

Book Review

Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective

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ABSTRACT

This book review centres on the book *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* which presents as a serious efforts to forge a global conceptual platform, formed by study-cases coming from the four continents. In this review the author discusses not only on the problems of criminality, but also to what extent unmet needs in youth can be a fertile ground for potential recruitment in radical groups which embrace terrorism as main option. At some extent, juvenile treatment dissociates from adults in almost all capitalist cultures. This happens because of two main reasons. The first and foremost, capitalism and rapid urbanization play leading role in the configuration of criminality, secondly, some cosmopolitan cultures impose the needs of respecting the right of childhood, or even the protection of youths. This convergence resulted in more soft and rehabilitative policies which were targeted to care youth, but at the same time, did nothing to prevent criminality under 15 years old. Paradoxically, while serious efforts to rehabilitate you were done, no less true is that the rates of crimes have risen.

KEYWORDS

Capitalism, Criminality, Juvenile Justice, Penology, Youth

Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective

Franklin Zimring, Maximo Langer, & David S. Tanenhaus

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Emile Durkheim, one of the founding parents of modern sociology, envisaged a self-explanatory model where law-abiding and criminal justice systems played a leading role. Per his viewpoint, while tribal organizations organized their life around a repressive rule, capitalist societies alluded to civil rights to resolve the surfacing discrepancies. Though his theory was widely criticized, the correlation between economy and legal system still remains as an interesting point to be deciphered (Durkheim, 2014). This is exactly the context in which this book (entitled *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective*) inscribes.

Edited by three well-read scholars as Zimring, Langer and Tanenhaus, this collection offers a fertile ground to infer an all-encompassing platform for policy makers and specialist to discuss how juvenile justice system were developed in first and third world. In this respect, the policies and treatments which characterize juvenile and criminal justice systems diverge, insofar, editors and invited authors question to what extent for the same behaviour two different courts involve?

The ten chapters conforming this valuable edition can be read separately, however, they have been organized into four discernable parts. The part I discusses the evolution and consolidation of juvenile justice in Western nations while Part II centers on the penetration of current juvenile justice literature in non-English speaking countries. Rather the third section contains chapters focusing in study-cases proper of nations which faced serious political change during XXth century. This represents an interesting point of convergence to evaluate the role of new democracies in the territories of criminal justice. Last but not least, fourth section aims to respond the original question respecting to the division of criminal and youth justice worldwide. In so doing, it reviews back the precedent chapters to forge a common-thread argumentation.

As the previous backdrop, in next lines we will discuss in-depth chapter by chapter the main lines and limitations of invited authors.

In the first chapter, F Dunkel explores the continuity of criminal justice through Western European countries from 1989 on. Originally, the rise and adoption of neoliberalism supposed the “demonization of youth crime”, assuming stronger punishment, regardless on very youth offenders. This was reasonably resulted from Anglo-Saxons Countries where a new facet of young immigration, lived in separation with central population. The dispositions that legitimize harder disciplinary mechanisms were not intended in regards to the classic limits of 18 years old for imprisonment but, rather, controlling an emergent “under-class” conformed by ethnic minorities coming from labour migration from outside. The paradox lies precisely in the fact while psychologists agree the age of maturation was extended to more than 20 years old, legislation has not been changed accordingly. In chapter 2, Lappi Seppalla explores the youth reforms faced by Scandinavian nations during the decade of the 90s. The Nordic model which is based on the doctrine of welfare state includes core elements as child boards, as well as the fixing of a criminal age, under 15. Although Nordic Justice system is less vulnerable to populism, efforts recently placed to rehabilitating youth offenders is not preventing the adoption of harder sanctions over the recent years. Weijian Gao, who conduct an interesting research in China, reflections on the recent and fast development of juvenile courts. Per his outcome, Shanghai (like Chicago) experienced a process of rapid industrialization and urbanization that facilitated juvenile crime; at the same time, treatment for adults and juvenile offenders dissociated according to emergent claims from cosmopolitan circles as academicians. Some innovations have forged a new climate of “legal reform”, which supported by progressive political intentions, derived in the formation of new juvenile courts in 1984. This interesting chapter is of paramount importance because reveals the intersection between capitalism and criminality. The fourth chapter, rather, focuses on the study case of India, where Ved Kumari presents an interesting point of comparison between East and West. In chapter 5, M. Beloff & M. Langer stress on the limitations of juvenile courts in Latin America, inferring in the reasons on the rise of youth imprisonment to date. Ultimately, Lena Salaymeh revisits how religion influences in the configuration of criminal law across over Muslim nations in Middle East as well as Northern Africa. Undoubtedly, this section exhibits not only how juvenile justice works in other nations, where there seems to be far from western researchers access but helps analysts to expand their current understanding of this much deep seated issue worldwide.

The third part contains three chapters discussing juvenile programs in Poland, post-Soviet occupation (B Stando-Kawecka), South Africa, after the transition of bloody apartheid (Ann Skelton) and South Korea just upon Japan domination (Jae-Joon Chung). Authors in this section are aimed at discussing critically the influence of juvenile penology in context of political instability or transition towards democracy. To my end, this pungent section represents a lucid discussion which should be considered as one of the best part of this book.

Last but not least, part IV encompasses only one chapter (10) which synthetizes the main concerns placed by editors in this volume. It is tempting to see almost all nations have fleshed out a dissociated system to treat with youth and adult criminals. While the formers are associated to “the needs of protecting” children, in which case, more educational programs emerged, for the latter, penalties have been increased. Quite aside from this differentiated treatment, first source information suggests that

rates of criminality are prone to increase. This reflects, to my end, one of the paradoxes of modern capitalism today. Youth runs the risk to find in criminality the opportunities they are looking for in social upward, but at the same time, they are placed in jeopardy as a “potential underclass” with fewer probabilities of development. To sum up, I found in this ground-breaking book an all-encompassing model which not only is helpful to understand the roots of youth juvenile courts but paved the ways for a wider interdisciplinary approach of criminality; to put this in other terms, *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* situates as a titanic work, which is of essential reading for sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists interested in these types of slippery matters. This begs a more than interesting question, to what extent this vulnerable underclass is conducive to further terrorist cells for further recruitments, or even worse, is the lonely-wolf nature derivative of the unmet vulnerabilities inherited in juvenile offenders worldwide?

REFERENCES

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Maximiliano Emanuel Korstanje is Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Safety and Security in Tourism* (UP Argentina) and *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism* (IGI-Global, US). With more than 700 published papers and 25 books, Korstanje was awarded as Outstanding Reviewer 2012; *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment*, University of Salford, UK, Outstanding Reviewer 2013; *Journal of Place Management and Development*, Institute of Place, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK; and Reviewer Certificate of Acknowledgement 2014, *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management* (IJCHM), University of Central Florida, US. Now he co-edits almost 10 specialized journals in such themes as human rights, mobility, tourism and terrorism. Korstanje is subject to biographical records for Marquis Who's Who in the World since 2009. He has been nominated to 5 honorary doctorates for his contribution in the study of the effects of terrorism in tourism. In 2015 he was awarded as Visiting Research Fellow at School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, UK and Visiting Professor at University of La Habana Cuba 2016.