Addressing the Enforcement Gap to Counter Crime: Investing in Public Safety, the Rule of Law and Local Development in Poor Neighborhoods

PART 3: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Addressing the Enforcement Gap to Counter Crime: Investing in Public Safety, the Rule of Law and Local Development in Poor Neighborhoods
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Justice is central to the World Bank’s core agenda of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. It is an intrinsic goal of development overall and influences the achievement of many specific development outcomes. Well-functioning and inclusive justice institutions prevent and mitigate conflict, crime, and violence; ensure executive accountability and people’s meaningful access to services; give people legal identity and voice to protect their rights; enable investment and private sector growth; and promote equitable and inclusive development outcomes.

The Bank’s 2011 World Development Report demonstrated that conflict, crime, and violence are major barriers to development, with direct economic costs that can add up to substantial proportions of GDP. Of the various dimensions of the rule of law, the basic control of violence has the strongest correlation to economic growth in developing countries. Moreover, crime and violence especially affect the poor. High levels of criminality and widespread violence create fear that constrains mobility, erodes trust between people and communities and their trust in institutions, and reinforces stigmas toward and the exclusion of certain groups perceived to be dangerous, all of which impede long-term development. Effective and well-functioning justice systems can provide the critical legitimate processes that are needed for the resolution of grievances that might otherwise lead to conflict, crime, and violence.

Implementing holistic approaches to violence, crime, and insecurity has become a part of the Bank’s work. These engagements have thus far been limited and led chiefly by two Global Practices (GPs), primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Urban and Social Development GP focuses on urban design and social approaches to violence prevention, and the Governance GP’s justice team is collaborating with them on analytical work, operational design, and initial implementation and on initial engagements with ministries of justice to support police and other criminal justice sector agencies, especially in Latin America. Citizen security and violence prevention are currently a small area of the Bank’s work, but they have significant growth potential, primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean, though demand also exists in the Middle East and North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and various fragile and conflict-affected states.

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2 In the area of violence prevention and citizen security, there are six Development Policy Loans (DPLs) worth US$2.7 billion in Brazil, Colombia, and Honduras. In addition, the Bank’s portfolio includes 53 projects aimed at violence prevention (20 investments, two Institutional Development Funds (IDFs), 16 analyses, and nine technical assistance operations). Roughly 60 percent of violence-related investments are located in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the remaining 40 percent divided between East Asia and Africa.
This document was developed as a result of a request from World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to the Governance GP for more information on the link between crime and poverty and the Bank’s current and potential engagement to support client countries in their efforts to counter crime in their communities. The resulting review of the evidence base and the Bank’s response to date pointed to the need to highlight the importance of law enforcement to counter crime as part of a holistic approach, especially in poor communities, which not only suffer from economic and social ills but also rarely have access to the government services needed to address these problems. Effective policing services are also lacking, leading to a serious enforcement gap in many poor communities that requires attention and investment to allow these neighborhoods to recover and eventually prosper.

The authors would like to thank the World Bank’s internal and external reviewers of an earlier concept note and a draft of this document: Rodrigo Serrano-Berthet (Lead Social Development Specialist, Social, Urban, Rural, Resilience Global Practice [GSURR]), David Hawkes (Lead Specialist, Integrity Vice Presidency, Directorate of Operations [INTOP]), Jorge Luis Silva (Public Sector Specialist, Governance Global Practice [GGODR]), Joan Hofman Serrano (Senior Social Development Specialist, GSURR), Jimena Garotte (Senior Counsel, Legal Vice Presidency), and Holly Burkhalter (International Justice Mission). Input was also provided by Alexander Berg, Deborah Isser, Doug Porter, Jared Schott, and Nicolas Menzies (GGODR). Their feedback and comments have helped shape this paper into what we hope will be a useful contribution to the growing literature on crime, poverty, and development and ways to address police reform in challenging circumstances. We also thank Patricia Carley for her excellent and skilled editing.
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Introduction

This annotated bibliography reviews the literature used in parts 1 and 2 of this publication, with a special focus on the results of numerous research projects on police interventions in troubled and marginalized communities and the ways police address persistent crime and violence problems in these areas. It also reviews international efforts centered on community and problem-oriented policing as well as restorative justice practices. The bibliography is seen as a resource for those developing such programs in the future. References are grouped under subject headings to assist in the search for specific information on crime, police reforms, and barriers to reform efforts.

1. Global Impact of Crime


Violence in Latin America has increased substantially in recent years as a result of high income inequality, social exclusion by ethnicity, and the growing drug and weapons trades. Because the infrastructure within communities has deteriorated, most criminal justice systems lack institutional legitimacy. Violence has proven to be a major obstacle to economic and social development in Latin America, with an estimated cost of about US$15 billion annually in lost wealth and income, or about 5–25 percent of GDP. It is also estimated that violence is the number one cause of loss of years of healthy life due to violence-related morbidity among men in Latin America. Other indirect effects include lower accumulation of human capital, decreased participation in the labor market, and lower incomes. Because of these deleterious effects in Latin American countries, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has implemented violence reduction programs in Colombia and Uruguay. The authors review the promising effects and suggest recommendations for future efforts.


This study seeks to explore the effect of unemployment on crime in an international context. It examines all European countries and uses consistently measured rates of crime from the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice. Results indicate that a 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate results in a 2 percent increase in property crimes. In France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, it is estimated that a 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate causes about $1.2-1.4 billion in annual losses due to property crime.
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The study investigates the relationship between income inequality and crime in the United States using cross-sectional data. The researcher uses census and crime data reported to the police in 1994 and 2000, acknowledging that underreporting may affect results. The researcher failed to find any significant relationship between crime and income inequality. He explains that the null results may have been due to other significant contextual events that occurred during the time period examined.


The researchers attempt to estimate violence containment spending, or the economic activity that is related to the consequences or prevention of violence where the violence is directed against people or property. The less a nation spends on the prevention of violence the more resources it will have for other more productive expenditures. To estimate the global cost of violence containment, the researchers used estimates of the costs of criminal justice personnel, assault and terrorism-related injuries, homicide, prisoners, military expenditures, peacekeeping missions, public fear, refugees, and lost output due to internal or external conflict. Results suggested an estimated cost of US$9.46 trillion, or 11 percent of world GDP. The results also estimated the 10 countries with the highest violence containment spending as a proportion of GDP, which included North Korea, Syria, and Liberia as the top three countries. This study demonstrates the benefits of reduced violence containment spending and resources that would be saved for other uses through more peaceful environments.


Citing several sources, this article reviews the previous literature on the estimated costs of crime for several different regions. The researchers use crime data from the United Nations world crime surveys and mortality data from the World Health Organization. Results indicate that past incidence of violent crime significantly predicts future rates of crime. Using GDP as a variable, the researchers find that stagnant economic activity induces more criminal activity, and that a 1 percent increase in GDP growth is associated with a 2.4 percent decrease in the homicide rate. Results also suggest that higher income inequality is associated with a rise in criminal activity. Additionally, the higher levels of trust among community members has a significant and robust effect on reducing levels of violent crime. The researchers further review individual-level variables and personal characteristics related to crime victimization in Latin America.

The paper aims to identify the main costs of violent conflict for human development in Colombia, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Due to conflict within these regions, it is reported that annual GDP rates have been lower than in other regions, and due to the length of those conflicts, cumulative losses have been very high. It is estimated that the annual GDP losses as a result of conflict are within the range of 0.3 and 2 percentage points. The author argues that the impacts of violent conflict include damage to infrastructure; reduced economic expenditure and increased military spending; increased opportunities for corruption and drug trafficking; the abandonment of schools due to danger, mortalities, and injuries; and damage to psychological health.


This article is a systematic review protocol and provides an overview of the state of research regarding the impact of crime interventions in developing countries. These countries are especially vulnerable to the costs associated with violence and crime, including costs linked to health care, rehabilitation, physical and property damage, law enforcement personnel, prosecution of offenders, and lost work productivity. In weak developing states, the effects of crime can significantly suppress growth and stability. The authors suggest that developing countries are especially in need of policing interventions because they lack the infrastructure, governance mechanisms, social norms, and professionalization of the police present in other, more stable countries.


