|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Functionalism** | **Functionalist subcultural theories** | **Right Realism/ The New Right** |
| Crime and deviance arising from the **structure of society**.**Durkheim** - crime is inevitable. Not everyone is committed to the shared **norms and values** of society.Small amounts of crime are necessary/ **provides a function** for society:* Strengthening **collective values** – punishing criminals reasserts boundaries between acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour.
* Enables **social change** – allows new ideas to develop.
* Acts as a **safety valve** – eases stresses and frustrations in society.
* Acts as a **warning device** that society isn’t working properly.

**Merton** – crime occurs because of the tensions or **strain** between people wishing to attain the shared goals of society (i.e. success) but not being able to do so. This leads to **anomie.** People respond in lots of different ways to this strain. Crime is one possible response. (modes of adaption – **innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion**) | This theory developed as a response to the criticisms of **Durkheim** and **Merton’s** ideas.Explains deviance in terms of how **groups** (rather than just individuals) respond to the **strain** facing them in achieving social goals. **Cohen** – young, working class (boys) feel a sense of frustration in achieving society’s goals due to lack of job opportunities, **material** **and cultural deprivation** - **status frustration.** Which leads to an alternate set of values – **delinquent subculture**. Working class youth can achieve status in their peer group. **Cloward and Ohlin –** Cohen’s theory is too simplistic.(AO3)There are a number of situations and responses from working class youth to feeling as if their opportunities to success are limited:* **Criminal subculture –** commit crimes to benefit the criminal.
* **Conflict subculture –** commit (violent) crime to gain respect/status
* **Retreatist subculture –** individuals retreat from society often turning to drugs/alcohol
 | The individual should retain responsibility for his or her own actions and the state should play a limited role in peoples individual lives.Developed some of the ideas of functionalist thinkers. * **Value consensus** – underpins society and the law – criminals breach this consensus, threaten social order and spread fear in communities.
* **Inadequate socialisation** **and lack of community controls** underlie crime and anti-social behaviour.
* **Crime will always exist** – the most that can be achieved is to reduce the impact on victims.

**Rational choice and opportunity theory** – **Cornish and Clarke** – people commit crime only after weighing up costs and benefits and deciding whether it’s worth taking the risk. **Murray (New Right)** – the **underclass** is responsible for a large proportion of crime that is committed in society. Murray argues that an over generous state has led to people becoming reliant on welfare benefits, which in turn encourages people to turn to crime rather than go to work and earn money. |
| **Criticisms:*** **Durkheim** does not explain why people commit crime in the first place or why some forms of crime rate are so high.
* **Merton** does not explain why most people who face strain do not turn to crime.
* The theory exaggerate working class crime and doesn’t explain why people achieving the goals in society commit crime.
* Only explains crimes involving material goods. Doesn’t explain violent crimes/ crimes with no financial benefit.
* **Merton** assumes all crimes are individual and doesn’t explain why crime often occurs in a group.
 | **Criticisms:*** Assumes that delinquent young people embark on a full life if crime, whereas some people drift in and out of this subculture.
* Only explain working class crime and not white-collar or corporate crime.
* **Cloward and Ohlin’s** study ignores that individuals could belong to more than one subculture or move in and out of them. They’re not fixed.
* **Matza** - people use **techniques of neutralisation** to absolve themselves of crime and delinquents hold many of the values of mainstream society - they aren’t seriously committed to delinquent values and most abandon delinquent as they grow older.
 | **Criticisms:*** **Left Realists** would criticise this view for failing to see that some people experience **structural inequalities** from which they cannot escape. (e.g. an individual who cannot overcome poverty through education as they were unable to attend good schools/ raise their social position)
* Only explain working class crime and not white-collar or corporate crime or hidden crimes such as domestic violence/ child abuse.
