

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Juvenile Delinquency: Concepts and Control

REFERENCE: Trojnowicz, R. C. and Morash, M., *Juvenile Delinquency: Concepts and Control*, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Route 9W, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

This is an excellent introductory text for practitioners and students who wish to gain an overview of the subject. The book has 13 well organized chapters that range from definition of a delinquent to research in delinquency prevention and treatment. Each chapter provides well chosen recent references that enable the interested reader to pursue areas of special interest. In addition to scholarly sources the authors provide appropriate quotes from such publications as the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Parade Magazine*. The authors are aware of the need to keep the reader interested and make the materials relevant to general concerns. At the same time they do conclude,

newspaper, television, and magazine accounts of juvenile delinquency are probably the least reliable information we have on how delinquent youths are. Mass media attention to gang delinquency, for example, has varied completely independently of the amount of gang activity. (page 7)

Throughout the book the latest research and various aspects of delinquency are critically reviewed. For example, Robert Martinson's claim that there were no successful programs for either juvenile or adult offenders is juxtaposed with studies that present a more optimistic point of view.

Each chapter concludes with a summary that offers discussion questions and suggests certain projects for the interested reader. The chapters begin with a list of learning objectives.

The chapter dealing with "Theories of Delinquency Causation" is particularly impressive. In a mere 40 pages the authors succeed in providing a meaningful survey of the interdisciplinary efforts to explain criminal behavior. They explore the contributions of classical criminology, describe the major sociological theories, and discuss psychoanalytic and psychological contributions. The conclusion of this chapter tells us something about the author's orientation.

Because of the complexity of the problem, there is no single answer or 'common cure.' Many academic disciplines and theoretical approaches can contribute to a better understanding of the delinquency phenomenon and methods for its control, treatment and prevention.

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In the following chapter dealing with family and juvenile delinquency, the authors demonstrate how sociological and psychological theories can be fully integrated in programs designed to deal with juvenile delinquency.

The book does not deal exclusively with pathology of the younger generation. An excellent chapter entitled, "The Adolescent" discusses the period of development of all human beings known as adolescence.

Of particular interest to the readers of the *Journal* might be Part III of the book which deals with treatment and the operation of the entire juvenile justice system.

A separate chapter deals comprehensively with child abuse and neglect. The concluding chapter is a thoughtful look at the future and a review of the ideological confrontations as they relate to crime control. The book offers an annotated bibliography which is likely to be of great usefulness to any serious student of the subject.

This book is a well written, meticulously researched, comprehensive text on the subject of juvenile delinquency.