

HOW HAS CRIME CHANGED IN POSTMODERNISM SOCIETY:

Globalisation. Crime is now a global phenomenon; e.g. organized crime crosses national boundaries. People in Britain can be victims of crime committed a long way overseas. Or crime committed in the UK can be part of a network of international crime, e.g. cars stolen in UK and sold in Africa or elsewhere. This means there is more risk and its harder to control crime.

POSTMORDENIST CAUSES OF CRIME:

- **Peer Pressure:** Being a teenager brings increasing responsibilities, greater demands from parents and teachers, as well as a growing awareness that life is unfair. Teenagers are often said to be 'finding themselves' or 'testing the boundaries', both phrases that are used to help explain the changes in behavior in the move from childhood to adulthood. Peer pressure can be hard to resist. For example, some teenagers may become involved in anti-social behavior. Attracting and keeping friends is not always easy. Bullying can occur if an individual teenager is seen to 'do as they are told all of the time'.
- **Violent media:** Some child psychologists argue that if young people see violence in films and television or play violent computer games, they are more likely to become violent themselves.
- **Gaming:** There has been less research into the effects of violence in gaming. A study from 2010 concluded that exposure to violent video games is a causal risk factor for increased aggressive behavior.
- **Sexism:** The expectations that society has of men and women are different. This means that men, for example, may be expected to 'stand up for themselves' in a way that women are not. Some criminologists argue that the influence of 'gender roles' is an important cause of criminality

INDIVIDUALISM

- Individualists encourage the exercise of an individual's goals and desires and therefore value independence and self-reliance.
- They also argue that the interests of the individual are more important than those of the state or of any social group.
- They therefore oppose external interference by society or the government on the interests of the individual.
- Individualism of post-modern society means that causes of crime are undiscoverable because they are one off's with infinite numbers of potential causes.
- Crime is caused by the individual not society.
- Katz (1988) examines the pleasures and seductions of crime for individuals. Lyng (1990) examines crime as 'edgework' committed for the thrill of risk taking.
- Individualists tend to focus on personal weakness as the reason a crime is committed. If someone chooses to offend, that is their responsibility and if caught, they should suffer the consequences.
- Individualists believe that if punishments were stronger and the police and courts had more powers, there would be less crime



CULTURE OF RESENTMENT: