

Durkheim: small amounts of crime are necessary and functional. Crime is inevitable - not everyone can conform to the value consensus. Crime helps to form boundaries and reinforces the value consensus. Too much crime can lead to anomie (normlessness)

Doesn't explain why people commit crime in the first place. And doesn't say what levels of crime are good and which are bad. Doesn't recognise that some crimes provide no benefit for society. Ignores crimes of the powerful and the process of labelling

Merton: builds on Durkheim's ideas but says that anomie is always present in society. There is a strain (tension) between the agreed goals of society and the means to get there. People respond to the strain in different ways: 'modes of adaptation' - conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion

Assumes people's motivations are individual, not group based (Left realists would argue this), focuses on utilitarian crimes, not those for no real gain. Doesn't explain why some people who have achieved the goals still commit crime (Marxist view)

Strain: Responds to problems with strain theory. Looks at group responses. A. Cohen argues crime is committed by young working class as a result of frustration - he calls this 'status frustration'. It allows the young people to gain status and respect within a criminal subculture.

Cloward and Ohlin: think Cohen is too simplistic and argue there are a number of responses from deviant subcultures - criminal, conflict, retreatist. Some will cross over with each other. Problems: don't recognise how people move in and out of these subcultures.

Miller: focal concerns - the working class has a set of unique values. These focal concerns can lead to crime e.g. need to be tough, excitement etc.

Hirschi: - crimes are most common in people who are detached from society.

Becker: - an act only becomes deviant when others perceive and label it as such. Will depend on the strength of the social response to the behaviour. He calls groups that have the power to label others, such as the police and media, moral entrepreneurs. The police operate with their own stereotypes and pre-existing conceptions and use their discretion when responding to behaviour. Therefore the action of the police is a reflection of their stereotypes rather than actual reality.

Bottom up: looks at how people come to be labelled as criminals, not why they commit acts in the first place. All people commit deviant acts, what they focus on instead is why some people come to be labelled as deviant and others don't. Crimes are socially constructed rather than having a specific function or presence within capitalism

Lemert: distinguishes between primary deviance (what we all do e.g. speeding) and secondary deviance (once people have been publicly exposed and labelled). This labelling may lead to further secondary deviance.

Evaluation of labelling approaches: doesn't take into account individual agency - why do some people commit crime and others don't. Only really works for deviant behaviour, not for more serious crimes e.g. murder. Assumes offenders are passive. Deterministic - not everyone accepts their labels. BUT - shows us that the law is not set in stone and highlights problems with crime statistics.

Cicourel: agents of social control e.g. police, judges reinforce bias and rely on their on stereotypes and conceptions. Just is not fixed, but negotiable. Means that crime statistics are not valid because they just reflect the attitudes of the agents in the criminal justice system.

Key ideas: labelling, self-fulfilling prophecy, master status, primary and secondary deviance

Snider: ruling class make the laws which enables them to protect their own interests. The crimes of the powerful are more impactful than street crimes (which tend to be focused on more)

Chambliss: - at the heart of law making the powerful protect their own property

David Gordon: - capitalist society is criminogenic and breeds a 'dog eat dog' mentality

Evaluation: tends to romanticise the working class as having no other choice. Crime still existed in non capitalist countries. Doesn't really offer solutions to tackling crime other than to get rid of capitalism

Marxism: Crime is due to structural causes but it reflects the inequalities present in capitalist society. Capitalism is criminogenic (it breeds the values of greed and competition that leads to crimes being committed)

Corporate crime: Sutherland - defines this as crime committed by someone with high power, status and wealth. Calls this white-collar crime.

Types: financial crimes, crimes against consumers, crimes against employees, crimes against the environment (see also green crime), state crime (see this topic)

Issues: less visible, not as easy to investigate, companies can employ lawyers, hard to prosecute companies or individuals within companies, the crime is often complex, there is a lack of political will to challenge the crime, under reported (people may not know they are a victim)

Explanations:

Strain theory: other people have applied Merton's ideas of innovation to corporate crime (as he only really looked at the w/c) Box argues if a company cannot achieve its goals by legal means it may adopt illegal ones to do so.

Differential association: Sutherland - crime is a behaviour learnt from others. If a company's culture justifies committing crimes, employees will be socialised into this criminality.

