

observes that the neglect of a serious analysis of women's participation in crime has been paralleled by considerable interest in women by psychologists, psychiatrists, etc. who have "attempted to analyse women's 'vulnerability' to mental illness. As a result crime has become seen as male deviation and mental disturbance has come to be associated with female deviation" (pp. 174-175) Such a division is arbitrary and reduces rather than clarifies our understanding.

Aware that the demystification of legal ideology does not by itself lead very far, the author suggests much more non-sexist research is needed in the area of women and crime. She concludes with the suggestion that the aim of such research should be to reveal and account for existing social practices within the legal and penal systems. She sets out specific areas such as the types of offences committed by women and girls and the form and extent of their involvement, the attitudes of women in Court and by their legal counsel, the treatment of women in prison and the structure and purpose of the criminal laws. Finally Ms Smart is aware that "*criminology must become more than the study of men and crime if it is to play any significant part in the development of an understanding of crime, law and the criminal process and play any role in the transformation of existing social practices*". (p.185)

CRIME IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Edited by David Biles, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1976. 202p. \$2.25.

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There are basically two ways of viewing crime: as a social problem to be studied more or less scientifically and dealt with mainly by appropriate governmental measures, or as a symptom of a more fundamental social problem. The former view is adhered to by Mr. Biles, who is the Assistant Director (Research) of the Australian Institute of Criminology. It is also apparently the view of the other contributors to this volume, of whom there are fifteen, mainly academics and public servants, most of whom have worked in Papua New Guinea in some capacity related to crime. The result is that the book is committed to solving a taken for granted problem. Furthermore, it is really quite superficial. Mr. Clifford, the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, comments on urban crime:

"It would appear to reflect more the effects of the world spread of an urban culture which the opening up of Port Moresby to an outside world has necessarily occasioned."

Taken as a whole, the book is notable for its failure to come to grips with the basic reality of life in the countries of the Third World: cast inequality in the presence of an entrenched local elite (and their expatriate allies) determined to maintain their position. The second view of crime does not start with a given problem but with that which makes the decision what shall be considered criminal: the State. Thus many acts are socially injurious, but only some are condemned and sanctioned by the law. If we look closely at the way in which the criminal law is formulated and implemented in a country such as Papua New Guinea, we find that it aids in maintaining

the State and in protecting the property of the elite. It is this repressive politicality of law which is ignored by those who take the official-mainstream academic view of crime.

Interestingly, the alternative view has recently been given strong backing from the Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission, Mr. Bernard Narakobi:

"If the State will not control the selfish, then let the poor help themselves to what is due to them ... what is the State doing about those nationals who are slowly digging their greedy feet into the earth so that they will control production and perpetuate the war between the rich and the poor?"

And support for this view of the fundamental problem comes from one of the contributors under review, a Magistrate in Port Moresby:

"About 90 per cent of all housebreaking offences so far examined, involve the selective theft of food, drink, and small household items ... We have come across many instances when, in the absence of food and money, nothing was taken."

That sounds like a problem of political economy, not individual pathology to be "treated". The Magistrate continues,

"Until something is done about the unemployed, stealing and house-breaking will continue ... the evidence indicates that housebreaking gangs are supplying an obvious community need - the redistribution of items of basic necessity from the haves to the have-nots. In this context, house-breakers are seen as latter day Robin Hoods. This is a disturbing fact."

No doubt it is to those who have which points up the dangers of this kind of book: it is irrelevant to the defined crime problem, but it is a weapon in the hands of those in power. Thus the first of the major recommendations listed is "Police efficiency must be improved". For crime control or control of have-nots?

WHAT ARE YOU IN FOR,
BUD? MASS MURDER
IN INDOCHINA?

NO.

HOLDING DOWN
WINGS WHILE
LETTING MIGRALS
AND PHOONS
RUN WILD?

NO.

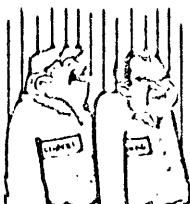


FOSTERING RACISM
AND UNDERMINING
THE BILL OF RIGHTS?

NOPE.

SLASHING WELFARE,
GEO AND THE
ECOLOGICAL PROCRAM?

NOPE.



HELPING ITTY TRY
TO OVERTHROW
AUNTIE IN CHIEF?

NO, NOT THAT
EITHER.

WELL GEEZE,
WHAT DID
THEY GET YOU
FOR?

BREAKING
AND ENTERING.
I GOT 30 DAYS.

