



Visions of Social Control: Crime, Punishment and Classification

By Stanley Cohen

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Visions of Social Control: Crime, Punishment and Classification By Stanley Cohen

Visions of Social Control is a wide ranging analysis of recent shifts in ideas and practices for dealing with crime and delinquency.

In Great Britain, North America and Western Europe, the 1960's saw new theories and styles of social control which seemed to undermine the whole basis of the established system. Such slogans as 'decarceration' and 'division' radically changed the dominance of the prison, the power of professionals and the crime-control system itself.

Stanley Cohen traces the historical roots of these apparent changes and reforms, demonstrates in detail their often paradoxical results and speculates on the whole future of social control in Western societies. He has produced an entirely original synthesis of the original literature as well as an introductory guide to the major theoreticians of social control, such as David Rothman and Michael Foucault. This is not just a book for the specialist in criminology, social problems and the sociology of deviance but raises a whole range of issues of much wider interest to the social sciences. A concluding chapter on the practical and policy implications of the analysis is of special relevance to social workers and other practitioners.

This is an indispensable book for anyone who wants to make sense of the bewildering recent shifts in ideology and policy towards crime - and to understand the broader sociological implications of the study of social control.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A major achievement ... in range and in analysis it is quite the best thing to have appeared in the area for many years."

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"A model worthy of emulation and a challenge to all, regardless of theoretical, methodological or ideological persuasion."

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"A rich, provocative, and at times brilliant analysis of social control, punishment and classification. Cohen's use of historical, theoretical and empirical description, his unique vision and objective argumentation, and his compassion and involvement with the issues make this an essential text for anyone interested in social control... Cohen has permanently broadened and illuminated the discourse in this field."

Law and Society Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Stanley Cohen is at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is the author of numerous books, including *Visions of Social Control* (Polity, 1985), *Folk Devils and Moral Panics: The Creation of the*

Mods and Rockers (1980), *Against Criminology* (1988) and *Psychological Survival: The Experience of Long Term Imprisonment* (1973).

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