The authors’ goal is to further the understanding of how trauma and injury contribute to the global burden of disease. The article reports that interpersonal violence is the leading cause of death and disability in the 15–44-year age group among low- and middle-income countries of the Americas. Due to the inadequate systems of hospital and community-based emergency care, this trauma leaves them with a much greater burden. The authors continue by explaining how medical resources, continued research, and advanced technologies may help these countries alleviate the burdensome effects of physical trauma.

This article seeks to examine the relationship between inequality and crime in urban counties in the United States using uniform crime reporting (UCR) data from all metropolitan counties in 1991. Because factors like poverty, ethnic heterogeneity, and residential mobility are predicted to weaken social control and undermine collective efficacy, it is projected that higher levels of inequality and poverty will be associated with higher rates of crime. The researchers find that property crime is strongly affected by measures of poverty, and violent crime is strongly affected by measures of inequality.


This report highlights the causes, risk factors, and extent of the problem of various types of violence. In summarizing this global health problem, the authors define a typology of violence that includes self-directed, interpersonal, and collective violence. The report estimates that in 2000, 1.6 million people worldwide died as a result of violence. Over half of these deaths were due to self-inflicted and one-third to interpersonal violence, and one-fifth were war-related. Most occurred in low- to middle-income countries. The authors recognize that violence is the result of several individual, community, and societal factors, and its prevention requires complex, multifaceted solutions.


This article summarizes the major findings of the World Report on Violence and Health. The authors emphasize the role that families and communities play in exerting protective and risk-inducing influences on a person’s likelihood of turning to violence. They also explain that the effects of interpersonal violence and war are far-reaching, as they can impede economic development by increasing the costs associated with health, human, and criminal justice services. They can also disrupt the establishment and viability of businesses. The authors argue that national plans of action involving a variety of relevant governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) must be developed to address the complex causes of violence.


This article examines the impact of poverty alleviation programs on crime in Argentina. The relationship between welfare assistance to alleviate poverty and crime has been investigated, and though many studies have found that it reduces crime, some recent research has found the opposite. The author tested the impact of Argentina’s poverty relief program on the total crime rate, property crime, robbery, larceny, aggravated assault, and murder. Results suggested that welfare spending and the alleviation of poverty helped reduce
total crime and especially affected property crimes, robbery, and aggravated assault. These effects are thought to be the result of increased opportunity cost for committing crimes, increased social control, and decreased levels of strain.


The authors examine violence in Jamaica, which has heavily increased over the past several decades. It is important to study the costs of violence because they can include weak investor confidence, higher health and police costs, the disaffection and migration of the urban middle class, higher mortality and morbidity rates, reduced access to social services, dysfunctional families, the deeper oppression of women, and an overall climate of fear. The researchers used a Participatory Urban Appraisal (PUA) methodology to determine community perceptions of the causes of violence; the interrelationship between violence and poverty; the impact of violence on employment, the economic and social infrastructure, and social institutions; and the perceived means by which government, communities, households, and individuals could work to reduce violence. Citizens expressed resentment toward politicians, negative relations with the police, a perceived link between economic insecurity and levels of crime/violence, and a perception that increased violence was due to a breakdown of the moral and behavioral fabric of their society.


The article argues that poverty, inequality, and exclusion related to the unequal distribution of economic, political, and social resources have led to increases in violence in Latin American countries. Consequently, high levels of violence have negatively affected micro- and macro-economic growth and have undermined the functioning of health services, the security forces, judicial systems, and housing and social services. The authors suggest that violence affects physical, financial, human, social, and natural capital. Specifically, it directly erodes social capital by reducing trust and cooperation within communities. Violence prevention strategies should work to address the multiple ways in which violence erodes the legitimacy of government institutions and the relationships between citizens and within communities.


This article examines the positive association between income inequality and homicide rates and the cross-national variation in crime. To assess the association, the researchers used the Gini index as a measure of poverty and inequality and the International Crime Victimization Survey to measure crime occurrence. Their results suggest that income inequality was unrelated to the variation in crime across countries, but countries with higher levels of poverty, or absolute deprivation, were more likely to experience homicide, robbery, and burglary and other thefts.

This article outlines the proliferation of violence in South Africa and its leading causes. Violence and related injuries are the second leading cause of death and disability in South Africa. Of the 3.5 million people per year who seek health care for non-fatal injuries, over half are related to violence. The authors suggest that increased rates of crime are due to social dynamics such as poverty and income inequality, as well as specific factors such as constructions of masculinity, intergenerational cycling of violence, misuse of drugs and alcohol, and the availability of firearms.


The researcher explores the differences in crime rates as they relate to development across countries. The paper provides a useful summary of the previous research on inequality and crime, listing the unit of analysis, type of crime studied, and conclusions. By using a novel economic analysis, the results suggest that previous studies linking development to crime are incorrect and are actually due to the correlation between development and crime reporting rates. Although the analyses do not show a link between development and crime, inequality has a positive effect on thefts and contact crimes. Additionally, as education increases, the number of thefts and contact crimes decreases. This study suggests that the use of official data in international studies may lead to incorrect conclusions.


In part II, the report summarizes the impact of crime on the society, business, and governance of Africa. It specifically addresses the high levels of health-related problems in Africa as well as the fact that the continent experiences the highest levels of violence and homicide in the world. It also outlines the effects of crime on corruption and organized crime in Africa.


In part III, this report summarizes the extensive, multifaceted impact of crime on society, business, and governance in Central America. Crime can have extreme impacts on individuals, especially victims of crime who may find it difficult to cope amid limited access to health and social services. Crime and fear of crime can also paralyze social relations and trust, erode social and human capital, and interfere with economic and educational interaction. High levels of crime can also affect the economy by preventing foreign investments, raising the costs of doing business, decreasing tourism, and increasing the risk of corruption.
Finally, crime has the power to undermine relations between citizens and governments. The report provides an extensive summary of these effects and outlines the particular experiences in Central America.


This report reviews the impact of interpersonal violence and the effects of interventions and policies on this type of violence. Interpersonal violence is caused by a variety of complex factors, and at the community level, these risk factors include poverty, high residential mobility, unemployment, social isolation, the local drug trade, and weak institutions. The authors list the potential direct and indirect costs of interpersonal violence; they also describe several attempted interventions and assess their effectiveness.
2. Social Disorganization and Social Control


The authors use social disorganization theory as a potential explanation of terrorist activity, suggesting that the sources of motivation for both terrorism and crime and delinquency may be the same. Terrorists may assume that citizens will not intervene in problematic social situations because weak social ties exist due to poverty, population mobility, and ethnic heterogeneity. The authors examine the relationship between terrorism and the sociostructural correlates of terrorism in 81 provinces of Turkey. Results suggest that there are strong effects of poverty, mobility, and heterogeneity on the occurrence of terrorism. Because many studies of the correlates of terrorism in Turkey have been inconsistent, the authors suggest that further research is necessary.


The goal of this study was to examine six different versions of social disorganization theory within 86 small neighborhoods in The Hague, Netherlands. The small city is multicultural and consists of large minority groups and many different nationalities. The researchers conducted a community survey to measure offenses and offenders per neighborhood as well as several indicators of social disorganization, such as neighborhood mobility, family disruption, concentrated disadvantage, collective efficacy, and local friendship networks. Results indicated that the strongest indicator of offender rates was residential mobility. Contrary to social disorganization theory, local friendship networks, organizational participation, and unsupervised groups had no effect on offender or offense rates. The researchers argue that none of the six versions of social disorganization theory apply well to the Netherlands context. They posited that crime may be more related to the opportunity structure for criminal activity than social disorganization variables.


This study examined whether social capital in the form of civic norms and associational networks decreases the occurrence of crime. The researchers conducted a survey in Italian communities and used recreational and voluntary associations, referenda turnout, and blood donation as measures of social capital and their effects on crimes such as property thefts, robberies, and car thefts. Findings revealed that blood donations and recreational and voluntary organizations were all significantly associated with reductions in property crime rates. This indicates that the promotion of civic norms and associational life likely has very strong benefits for crime reduction.

