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Book Review of *Essential Criminology*

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Essential Criminology (4th ed), by Mark M. Lanier, Stuart Henry, and Desiré J. M. Anastasia, ISBN 9780813348858, Westview Press, November 18, 2014, 422 pages, \$52.

Those who want to study criminology; they must understand the concept of crime and the various theories of crime and criminology. To frame the apt policy for the crime reduction or to modify the existing policy in accordance with the changing scenario, the policy makers must analyze or frame the policy with the help of these theories. *Essential Criminology* is one of those books which discuss various important criminological theories. The 4th edition of this book is written by Mark M. Lanier, Stuart Henry along with Desire Janelle-Marilyn Anastasia (previous editions have been written by Mark M. Lanier, Stuart Henry). This book contains 400 pages and 20 chapters. Contemporary issues and developments in criminology and criminal law got addressed in this recent edition.

The authors have explained the concept of “crime” in legal sense along with sociological context through their detailed analysis of various scholarly observations. They have emphasized the importance of having wider notion about the definition of “crime”. They explained how crime has evolved through consensus and conflicts approach. They have elucidated the relationship between crime and morality. They also pointed out that some acts are considered as crime because, those acts are declared as crime by the powerful groups. They also explained that the Sutherland’s view of “social harm” must be considered as crime along with the critic’s views.

The authors have also explained John Hagan’s pyramid of crime (the degree of consensus or agreement about the wrongfulness of an act, severity of society’s response in law, relative seriousness of crime based on the harm it has caused) in a detailed manner; they also identified the limitation of the John Hagan’s crime definition (public awareness about the commission of the crime, number of victims, response of seriousness of the crime–powerless people likely to be convicted). The authors have added one more pyramid and they called this amended pyramid as “crime prism”. The later pyramid is beneath the earlier one; the former pyramid is about visible crimes and the later one is about invisible crimes especially modern employment/work place crimes.

The authors have discussed about various criminological theories and its applicability with contemporary issues and case studies. They have also explained the limitations and criticisms of each theory. While explaining each theory, the authors have given examples

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from crime scenario of the United States and crime preventive measures along with other developed and developing countries crime scenario, crime prevention measures and criminal law. They have discussed 2008 economic crisis along with Russia's economic crisis around 1990s (anomie/strain theory), James Eagan Holmes-2012 mass shooting (psychology theory of criminology), Bernie Madoff-classic Ponzi scheme 2008 (social learning theory), three strike and two strike laws in various US states. The current position about the same (classical theory-mandatory sentencing), is the India's criminal law amendment Act 2013-definition of Rape (liberal feminism) in this book.

Whenever required, the authors have compared the current scenario with the ancient period. The authors have discussed these theories with the proponents view along with the other scholar's views. They have also analyzed the merits and limitations of these theories. Additionally, they have explained the changes/measures to be taken by the criminal justice agencies for implementing these theories. In this book the authors relied on various scholars views for explaining criminological theories along with their own views. The authors have given various external resources for each theory which include classical as well as current works of the scholars for the reader's reference.

The authors have explained each theory from its evolution to today's current status of it. They have also enlightened the readers with the nexus between each theory along with the differences. The authors have explained each theory as it is and its applicability along with the influencing factors. They have also explained different views or notions given by the various thinkers to a same theory along with comparisons. For example: they explained the differing views of Beccaria and Bentham on "punishment for repeat offenders" in the classical theory of criminology.

The authors have written this book in a scholarly as well as student friendly manner. The authors have given model questions in each chapter along with the proper guidelines to the students/readers about the appropriate answers. The publisher Westview press has provided additional resources to the course instructors/teachers who are teaching criminology. The additional resource to the readers "Criminological Theory: Historical Timelines" can be downloaded from Westview press website. It contains the details of brief introduction of each of the criminological theories and key works pertaining to these theories. It will help the readers of this book to remember and understand the Criminological theories in a proficient way. Also other resources includes PPTs for the each modules/chapters and model questions for each modules (questions include objective and descriptive questions with answers. It will help the course instructor to plan, teach, and evaluate the "Criminology theories" subject very efficiently.

This book will be highly useful to students, researchers, and practitioners of Criminology, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Political Sciences and allied sciences.