

***Chappell, Duncan & Wilson, Paul (eds) (2000) Crime and the Criminal Justice System in Australia: 2000 and Beyond, Butterworths, Australia. 344 pp. ISBN 0 409 31604 0. Rrp \$82.20.***

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This title is the fifth in a collection of works edited by Chappell and Wilson, documenting the relevant issues in criminal justice at the time of publication. Each of the previous titles in the series was simply *The Australian Criminal Justice System* (1<sup>st</sup> edn 1972, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1977, 'The Mid 1980s', 1986, and 'The Mid 1990s', 1994), however, the 2000 instalment develops this theme by including 'Crime' as a consideration in addition to The System itself.

The utility of the series is manifest: each work stands alone as identifying and analysing a cross-section of the issues relevant to the time. Further, as a series, the works provide the criminological equivalent of slides of stained cells, for comparison purposes over time. As Chappell notes in his introduction, '[a]n examination of Australian crime trends in general over an extensive time period can be helpful in gaining an understanding of the factors which may influence criminal offending, including punishment' (at xiii). In these respects, the book stands as a historical reference, but may also allow the setting of policy agendas based upon analyses of previous trends.

Eighteen chapters are presented in the book, grouped into five sections.

Section A, *The Criminal Justice System*, includes contributions by Kerry Wimshurst and Arch Harrison (theoretical perspectives on the criminal justice system), Heather Strang (restorative justice), and Paul Fairall (criminal law reform). Wimshurst and Harrison's contribution provides a comparative review of the literature critiquing the notion that the bodies administering criminal justice operate as a 'system'. Strang articulates the restorative justice programs which have emerged in the last decade in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and other countries, and notes that the paradigm may be of relevance beyond the criminal justice system, eg in the schoolyard, and the workplace. Fairall examines the constitutional and political framework of criminal law reform, using case examples of insanity and self-induced intoxication.

Section B, *Trends in Crime Approaching the New Millennium*, comprises chapters by Satyanshu Mukherjee (crime trends in Australia), Toni Makkai (drug trends and policies), Kenneth Polk (patterns of violence) and Joy Wundersitz (juvenile justice). Mukherjee and Makkai articulate statistics to outline (i) rates of crime, trends in crime and the level of punishment, and (ii) drug use patterns, and arrest data respectively. Each author analyses sociological factors influencing the trends, and the responses by the criminal justice system. Polk notes that while there has been relative stability in the homicide rate in past years, there is evidence of a long-term increase in the rates of assault and sexual assault. He analyses factors which may contribute to the increasing rates of violence, including the dissipation of income supports for the young, absent sources of support for masculine identity, and cultural traditions which link masculinity with violence. Wundersitz examines current policies concerning the processing of young offenders, particularly the current (divergent) models of the so-called 'get tough' policy, and restorative justice.

The third Section, Law Enforcement and Adjudication, includes contributions by David Brereton (policing and its effect on crime prevention), John Willis (processing of cases in the criminal justice system), George Zdenkowski (sentencing trends). Brereton notes the limitations of reactive policing, and notes variations upon the classic policing model, for instance private policing and community-interactive initiatives. He critically analyses the shortcomings in the present approach, and poses new approaches. Willis articulates the current managerial climate in the processing of criminal cases in the justice system. Zdenkowski, in a typically articulate paper, examines the policies that have adopted primacy in sentencing in the last few decades. Currently influential policies include, *inter alia*, mandatory sentencing, judicial sentencing guidelines, sentencing grids; types of punishment, restorative justice and selective incapacitation. He describes reforms as aimed at 'contracting, streamlining, guiding, or indeed eliminating' the exercise of judicial discretion, but concludes that discretion is likely to prove resilient in the sentencing process. Dr Zdenkowski concludes by highlighting aspects of the Australian Constitution and the wider political arena as burgeoning tools of resistance to unacceptable sentencing practices.

Section D, Critical Issues in Crime and Justice Policy, includes four chapters on issues perceived by the editors to be worthy of consideration. Contributors are Robyn Lincoln and Paul Wilson (Aboriginal criminal justice), Sharon Pickering and Christine Alder (feminist reforms in criminal justice), Kathy Laster and Edna Erez (victim perspectives), and Roman Tomasic (corporate crime). It is noteworthy that each issue has received attention in previous instalments of the series. Certainly, this does not detract from the thesis of each author identifying and deconstructing the difficulties inherent in adapting Australia's (inflexible) criminal justice system to the requirements of the subject.

The book concludes with a final section on Criminal Justice and the Future, including chapters by Mark Findlay (organised crime and globalisation), Russell Smith and Peter Grabosky (fraud in the digital age), Carole McCartney (correctional privatisation), and Adam Sutton (crime prevention in Australia). Findlay considers the interrelationship between the phenomenon of globalisation and crime, focusing on Australian organised crime. Throughout his paper flows the reminder that globalisation may harmonise as well as diversify its subject. Smith and Grabosky articulate new vulnerabilities to fraud in Australian society, resulting from expanding technologies, and critique eight means and policies of preventing and controlling new modes of fraud. McCartney overviews the proliferation of correctional privatisation in Australia, in empirical and philosophical terms. Sutton critiques the development and implementation of crime prevention policy in Australia.

The length of most of the chapters prevents the authors from expanding upon their chosen theme (with the nominated exception of Zdenkowski). This can prove frustrating for a reader previously acquainted with a particular area, and also has the tendency to promote premature resolution of contentious issues by some authors. Further, the diversity of material requires revisitation in order to avoid intellectual motion sickness. However, the editors have favoured breadth, in order to fulfil the clear purposes of this series. And therein lies this book's merit.

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