Blair, Bush – subjected to informal censure – public criticism

States of denial

- Cohen: states of denial (2001)
- Applying deviance theory to state crime – taken from Matza ‘techniques of neutralisation’
- Can apply to torturers – public and political atrocities
- Denials from governments – very similar to individuals – more likely to be believed and able to force your views on others
- Guantanamo bay: Obama promised to close it down but he hasn’t done it yet
- Extraordinary rendition: states kidnapping people and taking them to these places – British government has denied this

Forms of denial

- Literal denial – Guantanamo Bay: government paying people off
- Interpretive denial – essential for defending their security, people who could potentially attack the US
- Implicatory denial – what happened can be justified: diffusion of responsibility, inability to identify with the victim, inability to conceive of effective intervention, feel powerless to help

The state, violence and the rule of law

- Weber: politics as a vacation – where the modern states occurs from
- Modern state defined by its use of force (legitimately) – sovereign authority to use force
- State power is intimately related to the use of violence
- Benjamin: law making is always underpinned by violence (state violence)

State power and state crime

- Monopoly of violence – state has more potential to abuse its powers and privileges
- The state claims role of protection

States and the rule of law

- Third right – claimed they were acting within the law – holocaust