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BOOK REVIEW: Criminology

Banuka De SILVA

Faculty of Criminal Justice,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Kandawala Road, Rathmalana 10390, Sri Lanka.

E-mail: desilvakbn@kdu.ac.lk

K.S. DHARMASIRI

Faculty of Criminal Justice,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Kandawala Road, Rathmalana 10390, Sri Lanka.

E-mail: dharmasiriks@kdu.ac.lk

D.M.P.V. DISSANAYAKE

Faculty of graduate studies,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Kandawala Road, Rathmalana 10390, Sri Lanka.

E-mail: vimanshya7@gmail.com

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BOOK REVIEW: Criminology

Book Title: *Criminology*

Author: Larry J. Siegel

Published: 1992

Publishing House: St. Paul: West Publishing Company

ISBN: 0-314-92321-7.

The textbook *Criminology*, authored by Larry J. Siegel, provides a comprehensive exploration of the core concepts and principles of the field of criminology. The book covers a wide range of topics, including the nature and extent of crime, theories of crime, the criminal justice system, and social policies related to crime. With a strong focus on empirical evidence, the book provides a balanced and in-depth analysis of criminology. As a leading authority in criminology, Larry J. Siegel has written numerous textbooks and articles on the subject. He received his PhD from the University of Nebraska and taught at several universities, including Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is also a former president of the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences. The textbook is published by Cengage Learning and aims at undergraduate students studying criminology or related fields. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the field and is written in clear and accessible language. It is also accompanied by online resources, including quizzes and case studies, to aid student

learning. Hence, *Criminology* by Larry J. Siegel is an essential resource for students and scholars interested in understanding the causes of crime and the criminal justice system. The book's empirical approach, comprehensive coverage, and accessible language make it a valuable addition to the field of criminology.

The book is organised into sixteen chapters, each covering a different aspect of criminology. Chapter one of the book *Criminology* introduces readers to the field of criminology and its key concepts. The chapter provides a foundation for understanding the nature of crime, its causes, and how society responds to it. At the start of the chapter, the author provides a comprehensive overview of the field of criminology, including its rich history and the evolution of its theories and research methods over time. The author then introduces readers to the concept of crime, discussing its various forms and how it is defined and measured. The author explores the different theoretical perspectives used to explain the causes of crime, including biological, psychological, and sociological approaches. By analysing these different perspectives, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the several factors contributing to criminal behaviour. In addition to examining the causes of crime, the author also discusses how society responds to criminal behaviour. This includes exploring the criminal justice system's role, the impact of social policies, and the effectiveness of various crime prevention and intervention approaches. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the future of criminology, highlighting emerging research trends and the challenges facing the field. Overall, Chapter 1 provides a thorough and engaging introduction to the field of criminology. The author's discussion of the nature of crime, the causes of criminal behaviour, and how society responds to crime set the stage for a more in-depth exploration of these topics in subsequent chapters.

Chapter two of the book explores how crime is measured and studied. And it provides an overview of the various research methods used in criminology, including surveys, experiments, and observational studies. The author begins by discussing the importance of research in criminology and the challenges associated with studying crime. The author then delves into the different research methods used in criminology, providing readers with an overview of their strengths and limitations. One of the main topics explored in this chapter is using surveys to measure crime. The author explains the different types of surveys used in criminology, including victimisation surveys and self-report surveys. Through an analysis of these different methods, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of survey research. The chapter also explores experimental research in criminology, including using randomised controlled trials to test the effectiveness of crime prevention programmes. Additionally, the author discusses using observational studies to study crime and criminal behaviour. In addition to discussing the various research methods used in criminology, the author also explores the ethical considerations that arise in the study of crime. This includes a discussion of informed consent, confidentiality, and potential harm to research participants. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the importance of using multiple research methods to understand crime and criminal behaviour comprehensively. The author highlights the value of triangulation, or the use of multiple methods, to confirm findings and increase the validity of the research. Overall, Chapter 2 offers a comprehensive and engaging overview of the different research methods used in criminology.

Chapter three of the book explores the different theoretical perspectives used to explain criminal behaviour. The chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the major theories of crime, including classical, biological, psychological, and sociological theories. The chapter begins with an introduction to classical criminology, which focuses on free will and the idea that individuals choose to engage in criminal behaviour. The author

explores the key principles of classical criminology, including deterrence, punishment, and the social contract. The author then discusses biological theories of crime, which focus on the role of genetics, hormones, and other biological factors in criminal behaviour. The author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the different biological theories of crime, including Lombroso's theory of the born criminal and Sheldon's somatotype theory. Next, the chapter explores psychological theories of crime, including Freud's psychoanalytic theory and Eysenck's personality theory. By analysing these different perspectives, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the various psychological factors contributing to criminal behaviour. Finally, the chapter explores sociological theories of crime, including strain theory, social learning theory, and labelling theory. The author discusses the role of social factors, such as poverty, inequality, and socialisation, in shaping criminal behaviour. The chapter concludes by discussing the strengths and limitations of the different theoretical perspectives on crime. The author highlights the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to studying crime, incorporating insights from biology, psychology, sociology, and other fields. Chapter three offers a comprehensive and engaging overview of the major theoretical perspectives on criminal behaviour.

Chapter four of the book "Criminology" focuses on the measurement and distribution of crime. The author explores the different methods used to measure crime, including official crime statistics, victimisation surveys, and self-report studies. The chapter begins with an overview of official crime statistics collected by law enforcement agencies and compiled by the FBI. The author discusses these statistics' strengths and limitations, including underreporting and bias. The author then moves on to discuss victimisation surveys, which are used to measure crime by asking individuals about their experiences as victims. The author explores the different types of victimisation surveys and highlights their strengths and limitations. Next, the chapter examines self-report studies, which ask individuals about their involvement in criminal activities. The author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the different types of self-report studies and discusses their strengths and limitations. The chapter also explores the distribution of crime, including patterns of victimisation and offending across different demographic groups. The author discusses the role of age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status in shaping crime patterns. Finally, the chapter concludes with a discussion of the challenges and controversies surrounding the measurement and distribution of crime. The author highlights the importance of using multiple data sources to understand crime patterns comprehensively. Overall, Chapter 4 offers a comprehensive overview of the different methods used to measure and study crime and a thorough exploration of the distribution of crime across different demographic groups.

Chapter five of the book is a comprehensive exploration of the different theories that attempt to explain why people engage in criminal behaviour. The chapter begins by discussing the classical school of criminology, which posits that people make rational choices based on their actions' potential rewards and punishments. The chapter then examines various biological and psychological theories of crime. The author explores genetics, brain chemistry, and personality traits' roles in shaping criminal behaviour. The author also examines the social learning theory, which suggests that people learn criminal behaviour through interaction with others in their social environment. Next, the chapter explores the sociological theories of crime, including strain theory, social disorganisation theory, and cultural deviance theory. The author discusses how social factors such as poverty, inequality, and social disorganisation may contribute to criminal behaviour. The chapter concludes by examining critical theories of crime, including feminist and critical race theories. These theories highlight how power and inequality shape criminal behaviour and the criminal justice system. The author emphasises the

importance of considering these critical perspectives in understanding crime and working towards social justice. Chapter five provides a comprehensive overview of the theories that explain criminal behaviour.

Chapter six of the book is a comprehensive exploration of the criminal justice system. The chapter provides an overview of the different components of the criminal justice system, including the police, courts, and correctional institutions. The author begins by discussing the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system. The chapter highlights the different strategies and techniques used by the police to prevent and respond to crime. The author also examines the impact of policing on crime rates and the challenges law enforcement faces in ensuring fair and equitable treatment. Next, the chapter delves into the court system, including the different types of courts and their functions. The author discusses the different stages of the court process, from arraignment to sentencing, and highlights the key actors involved in each stage. The author also addresses some of the challenges and controversies in the court system, including racial bias and wrongful convictions. The chapter then turns to correctional institutions, including jails and prisons. The author explores the different types of correctional facilities and the challenges inmates and correctional staff face. The chapter also discusses the role of rehabilitation and reentry programmes in reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration. Finally, the chapter concludes with a discussion of the challenges and controversies facing the criminal justice system. The author highlights racial bias, wrongful convictions, and prison overcrowding and emphasises the importance of ongoing reform efforts to address these challenges. Chapter six provides a comprehensive overview of the criminal justice system, including its different components and functions.

Chapter seven of the book delves into the different types of crimes people commit and the factors contributing to criminal behaviour. The chapter begins by discussing street crime, including theft, assault, and drug dealing. The author explores the various factors contributing to street crime, including poverty, social disorganisation, and opportunity. Next, the chapter examines white-collar crime, which refers to crimes committed by people in positions of power or authority, such as embezzlement, fraud, and insider trading. The author discusses the different forms of white-collar crime and the challenges of detecting and prosecuting these types of offences. The chapter also explores corporate crime, which refers to criminal offences committed by corporations or other large organisations. The author discusses the different types of corporate crime, including environmental crimes, occupational crimes, and consumer fraud. The chapter concludes by examining organised crime, which refers to criminal organisations that engage in illegal activities such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking. The author discusses the different forms of organised crime and the challenges involved in combating these criminal networks. Overall, Chapter 7 provides a comprehensive overview of the different types of crimes that people can commit and the factors that contribute to criminal behaviour.

