

**Marxists** believes crime is inevitable in a capitalist society. Capitalism is **criminogenic**, i.e. the capitalist system encourages criminal behaviour. The law is made by the capitalist elite and tends to work in their interests. They argue that all classes, not just the working classes, commit crime, and the crimes of the capitalist class are more costly than street crime.

**Bonger** believes that crime is an inevitable response to the polarisation of wealth and poverty in a capitalist society.

**Gordon** believes law and order fulfils a number of vital functions for capitalist society, including control by the bourgeoisie as crime is seen as a 'working-class' problem.

A study in Seattle by **Chambliss** (and **Pearce**) demonstrated one rule for the rich and another for the poor. **Box** supports the theory of **selective law enforcement** – again one rule for the rich and another for the poor. The criminal justice system mainly concerns itself with policing and punishing the marginalised, not the wealthy, and this performs ideological functions for the elite classes.

### Neo-Marxism

According to **Althusser**, the bourgeoisie uses **repressive state apparatus**, e.g. the police, the army, the criminal justice system, etc. to enforce the law along with **ideological state apparatus**, e.g. the mass media and education, to indoctrinate society with the norms and values of the ruling classes.

**Gramsci** believes there needs to be a control of **hegemonic powers** to enforce law and order.

**Stuart Hall et al**'s book, **Policing the Crisis** – *Stop and Search Policy* discusses muggings in the 80s and **moral panics**.

## White collar crime

**Sutherland**: *'a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation.'*

**Corporate crime**: Big business crime, e.g. Primark exploiting their workers in developing countries.

**Occupational crime**: Crime committed against a company, e.g. an employee stealing from their employer.

**State crime**: Crime committed against a state/country, e.g. terrorism.

**Environmental crime**: Crimes that involve emission of pollution, e.g. ICI spilling chemical waste in to the rivers in Runcorn in 1972.

**Fraud**: Crimes committed for the purpose of financial gain, such as tax evasion, e.g. Jimmy Carr (2012).

**Crimes against employees**: Crimes committed by businesses or management against their employees, such as breaking health and safety laws, e.g. the William Tudor (2008) and the Mason Jones (2009) cases.

### Realism: The New Criminologists

Within realism, there are two opposing sides, **left realism** and **right realism**. Left realism attempts to solve crime by assessing the reasons why people commit those crimes. Right realism attempts to solve crime through discouraging people via various means.

### Left Realism

**Lea** and **Young** believe crimes are committed due to social problems, such as **relative deprivation**, **marginalisation** and **sub-cultures**. These must be solved if there is to be an improvement re crime rates.

**Kinsey et al** are critical of how the police handle crime.

The **square of crime** is co-operation between the state, the offender, the victim and informal control.

**Young** believes that crime and social policies are related; attempts need to be done to improve the social causes of crime.

### Right Realism

According to **Wilson**, individuals commit crime due to rational choice or calculation, i.e. if the benefits outweigh the consequences. Therefore, tough sanctions must be sanctioned (**zero tolerance**).

**Wilson** and **Kelling** support the **broken windows theory**.

**Hernstein** and **Murray** believe criminals have low intelligence.

**Murray** believes crime is due to lack of morals by an underclass.

**Wilson** and **Hernstein** argue that crime is due to **biosocial theory**.

**Don't forget criticism  
– this is also important for the exam!**