



Gunpowder Justice: A Reassessment of the Texas Rangers. by Julian Samora; Joe Bernal; Albert Pena

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group interests, especially "status issues" as opposed to "class issues," were the major determinants of policing in America. Virtually no information is provided on the methodology for this study other than the sources consulted by the author including books, articles, and reports.

Another shortcoming of this work is that the police are viewed only from the eyes of top administrators, as if the "troops" themselves were passive. Also, Reppetto fails to discuss important contemporary issues, such as minority and women representation in the nation's police forces.

This book, especially its historical materials, will be of substantial interest to police researchers, practitioners, students, and "buffs." The weight of evidence may very well be that the nation's "blue parade" actually was a "blue charade."

Juvenile Delinquency: A Paradigmatic Perspective, by ROBERT M. RICH. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1978. 353 pp. \$10.95 paper.

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A reviewer's task is made easy when a book fails to accomplish its stated goals. What is intended to be a text on juvenile delinquency which presents a paradigmatic perspective, combines theory and practice, uses ethnicity as an organizing principle, and presents urban and suburban data, turns out to be a superficial and disjointed review of the literature.

The book begins with the assertion that one can organize the disarray of theories of delinquency within Ritzer's three paradigms in sociology—social facts (structural functionalist and conflict theories), social definitions (action, symbolic interaction, and phenomenological theories), and social behavior (behaviorist theory). After the exercise of categorizing theories and theorists, and doing so inaccurately (e.g., Hirschi is identified as a structural functionalist), this introductory chapter ends abruptly, with no description of the organization of the remainder of the book. Beginning in chapter 2 on the family, and in each successive chapter (school, peer relations, personality patterns) except the one on the juvenile justice system, a

unique organizing principle is utilized. The major divisions within each chapter correspond to ethnic groups—blacks, southern whites, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Italians, Poles, and American Indians. Within each ethnic group section are discussions of the same substantive issues. By itself this organization is not problematic, but ethnicity is the overriding issue in the discussion of major correlates of delinquency, and the portrayals of ethnic traits are distorted, inaccurate, and potentially racist stereotypes. For example, "The typical Black student shows his interest in school in ways other than academic such as dancing, singing, the arts, and sports" (p. 159). And the author shows no mercy, for all of the ethnic groups are equal targets of abuse. Ironically, perhaps, the best part of the book is a short section (pp. 276–87) which describes the author's field work experience with two delinquent gangs, one black and one Polish-American.

The book is not well-written, factually, stylistically, or grammatically. There are a number of statements that run counter to current consensus in the field—for example, whether one uses official or self-report measures "the fact remains that there is a definite relationship between social class and delinquency" (p. 58). In places the style is abstruse, and there are enough typos and incorrect spellings, perhaps because of the production process, to irritate the reader.

In short, the book fails as a text, offers little to recommend it as a scholarly contribution, and verges on Lombrosian sociological criminology.

Gunpowder Justice: A Reassessment of the Texas Rangers, by JULIAN SAMORA, JOE BERNAL, and ALBERT PEÑA. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1979. 179 pp. \$10.95 cloth.

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The purpose of *Gunpowder Justice* is to (1) expose the Texas Ranger image to a scholarly scrutiny; (2) explain why the Texas Ranger is looked upon favorably by others; (3) review Texas Ranger history, authority, and their relations with minority group members; (4) document specific cases of physical abuse and violations of

others' civil liberties by Texas Rangers; and (5) offer conclusions and recommendations affecting Texas Ranger policy and behavior.

The book's strength is that it provides a fresh look at an old, well-established, social control institution. The authors do a good job presenting the historical material in an interesting and enlightening fashion (through the first six chapters). After chapter 6, however, *Gunpowder Justice* develops a more contemporary focus, and in doing so, loses some of its earlier objectivity. The book ends with a recommendation that the current law enforcement duties and responsibilities of the Texas Rangers be eliminated and replaced with solely ceremonial ones. But the authors are unable to offer sufficient justification throughout the book to warrant the proposed transition.

Gunpowder Justice has several weaknesses, each limiting its academic usefulness. First, the book would have been considerably stronger had it been developed under any one of several plausible theoretical frameworks. As it is, the work is atheoretical. Second, a more rigorous effort should have been made to relate the events discussed to existing police literature. Had this been done, the authors would have noted similarities between their observations and those reported elsewhere (e.g., Rodney Stark, *Police Riots*, 1972). Third, *Gunpowder Justice* demonstrates neither an appreciation nor an understanding of police in contemporary society. For example, the book is implicitly critical of the Texas Rangers for being paramilitary without recognizing that police, generally, are paramilitary (see Barry Krisberg, *Crime and Privilege*, 1975).

In closing, *Gunpowder Justice* is both a timely and well-written book. Readers interested in the Texas Rangers will find the book useful from both an historical and a research perspective. But, for the less specialized social scientist, *Gunpowder Justice* is of minimal importance, unless one is interested in reading yet another account of police brutality, harassment, and the like.

Demography, Population, and Urbanization

Determinants of Fertility in Advanced Societies, by RUDOLF ANDORKA. New York: Free Press, 1978. 431 pp. \$19.95 cloth.

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A recent development in efforts to formulate a theory of fertility has been the growing realization that what were considered to be established relationships between various social and economic factors and fertility behavior are less consistent than earlier supposed, not only in developing nations but in developed nations as well. Andorka's book performs a major service to the sociological and demographic community by synthesizing the overwhelming morass of fertility research results. His book not only reviews the early fertility studies which originally identified major fertility determinants and the direction of their relationships but also looks more closely at the causes of the current low fertility levels in much of the Western World. In fact, concern for the consequences of negative population growth is clearly a motivating factor behind the book's appearance and adds to its uniqueness *vis à vis* the usual attention on excessive population growth.

The monograph introduces some of the basic fertility measures and the concept of natural fertility. Three major sets of fertility theories, those of Malthus, demographic transition, and the economists, are presented next. One of the important contributions of this book is its review of the determinants of fertility in the pre-modern period based on fertility data from literary sources, family reconstitution and genealogical studies, official statistics, and parish registers. Andorka then looks at the more modern sources of data on social determinants of fertility—vital registration systems, censuses, and cross-sectional fertility surveys of both international and regional coverage.

The social factors of fertility selected for examination are: marriage, knowledge and practice of birth control, income, socioeconomic status, education, social mobility, urban and rural residence, migration, female employment and female emancipation, religion and religiosity, psychological factors, and population policy. The book ends with a discussion of recent attempts at a theory of fertility and suggests the most promising combination requires both a sociological and economic model of fertility behavior.