* Assumes all crime is rational and pre-meditated and ignores crimes not based on rational thought processes e.g. crimes of passion/ crimes with no monetary reward/ crimes committed in anger.
 |
| **Marxism** | **Neo-Marxism** | **Interactionism** |
| Take a critical view of a **capitalist** society – claiming that it is **criminogenic** (it creates crime)Crime is due to **structural** causes (to a degree agreeing with functionalists) Crime reflects **inequalities** that exist within a capitalist society. The types of crime that exist are inevitable – only can be resolved with the end of a capitalist society.Capitalism breeds the values **of greed and competition** which leads people to commit crimes as they desire consumer goods/ products. The **ruling class** creates the law, the law protects the interests of the ruling class **Snider (1993) –** Laws support big businesses and the ruling class.Big business are important and necessary in a capitalist society (e.g. tax avoidance/ bonuses for senior banking staff) White collar crimes often cost society more than crimes carried out by the poor | Differ from Marxist ideas as they claim that **ideas** play an important role in shaping society – rather than the economy alone. Attempt to develop Marxist theories to go beyond the traditional view that the capitalist structure is the main cause of crime. They argue that the individual has a degree of choice or agency in their decision to commit a crime.**Stuart Hall – Policing the Crisis (1978)** - focuses on the way the media reinforce the idea that a particular group are criminal within a capitalist society.Focused on the moral panic surrounding mugging in Britain in the 1970’s. During the 70’s several papers reported incidents of mugging. This moral panic was built upon the idea of a collective fear of an ‘enemy within’ – in this instance young black men. Hall argued by creating a common enemy to fear this strengthened social solidarity but also led to social divisions in UK society (leading to divisive policies such as stop and search) This societal labelling lead to deviancy amplification – led to race riots in the 1980’s. (Not just capitalism to blame – instead a collection of economic and social problems) | It’s more important to explore how individuals come to be considered deviant and the effect that becoming labelled as deviant on future behaviour.Everyone acts in ways that are deviant. So why are some acts determined as deviant whilst others are not? They would argue that all crime is socially constructed.**Becker** - an act only becomes deviant when others perceive and define it as such. Whether a label is applied will depend on societal reaction. Becker refers to the police and mass media as **moral entrepreneurs**. He says they have the power and resources to create and enforce rules and to define deviance. Police (and other agents) operate with pre-existing conceptions which influence who is targeted/ labelled. Action taken is a reflection of stereotypes held by the police not a reflection of reality. **Lemert – primary and secondary deviancy**. **Cicorel-** other agents of social control reinforce this bias e.g. probation officers. Justice is not fixed, it is negotiable. Therefore can we trust police statistics? Are they valid?  |
| **Criticisms:*** Not all crime is utilitarian (for financial gain) so Marxist explanations fail to explain these other crimes (crimes of passion/ hate crimes)
* Do not explain why crime exists in non-capitalist countries.
* Feminists would argue that Marxism ignore the different patterns of crime between men and women and the importance of the patriarchal ideology in influencing the legal system.
 | **Criticisms:*** Fails to examine the impact of gender and ethnicity.
* Views are too far removed from Marxist tradition to be compared.
* Can make offenders seem to be victims (right realists would be critical of this)
 | **Criticisms:*** Tends to remove the blame for deviance away from the deviant and onto those who define them as deviant. The deviant becomes a victim.
* It assumes an act isn’t deviant until it has been labelled as such.
* Doesn’t explain the causes of deviant behaviour which precede the labelling process.
* Too deterministic – what about free choice?
* Says very little about the victims of crime.
* Ignores the importance of wider social structures.
