

PREVENTION

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Prevention

Stopping People Starting & Starting People Stopping

Primary Prevention

Creating the social, economic and political conditions
that prevent the onset of crime

Secondary Prevention

Targetting interventions on crime-prone populations

Tertiary Prevention

Intervening with adjudicated offenders to prevent
reoffending

Classicism: A Pre-scientific Perspective

- ▣ Human behaviour is motivated by a desire to maximise pleasure and minimise pain
- ▣ Crime prevention therefore consists in minimising the pleasure and maximising the pain associated with the proscribed act
- ▣ And doing this publicly and graphically in order to dissuade onlookers who might otherwise be tempted (deterrence)

Classicism:

A Pre-scientific Perspective

- ▣ However, this must be a 'just measure of pain', commensurate with the seriousness of the act.
- ▣ And its administration must be rational and scientific
- ▣ An implicit behavioural psychology emerges which holds that '*a regimen applied to the body becomes first a habit and then a moral preference*'. (Ignatieff, 1978)
- ▣ By the late 19th Century, this regimen is generalised to the whole society through the factory system, the army and state institutions

Penal-Modernism

- ▣ In the early 20th century, with the creation of Juvenile Courts and separate institutions for juveniles throughout Europe and the United States, ideas derived from the new sciences of Criminology, Penology, Psychology and Child Development infused youth justice systems. While many of the practices developed in pre-modern times remained, Penal Modernism became the orthodoxy amongst 'progressive' thinkers from the 1920s until the 1970s

Social Reform

- ▣ 1930s crime falls to record levels despite economic recession
- ▣ Criminologists attribute this to the 'incorporation' of the working classes via trade unionism and social reform: improved housing, education and health care
- ▣ This leads socialists-progressives to conclude that with the eradication of poverty crime will simply fade away:
- ▣ We begin to talk about the 'Classless Society'

1945 and All That

- ▣ Beveridge, 1946: The Founding of the Welfare State
- ▣ Social Security, Family Allowance, NHS,
- ▣ Butler: Secondary Education for All
- ▣ Keynesian Economics: State intervenes to smooth out the trade cycle and end unemployment
- ▣ Progressive taxation begins to narrow the gap between rich and poor

1960s Poverty Amidst Plenty

- ▣ Late 1950s early 1960s: Working class wages rise: The Affluent Worker, 'Embourgeoisment'
- ▣ Classlessness looks like a real possibility BUT
- ▣ The crime rate soars
- ▣ Peter Townsend & Brian Abel Smith: 'The Poor and the Poorest', point to the growth of relative poverty
- ▣ Some criminologist argue that it is the experience of relative deprivation, not poverty per se that is the motor of crime.

Penal Modernism

- ▣ 1960s 2nd wave of the welfare state – Personal Social Services
- ▣ An assumption that the Welfare State has taken care of poverty
- ▣ Crime is viewed as a consequence of a socio-cultural lag.
- ▣ Initially, prevention is focussed upon the child-rearing practices of poor parents.
- ▣ It also focuses on the development of compensatory experiences for their children through youth clubs, holidays etc, and these experiences expose them to ‘appropriate’ role models in the shape of middle class volunteers.

Penal Modernism

- ▣ With the professionalisation of social work, intervention with offenders to prevent future offending is shaped by the legacy of Freud and psycho-social casework becomes the norm in intervention with offenders.
- ▣ In these interventions, Probation Officers and Social Workers tend to ignore crime, focussing instead on the deeper social or psychological difficulties of which crime is a 'symptom'

Penal Modernism

- ▣ From the 1960s prevention is politicised and the emphasis shifts to the structural origins of poverty.
- ▣ Prevention takes the form of community organisation/action wherein professionals work with impoverished groups, helping them to mobilise politically against local authorities and government agencies: staging protests, marches, sit-ins and 'rent strikes' to demand better treatment, better services or better financial benefits.
- ▣ Some activists also established *Free Schools* and client action groups like *The Insane Alliance* and *Radical Alternatives to Prison* to enable the poor to opt out of, or challenge, state systems.

Penal Modernism in Crisis

- ▣ In the late 1970s in the USA and the UK the State is under attack from across the political spectrum.
- ▣ The Radical Left sees it as the Iron fist of capitalist oppression in the velvet glove of the welfare state
- ▣ The Social Democratic centre sees it as a force that threatens civil liberties and makes unwarranted interventions in private lives through its interventionist penal-welfare policies
- ▣ The Radical Right sees it as an apologists for the idle and the feckless and a refuge for the army of state professionals who make a handsome living in the penal-welfare complex. It also maintains that the state has neither the right nor the capacity to do 'more good' but must instead strive only to do less harm

Penal Moderism in Crisis

- ▣ Probation launches a *What Works* strategy, adopting Cognitive Behavioural Treatment Programmes (CBT) STOP (straight thinking on probation) that have been *scientifically proven to reduce offending* somewhere in Canada.
(*accountability/credibility/value for money*)
- ▣ Youth Justice, influenced by *Labelling Theory*, adopts a minimalist (*less harm not more good*), systems management/ decarceration strategy. *If the criminal justice system makes people criminals, then the best preventive strategy is to 'leave the kids alone'*

The Re-politicisation of Crime

- ▣ 1980s – the crime rate soars as prison population falls
- ▣ 1992 – *New Labour* is born as the new *Natural Party of Law & Order*
- ▣ Political escalation – *Who can be toughest?*
- ▣ 1997 *New Labour* elected on *Law & Order* ticket
- ▣ Prevention now = early involvement of offenders in the justice system to address *Criminogenic Need* and *Risk Factors* via *Evidence-based CBT/Restorative* programmes.
- ▣ *If you Think Straight you will Go Straight*
- ▣ *Fast-tracking* of persistent offenders as a deterrent to others
- ▣ New *Anti-social Behaviour* legislation draws larger populations into the system to undergo *Evidence-based Programmes*

The Re-politicisation of Crime

Meanwhile socio-economic intervention:

- ▣ Connexions – Economic Inclusion
- ▣ Pregnancy Initiatives - Social Inclusion
- ▣ Drugs Initiatives – Social Inclusion/Public Protection
- ▣ Community Safety – Public Protection

Shift from *Welfare State* to *Social Investment State*

Individual risk factors occupy the foreground
Socio-structural factors, the background