Chapter eight of the book examines violent crimes, including homicide, assault, and sexual assault. The author explores the various forms of violent crime, their prevalence, and the factors contributing to their occurrence. The chapter begins with an overview of violent crime and its impact on society. The author then delves into the different types of violent crimes, including intimate partner violence, hate crimes, and terrorism. Through analysing these different forms of violence, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of violent behaviour. In addition to examining the different types of violent crimes, the author also discusses the various theories that seek to explain the causes of violent behaviour. This includes exploring the psychological, social, and cultural factors that may contribute to violent

behaviour and examining the relationship between violent crime and structural inequality. The chapter concludes by discussing strategies to prevent and address violent crimes. This includes exploring the role of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in responding to violent crime and examining the effectiveness of community-based programmes and restorative justice approaches. Overall, Chapter 8 offers a comprehensive and engaging analysis of violent crime.

Chapter nine of the book explores the different types of property crimes, including theft, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. The author analyses the prevalence and causes of property crimes and offers readers insights into the strategies used to prevent and address such crimes. The chapter begins with an overview of the various forms of property crimes and their effects on individuals, communities, and society. The author then delves into the underlying causes of property crimes, such as economic opportunity, social disorganisation, and cultural norms that may condone criminal behaviour. Through a detailed analysis of these factors, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of property crime. In addition to examining the causes of property crime, the author also discusses the different strategies used to prevent and address these offences. This includes exploring the role of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in detecting and punishing property crimes and examining the effectiveness of community-based programmes that seek to reduce the risk factors associated with property crime. Overall, Chapter Nine offers a thorough and engaging analysis of property crime that is informative and accessible.

Chapter ten of the book provides an overview of the different forms of violent crime, including homicide, assault, and domestic violence. The chapter begins by examining the different types of homicide, including first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and manslaughter. The author discusses the various factors that can contribute to homicide, including psychological disorders, substance abuse, and societal pressures. Next, the chapter explores different forms of assault, including simple assault, aggravated assault, and sexual assault. The author discusses the prevalence of assault in society and the challenges of preventing and prosecuting these crimes. The chapter also examines the complex issue of domestic violence. The author explores the different types of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, and financial abuse. The author discusses the challenges involved in identifying and preventing domestic violence and the need for effective intervention and support for victims. Throughout the chapter, the author discusses the various factors that can contribute to violent crime, including poverty, mental illness, and cultural norms. The author also explores potential solutions to the problem of violent crime, including early intervention programmes, increased law enforcement efforts, and community-based programmes. Overall, Chapter 10 provides a comprehensive overview of the different forms of violent crime and the challenges in preventing and prosecuting these crimes.

In Chapter 11, the book explores the complex issue of property crime, including burglary, theft, and arson. The chapter begins by examining the different types of property crimes, including crimes against personal property and crimes against public property. The author discusses the prevalence of property crime in society and the challenges of preventing and prosecuting these crimes. Next, the chapter explores different forms of burglary, including residential, commercial, and vehicle. The author discusses the various factors contributing to burglary, including poverty, drug addiction, and a lack of social support. The chapter also examines different forms of theft, including shoplifting, pickpocketing, and identity theft. The author discusses the challenges involved in identifying and preventing these crimes and the need for effective intervention and support for victims. Finally, the chapter explores the serious issue of arson, including the different types and factors that can contribute to this crime. The

author discusses the challenges of investigating and prosecuting arson cases and the need for effective fire prevention and safety measures. Throughout the chapter, the author highlights the importance of understanding the various factors contributing to property crime and the need for effective intervention and prevention strategies. The author also discusses potential solutions to the property crime problem, including increased law enforcement efforts, community-based programmes, and crime prevention through environmental design. Overall, Chapter 11 provides a comprehensive overview of the different forms of property crime and the challenges in preventing and prosecuting these crimes.

Chapter twelve of the book explores the various forms of violence in society, including interpersonal violence, collective violence, and state violence. The author delves into violence's underlying causes and consequences and analyses how it is perpetuated in different contexts. The chapter begins with an overview of the different types of violence and their manifestations in society. The author then examines the various theories and explanations that seek to account for the prevalence of violence, including psychological, social, and cultural factors. Through a detailed analysis of these theories, the author offers readers a deeper understanding of the complex nature of violence and the factors that contribute to its occurrence. In addition to exploring the causes of violence, the chapter also discusses the consequences of violent behaviour, including physical harm, emotional trauma, and societal unrest. The author examines how violence affects individuals, communities, and society and highlights the importance of effective strategies for preventing and addressing violent behaviour. Overall, Chapter 12 provides a thought-provoking and insightful exploration of societal violence. Through its comprehensive analysis of the causes and consequences of violent behaviour, the chapter offers readers a deeper understanding of this complex and pervasive issue.

