



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 21
Issue 4 *December*

Article 14

December 1994

**Review of *Policy and Society*. Roy R. Roberg and Jack Kuykendall.
Reviewed by Margaret M. Severson, Louisiana State University.**

Larry A. Gould
Northern Arizona University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

Gould, Larry A. (1994) "Review of *Policy and Society*. Roy R. Roberg and Jack Kuykendall. Reviewed by Margaret M. Severson, Louisiana State University.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol21/iss4/14>

This Book Review is brought to you by the Western Michigan University School of Social Work. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

gang violence will remain the same or perhaps escalate, that juvenile gangs will continue to recruit new members from an increasingly large population base, and that with the growth of suburban areas and small towns, juvenile gangs will become present and active in places largely untouched until now by juvenile gang activity" (p. 249). They indicate that they expect gang policy to continue to be fragmented, largely uninformed either by theory or research, with the intervention of detached workers, counseling, and outreach programs, and suppression being the strategies employed, in spite of the evidence that they are basically ineffective. Strategies that would offer the most promise, those involving long-term social change, employment, education, gun control and school reform are least likely to receive appropriate funding to produce a substantial positive impact on the problem of juvenile gangs. Although this may appear to be a pessimistic assessment, one would conclude that the expectation is indeed realistic and credible in the context of the material so thoughtfully and well presented throughout the book.

In short, this work makes a substantial contribution to the literature regarding juvenile gangs, and it does so in a cohesive, integrated fashion. Again, the integrated theory developed in one of the chapters should prove to be a major contribution to the criminal justice arena. One would only hope that it receives the wide attention that it merits.

James W. Callicutt
The University of Texas at Arlington

Roy R. Roberg and Jack Kuykendall. *Police and Society*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1993. \$30.00 hardcover.

This book is an excellent example of what can be done with the subject of police in society by avoiding the encyclopedic or catalog treatment, which seems to be typical of so many of the other textbooks. This book forces the reader to think in critical terms about the relationship between police and their society, thus avoiding the, now rather boring, monologue of other texts in this area. While providing material for critical

thought, the authors have not ignored information which is applicable to the tactical operations of policing. At the same time they have provided the reader with important strategic information concerning the role of police in society. The sociological/political/cultural approach provides a refreshing respite from the usual police-in-society textbook. The authors have reminded us of the depth of the conflict faced by both the police and the society when formal policing is adopted into a democratic society.

Another useful element of this book is the extensive treatment of minorities and women in policing. The authors have set aside an entire chapter to discuss this much-overlooked topic. The historical treatment of the various aspects of policing was also refreshingly unusual. In addition to the standard chapter on the history of policing, the authors have presented the independent histories of such topics a police professionalism, police behavior and control, and police patrol and investigation. In other words, the authors have avoided the monolinear approach to the history of policing that has predominated in other textbooks.

The text is organized into five major topical areas, which include the democratic process of policing, organization and professional development, police behavior and control, police operations, and contemporary issues and the future.

The first topical area, the democratic process of policing, includes chapters on the process of policing, the roles of the police and the history of policing. The most interesting of these chapters is the process of policing. Very few texts in this field even discuss the relationship of the police to society in terms of the social contract. Although these authors failed to use the term "social contract", they did deliver a somewhat unique discussion on the subject. In the second chapter, issues concerning the actual versus the perceived roles of the police were critically reviewed.

In the second topical area, the authors discuss police organization and management and police professionalism. Police organization and management was thoroughly and effectively covered; however, in the police professionalism chapter, more

could have been said concerning the professionalization of the rank and file police officers.

Section three discusses police behavior and discretion, police authority and coercion, and controlling police behavior. The authors discuss these topics in a social, cultural, legal and political context. The presentation is lively and informative and allows for discussion of the critical issues surrounding the use of authority in a democratic society.

In section four, police operation, the authors attend to the nuts and bolts of the selection, training and development of the police officer, as well as discussing police patrol and investigation. Both of the chapters are discussed from the police manager's point of view. The study of these issues from a managerial point of view is vital to the development of the criminal justice student, many of whom aspire to reach the management level in policing.

The final topical section, contemporary issues and the future, is unique in the amount of space given over to police education, as opposed to the traditional discussion on training with a passing comment on higher education. The second chapter in this section discusses issues concerning minorities and women in policing. This is one of the more important chapters in the text, because of its critical yet informative discussion. I have yet to find another text in the field of policing which explores the subjects women and minority issues in the depth with which this book covers the subject. Included in the section on contemporary issues is the subject of stress, health and safety. The authors discuss the causes and the treatments for stress in policing. This particular chapter should be a reading must for all police administrators, because the authors suggest that treatment of an officer (salvaging a police career) is preferable to termination of the officer. The final chapter of the book provides a critical review of the new (or relatively new) concepts in policing, such as community policing. This is one of the most forthright discussions of community policing that I have ever seen in a textbook.

The positive aspects of this book include its coverage of women and minority issues, its critically insightful delivery of all of the topics, and its organization. Future editions of this

book should include some discussion on comparative perspectives in policing, and further development of civil liability in the chapter on controlling police behavior. I also believe that the authors have missed a golden opportunity to discuss the link which binds the police and the community, by not fully developing and discussing the concept of the social contract in the first chapter.

All things considered, this is one of the best textbooks that I have read and it is certainly the best textbook on the subject of police and society.

Larry A. Gould
Northern Arizona University

Lawrence M. Friedman. *Crime and Punishment in American History*. New York: Basic Books, 1993. \$30 hardcover.

Today, crime has again become a critical national issue. Recent opinion polls reveal that Americans regard crime as the country's most pressing social problem. Many politicians have responded by clamoring for ever more harsher punishments appearing to ignore the fact that the use of severe punishments has increased steadily over the years only to be accompanied by an inexorable rise in the crime rate. As they scramble for electorate advantage, many have abandoned their responsibility to inform, educate and guide public opinion. And yet, most know that crime is inextricably linked to wider social realities which retributive punishments alone cannot address.

Every politician and concerned citizen should read Lawrence Friedman's excellent history of crime and punishment in the United States which demonstrates time and time again how the phenomenon of crime (and the institutionalized mechanisms which have evolved to respond to it) have been shaped by wider social forces. Friedman defines crime as forbidden behavior to which the community and its law enforcement agents respond through the use of coercive power. But, Friedman contends, there is little else one can say about crime in absolute terms. The types of behavior that are defined as criminal, the persons who are identified and processed as offenders, and the means used to respond to crime have all varied enormously since the nation