

**Tim Newburn (ed.): Handbook of Policing.** A comprehensive and systematic introduction book about policing.

Devon (UK) 2003, Willan Publishing

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The volume is divided into four major parts. The first considers policing in its comparative and historical context. What are the different models of policing that have developed around the world? How is policing best theorised and understood? How is the variation in the structure and role of police organisations, including difference between Anglo-American systems and those that have developed in Europe, Asia, colonial societies and communist countries? How has policing developed in the past two centuries? Finally in this part, Tim Newburn takes the narrative from the end of the Second World War, focusing on the very significant developments that have changed the topography of policing from that point to the present day.

The second part of the volume looks at the context within which policing takes place. It tries to describe, to analyse and to explain the contemporary topography of policing. In this part the first three chapters deal with the structural and organisational context of Policing: describes and explores the nature of the major arrangements in this area, what is the pattern of policing in the UK, describes the structure of the British police service and more particularly, how forces are structured internally. The last three chapters deal with police culture, practice and representation: What is police 'culture' and its effect on police deviance and police reform, the use and abuse of police powers, examines the changing media representation of policing and how this is linked with changing perceptions of the threat of crime and changing perceptions of police legitimacy.

The third part looks at how the police operate, ranging from crime prevention and investigation to major issues such as drugs, terrorism and organised crime. What are the history and reality of police crime prevention activities and what is the increasing central role that community safety has become in local responses to crime? What is the gap between the rhetoric and reality of evidence-led policing? How is the use of crime analysis within the police service? How was the development of criminal investigation in the last two centuries and the introduction of policing contention? In the last chapters of this part, the volume describes the activities of policing in drugs, organised or white-collar crime, and terrorist threats and in cyber crimes.

The final part of the handbook examines a range of key themes in contemporary British policing. What are the key theoretical, professional and policy issues in Policing? How are we to understand the role and experiences of policewomen? What is the relationship between policing and ethical considerations? How to understand police governance and how it works in practice? What kind of questions faced by police leaders in leadership and performance management? How have ICT and other technologies had an impact on the nature and organisation of policing and what have been the barriers to change practices and what future prospects appear to.

The book concludes with a look at the future of policing. Tim Newburn suggests that there are a number of trends, already identifiable, that look set to exert considerable influence over the likely shape and style of policing in the near future.

The handbook is aimed at students, researchers, teachers and practitioners, appropriate for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies in criminology and its sub disciplines, as well as sociology, social policy, politics and management. It includes different perspectives from critical criminologist to chief constable. For those highly educated and reflective officers working within an increasingly professionalised service, this handbook is ambitious in both scope and approach to meet their demands.

Liyuan Fu, August 2007