Doesn't explain why not all companies turn to illegal means

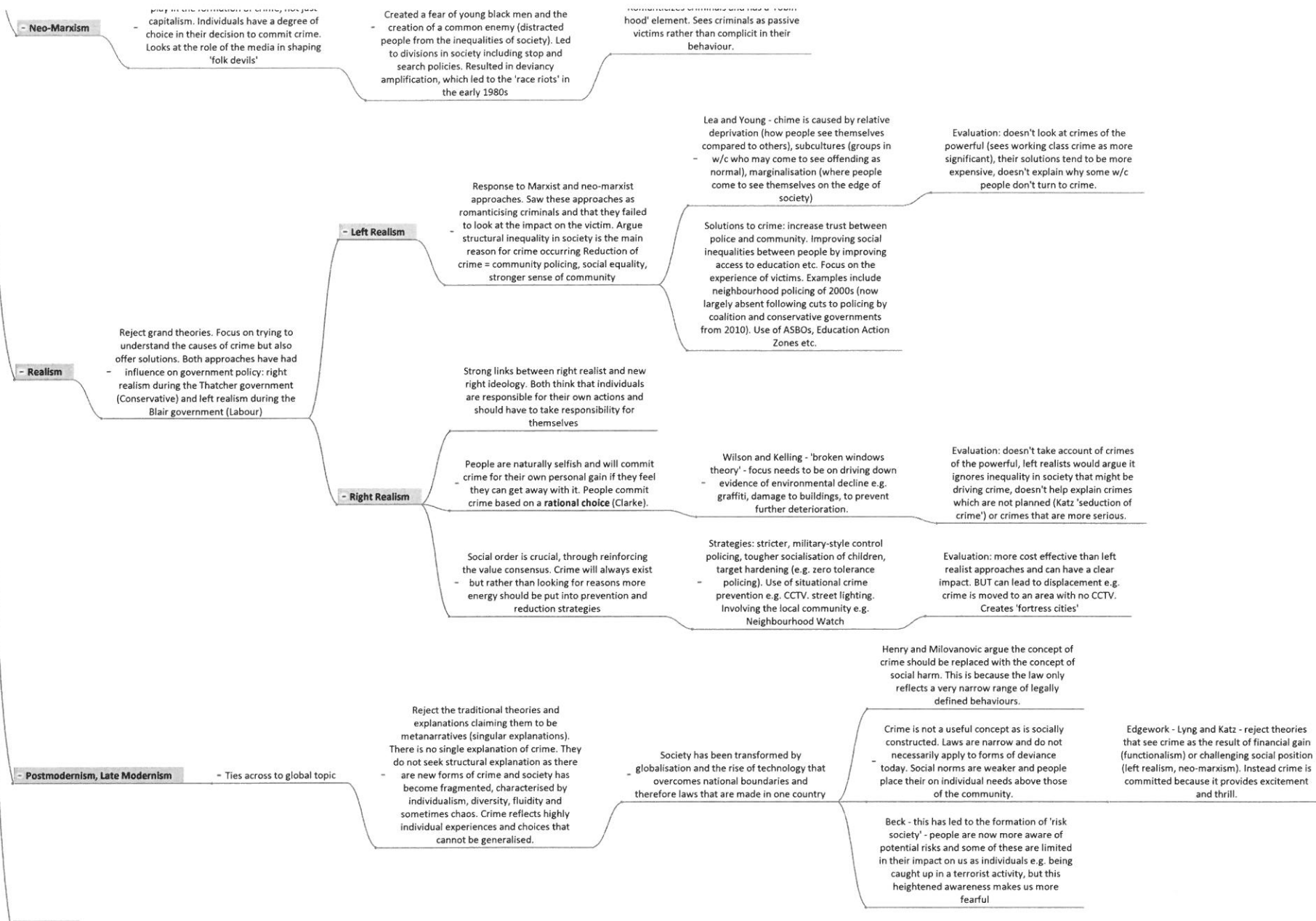
Labelling theory: Cicourel argues the m/c are more likely to be able to negotiate non-criminal labels for their actions. This has been applied to the idea of 'de-labelling' where businesses and the powerful have the power to avoid being labelled (Nelken) e.g. being able to avoid expensive lawyers and accountants

Marxism: corporate crime is a part of the criminogenic nature of capitalism.