Social control theory suggests that strong bonds in the form of attachment, involvement, commitment, and belief reduce the risks of delinquency. The authors of this study specifically examine the relationship between religiosity and delinquency in Thailand. They argue that according to social control theory, religiosity may decrease delinquency by strengthening bonds with parents and spiritual beliefs and fostering attachments to conventional norms and values. The study uses a survey conducted by the Thai Family Matters Project, which questioned 420 pairs of parents and teens in the same household. The researchers found that the results supported social control theory. Intergenerational transmission of religious beliefs decreased delinquency, probably by increasing adherence to conventional morality. They furthermore found that parental spirituality, regardless of whether specific religiosity was transmitted to the child, decreased delinquency. The authors posit that this may be because spiritual families may have stronger ties, increased socialization, and more positive influence on adolescents.


This article explores the effects of collaborative partnerships on crime with a specific focus on the effects within disorganized neighborhoods. The authors argue that collaborative partnerships may draw community resources into crime prevention and increase informal social controls by facilitating the emergence of collective efficacy. The researchers explain that police partnerships would allow citizens to express their needs and concerns to law enforcement and allow police to keep citizens informed of crime issues. The study used a 2004 sample of 414 municipal police departments with a minimum of 30,000 residents and collected information on neighborhood demographics, crimes reported to the police, and a number of problem-solving partnerships. Results indicated that police departments in disorganized communities tended to experience higher rates of crime and collaborative partnerships substantially reduce crime rates. Furthermore, the researchers found an interactive effect, indicating that the magnitude of the influence of collaborative partnerships was much stronger in highly disorganized communities.


This study aims to discover the effect of different social bonds on theft and violent delinquency among male and female adolescents in Hong Kong. Surveys were completed by 1,377 male and female students in nine different secondary schools. Students answered questions that measured different social bonds as well as self-reported participation in theft and violent crime. Students who had weak beliefs in the legal system were significantly more likely to commit theft. Those who were less bonded with their parents and less committed to their studies were more likely to commit violent crime.
Conversely, higher involvement in organizational activities was significantly related to more occurrences of violent crime. These relationships were generally found to persist in spite of differences in age.


Social bonds, specifically attachment and commitment components, are said to strongly affect individuals’ psychological and social processes. The researchers posit that if social bonds can influence a multitude of social behaviors, they may also influence individual perceptions of law enforcement. Studies that have previously tried to examine this relationship have primarily used middle and high school–aged students, and many have found a positive relationship between social bonds and perceptions of police legitimacy. Using a survey of 300 college-age students, this study investigated whether parental attachment and commitment to school affect evaluations of police legitimacy. The analysis revealed no significant relationship between parental and school attachment and perceptions of legitimacy. The researchers explain that this may indicate that the effects of attachment begin to diminish in early adulthood, but additional research is necessary. The analysis also revealed a moderate relationship between levels of parental attachment and the effect of procedural justice on perceptions of legitimacy. This may occur because individuals who are bonded are socialized to believe in the morality of officers and expect certain forms of behavior, while those with weak attachments do not learn what behaviors are expected or to respect law enforcement officers.


The researchers sought to investigate whether criminological theories of crime were generalizable across social-cultural boundaries, particularly focusing on social learning, strain, and social control theories of crime. The study uses data from a self-reported survey conducted with high school students in Madras, India as well as a subsample of the National Youth Survey conducted in the United States. The authors specify that their intention is not to compare levels of delinquency across contexts but rather the correlates of delinquency. Regarding social control variables, findings revealed that such variables operated in the same manner to influence behavior in all social-cultural situations.


This meta-analysis investigates the link between attachment to parents and adolescent delinquency using 74 manuscripts that matched the established search criteria. The authors also sought to examine potential moderators such
as gender and age differences. Findings confirmed that across the sample of studies examined, poor attachment to parents was associated with increased delinquent behaviors. Although theoretical factors were investigated, results indicated that the method of measuring attachment had an impact on its relative influence. Those who used parent reports to measure attachment found stronger links than those who relied on youth self-reports. Findings also revealed that parental discipline and supervision had strong negative effects on delinquency. Finally, parental attachment had similar effects for both males and females, but the effects diminished in strength as youth grew older.


This study explores perceptions of property crime and their correlates and the applicability of collective efficacy in urban China. The authors note that few studies have been conducted in non-Western contexts, though one study conducted in the city of Tianjin, China found that social disorganization theory helps predict burglary victimization risk. The researchers interviewed a sample of 1,199 residents from approximately 30 different communities. The outcome variable was measured as the perception of neighborhood crime for crimes with a property component, and a variety of social disorganization variables such as poverty, residential stability, social ties, and social trust were also measured. Results revealed that higher levels of community residential stability and lower levels of poverty were associated with lower levels of property crime. Furthermore, results demonstrated that measures of collective efficacy mediated the relationship between poverty and crime but not residential stability and crime.


This article investigated the role of policing in promoting collective efficacy in the developing nation of Trinidad and Tobago. The researcher argues that this is especially important because evidence indicates that collective efficacy can decrease crime even within structurally disadvantaged communities, and that high levels of legitimacy could foster the building of shared values and norms and increase collective efficacy. She further argues that a lack of legitimacy diminishes collective efficacy because when legal institutions are not trusted or respected, the conventional values that they represent will also be less respected. The researcher surveyed 2,969 individuals in 74 different neighborhoods in 13 different police districts, in addition to demographic data collected from the national census. Results indicated that when individuals observe police officers delivering higher-quality services, they also tend to grant more legitimacy to institutions. Neighborhoods with higher levels of collective efficacy also view police services and police behavior more positively. Finally, though collective efficacy influenced views of the quality of police services, the author did not find any direct links between police behaviors and their ability to foster social ties and collective efficacy.

The concept of social capital consists of several different elements that arguably decrease crime by allowing for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and enabling communities to better organize themselves for collective action. The researchers seek to examine the effects of social capital across 39 different contexts in developed and developing countries. The study uses indicators of social capital as measured in the World Values Survey as well as the incidence of homicide as collected by the World Health Organization. Results suggest that a sense of trust among community members significantly reduces homicide occurrence even while controlling for income inequality and economic growth, but the effect of other indicators of social capital was less clear.


The researchers seek to examine the effects of risk and protective factors in the context of Trinidad and Tobago. Although the nation is one of the more prosperous of the Caribbean, crime increased about 315 percent from 1999 to 2005. Although some risk and protective factors have been linked to crime, gang membership, and gun availability in developed nations, there has been little examination of how these factors may affect communities in developing nations. A Trinidad and Tobago Youth Survey was administered to 2,552 students from 22 urban public schools in five districts in 2006. The researchers found that two community protective factors (i.e., opportunities and reward for pro-social involvement) had no significant effects. Furthermore, only the perceived availability of drugs and firearms had a statistically significant effect on the number of respondents who reported using drugs, owning a gun, and belonging to a gang. These results suggest that any investigation of community risk and protective factors likely needs further examination in the context of developing nations.


This article examined whether rates of robbery and assault in Germany were patterned by district (kreise) and different structural characteristics such as resource deprivation, population structure, and family structure. Because Germany’s historical circumstances left it divided into eastern and western divisions, it was previously hypothesized that different crime rates would be patterned according to these divisions. Instead, the research found that differences follow a northwestern versus southeastern divide. The researchers analyzed 413 different kreise to examine rates of robbery and assault as well as socioeconomic and demographic factors. Results indicated that both robbery and assault showed distinctive geographical patterns, but the patterning of both crimes did not completely overlap. They also indicated that as deprivation, urbanism, divorce, and the relative size of the young population
increased, robbery also increased. The researchers therefore concluded that the criminogenic effects of structural characteristics like urbanism and pervasive deprivation could be generalized to the German context.


This study seeks to examine how inequality, social processes, and structural characteristics interact to increase or decrease rates of homicide. Specifically, the authors are interested in how social capital and collective efficacy affect homicide victimization. To examine these effects, the study used a subsample of 343 neighborhoods from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) to measure concentrated disadvantage, inequality, parental supervision, population density, residential stability, and concentrated immigration. Results indicated that collective efficacy, neighborhood inequality, and spatial proximity to violence are significant predictors of homicide variation. Because collective efficacy diminishes rates of violence, the authors suggest that future research investigate conditions that may foster trust, social control, and strong social ties.


