptions and reactions. While adult perceptions of the risk for victimization are found to generally correlate with the official crime statistics, the perceptions of women in all age groups do not seem to correlate. Risk is not the only factor that influences the level of fear.