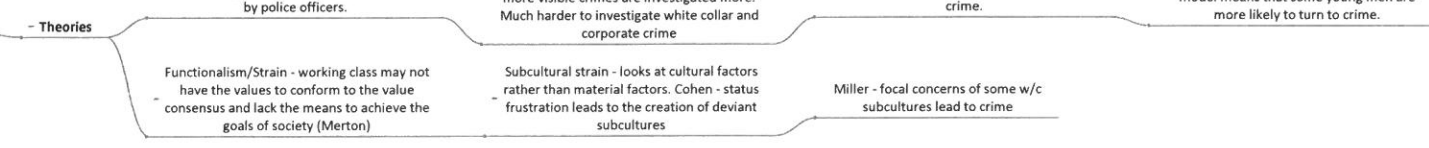
Argue that ideas have an important role to play in the formation of crime, not just

Stuart Hall 'Policing the Crisis' - media reinforces the idea that particular groups are criminal. He focused on moral panics surrounding mugging in Britain in the 1970s.

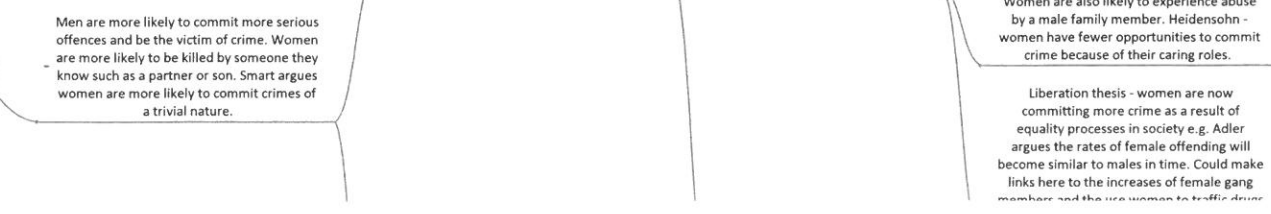
Romanticize criminals and has a 'Robin Hood' image



- **Class**



- **Gender**



Crime

- Ethnicity

Trends: until the 1980s ethnicity had been overlooked in terms of crime. However, from the mid 1970s there was a breakdown of relations between ethnic minorities and the police.

Men committing more crime: Robert Connell (1995) hypothesizes that criminal behaviour can be used as a resource when other resources are not available for accomplishing masculinity. For example, if a person does not have a steady, reliable job, a stable family life, or other traditional indicators of successful masculinity, violent behaviour may be considered an acceptable way to convey the "toughness" that is linked with masculine traits. In many cases, the pressure to 'prove you are masculine' matters more than obeying the law.

Lyng - 'edgework' - men more likely to engage in risky behaviour and therefore commit more crime

Mac an Ghaill - crisis of masculinity leading to working class men committing crimes or engaging in deviant acts as a way to gain status in a post-industrial society

Strain theories/subcultural theories- male offending evidence of the strain to anomie or the need to build illegitimate opportunity structures to gain status

- Do commit crime but are treated more fairly (chivalry thesis)

Hood - men more likely to be given a custodial sentence than women for the same offences

Members and the use women to date drugs as they are less likely to be stopped and searched.

Stop and Search and Prison Statistics show that black people are 6 times more likely to be both stopped and searched than white people, and are there are also 6 times more black people than white people in jail. • Graham and Bowling (1995) Found that blacks (43%) and whites (44%) had similar and almost identical rates of crime, but Asians actually had lower rates (Indians-30%, Pakistanis-28% and Bangladeshi-13%). • The British Crime Survey indicated that 44 per cent of victims were able to say something about the offender who was involved in offences against them. Among these, 85 per cent of offenders were said by victims to be 'white', 5 per cent 'black', 3 per cent 'Asian' and 4 per cent 'mixed'. • Prosecution and trial - Ethnic minority cases are more likely to be dropped than whites, and blacks and Asians are less likely to be found guilty than whites. In 2006/7 60% of whites were found guilty, against only 52% of blacks, and 44% of Asians. • Sentencing and prison - Jail sentences are more likely to be given to Blacks (68%) compared to Whites (55%) or Asians (59%), whereas Whites and Asians were more likely to receive community services. Hood (1992) found that even when the seriousness of an offence and previous convictions were taken into account Black men were 5x more likely to be jailed and given a sentence which is 3 months (Asians 9 months) longer than whites.

- Explanations

Structuralist: there are conditions in society such as higher levels of poverty and marginalisation that have led to some ethnic minority groups committing more crimes.

