

Criminal Justice Standards and Goals that would prohibit plea negotiations between the prosecutor and defense attorneys. In their argument that plea bargaining is a necessity, Rosett and Cressey eloquently maintain that there is a great need for prosecutorial discretion and participation by an accused person in the entire criminal justice process. They seek to convince the reader that plea bargaining and discretion are necessary because of the public's desire for harsh sentences and the presence of a huge courthouse bureaucracy that emphasizes the rapid disposition of cases while still maintaining some semblance of fairness in the whole process. The proposals offered by the authors to correct the problems inherent in plea bargaining are pedestrian: regulating plea negotiations, reducing harsh penalties, personalizing court operations, and decentralizing court processes. These are nevertheless at the heart of the problem as viewed by the authors. This reviewer agrees with Rosett's and Cressey's thesis. However, one should be aware that the authors fail to mention that plea bargaining is not the equivalent of securing justice. While they argue that plea bargaining is a necessary process in the administration of justice, they quite likely will not convince those who believe that justice encompasses something much more than form, procedure, and an appearance of impartiality. Plea bargaining smacks of the market place where the highest and most persuasive bidder strikes a favorable bargain because of the unique position he or she occupies. A criminal defendant is seldom in this category.

This reviewer strongly recommends *Justice by Consent*. It is written for the layperson, but it is one of the most enlightening books available on plea negotiations with suggestions for reform. It is suitable for undergraduates and graduates who are interested in or formally studying the administration of justice in America. Over thirty pages of bibliographic notes and references make this book extremely valuable to the student and professional alike.

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Delinquency, Crime, and Society edited by James F. Short, Jr.

The University of Chicago Press (5801 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637), 1976, 325 pp., \$15.00.

Invariably, when reviewing an edited work in criminology or criminal justice, I usually finish the book feeling generally dismayed, slightly angry, and somewhat cheated. I continually experience the gnawing feeling that the collection or edited work is more a means of self-aggrandizement for the editor than a meaningful contribution to an emerging body of knowledge (not meaning to cast unduly severe aspersions on the scholarly intent of our "editors"). These collections traditionally present papers that were previously published in other books or in journals. Lacking originality, the ultimate value of these collections to a body of knowledge is questionable. This situation is further compounded by the lack of any substantial integrative efforts on the part of the editor. Frequently, the editor will offer only meager, superficial commentary that he or she feels affords consistency, purpose and cohesion to a group of otherwise unrelated manuscripts. In more cases than not, such

integrative efforts result in miserable failure, and offer the reader nothing more than a high-priced, finely bound copy of the original manuscripts.

Short's editorial work, excluding what I believe to be a slow beginning, however, is a refreshing change from the current "reader" proliferation. This work represents a compilation of twelve original manuscripts reflecting on the historical origins and current status of the theoretical and empirical tradition fostered by Henry D. McKay. Seven of the twelve works were originally presented at a symposium honoring him that was held at the University of Chicago in 1972. Not only were the participants' topics related to the McKay tradition, but the participants themselves, as Short notes, "are 'Old Chicagoans' in the sense that they were intellectually nurtured at the University of Chicago and in that city's streets and institutions." Thus, the book reflects a "progress report" and explanation of a theoretical and empirical perspective by its most prominent spokespersons.

The book's selections, according to Short, are organized by the theoretical and empirical issues they purport to address. For him, four such issues emerge. The first involves the elaboration of (1) the various historical and current perspectives used in explaining the phenomenon identified by Shaw and McKay (i.e., differences in delinquency rates by social and physical location), (2) the research models employed (in the investigations of such a phenomenon), and (3) the reaffirmation of the validity of Shaw and McKay's interpretations of differential delinquency rates. The second issue focuses on juvenile gangs, their politicalization, and the public and agency awareness of these gangs. This section is followed by one section wherein cross-cultural research involving the Shaw and McKay hypothesis is reported. Finally, the fourth issue concerns the theoretical relationship between and the applicability of the Shaw and McKay perspective to (1) white collar criminality, (2) labeling, (3) action-oriented programs, and (4) crime control and reduction policy. Although the issues presented are admittedly germane to the study of delinquency, I feel that the final selection of topics was more a function of the contributors' independent preferences than a function of prior, coordinated design.

In my opinion, four of the papers merit special attention because they offer the reader either an innovative contribution to the field or a novel re-evaluation of previous contributions. Harold Finestone's article affords the reader a historical and theoretical perspective in which to place our more significant criminological efforts over the last forty years. He records how the various theoretical shifts in general sociology have been employed over the years to explain Shaw and McKay's original observations. Finestone, interestingly, labels these theoretical shifts by the image in which they cast the delinquent: the "disaffiliated," "frustrated social climber," and "aggrieved citizen." Albert Reiss, in his selection, contends that the current voguish treatment of middle class delinquency should not be allowed to obscure the basic validity of Shaw and McKay's original statement for the present day study of delinquency. He supports this contention by uncovering, in depth, basic flaws in the research and reasoning of the "middle class" delinquency theorists and researchers. In the third article that merits special attention, Miller's discussion of gangs and public awareness is an insightful application of the "problematic nature of social reality" hypothesis to delinquent gang behavior. This particular paper has far-reaching ramifications for the future study of the relationship between public awareness, mass media, and the definition of criminological phenomenon. It would appear that the fear of widespread juvenile gang behavior is more a function of public recognition than of the actual level of delinquent activity in a gang setting. Finally, Solomon Kobrin's attempt to overcome the scathing criticism of labeling by interjecting the concept of differential social organization deserves scholarly notice. It appears that by melding structural, etiological considerations with the processual aspects of labeling, the first and subsequent acts of delinquency can be more successfully explained. Although these four articles are of special merit, the remaining eight also deserve the reader's attention. Two of the remaining works are the cross-cultural

articles. They deserve attention in that they report on the theoretical universality, given the scope conditions, of the Shaw and McKay tradition.

It should be noted that Short's book is written by academic sociologists for a sophisticated academic audience. Understanding the articles requires an intimate familiarity with sociological terms and concepts, a firm comprehension of basic criminological thought, and a working knowledge of the McKay tradition. Although this comment on the sophistication of the material is not meant to degrade the book, it is meant to warn the casual reader that quite demanding reading lies between the book's covers. In short (no pun intended), if you are looking for a text or reader for an undergraduate juvenile delinquency class, look farther. If, however, you are looking for an in-depth reference source, albeit narrow in perspective, you need look no further for you have arrived at a significant contribution.

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