This article examines community policing activities in Turkey and identifies those guided by social disorganization theory, which assumes that crime occurs in certain neighborhoods because of an absence of community-based social control. Community policing initiatives are aimed at improving citizens’ quality of life, enhancing the efficient and effective allocation of resources within communities, and creating social bonds with citizens. The authors suggest that most departments, including the police in Turkey, take part in a wide variety of community policing activities, and training and officer investment could be improved if the purposes of such activities were explained by police administrators. In Turkey, the Turkish National Police (TNP) is the only policing authority, and almost all city departments have created community policing units. Police hold peace meetings in which citizens are invited to participate, listen, and share their opinions. Community police officers also patrol their jurisdictions and note abandoned construction sites and buildings whose owners are then notified that they must either complete construction or limit entry. Units also assign particular officers to each neighborhood so that citizens can be familiar with and confident in those working to maintain community order.


The authors seek to test the applicability of social bonding theory among both male and female adolescents as well as across international contexts. Although
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Social bonding theory has been tested extensively, few studies have attempted to discover whether the effects of types of bonds differ between males and females. This study surveyed a sample of 1,710 high school students in Ankara, Turkey to examine the contextual and gendered effects of social bonds. Results indicated that the effects of social bonds in Turkey mirrored those in Western contexts. That is, stronger bonds had a negative effect on reported delinquency. Although the effects of bonds operated similarly among males and females, the effects were slightly stronger among male respondents. This effect may be at least partially due to cultural differences, in that education is valued much more for males than for females.


The author argues that consideration and examination of social capital will aide in the implementation and evaluation of community policing by allowing officials to use benchmarks other than crime rates. He explains that there are several different forms of social capital, including trust, that support pro-social behavior, leadership, and voluntary organizations. The establishment of one form of social capital will then lead to the creation of additional forms. The researcher conducted several focus groups with neighborhood citizens in a small city in Iowa and found that when the community and police worked together through community meetings and collaborative initiatives, the results were positive, in that citizens grew closer and felt more confident in police efforts. However, some problems remained, including residual distrust, lack of police resources, and lack of police enthusiasm. The author suggests that more trust, social capital building, and leadership are needed within police departments as well.


The goal of this article was to examine Shaw and McKay’s formulation of social disorganization theory, which posits that structural barriers impede the development of the formal and informal ties needed for community-level problem solving. The researchers use data from the 1982 British Crime Survey to measure community-level structural factors, mediating factors of social disorganization and self-reported criminal offending and criminal victimization. Results showed that communities in England and Wales with sparse friendship networks, unsupervised teenage groups, and low organizational participation were also plagued by high rates of crime and delinquency.


The researchers examined whether illegal activities committed by Israeli teenagers during the Gaza disengagement period could be explained by social control theory. Although social control theory has frequently been found
To at least partially explain delinquent behaviors, it has not been tested as an explanation of ideologically based illegal activity. The researchers collected a convenience sample of 262 adolescents from 56 settlements in Judea and Samaria. All participants engaged in some sort of legal or illegal activity in opposition to the evacuation. They asked questions related to personal background, participation in opposition to the disengagement process, and control theory variables. About 60 percent of those questioned had participated in some illegal activity, and those individuals tended to have higher levels of ideological obligation. Those who took part in illegal activities were found to have a lower sense of belief in institutions and a higher level of involvement with friends. Such results do not fully support social control theory, but rather, they highlight differences that are likely present in the emergence of ideological delinquency. Illegal activity in ideologically motivated cases is more likely to be heavily influenced by close relationships with friends and family who hold similar religious beliefs.


This article examines whether elements of disorganization in a neighborhood social environment explain distrust in institutions such as the health care system. Specifically, the researchers aimed to discover whether racial differences or neighborhood social environments played a more important role in levels of distrust. Social environment may affect levels of distrust because social disorganization theory suggests that socially disorganized communities will produce and experience more crime, which then makes citizens feel vulnerable and threatened. The researchers use data from a 2008 health survey conducted by the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation. The authors find that African-American respondents have greater levels of distrust compared to white respondents; however, neighborhood social stability and property crime rates mediated any racial effect. Results lent some support to social disorganization theory, but several disorganization variables were insignificant.


The researchers seek to test social disorganization theory using a survey sample of 37,637 respondents from 74 different neighborhoods in Utrecht, Netherlands over a period of 10 years. Although many studies test whether social disorganization variables, such as residential instability, lower socioeconomic status, and more ethnic heterogeneity, result in more crime, few studies have assessed these variables longitudinally in different neighborhoods. Furthermore, the researchers argue that it is important to distinguish between feelings of responsibility for one’s community and actual social control actions. To assess these relationships, the researchers used individual survey responses from 1996 to 2006 that were aggregated at the neighborhood level. Results suggested that disorder is cyclical, in that it continues to lead to residential...
instability and a breakdown of social control over time. Findings also indicated that ethnic heterogeneity led to lower levels of social cohesion and that higher socioeconomic status and higher social cohesion increased the potential for social control. The authors suggested that the longitudinal, time-lagged analysis indicates that neighborhood processes that lead to disorder are difficult to turn around.


It has been noted that neighborhoods plagued by high crime rates also have higher rates of mortality and illness. The level of social capital in a community affects levels of crime and health within neighborhoods by affecting the community’s ability to exercise informal social control. This study examines the relationship between social capital and self-reported crime victimization by uniquely modeling perceptions of social capital and each resident’s exposure to community social capital via other residents. The researchers used a 2009 survey of 1,000 residents in the Arakawa Ward of Tokyo, Japan to assess these variables. The results of the survey demonstrated that there was a geographical concentration of crime victimization. Risks of crime victimization were lower in areas with higher reported levels of social capital. Where supportive networks existed, crime rates were also lower.


Social disorganization theory suggests that racial heterogeneity, as well as heterogeneity in other characteristics, leads to difficulties in realizing common values and exercising effective informal social control. Social disorganization can have deleterious effects on community crime and health. However, some research has suggested that social capital may act as the glue that bonds otherwise diverse and socially distant residents. The researchers examined 9,147 responses to a 2010 Aichi Gerontological Evaluation Study. All respondents were age 65 or older and lived on the Chita peninsula. The analysis used variables such as age, education, household income, duration of residency, and feelings of trust and reciprocity to examine their effect on residents’ depressive symptoms. It was discovered that several measures of social distance were associated with an increase in depressive symptoms in respondents. The authors argue that this relationship exists because individuals cannot form effective supportive networks and do not perceive collective efficacy. Results also demonstrated that district-level social capital buffered the negative effects of social distance, supporting the proposition that social capital can promote positive outcomes and well-being in heavily heterogeneous neighborhoods.

The authors examine the effects of social disorganization and social cohesion in Brazilian neighborhoods because many impoverished, disorganized communities in Latin America experience very strong, dense social networks. They conducted a survey of 3,873 respondents from 197 different Brazilian neighborhoods and used neighborhood-level statistics from the 2000 Demographic Census. Results indicated that even in neighborhoods with high levels of social cohesion, social disorganization had a stronger effect and these communities experienced higher rates of crime. These neighborhoods also experienced greater perceived risk of crime, which may be due to the wider spread of information about criminal incidents through the dense social networks.
3. Police Corruption and Police Legitimacy


This article reviews how the police in Nigeria have failed to act as guardians of society and how their corrupt practices have become deeply embedded and acceptable within Nigerian culture. The author states that because the military and the police were often one and the same, the primary interest of officers was the security of the state rather than the well-being of the community. Under several different dictatorships, this role was reinforced. Over time, corruption in government and policing was consistently treated as an acceptable and excusable act. The continued weakening of the state led to a further decrease in government accountability.


This study examines public attitudes toward the police and crime in the United States by conducting interviews with 1,000 individuals in 350 different random sampling locations over two decades. Findings revealed that despite significant declining crime rates in the 1990s, nearly half of Americans believed that crime was the most important problem facing the country. Additionally, many still believed that crime in their area was worse than in previous years. In examining attitudes toward the police, results indicated that about 90 percent had some level of confidence in the police and only 10 percent reported having little confidence. Furthermore, white citizens were more likely than minorities to believe that the police had high levels of honesty and ethical standards.