Chapter thirteen of the book offers an insightful exploration of various types of organised crime. The chapter delves into the nature and characteristics of traditional organised crime, transnational organised crime, and terrorism. Through an in-depth analysis, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the different forms of organised crime, their operational methods, and the risks they pose to society. In addition to examining the different types of organised crime, the author also explores the factors contributing to its growth and proliferation. These include economic opportunity, political instability, and cultural norms that facilitate the formation and growth of criminal organisations. The author's discussion of these factors provides valuable insights into the root causes of organised crime and helps readers better understand how such groups function and expand. Overall, Chapter thirteen offers a comprehensive review of organised crime that is both informative and engaging.

Chapter fourteen of the book is dedicated to studying white-collar and corporate crimes. The author explores the various forms of white-collar and corporate crimes, their prevalence, and the factors contributing to their occurrence. The chapter begins with an overview of white-collar and corporate crimes and their impact on society. The author then delves into the different types of white-collar and corporate crimes, including insider trading, embezzlement, and environmental crimes. Through an analysis of these different forms of crime, the author provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of white-collar and corporate criminal behaviour. In addition to examining the different types of white-collar and corporate crimes, the author also discusses the various theories that seek to explain their causes. This includes an exploration of the psychological, social, and cultural factors that may contribute to white-collar and corporate criminal behaviour and an examination of the relationship between such crimes and structural inequality. The chapter discusses strategies to prevent and address white-collar and corporate crimes. This includes exploring the role of law

enforcement and regulatory agencies in responding to these crimes and examining the effectiveness of corporate compliance programmes and other preventative measures. Chapter fourteen offers a comprehensive and engaging analysis of white-collar and corporate crimes.

Chapter fifteen of the book comprehensively explores the different approaches used to prevent and control crime. The chapter begins by discussing the concept of deterrence, which suggests that people are less likely to commit crimes if they believe they will be punished. The author explores different forms of deterrence, including specific, general, and situational. Next, the chapter examines different forms of punishment, including incarceration, probation, and community service. The author discusses the effectiveness of these different forms of punishment and the challenges involved in implementing them. The chapter also explores the different strategies used to prevent crime before it occurs. The author discusses the importance of crime prevention through environmental design and community-based crime prevention programmes. The author also explores technology's role in preventing and solving crimes, such as surveillance cameras and DNA testing. The chapter concludes by examining the challenges of creating a fair and just criminal justice system. The author discusses the issues of racial bias and wrongful convictions and explores potential solutions to these challenges. Overall, Chapter 15 provides a comprehensive overview of the different approaches to preventing and controlling crime.

Chapter sixteen, the book's last chapter, focuses on global criminology, exploring crime and justice on a global scale. In this chapter, the author examines how crime and criminal justice are shaped by globalisation, including the rise of transnational crime, the impact of global economic inequality on crime, and the influence of international law on criminal justice systems. The author comprehensively analyses the complex crime and criminal behaviour phenomena in this book. Through his exploration of various theories and perspectives in the field, the author provides a nuanced and balanced understanding of the causes and consequences of crime. The author's approach to studying crime is interdisciplinary, drawing on various disciplines, including sociology, psychology, biology, and law. This interdisciplinary perspective is a strength of the book, allowing for a more holistic understanding of crime's complex and multifaceted nature.

Overall, Criminology is a comprehensive and insightful textbook that provides a thorough overview of the field of criminology. The book is well-structured and organised, with clear explanations of key concepts and theories and numerous examples and case studies that illustrate real-world applications of criminological ideas. One of the strengths of this book is its emphasis on the multidisciplinary nature of criminology. The author draws on various disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and economics, to provide a holistic understanding of crime and criminal behaviours. This interdisciplinary approach allows readers to see the complex interplay of factors contributing to crime, from individual traits and experiences to social and economic structures. Another strength of *Criminology* is its accessibility. The author writes in a clear and engaging style that is easy to follow, even for readers with a little background. The book is also well-designed, with helpful features like chapter summaries, review questions, and key term lists that make it easy to review and retain the material. Overall, *Criminology* is an excellent textbook that would be a valuable resource for students and scholars of criminology, as well as anyone interested in understanding the causes and consequences of crime. The author's engaging writing style, interdisciplinary approach, and comprehensive coverage make this book an essential addition to any criminologist's library.