

SUBCULTURES

Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin

Cloward and Ohlin give a theory of there being three types of subcultures that young people might join:

- **Criminal subcultures**

- These emerge in areas where adult crime is high. The youths follow the behaviour of the adults around them to learn how commit crimes- negative role models. By committing crimes, the youths can work their way up the criminal ladder allowing them to be successful as adults.

- Normally concerned with utilitarian crimes that leads to financial awards

- **Conflict subcultures**

- These emerge in areas where there is little organised crime by adults, so the youths have no criminal role models. Instead they focus on gang respect through gang violence.

- **Retreatist subcultures**

- These are subcultures formed by those who failed in the criminal subcultures. Often known as a subculture of 'double failures', the youths tend to end up going to drug and alcohol abuse. This is a coping mechanism from being rejected from the other subcultures.