This article reviews recent police reforms in Sierra Leone, specifically focusing on Local Policing Partnership Boards (LPPBs). Each board consists of local leaders, businesspeople, farmers, and service workers. Community leaders work together with the police to make security and justice decisions and to act as police proxies within their communities. Although the reforms seem to have been implemented with success, the roles of LPPB members and the boards themselves have yet to be officially or legally defined.

The researchers propose that attitudes toward the police are strongly correlated with a set of attitudes toward broader political systems. Using a survey of U.S. citizens in four different types of communities (rural, semirural, urban poor, and urban non-poor), the researchers confirmed that those who expressed negative views toward the police were more likely to feel alienated from the legal and political process. They were also more likely to express cynicism and the belief that access to justice is dependent upon one’s wealth and power.


Police may take part in corruption through pure extortion, extortion with the involvement of the courts, corrupt transactions, bribery, and/or embezzlement. The authors argue that in most high-income countries, politicians are considered most corrupt while police are not. However, in most low-income countries, the police are perceived as one of the most corrupt public entities, if not the most corrupt. They suggest that this perception may be due to the prevalence of street-level corruption in low-income countries. The emergence of police corruption these countries is likely due to their low wages and education levels. The authors argue that the economic effects of police corruption may include the stifling of the growth of small businesses due to the illegal taxation, the hindering of the growth of rural areas due to illegal taxation of transport, and the negative impact on foreign direct investments. It is also suggested that police corruption leads to greater inequality, which increases the rate of crime and creates fertile ground for the growth of organized crime.


This article reviews how drug traffickers in the favelas of Brazil became a resource for dispute resolution. Because the government and the police were so severely distrusted, the community turned to drug traffickers because they had authority, a stable presence, and an investment, albeit criminal, in the community. In some cases, however, the manipulative and self-interested intentions of the drug traffickers were extremely apparent. Despite understanding these intentions, citizens were more fearful of the police and government officials and had few other authorities to whom they could turn.


In an effort to discover the most effective approach toward reforming the police in post-Soviet states, this study seeks to examine attitudes toward and the
willingness to cooperate with the police. The researchers collected data from 2,000 citizen interviews throughout Ukraine. About 42 percent of respondents reported that they did not trust the police. About a third of respondents could not answer questions regarding the performance of the police, indicating distance between the authorities and the public. Of those who could answer, nearly half reported negative assessments of police performance. Those who had negative encounters with the police believed that the police were less effective, and those who were members of the lower class or unemployed expressed low levels of trust in officers.


This article suggests that the implementation of police reform should consist of a bottom-up approach that focuses on attitudes of and toward minority groups. The authors examined perceptions of over- and under-policing as well as perceptions of different police reform approaches. Arab citizens in Israel have experienced long-lasting tension with the police. In Israel, they are also more impoverished, receive lower quality public services, and are underrepresented in the public and political sector. The researchers conducted four small focus groups with local Arab citizens consisting of 16 women and 14 men. Additionally, they administered a survey of 1,006 adult Arabs. Findings indicated that Arabs perceive under-policing to be a greater problem than over-policing, and only 30 percent of Arabs believed that the police provided security to their minority group. Most Arabs in the focus groups expressed extreme reluctance to join the police due to their negative perceptions of law enforcement. However, they were strongly open to policies that focused on involving Arabs in policing and policy-making actions.


The purpose of this article is to examine the literature on the effectiveness of crime prevention programs in developing countries. The researchers conducted a keyword search of scholarly databases and reviewed 91 qualifying articles regarding crime prevention program implementation. They found that reviews of approaches in developing countries rarely included an empirical evaluation of the intervention, which is likely due to severe data limitations, low capacity for experimental design, and the sensitive political environments of the targeted nations. Of those studies that met the criteria for inclusion, 49 studies included community-based crime prevention approaches. Of all 91 studies, 50 indicated that interventions had positive effects on crime prevention.


This study examines whether procedural justice functions to increase police legitimacy in the context of a high-crime, socially divided society like South
Africa. To examine this issue, interviews were conducted with citizens to assess trust in the criminal justice system. Perceptions of fairness were significantly linked to trust in the fairness of police. Perhaps an even stronger effect, however, was that citizens’ perceptions of police as ineffective at decreasing crime significantly weakened their perceptions of police legitimacy.


Many international aid organizations have assisted post-conflict Cambodia in reforming its justice sector. The authors examine several sources of violent and property crime indicators to determine the effectiveness of the police. They find that crime has strongly decreased and that overall fear of crime has been declining as well. Most citizens, however, felt unsatisfied with police services. Although police corruption has declined according to citizen victimization surveys, the police lack the resources, equipment, and personnel needed to fully gain public confidence.


The authors examine the effects of the Grupamento Policial em Areas Especiais (GPAE), or Police Group in Special Areas, program in some of the most historically violent villages in Brazil. The goals of the GPAE included reductions in the use of force by police, respect for human rights, reductions in violent and drug-related crime, and alleviation of tense police-community relations. Under dedicated leadership, the police force succeeded in increasing positive perceptions of the police and managing conflicts. However, when a transfer of leadership and a decline in resources occurred, evidence demonstrated a significant reduction in the program’s positive effects.


This article examines zero tolerance and community-based strategies to reduce fear of crime in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Brazil and Argentina primarily emphasize zero tolerance approaches, while Chile concentrates more on a community-oriented approach to crime and justice. The researchers use responses from a 2001 International Labour Organization (ILO) survey to examine how crime, victimization, and other insecurities contribute to public levels of fear of crime. Results indicated that Brazilian and Argentinian cities registered significantly higher levels of public insecurity than Chilean cities. The authors argue that because the justice sector lacks funding in those two countries, it also lacks the police training to effectively implement some zero tolerance–based strategies of policing. Thus, implementation of such approaches often involves oppressive and militarized tactics that intimidate communities and undermine support of the police.

The authors examine how community policing is implemented in Trinidad and Tobago and whether the police services possess the organizational readiness, learning ability, and team cohesion to effectively implement the strategy. Survey results indicate that much more work needs to be done for community policing to be effective. The public is still concerned about widespread complaints about the use of force, and only 70 percent of the public held favorable views toward the police. Results also suggest that the police have great room for improvement in organizational readiness and management-officer relationships in order for community policing initiatives to be successful.


The researchers recommend that police reform take a broader scope and work with additional actors and agencies rather than just focus on law enforcement and law enforcement policies. This article specifically examines the hybrid reform approach taken in post-conflict Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. In these communities, local community chiefs customarily resolve everyday disputes, and the chiefs have helped to reduce tensions between citizens during several conflicts. Many citizens held very negative views of the police due to abuses by and distrust toward the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary that policed them previously. In a hybrid community-policing model, reformers have aimed to integrate local community leaders with the official police. Police officers in the Community Auxiliary Police (CAP) unit are elected by community leaders and are accountable to them as well as the citizens. This has led to a high degree of trust in those officers. Additionally, officers work together with community leaders and elders to police neighborhoods and ensure adherence to rules. Observations and community feedback indicate that this model is working extremely favorably despite prior distrust in the police. The police and the citizens are seen as working toward the same goals.


This study examines views of policing and police effectiveness amid reform efforts in Belfast, Ireland. Surveys were conducted with 300 individuals throughout New Lodge. Many respondents surveyed believed that the police were ineffective in decreasing crime and disorder, which significantly impacted perceptions of the police force. The researchers suggest that dedicating more time and resources to addressing local crime problems as well as strengthening police-public relationships could significantly improve attitudes toward the police.

This article examines data on the restructuring of the police services in Germany. The author notes that although surveys indicate that the public trusts the police, the conception among local police officers is that there are extremely high levels of distrust. This perception leads to defensive attitudes among officers that hinder their ability to implement effective community policing. The author explains that one of the primary challenges in implementing new strategies like community policing is the need for greater coordination between agencies in order to increase officer investment in and understanding of the communities they police. Although there have been several attempts to use community policing, few training endeavors have worked to develop individual approaches for individual neighborhoods.


The author reviews the practices in Chile that have made its experiences with corruption and legitimacy so different from the experiences of other Latin American countries. Specifically, the author argues that the stability in Chile, along with the strong integration of the police into the transition to a democratic government, has led to a resilient confidence in the police. In other Latin American countries, however, citizens perceive that the police make efforts to work with the community only when controversies and conflicts arise. Additionally, most other countries have been unstable and highly corrupt, leading to pervasive distrust in government authorities.


