

CHAPTER 12

Integrating Crime and Social Control: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Crime Reduction

OVERVIEW

This analysis of crime control starts with how the current homogenized rendering is the result of corporate values and a National Entertainment State, which Barak likens to a 'user friendly' Big Brother who selectively omits news of corporate wrong doing. The war on youth violence is included as a case study that shows how media portrayals of youth demonize all of them while ignoring increases in youth poverty and violence against youth. Solutions tend to focus on getting tough, surveillance and control (which increase inequality) rather than on larger social ecologies.

Barak's overview of social control suggests that the field has traditionally equated norm with social control, focused on learning and operant conditioning, and examined formal institutions (law and government). Non-integrated modes of social control include both conservative and liberal ideas that tend to reinforce problematic aspects of the American Dream and thus fail to achieve crime reduction. Integrated modes aim to temper materialism, reintegrate informal institutions, encourage communitarianism, and reintegrate 'recovering subjects'.

OUTLINE

I Introduction

- A. Crime reduction requires change in public discourse that permeates the relationship between the mass consumption of values and crime control

* The Instructor's Manual for *Integrating Criminologies* is available as a downloadable Adobe .pdf file by chapter or in complete form through <http://paulsjusticepage.com/IntegratingCrim/index.htm>. The author's website is <http://greggbarak.com>. The website for [Amazon.com](#) has additional information about the book, and the [publisher's website](#) accepts requests for academic desk copies.

- B. National Entertainment State (NES) dominated by four corporate conglomerates (user friendly Big Brother)
 1. General Electric
 2. Disney/Cap Cities
 3. Westinghouse
 4. Time Warner
- C. Selective news coverage and silence on corporate power/abuses; have considerable influence over social construction of crime and crime control

II The War on Youth and Youth Violence

- A. Perception of 'out of control' youth who need surveillance/discipline
- B. Real threats to children take a back seat to crime control
 1. Television and marijuana experimentation less problematic than rapes and beatings of children
 2. Homicide rate doubled, as did youth poverty (policies aimed at latter likely to be at least as effective as policies aimed at TV)
 3. What is missing from discussion more important than what is addressed
- C. Inequality reproduced with especially negative effects on poor blacks
 1. Black youth culture demonized through gangsta rap
 2. Rape, male violence against women and patriarchy ignored

II Social Control: A Conceptual and Practical Overview

- A. With advent of democracy, 'control' not examined and equated with evil/vested interests
- B. Following Ross [1901] control seen as relating to norms and social order
 1. Equating normative consensus and social control problematic
- C. Control is the basis of power
- D. Include formal and informal systems
- E. Recent expansion, dispersal and intensification of formal control; rise of managerialism – administrative/technocratic styles
- F. Increasing control over nonhuman objects
- G. Discourses of social control
 1. Political: order, legitimacy, authority
 2. Anthropological: socialization, conformity, norms
 3. Deviance and Crime: labeling, Marxism and Foucauldian surveillance/ discipline
- H. Modes of social control
 1. Punitive
 2. Compensatory

3. Conciliatory
4. Therapeutic

III Non-Integrated Modes of Crime Control

- A. 1980s crime control focused on formal criminal justice system and ignore social ecologies of crime
- B. Target hardening: influenced by routine activities, works only for crimes committed in public by strangers and tends to place responsibility for victimization on victims
- C. Proactive policing: more proactive searching for crime results in selective enforcement and punishment of minorities
- D. Judicial restraint: limit discretion, impose more actuarial justice
- E. 'New' penology: no rehabilitation, pro-imprisonment policies disproportionately impacts young black men
- F. Conservative war on crime: reclaiming the streets through tough criminal justice system has failed to reduce crime, undermined Constitutional rights, and destabilized minority communities
- G. Liberal war on poverty: assumes that people locked out of legitimate opportunities and need expanded means of success to achieve American Dream; failed to target cultural and structural causes (importance of material success) unrelated to poverty

IV Integrated Modes of Crime Reduction

- A. Challenge assumptions about crime and develop domestic policies in global context
- B. More holistic view that includes more emphasis on informal social control
- C. Appreciate values, but also understand their relationship to social and economic realities
 1. Integrative modes of crime/harm reduction recognize that the American Dream and its silent values of avarice, consumption and exploitation may well need to be changed
- D. Integrative policy platform
 1. Full potential and full employment: toward a society where money is not the principal value of personal and social worth
 - a. Replacement discourse deconstructs capitalist inequality
 2. Crime Reduction Through Institutional Reorganization: Supporting Social Ecologies of Crime Prevention
 - a. Reintegrate offenders and informal institutions
 3. Reintegrating Laissez-Faire Society: Reconstructing Mutual Support, Collective Obligations, and Co-responsibility and Crime
 - a. Reintegrative shaming in communitarian setting

- b. Replacement discourse of newsmaking criminology that changes public consciousness about crime and justice
- 4. Reintegrating Ex-Convicts: Reconstructing Images and Stereotypes of Recovering Subjects
 - a. Policies that facilitate individual transformation and focus on shared responsibility before release into community
 - b. Establish identity as 'recovering subject' rather than 'menace to society'

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1] Examine the origins of corporate-based 'crime control' consciousness and its harmful effects (such as on youth)
- 2] Review the theoretical and conceptual issues surrounding the field of crime control
- 3] Explicate and critique non-integrated social control, then review the components of integrative social control

IDEAS FOR LECTURES & DISCUSSION

The discussion of corporate values and the concentration of media ownership (see Bagdikian 1992) can be used to finish residual discussions from the last chapter about media and the social construction of reality. The main thrust of this chapter, however, is policy – both a critique of what we are doing and some ideas about what we should be doing.

Barak's characterization of non-integrated modes can be tested by examining recent or current criminal justice legislation. Such policies tend to emphasize getting tough by dishing out longer sentences for more (street) crimes, redeploing police and infusing criminal justice agencies with military technology. Current federal legislation can be reviewed on the Internet at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Click on 'review legislation' then 'by topic' and one of the options will be criminal justice. Subsequent screens will list all proposed legislation, a summary, full text, and information about its status that includes information about hearings. Linking the book to current examples can help reinforce student interest and demonstrate that textbooks (even theoretical ones) have relevance to what is going on in the world.

The overall critique of current policies is well summed up by Currie:

“If we wanted to sketch a hypothetical portrait of an especially violent society, it would surely contain these elements: It would separate large numbers of people, especially the young, from the kind of work that could include them securely in community life. It would encourage policies of economic development and income distribution that sharply increased inequalities between sectors of the population. It would rapidly shift vast amounts of capital from place to place without regard for the impact on local communities, causing massive movements of population away from family and neighborhood supports in search of livelihood. It would avoid providing new mechanisms of care and support for those uprooted, perhaps in the name of preserving incentives to work and paring government spending. It would promote a culture of intense interpersonal competition and spur its citizens to a level of material consumption many could not lawfully sustain” (1985: 278).

(Part of this discussion also relates back to some of my discussion in Chapter 2 about Moore’s criticism of corporate downsizing destroying communities.)

A final useful exercise would be to review Barak’s integrated plan and see what the students might add to it. Students may wish to discuss some of the changes in their perspectives about criminology or social control after having read the text.

REFERENCES

Bagdikian, Ben. 1992. *The Media Monopoly*, 4th revised ed. New York: Beacon Press.

Currie, Elliott. 1983. *Confronting Crime: An American Challenge*. N.Y.: Pantheon.