Left realists: black people more likely to be involved in street crime due to issues of relative deprivation, marginalisation and subcultures. Educational failure is a big component (Lea and Young)

Social constructionist: the criminal justice system is biased and there has been evidence in the past of racism

Unfair treatment/racism: Reiner (1993) - canteen culture - racism of police. Phillips and Bowling - higher levels of arrests of black men are the result of labelling from stop and search leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy

- Media

Williams and Dickinson found British newspapers devoted up to 30% of their news space to crime

The media give a distorted view of crime e.g. they over-represent violent and sexual crime, portray criminal and victims as older and more middle-class (Felson calls this an 'age fallacy, exaggerates police success in clearing up cases, exaggerate the rates of victimisation and overplay extraordinary crimes

News values: the picture painted of crime by the media is a social construction - it is a process whereby some stories are accepted and others are rejected.

Key news values include: immediacy, dramatisation (dramatic stories), personalisation (higher interest), higher status (e.g. celebrities), novelty or unexpectedness, risk (victim-centred) or violent

Media as a cause of crime. There are a number of ways that the media might cause crime

Imitation (linked to the Jamie Bulger case), arousal, desensitisation (through repeated viewing of violence), by transmitting knowledge of criminal techniques, by stimulating desires for unaffordable goods (relative deprivation - left realism), by portraying the police as incompetent, by glamourising offending.

The media might promote the fear of crime through exaggerating its extent. This could lead to moral panics

Moral panics: the media identify a group as a 'folk devil' or a threat to societal values, the media present the group in a negative, stereotypical way and exaggerate the problem, moral entrepreneurs then condemn the group and its behaviour. This can then lead to deviancy amplification through the creation of a self-fulfilling prophecy. This links to Becker's ideas of the process of labelling

Stan Cohen's 'Folk Devils and Moral Panics' is a very famous study of moral panics where the disturbances between the Mods and Rockers in Clacton led to a deviancy - amplification spiral. The media exaggerated and amplified the behaviour causing more disturbances to happen and in effect creating the conflict between the subcultures.

BUT Mc Robbie and Thornton challenge Cohen's idea about moral panics, arguing that moral panics are no longer rare events and are a continuous feature of the mass media coverage of crime. Moral panics have become more subtle and complex.

- Global crime

- Green

Primary - directly affects the planet e.g. deforestation, air pollution Secondary - where laws put in place to protect the planet are broken e.g. releasing hazardous waste.

Explanations - traditional criminology - Situ - and Emmons - where a country breaks a law relating to green crime.

Problems with this is that not all countries deal with environmental issues in the same way. Green criminology (a form of transgressive criminology, in addition to zemiology) looks at the issue of harm rather than the law (White). There are two views of these harms: anthropocentric and ecocentric.

- State

Examples of state crimes (McLaughlin) - political (corruption, censorship), crimes by security forces (genocide, torture), economic (violations e.g. health and safety laws) and social and cultural crimes (e.g. institutional racism).

Ways of defining - domestic law - Chambliss 'acts defined by law as criminal and committed by state officials in pursuit of their jobs as representatives of the state'. BUT countries can change their laws e.g. Nazi Germany

Ways of defining: social harms and zemiology, rather than law. Michalowski - allows state crimes to be defined for countries who may not have relevant laws. BUT more subjective, what constitutes harm?

Ways of defining: labelling and societal reaction. BUT ideas of societal reaction are even vaguer than 'harms'

Ways of defining: international law e.g. Geneva and Hague Conventions on war crimes. Advantages of this is that countries sign up collectively and there is less subjective views. BUT prosecuting leaders of a country is extremely challenging.

Ways of defining: human rights - but variations in here of rights that would be seen to break laws e.g. torture vs those that would cause harm, such as economic policies

Explanations of state crime: Adorno - authoritarian personality

Crimes of obedience - Green and Ward - to overcome people's reluctance to commit horrible acts they must be forced to obey

Modernity - Bauman - systems and processes in modern society have allowed horrific acts to be more carefully planned and committed e.g. Holocaust

- Globalisation of crime

Castells - the nation state is declining and globalisation is having a dramatic effect on crime. Crime is like a shadow economy whose main market is illegal drugs.

Taylor (Marxist) - globalisation has allowed the wealthy to use different parts of the world with different tax rules to avoid paying taxes and hide their money and wealth. More tasks being conducted using technology which has led to higher levels of unemployment but also the exploitation of cheap labour in poorer countries

Mc Mafia - Glenn - argues that with the fall of the Soviet Union and the deregulation of global markets new crime networks have emerged that have taken advantage of a lack of regulation, using networks of distribution through the Balkan states

Global organisations - Hobbs - crime is no longer local. Gangs that may operate drug dealing networks in the UK are part of a much bigger production and trade distribution system