Because the police were so strongly distrusted and corruption has been so clearly integrated into official justice structures, communities in Mexico have developed their own policing groups and taken law enforcement into their own hands. These community police have been in existence for nearly two decades, and municipal authorities have allowed them to work as an extralegal force that apprehends suspects and now, through its own judicial system, administers punishments. Shortly after their development, the community police sharply reduced crime, and they are trusted and seen as legitimate by the public where the municipal police are not. Learning from the corruption problems present in the official sector, the community police and their judicial boards have also implemented several anti-corruption measures, such as rotating leaders and ensuring community-level accountability.

Although efforts have been made to reduce corruption in the justice sector, it is still extremely prevalent in Liberia. Most efforts involve increased internal accountability and professional standards, and though some officers are more willing to report corruption and abuse of power by others, most issues remain unaddressed and corruption is still widespread. The authors recommend that much more work and support are needed for Liberia to be able to combat corruption. Recommendations include stronger legislative and legal support for anti-corruption policies, improved recruitment and training protocols, better assurance that officers and supervisors do not interfere in investigations or punishments and that officers have equal opportunities for advancement and adequate pay, and continued international and organizational support in combating higher-level corruption.


In Pakistan, the police historically had the role of quelling rebellions against British rule, and even after gaining independence, the justice system remained the same. The public still consider the police to be the most corrupt government organization, and more than half of the population states that they had felt compelled to pay a bribe. The researchers surveyed citizens of Lahore to examine attitudes about procedural justice and police fairness. Results demonstrated that experiences of corruption by the police were widespread. Findings also indicated that citizens’ perceptions of police procedural fairness were influenced by whether the police seemed to be effectively controlling crime and whether they acted according to the rule of law. Furthermore, and as expected, police corruption and inefficiency were strongly linked to mistrust in the police and reduced perceptions of legitimacy.


The author summarizes the effects of corruption on developing countries, including weakening economic development, reducing the ability to alleviate poverty, undermining state infrastructure, and causing social unrest, lawlessness, insecurity, and the inefficient uses of resources. Over time, corruption has become more widespread and entrenched and has led to more deeply ingrained distrust of police and government officials, as well as organized crime, economic losses, and the suppression and unfair treatment of vulnerable populations. It is suggested that corruption can be reduced by creating and implementing new legislation, establishing firm codes of conduct for police and government officials, encouraging the mass media to report instances of corruption, assisting the education of developing countries regarding how to properly identify and control corruption, and providing appropriate salaries and resources for law enforcement and other officials.

This study seeks to determine how confidence in the police has been affected by political and regime changes in Mexico. The authors use responses from two World Value Surveys conducted with nearly 4,000 citizens in 1996 and 2005. When respondents were more satisfied with political institutions, they were also more likely to report higher levels of confidence in the police. When respondents also reported more satisfaction with their life circumstances (e.g., marriage and general happiness or satisfaction), they were also more likely to report higher levels of confidence in the police. The researchers suggest that when governing agencies seek to improve institutions as well as the quality of life for their citizens, it is likely to result in improvements in attitudes toward the police.


In Sierra Leone, many communities have been promised development projects and other benefits, and after providing registration fees and other monetary contributions, no action is taken within their neighborhoods. Such deceptive practices and failed projects have eroded citizens’ trust in outsiders, including aid workers and development organizations. The author argues that in order to trust outsiders and work together with aid organizations, communities must be given the tools to protect themselves. They must be encouraged to ask for details, keep logbooks of visitors, enact formal justice measures against deceivers, and hold practitioners accountable.


This study evaluated a community engagement tool implemented in Queensland, Australia. The tool utilized four different components of procedural justice (citizen participation, dignity and respect, neutrality, and trustworthiness) and examined how these components shaped more general attitudes and orientations toward the police. Results indicated that perceptions of legitimacy and general attitudes toward the police improved alongside increases in the four components of procedural justice.


In South Africa in the period prior to 1994, communities typically took part in “self-policing” because the established police were concerned with control.
rather than the safety of citizens. When subsequent community policing programs were initiated post-Apartheid, most citizens believed they would entail formal police supervision of continued community self-policing. Original formulations of community policing in South Africa largely failed because of inattention to the desires and traditions of most neighborhoods in addition to lingering distrust. Citizens were reluctant to work with police even when attempts at community cooperation were made. Consequently, police have abandoned most community policing efforts and returned to more traditional methods. The author suggests that broader implementation and additional efforts toward working with the community are necessary for police reforms to be successful.


The author examines anti-corruption strategies used in Kenya, a country in which corruption has long been deeply entrenched. Weak government legitimacy, monopolies over services, and low levels of accountability help foster this state-level corruption. In the 1990s, Kenya took substantial steps toward fighting corrupt practices by strengthening government accounting, implementing and enforcing strong anti-corruption laws, and encouraging civil society to exercise checks on the government and demand legitimate practices. These strategies have strongly reduced opportunities for corruption; however, more efforts and improvements are needed in order for Kenya to continue to work toward a more official legitimacy. Especially in areas like Africa where corruption has existed since colonial rule, eradication will take long-term efforts and international support.


The author reviews police reform measures taken in São Paulo, Brazil beginning in the 1990s when business owners had become especially concerned with community levels of crime and violence. The police in Brazil had historically been an extremely corrupt and distrusted entity, and businesses often took part in the corrupt activities because they were financially benefiting. However, once violence and corruption reached extreme levels, business leaders banded together to work toward police reform.


The author reviews published works that discuss the presence and progression of violence in Latin America. She explains that violence is deeply embedded within communities and is exacerbated by the corruption of officials and the blurring of legal and illegal activities due to cooperation between police and drug traffickers. These studies have further argued that violence against women is especially problematic because there is an increased importance
placed upon hyper-masculine values, and violence has become acceptable as a method of conflict resolution. Because violent acts against women often go unpunished, there has been an increase in impunity in such crimes.


The Nigerian police were originally developed to serve the authorities rather than the interests of the people, and their relationship with citizens has been characterized by violence and distrust. As a result, many informal policing groups have formed in order to protect communities that have little faith in the ability of official agencies to do so. Such informal organizations provide a sense of security and fit the needs of community members. There has been a call for a decentralized Nigerian police force that will be better able to work together with communities and support their needs and to respect and cooperate with the informal structures that have developed to police different villages.


The authors seek to discover whether procedural justice measures work to increase legitimacy in contexts outside the United States. The study uses a survey of 683 young adults in Slovenia to examine compliance with the law, components of procedural justice, police effectiveness, and measures of legitimacy. The results indicate that procedural justice shapes perceptions of police legitimacy, which are also associated with an increased likelihood to comply with the police. The researchers argue that focusing on procedural justice and a process-based model is likely to increase police legitimacy outside U.S. contexts as well.


The authors examined the outcomes of a new professional education program for military police officers in Brazil. The program was implemented after it was found that the police were perceived as having very low legitimacy, primarily due to corruption and abuses of power. The history of the former authoritarian regime in Brazil particularly taints the view of the police forces. In interviews with Amazonas military officers who had taken part in the training program, the researchers found that the officers felt the public did not know much about the non-coercive aspects of police work. In addition, the officers had few ideas of how to establish relationships with the community and were not educated on the daily lives, customs, values, and problems of the communities in which they would work. The authors suggest that training programs should evolve to focus specifically on the realities of policing and the communities that officers will face when they begin work.

This article examines community policing approaches implemented in two neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro. Not only were these neighborhoods previously plagued by criminal gangs, but the police were distrusted due to widespread corruption. The researchers administered surveys to 300 residents in each of the neighborhoods to assess perceptions of this new approach. Results indicated that the interventions were well received and that citizens reported feeling safer, saw decreases in police violence, and perceived decreases in criminal violence and drug crimes.