 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Left-Realism** | **Right Realism (more detail?)** | **Feminism** |
| Response to Marxist and neo-marxist approaches. Saw these approaches as romanticising criminals and that they failed to look at the impact on the victim. Argue structural inequality in society is the main reason for crime occurring. The reduction of crime = community policing, social equality, stronger sense of communityLea and Young - crime is caused by **relative deprivation** (how people see themselves compared to others), **subcultures** (groups in w/c who may come to see offending as normal), **marginalisation** (where people come to see themselves on the edge of society)Solutions to crime: increase trust between police and community. Improving social inequalities between people by improving access to education etc. Focus on the experience of victims. Examples include: neighbourhood policing of 2000s (now largely absent following cuts to policing by coalition and conservative governments from 2010). Use of ASBOs, Education Action Zones etc. | Strong links between right realist and new right ideology. Both think that individuals are responsible for their own actions. **Social order** is crucial, through reinforcing the **value consensus**. Crime will always exist but rather than looking for reasons more energy should be put into **prevention and reduction strategies**.People commit crime based on a **rational choice** (Clarke). Wilson and Kelling - **'broken windows theory'** - focus needs to be on driving down evidence of environmental decline e.g. graffiti, damage to buildings, to prevent further deterioration.Strategies: stricter, military-style control policing, tougher socialisation of children, target hardening (e.g. zero tolerance policing). Use of **situational crime prevention** e.g. CCTV, street lighting, involving the local community e.g. Neighbourhood Watch | Women commit less crime - explanations**Messerschmidt** (1993) argues that men commit crime in order to assert their masculinity e.g. in men in low-paid or low-status jobs.Patriarchal ideology encourages men to dominate women. **Carlen** argues women's crimes reflect their powerlessness and often their crimes are of a trivial nature e.g. shoplifting, which may be being committed to help support their family. Women are also likely to experience abuse by a male family member. **Heidensohn** - women have fewer opportunities to commit crime because of their caring roles. **Critical criminology:** seeks to challenge the existing social order and wish to make a fairer and just society. Linked with feminist and marxist approachesExplores structural elements in society e.g. issues like poverty and patriarchy, which places women and the poor at greater risk of victimisation. They also look at the power of the state to deny the label of offender from some people e.g. those who have power to redefine their labels. |
| **Criticisms:*** Doesn’t look at crimes of the powerful (sees working class crime as more significant)
* Their solutions tend to be more expensive
* Doesn't explain why some working class people don't turn to crime.
 | **Criticisms:** * Doesn’t take account of crimes of the powerful
* Left realists would argue it ignores inequality in society that might be driving crime
* Doesn't help explain crimes which are not planned (Katz 'seduction of crime') or crimes that are more serious.
* More cost effective than left realist approaches and can have a clear impact. BUT can lead to displacement e.g. crime is moved to an area with no CCTV. Creates 'fortress cities'
 | **Criticisms:** * **Liberation thesis** - women are now committing more crime as a result of equality processes in society e.g. **Adler** argues the rates of female offending will become similar to males in time.
* Victimology: disregards the role victims play in bringing victimisation on themselves But draws attention to the way in which the idea of being a victim is socially constructed.
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Postmodernism** |
| Reject the traditional theories and explanations claiming them to be metanarratives (singular explanations). Crime is not a useful concept as is socially constructed. Laws are narrow and do not necessarily apply to forms of deviance today. Social norms are weaker and people place their on individual needs above those of the community.Society has been transformed by **globalisation** and the rise of technology that overcomes national boundaries and therefore laws that are made in one country.**Henry and Milovanovic** argue the concept of crime should be replaced with the concept of **social harm**. This is because the law only reflects a very narrow range of legally defined behaviours.Edgework - **Lyng and Katz** - reject theories that see crime as the result of financial gain (functionalism) or challenging social position (left realism, neo-marxism). Instead crime is committed because it provides excitement and thrill.**Beck** - this has led to the formation of **'risk society'** - people are now more aware of potential risks and some of these are limited in their impact on us as individuals e.g. being caught up in a terrorist activity, but this heightened awareness makes us more fearful |
| **Criticisms:*** Neglects the realities of persistent inequality in society – and the impact of these inequalities on who becomes the victims and perpetrators of crime
* Neglects the existence of persistent ideas of right and wrong in society – value-consensus? – which shape community responses to deviance and law-breaking
* Post-modern opportunities to create identity tend to relate to those who are affluent enough to consume, not those excluded from consumption
 |