

Crowther, Chris, Policing Urban Poverty, St. Martin's Press, INC., 2000.

The author looked at how police have responded to crimes differently over the years both in the United States and in Britain. The author relied on a lot of research conducted in both countries. Throughout the book he outlined how different perspectives about poverty have influenced policy decisions. One approach is more a behavioral one in which people associates poverty's cause to an individual's actions or inactions. The second approach looks more at structural issues in society as the key factor creating poverty. Woven into these approaches are other things such as values, class, gender and race. The book looked also at the intersection of class, especially the poor and criminal activity. The author also looked at the shift in welfare policy to one that focused on work. Yet, it appears that in both countries there are not enough jobs in the labor market so that all adults could work full time. Further, the author believes that with time limits the poor may be worse off in the long haul. If there are not enough jobs it is likely that some individuals will turn to crime as a way to generate income. The author found that police departments in both countries have shifted their own policies/procedures over time and there is still a tendency for police to associate criminal activities with specific populations. Further, the author found that in more recent history the United States has lead the way in a zero tolerance approach to crime and the result has been that increasingly greater numbers of poor are being incarcerated.