To address increasing violence and police corruption, justice officials in Kenya have begun experimenting with the implementation of community policing. Within the African context, it has been found that citizens and police officers often disagree on the most effective form of policing. Although citizens wanted to be included in the policing of their communities, officers often found zero tolerance, “tough on crime” approaches to be more effective and necessary in combating increasing rates of violence. In Kenya specifically, the police have also been tied to the implementation of political agendas. Justice officials have struggled with community policing because some communities suffer from such deteriorated infrastructures that community policing is interpreted as helping to supply goods and services to neighborhoods. In other areas, it is meant to alleviate distrust between citizens and the police. The authors suggest that officials from various agencies must work closely with the police to help clarify their mission and ensure that officers understand the need—and are willing—to engage with community members.


The author explains that genuine willingness and collaboration are necessary in order for community policing to succeed, though these are difficult to find in many locations. In certain contexts, citizens may be reluctant to assist police because close relationships may be seen by others as collaboration and may lead to distrust within the community. In locations like Kosovo, the environmental, social, and infrastructure problems undermine the ability of the police to improve communities. In Kyrgyzstan, the fact that law enforcement was viewed to have been involved in extremely violent conflicts fostered distrust in the police. Even when police are trusted and have the willingness to work with communities, a lack of financial resources means that neighborhood officers are among the first positions cut in order to leave a sufficient number of officers available for response policing. In these fragile communities, having
stable, unchanging neighborhood officers, as well as officers who live in and respect the communities they police, goes a long way in aiding the success of community policing.


Throughout Africa, widespread corruption has affected police practices and citizen attitudes toward the police. Officers who perceive corruption within and outside the justice system may become cynical toward the system’s ability to arrest and punish offenders. They may resort to excess use of force and the acceptance of bribes, undermining citizens’ perceptions that the police can effectively provide security. The author surveyed police officers in Ghana and found that officers believed that it was sometimes acceptable to use levels of force higher than legally allowable. The officers also strongly disapproved of citizen use of vigilante violence. Those who experienced corruption were more likely to support the use of vigilante violence. Those officers who had higher levels of organizational commitment were less likely to support vigilante violence or police use of force. By better understanding the factors that increase organizational commitment, leaders can help develop a police force strongly committed to democratic values.


The researcher argues that an assessment of legitimacy will rely on perceptions of police lawfulness, distributive justice, procedural justice, and police effectiveness. To examine these hypotheses, the study uses a sample of 5,120 London residents. Perceptions of police lawfulness and effectiveness significantly increased legitimacy, and those reporting stronger assessments of legitimacy reported an increased willingness to cooperate with the police. However, minorities and members of the lower classes were less willing to cooperate with the police.


The author examines the causes and effects of the legitimacy of law enforcement. When evaluating legitimacy, the author suggests that individuals consider the degree to which members of their social group are treated fairly by the police, fair treatment that leads different groups to feel important and respected. It is suggested that legitimacy may be enhanced when different social groups are treated respectfully and as valued members of society. Additionally, legitimacy may increase when individuals see members of their own group in authoritative roles.

This study examines the antecedents to legitimacy using a telephone survey of New York City residents. Results revealed that procedural justice and the manner in which officers treated citizens were the most important factors shaping perceptions of legitimacy. When individuals were treated fairly, respectfully, and justly, they were more likely to obey, trust, and have confidence in the police, even when there were negative outcomes (e.g., infractions) in their interactions. These findings indicate that the police can be more effective and gain more cooperation when they focus on legitimacy-based approaches.
4. Reform Efforts and Restorative Justice


This article examines problems faced by those working to reform the police in Ghana. Citizens have long distrusted the police, and various leaders’ recommendations for reform have been ignored or forgotten. The police force has been vastly understaffed, and those who have been granted positions are extremely unqualified. In addition, it was discovered that many promotions were occurring unfairly and that candidates regularly did not meet the required qualifications. Furthermore, the police do not have resources, are ill-equipped, and have been found on multiple occasions to have acted outside their operational guidelines. The author argues that effective reform will only occur alongside reform of the broader political and social institutions in Ghana. Additionally, it is absolutely necessary that reform be undertaken by working closely with communities and involving them in the process.


Two state officials from Afghanistan and Liberia review measures taken in their respective countries to reform the justice sector. In Afghanistan, the government has taken major steps to ensure that judicial appointees are properly screened and educated. However, increasing educational qualifications are only effective if training curricula are comprehensive and effective. As a result, officials are now attempting to restructure educational curricula to ensure that all officials receive proper training. Officials are also attempting to ensure that legal codes are properly translated and communicated to the citizens so that rules are widely understood. Finally, judges and other justice officials must be paid adequate salaries to remain at their posts and avoid corrupt practices. Corruption has also been a large problem in Liberia, and many citizens have turned to informal structures and/or vigilante justice due to distrust in the government. Officials are now working to integrate official rule of law structures with traditional norms and customary justice practices. To do so, government officials and development workers have integrated stakeholders from many various areas into the reform discussion process.


The author summarizes the many benefits seen as a result of restorative justice processes. Evidence demonstrates that victims are more likely to be satisfied
with the mediation process than other Western approaches to criminal justice, and the symbolic restitution they receive from the offender is often more important than any monetary restitution. Studies also indicate that offenders who take part in restorative justice processes are less likely to reoffend. Importantly, restorative justice also serves the needs of the community and often allows for the integration of local values and customs. Where corruption has been rampant and distrust of authorities is widespread, these practices can also maintain the legitimacy of rules and laws.


The author argues that restorative justice practices are not only beneficial for the immediate victim and offender but can also help build legitimacy in historically corrupt developing nations. He argues that restorative justice implements checks on power both at higher and lower levels of the social and political structures and can help foster discussions with community members and integrate citizens into justice reform and other government processes. Restorative justice can also be used to help address political wrongs and arguments about justice. Finally, seeing checks and balances on the government and other powerful populations helps to increase the quality of the justice system and improve citizen perceptions of legitimacy.


The authors argue that Pakistan is a setting in which hybrid legal systems that combine formal and traditional rules may be effective. In societies in which traditional norms have been deeply trusted, the enforcement of formal rules is likely to be rejected. In Pakistan especially, the official government is constantly challenged by the attempted rule of the Taliban. One way the authorities can prevent citizens from turning to and trusting in the authority of the Taliban is to make justice both accessible to and respectful of communities. The authors discuss how Muslahathi Committees in Pakistan implement restorative justice principles and attempt to create a hybrid form of justice that will be accepted and trusted by the local residents.


The author examines the challenges of implementing justice reforms in post-conflict environments like Northern Kenya. Some justice reforms are both physically and culturally inaccessible and may overlook the local value systems. Magistrate courts form the formal justice system in Kenya, but such courts are often located in cities far away from local villages and the costs of travel and services are extremely high. Thus, village citizens are unlikely to seek justice in magistrate courts unless special circumstances make it possible and extremely worthwhile. Additionally, the formal laws implemented by the magistrate courts are not always aligned with the values and ideas of justice in the isolated, arid...
lands. Definitions of criminal offenses as well as the appropriate punishments for each are often very different. Large segments of the population are unlikely to view magistrate courts or practices as legitimate, and such divergent views toward the legal system limit perceptions of fairness and justice in these contexts.


The goal of this article is to discuss the crime and justice reforms implemented in South Africa in the post-Apartheid era, along with their successes and failures. South Africa has implemented several different crime prevention policies, including legislation aimed at combating specific problems such as terrorism, sexual offenses, domestic violence, and corruption. Despite data that show that crime rates have decreased since 1994, the majority of the public feel unsafe. The government has not made it a priority to tackle the extremely negative perceptions of the police that exist throughout communities. Additionally, a broad-based approach to reform has lost momentum, and there is minimal involvement of other government agencies in the justice reform process. The authors argue that though South Africa has achieved several successes in its reform process, they must now focus on long-term goals, creating a positive perception of the police and fostering national coordination and a common vision of justice.


Within local communities in Afghanistan, the maintenance of order has been the responsibility of tribal elders and other governmental hierarchies. The attempted development of a paramilitary police force with state security has significantly undermined this tradition of community policing. Police reformists have had great trouble recruiting qualified officers, since those who are well-qualified are turned away by the lack of pay and resources as well as the fear of fighting the Taliban. Therefore, the majority of recruits joining the police are those who are uneducated, unskilled, and do not have money for food. Furthermore, the majority of the force is illiterate, which prevents officers from being trained effectively in many skill areas. Even when police work effectively to arrest suspected criminals, there are rarely enough resources in prosecution, courts, and prisons to sufficiently continue the justice process.


In most developing countries, Western models of justice have been imposed on local and traditional customs of criminal justice. Traditional systems of justice are beneficial in that they adhere to local customs and economic changes and can more quickly and efficiently adapt to social changes. Citizens are more likely to respect and abide by the decisions of local judges because
they are also the individuals making local rules and providing resources to the community. The author suggests that government institutions and systems of justice will be more powerful and effective when they initiate and maintain relationships with local leaders and work to integrate traditional customs and elements of collective, restorative justice.


The authors review justice sector reform undertaken amid Mongolia’s transition from communism to a democratic state. Although justice reform was initially successful, positive changes slowed after two years, and negative public perceptions of the justice system have persisted and grown. Because Mongolian officials experience extremely low wages, a lack of benefits, and a lack of institutional resources, corruption and greed seem to have increased steadily. Citizens perceive that court decisions differ greatly between judges, locations, and cases, and this had led to sharply reduced perceptions of legitimacy. The authors suggest continued work toward consistent implementation of laws, reviews of staffing needs, continued education of justice officials, improvements in the justice infrastructure, improved communication strategies, and continued attention to public perceptions of the courts.


Belize is a country with a high crime rate due to many different social, political, and economic problems. Despite criminal and economic difficulties, Belize has been a stable Central American country in that it has not experienced civil wars or insurrections as have many of its neighbors. The police in Belize suffer difficulties and high attrition rates because they are subjected to low pay, difficult working conditions, counter-productive job requirements, public criticism, and extreme lack of respect. The authors argue that reform of the police in Belize primarily requires financial resources to adequately manage crime control, investigations, and other services. It is further required that the police not only try to work together with the community but also work proactively to manage their image using media to promote positive stories of success.


The researchers attempt to develop and test a quantitative scale measuring organizational readiness for change. The scale results from a review of multiple studies and measurement tools and is tested using a sample of employees and managers by means of interviews and questionnaires. Results suggested that the most significant readiness factors included a belief that change was necessary, possible, and organizationally and personally beneficial, and also
that organizational leaders were committed to reform. The scale appeared to be a strong indicator of organizational readiness and should be used and tested in additional businesses and agencies.


The author reviews the process of reconciling official formal law with Aboriginal customs in Western Australia. He explains that official courts have sought to accommodate cultural diversity. Officials designated one day each week on which an Aboriginal sentencing would be administered. The court administers mainstream law but adjusts the settings and customs to accommodate the diverse cultural values and practices. Elders and other respected persons participate in the justice process in an advisory capacity, dialogue is encouraged, and court officials, offenders, and victims sit on equal levels so that discussions can occur in the absence of symbolic power imbalances. The author also reviews the effects that the architecture of justice-related buildings may have on the levels of comfort and respect for various cultures.


This article reviews the principles of restorative justice and the methods by which researchers and justice officials should evaluate these approaches. Instead of measuring success by reductions in crime rates or recidivism, evaluators must pay close attention to how restorative justice approaches affect and improve social relations. The authors emphasize that each approach must appreciate the diversity of the respective society and mold its practices to the context of the culture. Where contextually sensitive restorative justice approaches have been implemented, most studies did find lower levels of recidivism, and citizens generally evaluated the process as being fair and legitimate.


The author notes that justice and governance in villages in Sierra Leone have traditionally been controlled by male elders. Youths, however, are typically barred from any leadership positions within their communities. In Sierra Leone, “youths” are typically considered those in their teens to adults in their 50s. That such a large segment of the population is denied a voice in local governance and justice matters has become a large source of civil unrest. The author suggests that although traditional justice systems have many benefits, they may also perpetuate inequality and unfair and unjust historical customs.

This article reviews recent development projects undertaken by the World Bank. The author finds that many court reforms have been effective in enhancing legitimacy, but improvements are still necessary. Specifically, there should be better case management and efforts to further enhance access to justice interventions. Projects should seek to investigate the specific needs of poor and vulnerable populations, and services should seek to empower community members and enhance citizen agency. Most important is that intervention cater to the specific contextual needs of each country and community, ensuring that reforms are accepted as effective and legitimate.


The author examines why Sierra Leone and Liberia, countries with extremely similar histories, have had such different results in justice reform. He argues that Sierra Leone has been successful because the post-conflict ruling regimes closely resembled the distribution of power throughout the country. In Liberia, however, reforms and ruling regimes were developed without consultation with different groups and important societal actors.


The author acknowledges the importance of the rule of law in implementing higher standards of justice and respect for human rights, though Western rule of law may not always respect local, indigenous customs. In developing countries, it is often important that restorative justice play a stronger role. After gaining independence, justice remained the responsibility of local communities, not only because of local customs but also because a formal court would be physically inaccessible to the majority of citizens. In areas like Southern Sudan, reform to implement the rule of law must strike a balance between Western ideals and customary cultural concepts.


As a former British colony, Botswana faced a difficult economic history, as it was required to find a reliable source of income to pay taxes to the British government. Upon gaining its independence, the people of Botswana experienced severe underdevelopment, with the third-lowest GDP per capita in the world. They worked toward a democratic government and were able to rapidly increase their economic standing; however, the justice system of Botswana remained in need of reform. Many communities continued to rely on community leaders and traditional norms of conduct, sometimes committing
illegal acts in order to maintain a source of income. The police force has demonstrated that it is willing to accept this tradition and a certain degree of public disorder by overlooking these offenses so long as they do not threaten the authority of the state. As their society evolves and the economy continues to improve, the police and the state must now find a way to police their communities to prevent disorderly conduct and petty crimes while continuing to acknowledge and respect traditional customary norms.


This article reviews the development programs implemented under the World Bank’s Justice for the Poor Program. The authors argue that most other agencies undertake aid and reform that are not guided by theory, context, or local concepts of justice. In doing so, agencies can undermine rather than enhance the process of development. Justice reform through the Justice for the Poor Program, however, appears to be much more promising. The authors review several practices, including the peace committees in Kenya and the Cambodian Arbitration Council. The authors emphasize that agencies should expect development projects to spark some conflict between government institutions and community members, but that citizen participation and the voicing of diverse interests will help societies progress toward a more equitable justice process.


The author argues that although Western ideas of justice tend to dominate the criminal justice field, restorative justice ideals in non-Western countries are highly valued and should be respected in development efforts. These values are characterized by several alternative views, including that the problem of crime belongs to the whole community, not just those immediately involved. They also emphasize that reconciliation and the restoration of harmony should be the goal of the justice process. Such values are especially important in African countries, where restorative justice models have frequently been implemented. The author suggests that these models can gain respect and legitimacy throughout the world by establishing more explicit policies and legislative frameworks, and agencies should carry out frequent evaluations to examine their effects. Models executed in Africa demonstrate that restorative practices and public involvement in the punishment process can be accomplished rationally and successfully.


The gacaca courts in Rwanda had been the historical approach to justice and reconciliation. Under Belgian rule, Western systems of justice were imposed over local community justice in gacaca courts. Following the genocide in 1994,
the government did not have the resources to adjudicate the 120,000 criminals it had imprisoned. Gacaca courts regained importance and legitimacy following the conflict in the effort to process offenders and help the Rwandan transition toward a just and healing society. Lower-level offenders who participated in genocide-related violence were called on most often to participate in dispute-resolution and restitution processes. Not only is this a system with which Rwandan citizens are comfortable, but it is easily accessible from within villages and communities and it brings about opportunities for reconciliation. The more formalized system for handling genocide offenders is less efficient and cost effective and is far removed from the communities upon which damages were inflicted.


Because police abuse, official corruption, and inefficient legal structures can undermine the efforts of development projects, the author investigates the establishment of a probation service in Latvia from 2002 to 2004. Since its emergence as an independent state, Latvia has faced several political and economic challenges. Program developers and trainers sought to implement a probation service that would respect local context and customs. Interviews with Latvian staff members indicated that contextually based justice reform efforts like the probation service were much more successful than previous “cookie-cutter” strategies. It was also emphasized that such programs must focus on data collection to establish the value and progress of development strategies. As developing and transition countries face ongoing challenges and economic struggles, government officials are often quick to cut resources from new, more beneficial justice strategies.